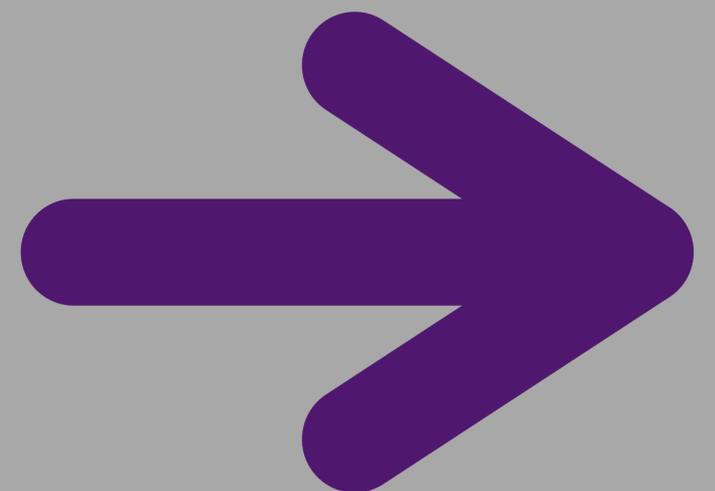
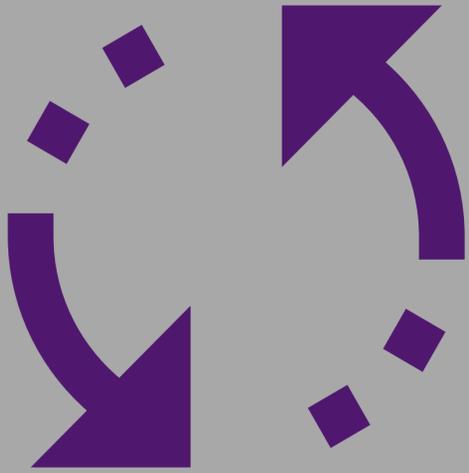




HOW TO USE SEMICOLONS

The arbiters of nuance & clarity





To add nuance

Replacing conjunctions

Rather than incorporating a comma + a conjunctions (and, but, so) you may incorporate a semicolon to connect the two phrases/sentences. This adds slightly more nuance to the sentence.

Using a semicolon instead of a comma or full stop demonstrates that these two sentences are connected, and it is more stylish than constantly using commas. **For example:**

Using a comma + conjunction:

The weather on Saturday was rainy, **but** we went to the park anyway.

Instead try:

Using a semicolon

The weather on Saturday was rainy; we went to the park anyway.



To add nuance

Replacing full stops

Rather than separating a follow-up sentence which begins with a conjunctive adverb (however, therefore, consequently) you can connect them using a semicolon.

Using a semicolon instead of a full stop demonstrates that these two sentences/phrases are connected: more connected than warranted by a full stop. **For example:**

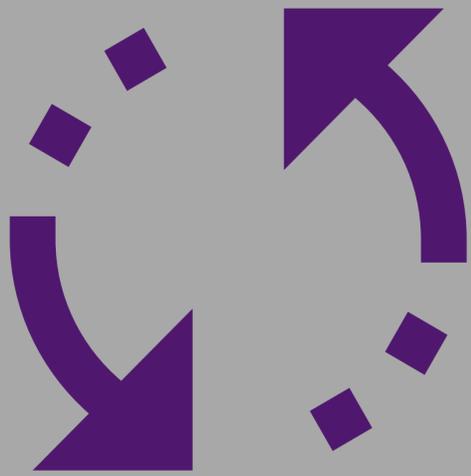
Two separate sentences.

Many students are unable to access needed resources during the lockdown. Therefore, the depth of research has diminished considerably.

Instead try:

Using a semicolon

Many students are unable to access needed resources during the lockdown; therefore, the depth of research has diminished considerably.



To add clarity

Replacing commas

Whilst lists are typically separated by commas, you may find the need to separate them with semicolons if the items themselves include commas.

A list which includes commas in each 'item' can be immensely confusing if this is also separated by commas. Adding semicolons to separate each 'group' helps subdue the chaos of such sentences. **For example:**

Using only commas:

Your tutors this term include Ally Brown, a seasoned lecturer in the humanities, John Filmore, who published a seminal text in the humanities, and Polly Gillhorn, a recent graduate from King's.

Instead:

Using semicolons:

Your teachers this term include Ally Brown, a seasoned lecturer in the humanities; John Filmore, who published a seminal text in the humanities; and Polly Gillhorn, a recent graduate from King's.