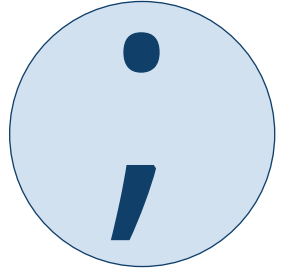# SPaG Starters **Semi-Colons**

A good way to check whether you have used a semi-colon correctly is to see if you can replace it with a full stop. If the clauses either side of the full stop still make sense independently, then you have used the semi-colon correctly.

> e.g.
>
> *The bus was so overcrowded; I felt really claustrophobic.*
>
> Each sentence either side is an independent clause; the semi-colon could be replaced by a full stop.

Can you insert semi-colons into these sentences?

1. The students were asked to line up on the yard sensibly during the fire drill the teachers needed to quickly take registers.

2. The sports hall was temporarily closed it had rained heavily at the weekend and it had flooded.

3. The school library was closed on Thursday lunch times the librarian used this time to reorganise everything.

4. The caretaker had cut the grass on the school field at break time it made my hayfever worse.

Now have a go at writing your own sentences making use of a semi-colon. Remember to be ambitious in your vocabulary choices.

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SPaG Starters **Semi-Colons Answers**

1. The students were asked to line up on the yard sensibly during the fire drill; the teachers needed to quickly take registers.

2. The sports hall was temporarily closed; it had rained heavily at the weekend and it had flooded.

3. The school library was closed on Thursday lunch times; the librarian used this time to reorganise everything.

4. The caretaker had cut the grass on the school field; at break time it made my hayfever worse.