



Writing Centre

Semi-colons

Semi-colons are used

1. with independent clauses.
2. to separate items in a list or series.

Use a semi-colon with

1. Two **related independent clauses**

For example:

I love the TRU Writing Centre; I like to have an appointment at least once a week.

2. A **compound sentence**, instead of the coordinating conjunction and comma

For example:

TRU has many international students; it also has many Canadian students.

3. A **transitional expression** between two independent clauses

For example:

TRU has many international students; however, most students are Canadian.

4. To separate items in a **list or series** when the items contain commas

For example:

At the TRU Writing Centre, we have tutors from Edmonton, Alberta; Orillia, Ontario; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; and Beijing, China.

Do **NOT** use a semi-colon

1. between a subordinate clause and the rest of the sentence.
2. between an appositive and the word it refers to.
3. to introduce a list.
4. between independent clauses joined by and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so.