**Semicolons**

**(And how to use them)**

1. Place a semicolon between two complete sentences that are similar in topic

**✔** I paid my bills this month**;** my heat will stay on.

**🚫** My name is John**;** dogs are very cute.

1. Place a semicolon between complete sentences and before introductory words or transition words like: namely, however, therefore, that is, for example, for instance...

• You will want to pack a lot for the camping trip**; for example**, food, clothes, bug repellent and flashlights will be helpful.

• Bringing survival items is not optional**; therefore,** a sleeping bag and tent will be mandatory to keep you safe.

**►** A semicolon or a comma can also be used after a complete sentence with an introductory/transition word and a list following

* Sue wanted to pack a healthy lunch for the trip**; for example,** apples, crackers, and water.
* Sue wanted to pack a healthy lunch for the trip**, for example,** apples, crackers, and water.

1. Use a semicolon to separate units of a series when each individual item contains a comma

• HCC has students from Hollywood, Florida**;** Boise, Idaho**;** San Diego, California**;** and Nashville, Tennessee.

1. A semicolon can be added between two sentences joined by a conjunction ifthe first sentence has one or more commas in it.

• When I finish eating**,** I will help you with your paper**;** and that's a promise I will keep.

• If she can**,** she will drive to North Carolina**;** and if her husband is able, he will be there to meet her.