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Semicolons can have a reputation as the most aloof and intimidating of all punctuation marks. It is stronger than a comma, but lacks the finality of the period. In any case, if you might want to use it, you don't actually have to use it. So why bother? It's simple; semicolons make writing more interesting. Imagine that a comma, like this, gives the reader a little pause and the period gives the reader a breath. The semicolon falls in between; a little longer pause, but not quite full breath. It can inject different paces into your writing, where you want to emphasize the link between the two thoughts. Use it as a connector semicolon the main purpose is to connect two independent clauses. Both are fully formed statements, each of which could independently with their own periods. And that's totally fine; go ahead and do it if you want. If the two clauses are closely related, though, and you want to emphasize their bond, you can connect them to a semicolon. Correct: My son eats hot dogs for dinner every night. He'll soon become one pretty. Also correct: My son eats hot dogs for dinner every night; he will turn into one pretty soon. Use it as a super comma You can also use a semicolon as a kind of extra strength comma to separate items in a list that contains other commas. In this case, semicolons are there to help avoid misunderstandings. Example 1: On our trip we will visit Savannah, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; and Myrtle Beach. Example 2: This summer I'm going to eat nothing but corn cob, cooked to perfection; mozzarella, tomato and basil sandwiches; and endless bowls with fresh strawberries, blueberries and cantaloupe. Do not use it with bundles Not to add use semicolons when your two independent clauses are combined with a mix (but, and, yet, so, for, no). The saals are already joining the words themselves, so using one with a semicolon would be superfluous. Use a comma instead. Wrong: I considered taking five courses this semester; but then I realized I wouldn't have a social life. Correct: I considered taking five courses this semester, but then I realized I wouldn't have a social life. However, the semicolon can be used before other transition words or phrases that are incompatible, in addition, or, for example, . (I told him he was going to turn into a damn hot dog; however, he ate another.) See, there's no reason to be intimidated by a semicolon; when you know how to use it, it's just another tool in your writing arsenal. For more from Lifehacker, be sure to follow us on Instagram @lifehackerdotcom. The colonal volvulus occurs when the colon twists around the tissues that hold it in a place called the mes graft. Twisting causes bowel obstruction. Most common volvulus is How common is the colon volvulus? Colon volvulus is uncommon in the United States, causing less than 5 out of every 100 cases of intestinal obstruction.18 Colon volvulus is more common in Africa, the Middle East, India, Russia, Eastern Europe and South America. In these regions, colon volvulus causes 13 to 42 out of every 100 cases of intestinal obstruction.18 Experts believe this condition is more common because people in these regions are more likely to eat a high fiber diet, which is a risk factor for colon volvulus.19 Who is more likely to get colon volvulus? Colony volvulus is the most common in adults aged 50 to 80 years. Sigmoid volvulus is more common in men, but cecal volvulus is more common in women.20 Sigmoid volvulus is more common in older adults, who are the complications of colon volvulus? Colonic volvulus can cause life-threatening complications. The perforation of the colon's further twisting can cause intestinal obstruction, lack of blood flow to the blocked part of the colon and death from blood starved tissue perforations, or hole in the wall of the intestine peritonitis, infection of the lining of the abdominal cavity sepsis, a serious disease that occurs when the body has a huge immune system response to infectious shock What are the symptoms of colon volvulus? If you have symptoms of colon volvulus or its complications, seek medical advice immediately. Symptoms of colon volvulus may include bloating constipation cramping and abdominal pain nausea and vomiting Symptoms complications of colon volvulus may include symptoms of infection such as fever symptoms of shock, such as confusion or unconsciousness, rapid heartbeat, pale skin, and sweating What causes colon volvulus? Some structural differences and risk factors may increase the likeness of colon volvulus. Structural differences Experts think that some structural differences in cecum and colon increase the likeness of volvulus. For example, a sigmoid colon may be longer than the average tissue that holds the sigmoid in the colon instead of allowing it to move more than usual cecum and the growing colon cannot determine the site and may move more than usual Risk factors The possibility of colon volvulus may be higher in people with certain conditions, such as chronic constipation frequent diarrhea diet high fiber diet past abdominal surgery Sigmoid volvulus is more common in older adults with chronic diseases or disorders involving the nervous system and mental health. Sigmoid volvulus is also more common among older adults who live in nursing homes or psychiatric institutions and spend a long time in bed. In children, diseases such as Hirschsprung's disease or Chagas disease can cause severe swelling of the colon, called a megacolon, which can lead to volvulus. Possibility to cecal volvulus patients who have had a colonoscopy or laparoscopy, as well as pregnant women. How do doctors diagnose colon volvulus? Your doctor will diagnose colon volvulus based on your symptoms and medical history, physical exam and medical test. Medical history Your doctor will ask about your symptoms and any conditions, which may be risk factors for large intestine volvulus. Your doctor will ask about your symptoms and any risk factors for colon volvulus. During a physical exam, your doctor may examine abdominal pressures on your abdomen or tap your abdomen to check for tenderness or pain to use a stethoscope to listen to the sound of your abdomen to check for signs of complications such as infection or shock imaging tests Doctors can use one or more imaging tests to check for volvulus from the colon. These tests may include How do doctors treat colon volvulus? Doctors most often treat colon volvulus with surgery. Sigmoid volvulus If you have no signs of damage to your colon, your doctor may use a flexible sigmoidoscopy to examine your sigmoid colon and try to untwist volvulus. If the procedure is successful, the doctor may plan surgery to remove the affected part of your colon. This operation can prevent the recurrence of volvulus. You usually have flexible sigmoidoscopy and surgery during the same hospital stay. If your colon is damaged or if the doctor can not untwist volvulus during a flexible sigmoidoscopy, you will need surgery right away to remove the affected part of the colon. Cecal volvulus Doctors treat cecal volvulus with surgery. Most often, doctors will remove the affected part of the cecum and colon. In some cases, doctors may perform surgery to untwist volvulus and attach cecum to the wall of the abdomen to hold it in place. References [18] Management of Perrot L, Fohlen A, Alves A, Lubrano J. Colon volvulus in 2016. Journal of visceral surgery. 2016;153:183–192. Chapter 6: Colon: Anatomy and structural anomalies. In: Podolsky DK, Camilleri M, Fitz G, et al, eds. Yamada's Textbook of Gastroenterology. 6th edition. West Sussex: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd: 2016:93–107. Clinical practice guidelines for colon volvulus and acute colon pseudo-obstruction. Diseases Colon & Straight. 2016;59:589–600. Semicolon, a hybrid between colon and comma, is often considered one of the more pompous punctuation marks. In fact, it gets a bad rap just because some people know how and when to use a semicolon. A semicolon is used to indicate a pause, usually between two main clauses, which must be pronounced over a comma pause. So what are the practical ways to implement this little literal workhorse? Read on to see when to use a semicolon and how it can help clearly separate the listed items and form a bridge to another sentence. Why use a semicolon? In the classic grammar and style guide, the style elements made by William Strunks and E.B. White (first published in 1919), the semicolon case is clearly spelled out: If two or more clauses, grammatically complete and not connected to the link, are to form a single complex sentence, the correct mark is the semicolon. In simpler terms, this means that you can use a semicolon to separate two full sentences that are related but not directly related to a connecting word, for example, but whether it is. For example: She does not appear on the job today; she said she had a headache. These are other little-known punctuation marks that we should use. Who uses semicolons? The short answer: copy editors, professional writers, and you if you're savvy. If words are flesh and muscle writing, then punctuation is breathless, and a good writer will make good use of it, says Benjamin Dreyer of Penguin Random House, author of the upcoming book Dreyer in English. Semicolon is one of his favorite pieces of punctuation, and it was one of America's great authors, Shirley Jackson, who inspired admiration. Shirley Jackson loved her semicolons, says Dreyer. I think that's all the protection they need. The haunting first paragraph of Hill House— one of the great beginning paragraphs I can imagine— includes three of them. Here is Jackson's sublime first part: No living organism can continue to last long in sanely circumstances of absolute reality; even lads and katydid are supposed to be some dream of. Hill House, instead of sane, stood by itself against the mountains, holding the darkness inside; it had stood for so eighty years and could stand eighty more. Within the walls continued to stand upright, bricks met neatly, the floors were firm, and the doors were reasonably closed; silence persevered against the tree and stone of Hill House, and everything that went down there went by himself. Why and when to use a semicolon instead of commas? According to Dreyer, whatever sentences don't hang along with commas unless they are as terse as He came to, he saw he conquered, he explains. For something greater in length, the semicolon is simply a better, stronger glue than a comma, but the period is too controversial. It is also grammatically incorrect to link two full sentences using a comma; semicolon admits that they have two complete sentences, even if they are related. Here are 12 more grammatical errors that even smart people make. When using semicolonst helps to think of semicolons as a kind of soft period. Semicolons provide the right link between two essentially independent thinkers who want to present it as just independence shyness, explains Dreyers. According to yourdictionary.com, there is a closer link between the clauses than the point would be. Here's an example: David was getting hungry; he suddenly regretted skipping breakfast. When you use semicolons in lists, we usually use commas to separate items. Like the market, I'll be picking up yogurt, blueberries, and coffee. However, sometimes there are lists that contain commas, so it becomes confusing unless you separate these items by using semicolons. For example, on the market, I'll be picking up yogurt, which I know must be organic; blueberries, because they are in season and for sale; and coffee so dad can actually wake up in the morning. Semicolons keep items in the list neatly covered, so your meaning is always clear. Don't miss these other common punctuation errors everyone needs to stop making. When to use a semicolon before a transition Use a semicolon to merge two sentences after a transition phrase, such as, however, and as a result. You probably already know to use a comma after the transition phrase (however, I still got a discount), but you don't know that you can use a semicolon before the passphrase to build a bridge to the previous sentence (Sale officially started on Saturday; however, I still got a discount on Friday because I had a special code). You could technically use the period in this case, but the semicolon signals that thoughts are related. Other examples: everyone knows that he deserves promotion; Of course, he will not get one with the current budget cuts. Her email is blowing up; for example, she got 50 reports in just the last 10 minutes. When not to use semicolons When you have a connection, a connecting word, for example, but, and so on, you don't need a semicolon. In these cases, the correct punctuation mark is a comma. So it would be wrong to write Judy jogged on the sidewalk; but it wasn't good for her knees. The correct version, using a comma, would have Judy jogged on the sidewalk, but it wasn't good for her knees. Of course, if you get rid of the bet, a semicolon would be useful: Judy jogged on the sidewalk; it wasn't good for her knees. Now that you've mastered when to use a semicolon, check out these 41 little grammar rules that help you sound smarter. Smarter.

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