



what's

the

point

(over a comma)?

# the semicolon



the semicolon combines



two **separate** thoughts  
on the **same** subject

(if that sounds like

a + b =

the full stop or 'and'

it's because it is)



# the semicolon BRINGS CLOSER



It was the best of times 🌈  
It was the worst of times.

It was the best of times 🌈,  
& it was the worst of times.

It was the best of times 🌈;  
it was the worst of times.

SEPARATE

RELATED

LINKED

the semicolon  
BRINGS CLOSER  
connecting adverbs

I like eating fruit; however,  
it makes me constipated.

I like eating fruit; therefore,  
I must be healthy.

I like eating fruit; consequently,  
the grocer is my best friend.





# the semicolon BREAKS UP LISTS

I like fruit from different regions;

lemons, limes, and oranges  
from Spain;

cherries, peaches, and Zuccata  
from Italy;

and raspberries, roseberries, and plums  
from England

Pause length defines the 'what' of the semicolon, not its 'why'.

Without rules, it often wrongly replaces the colon.

Remember, the semicolon brings SEPARATE ideas together (& lists).

If in doubt, use the colon. Or do as others do - use the hyphen.

Be clear. Be simple. Be human.



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