

## SEMICOLON EXAMPLE SHEET

(1) I love 80s rock music; it has some great beats.

Correct or incorrect? Correct

Why? Both are independent clauses, but only the first clause identifies the "it" in the second clause.

(2) I had a weird dream; I saw cats and dogs in a field.

Correct or incorrect? Incorrect

Why? Both are independent clauses and, though connected, do not need each other to make sense.

(3) I need to buy: apples; pineapple; oranges; and grapes.

Correct or incorrect? Incorrect

Why? Semicolons separate complete sentences—not single words or dependent clauses.

(4) I baked come cookies. I baked some mini bunt cakes. I baked some banana bread.

Correct or incorrect? Incorrect(ish)

Why? A rhythm has been established (same subject & verb). Therefore, semicolons are preferred.

(5) I need three things from Pet Smart: cat food, which I'll store for the winter months; a tank filter, which I'm picking up for my friend; a flea collar, which will promptly go on my dog.

Correct or incorrect? Correct

Why? The items on the list are described using complete sentences.

(6) I swam in a pool; I swam in a lake; I swam in the ocean.

Correct or incorrect? Correct

Why? Semicolons separate independent clauses that establish a rhythm (same subject & verb).