

Activity

Insert a semicolon where the break occurs between the two complete thoughts in each of the following sentences.

Example I missed the bus by seconds; there would not be another for half an hour.

1. I spend eight hours a day in a windowless office it's a relief to get out in the open air after work.
2. The audience howled with laughter the comedian enjoyed a moment of triumph.
3. It rained all week parts of the highway were flooded.

Semicolon with a Transitional Word: A semicolon is sometimes used with a transitional word and a comma to join two complete thoughts:

We were short of money; therefore, we decided not to eat out that weekend.

Activity 2

Punctuate each sentence by using a semicolon and a comma.

Example My brother's asthma was worsening; as a result, he quit the soccer team.

1. Bill ate an entire pizza for supper in addition he had a big chunk of pound cake for dessert.
2. The man leaned against the building in obvious pain however no one stopped to help him.
3. Our instructor was absent therefore the test was postponed.

#4 A fourth method of joining related thoughts is to use subordination. *Subordination* is a way of showing that one thought in a sentence is not as important as another thought. **(Dependent Clauses)**

When the window shade snapped up like a gunshot, her cat leaped four feet off the floor.

Because it rained all week, parts of the highway were flooded.

Although my grades are very good this year, my social life rates only a C.

Common Dependent Words

after	before	unless
although	even though	until
as	if	when
because	since	while

Activity

Choose a logical dependent word from the box above and write it in the space provided.

Example Because I had so much to do, I never even turned on the TV last night.

1. _____ we emerged from the darkened theater, it took several minutes for our eyes to adjust to the light.

2. _____ "All Natural" was printed in large letters on the yogurt carton, the fine print listing the ingredients told a different story.

3. I can't study for the test this weekend _____ my boss wants me to work overtime.

A Review: How to Check for Run-On Sentences

- 1 To see if a sentence is a run-on, read it aloud and listen for a break marking two complete thoughts. Your voice will probably drop and pause at the break.
- 2 To check an entire paper, read it aloud from the *last* sentence to the *first*. Doing so will help you hear and see each complete thought.
- 3 Be on the lookout for words that can lead to run-on sentences:

I	he, she, it	they	this	next
you	we	there	that	then

4 Correct run-on sentences by using one of the following methods:

- Period and capital letter
- Comma and joining word (*and, but, for, or, nor, so, yet*)
- Semicolon alone or with a transitional word
- Subordination - **using dependent clauses**