

## Punctuation work-out: Semi-Colons

*This sheet will guide you through using semi-colons to link independent clauses. You will need to:*

- 1) Read the explanation;*
- 2) Study the example;*
- 3) Connect the two main clauses with a semi-colon by removing the conjunction;*
- 4) Make up your own sentences which follows the pattern of the example.*

**Explanation:** A semi-colon can be used to join two sentences (independent clauses) which are closely linked. You might like to think it takes the place of a coordinating conjunction.

**Example:** *The report was several pages long **and** it took a long time to read.*  
*The report was several pages long; it took a long time to read.*

**Re-write these sentences replacing the conjunctions with semi-colons.**

- It was a still, hot and sultry night **and** the frogs were restless in the water.
- The lily pads skimmed the garden flowers as the frogs were flying low.
- A lone turtle spotted the frogs overhead and it retreated into its shell.
- A man was eating in his kitchen but he was distracted by the sight of the frogs.
- The frogs got tangled in washing and they pulled it off the line.
- They watched a sleeping woman's television but the frogs did not disturb her.
- A dog chased the frogs but the frogs chased it away.
- Frogs got stuck on rooftops or they landed on branches.

**Now write your own example.**

### Challenge

Look at the final pages of **Tuesday** where the flying pigs are arriving. Make up your own sentences to describe the scene. You can use your imagination to invent things the pigs might do. Choose two closely linked ideas and write them as two independent clauses linked by a semi-colon.

## Punctuation work-out: Semi-Colon Pairs

- 1) **Read** the independent clauses. They make sense on their own.
- 2) **Draw lines** to 'pair up' clauses which are closely linked.
- 3) **Write the pairs** as a new sentence with a ; in the middle to link them.

### Example

*The sandwich was delicious; it was cheese and cucumber.*

The turtle hid.

It was cheese and cucumber.

The sandwich was delicious.

The stars were out.

It was a hot night.

It was terrified of the frogs.

The frogs got tangled.

The frogs did not wake her.

The woman was snoring.

The washing was ruined.

The dog chased the frogs.

The frogs chased the dog.

**Challenge** Look at the last pages of **Tuesday** where the flying pigs are arriving. What might the pigs might do? Choose two closely linked ideas and write them as two independent clauses linked by a semi-colon.