

# Commas (,) and Semicolons (;)

## Exercise 1

- Look at the sample sentences below.
- For the rules about semicolons, fill in the blanks with words in the box.

• dependent      • independent      • independent

### *General rules for semicolons*

1. Correct sample sentence: *The team played well. However, they lost.*  
Correct sample sentence: *The team played well; however, they lost.*

**Rule 1:** You can put a semicolon between two \_\_\_\_\_ clauses.

2. Sample mistake: *Because there was a problem; we had to work late.*  
Correct sample sentence: *Because there was a problem, we had to work late.*

**Rule 2:** Don't put a semicolon between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ clauses.

## Exercise 2

Put in five commas and three semicolons in the sentences below.

1. We were hungry but didn't have time to eat.
2. Although the doctor was on vacation she said that I could call her.
3. My older brother likes rock music my younger brother prefers classical.
4. Tori's suitcase was small. Therefore he wasn't able to pack all of his sweaters.
5. Inside the envelope which is over there you will find some money.
6. He played in a band however it never became famous.
7. After I heard the answer I felt more confident.
8. The runners forgot to stretch before the race so their muscles soon began to hurt.
9. The team did a lot better during the second half of the game.
10. The letter arrived she quickly tore it open.