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| **Purpose** | **Sample Sentence** | **Notes** |
| Separate two related independent clauses | Sandra didn't eat lunch; she was still full from eating a big breakfast. | - The first word in the second clause is not capitalized.  - Don't use coordinating conjunctions such as *and*, *but*, or *or* with a semicolon. |
| Simplify a complicated list | The finalists came from Winnemucca, Nevada; Ogden, Utah; Spearfish, South Dakota; and Cottage Grove, Oregon. | - A semicolon can be used as a "super-comma" that enables the reader to make sense of a list that already contains commas. |
| Connect sentences with a conjunctive adverb | I didn't set my alarm clock last night; however, I woke up early when the phone rang. | - Examples of conjunctive adverbs: again, accordingly, besides, however, and moreover. |
| Connect sentences with a transitional phrase | I didn't set my alarm clock last night; as a result, I was late for work. | - Examples of transitional phrases: as a result, in addition. |

**Additional Tips**

* A comma cannot replace a semicolon unless a coordinating conjunction is added. If only a comma is used, the result is called a comma splice.
  + Incorrect: My son is five feet tall, I am still taller.
  + Correct: My son is five feet tall, but I am still taller.
* A semicolon cannot replace a colon when connecting two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction.
  + Incorrect: My son is five feet tall; but I am still taller.
  + Correct: My son is five feet tall; I am still taller.

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