

Commas and Semicolons

Commas are used in lists,

We need eggs, milk, butter, and sugar to make the cookies.

to break up long sentences,

But, since I had forgotten to bring my lunch with me, and since my sister didn't have any money to lend me, I had to call my Dad and ask him to bring it to school.

after quotes,

"Let's take a break from homework and get a snack," my mom suggested.

and to break up quotes.

"Hey," she said, "That roller coaster wasn't so scary after all!"



Semicolons are used in place of conjunctions

I exercise three days a week ~~because~~ it helps me stay in shape.

I exercise three days a week; it helps me stay in shape.

We went to the movies ~~but~~ they were closed.
We went to the movies; they were closed.

or to combine short sentences that are related to one another.

My aunt loves to cook; she makes dinner for us every week.

Directions: Figure out whether these sentences need commas or semicolons. Write them into each sentence.

1. "Remember, it's your turn to do the dishes," said my dad.
2. I like pepperoni, olives, and mushrooms on my pizza.
3. I didn't need braces like my sister; I have very straight teeth.
4. Our dog has short legs and a long body; he is part dachshund.
5. We were told the test was canceled; we all cheered.

Your turn! Write an original sentence using a comma or a semicolon.

Student sentences will vary.
