

Misuses of Semicolon and Colon

SEMICOLON USE: Semicolons (;) are used between independent clauses that are not joined with a **coordinating conjunction**. Semicolons should join independent clauses that are of equal grammatical weight. The semicolon can also be used between items in a series containing internal punctuation.

EXERCISE: ARE THESE SEMICOLON USED CORRECTLY OR INCORRECTLY? WHY?

1. The company scheduled interviews with three candidates; but only one

Understanding Independent Clauses

DEFINITION: A clause contains a subject and a verb, but not all clauses can stand alone. An independent clause contains a subject and a verb and can stand alone as a sentence.

EXAMPLE: Inez had a lovely wedding.

A dependent clause contains a subject and a verb and begins with a subordinating conjunction (although, even though, whenever, before, once, since, etc.). Dependent clauses cannot stand alone and are not complete sentences.

EXAMPLE: Even though her flowers arrived late...

IDENTIFY WHICH CLAUSES ARE INDEPENDENT AND WHICH ARE DEPENDENT:

1. She is a hardworking individual.
 - A. Independent
 - B. Dependent

2. Although we never confirmed the date.

UNDERLINE THE SUBJECTS IN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:

Otherwise, the report was detailed and helpful.

The banker wore a fashionable vest.

Worried about finding employment, Sarah wondered if she should admit that she had once committed a felony.

My kind grandfather gave me an important compliment.

Manuel's friends Jenny and Lloyd are attending my birthday party, too.

Once upon a time, dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

When Michelle returned to the campground, her boyfriend was cleaning the fish he had just caught.

Popcorn is my favorite snack.

Most of his friends have plans for after graduation.

After they crossed the finish line, the group of friends hugged each other and cheered.

No one likes exploring the wilderness without the proper equipment.

The astronaut asked me on a date, but I declined.

THE VERB DESCRIBES THE ACTION OR STATE OF BEING TAKEN BY THE SUBJECT.

THE VERBS THAT MODIFY THE SUBJECTS ARE BOLDED:

My mother won the lottery.

After midnight, he falls asleep.

My favorite animal is the polar bear.

CIRCLE THE VERBS IN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:

Who is Barbara's mother?

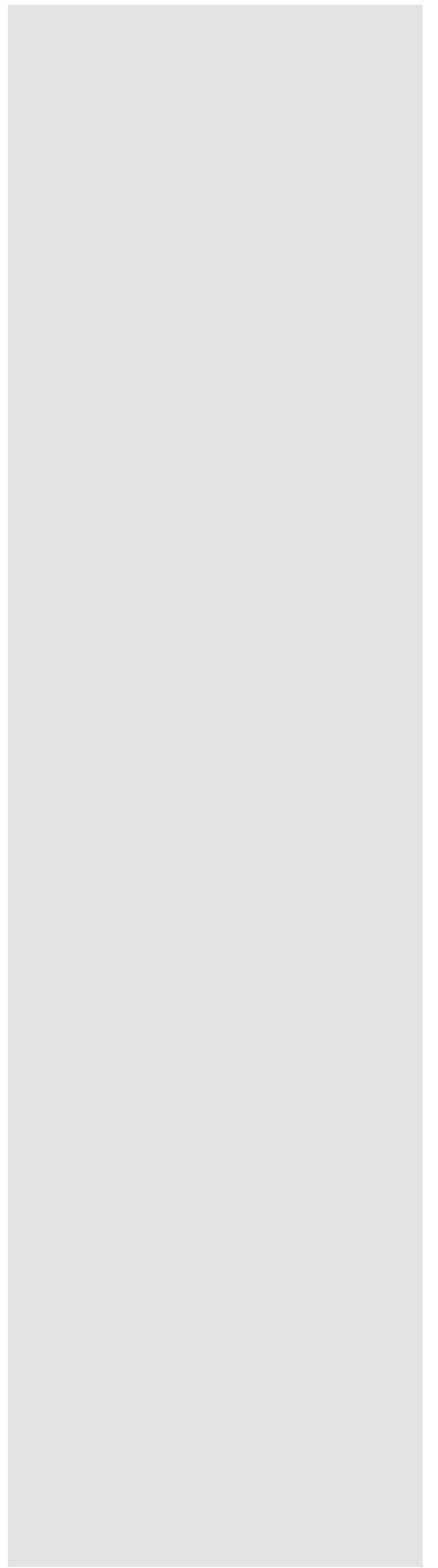
Amanda must have heard us talking because she began walking toward us.

Some sports fans argue that baseball is good for the soul.

However, he never specified when we would meet.

Reflecting on my life in high school embarrasses me.

In my dream last night, I travelled to Paris, France.



Why?

3. You should visit the doctor soon: Your cough is sounding worse and worse.

This colon is used:

- A. Correctly
- B. Incorrectly

Why?

PRACTICE: Revise the following sentences to ensure that the semicolons and colons are used correctly.

1. The media likes to portray my generation as lazy; although polls show that we

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