

The Semicolon

What is a semi-colon?

A **semicolon** is a type of punctuation used to connect two independent clauses that are closely related in thought ("Using Semicolons").

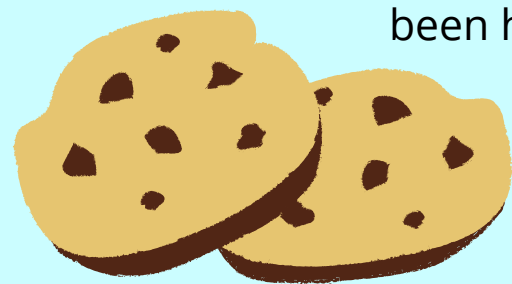
How do I use a semi-colon?

Semicolons allow you to extend your sentence without creating a **run on** or making it too awkward.

For example, instead of saying "Derek loves chocolate chip cookies they have been his favorite dessert since he was a child" (**a run on**)

or "Derek loves chocolate chip cookies. They have been his favorite dessert since he was a child" (**two separate sentences conveying the same idea**), we can insert a **semicolon**!

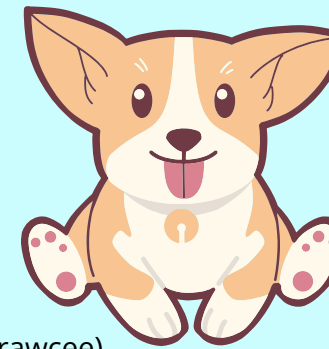
Our sentence will now become, "Derek loves chocolate chip cookies; they have been his favorite dessert since he was a child". **Great!**



(Sketchify Philippines)

Let's look at some more examples!

- ✗ "It's too cold outside to do anything fun I hate the cold weather and I wish it was summer!" (**awkward run on**)
- ✓ "It's too cold outside to do anything fun; I hate the cold weather and I wish it was summer!"



(Drawcee)

- ✗ "Dogs are very active animals. They need a lot of love and attention." (**two separate sentences conveying the same idea**)
- ✓ "Dogs are very active animals; they need a lot of love and attention."

It's also important to place the semicolon in the correct spot. **Do not** place the semicolon in a spot where a sentence could neither begin nor end.

- ✗ "Look at the stars in; the sky tonight aren't they so beautiful?" (**semicolon has been placed incorrectly**)
- ✓ "Look at the stars in the sky tonight; aren't they so beautiful?"

"Using Semicolons." *The Writing Center*, writing.wisc.edu/handbook/grammarpunct/semicolons/.

Drawcee. "Corgi Dog Illustration." *Canva.com*, www.canva.com/. Accessed 4 Feb. 2022.

Sketchify Philippines. "Cookie Pastry Food Illustration." *Canva.com*, Canva PH, www.canva.com/. Accessed 4 Feb. 2022.