

Semi Colons ;

It is usual to use commas to separate the items in a list. However, when the list items themselves contain commas, you can "outrank" those commas by using semicolons as separators for your list items.

Look at this list:

- John
- Simon
- Toby

This list would be written like this: John, Simon, and Toby.

Now look at this list:

- John, the baker
- Simon, the policeman
- Toby, the architect

This list would be written like this: John, the baker; Simon, the policeman; and Toby, the architect.

Note: Semicolons can be used to separate list items if one (or more) of the list items contains a comma.

Example semi colon list:

- I packed my bag and in it I put my toothbrush, the one with the splayed bristles; my sponge, the real one I was given for my birthday; my comb, the black one; my teddy bear, I know I shouldn't need him now; clean undies, enough for two nights; pyjamas, the new ones; and a bar of chocolate for comfort.

Use a comma after the item you are describing.

The semi colon is placed at the end of the description, before the next item.

ACTIVITY

Choose one of these two images and write a descriptive semi colon list about it.

TIP – choose 3 or 4 features you want to focus on first. Then, write the description for each.

