

Semi-colors The 's most comprehensive guide to American punctuation Rule 1a. Although punctuation is far from the most important aspect of your writing, it serves a worthwhile purpose: it signals to the reader the relationship between your ideas. We have paid our dues; we expect all the privileges listed in the contract. This handout limits itself to punctuation that occurs within sentences: commas, semicolons, colors, dashes, and parentheses "I love you!" she shouted. And observe closely how accomplished writers use punctuation to good effect. but My dinner is a salad of spinach, carrots, and tomatoes; a bowl of pasta; and two breadsticks. "To be or not to be" is one of the most famous lines from Hamlet Try to experiment with all forms of punctuation in order to expand your expressive range as a writer. Rule 1b. Punctuation does not just exist as a convention; it also conveys meaning and so aids the reader in following the writer's ideas. Avoid a semicolon when a dependent clause comes before anExclamation point [!] "I hate you!" he shouted. A semicolon can replace a period if the writer wishes to narrow the gap between two closely linked sentences (independent clauses). Examples: Call me tomorrow; you can give me an answer then. Simply The Meaning of Punctuation, and the dog is wet. My lunch is a sandwich, an apple, and a bag of pretzels.