

Javier scored the winning goal, yet he was worried about the team's performance.


correct

Second, DO NOT use a semicolon to join a dependent clause to an independent clause. Again, a comma is needed.

When Javier scored the winning goal; he tore off his shirt and leaped into the arms of his teammates.

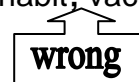

wrong

When Javier scored the winning goal, he tore off his shirt and leaped into the arms of his teammates.


correct

Third, DO NOT use a semicolon to introduce a list or another idea that cannot stand on its own. A colon should be used.

The man in the apartment upstairs has an annoying habit; vacuuming at 2 a.m.


wrong

The man in the apartment upstairs has an annoying habit: vacuuming at 2 a.m.


correct

Practice 1

Directions: Correct semicolons errors in the following sentences. If the sentence is correct, do nothing.

1. Last night we watched a movie; *Legends of the Fall*.
2. The movie is based on Jim Harrison's novella; but the two versions are quite different.
3. In the movie the grizzly plays an important role; in the book he's only mentioned in passing and is not involved in Tristan's death.
4. Even though Susannah seems to be the root of the conflict between the brothers in the movie; in the book she is never engaged to Samuel.
5. Hollywood often changes a story in order to appeal to a broader audience; or to make the story fit into the standard two-hour movie time limit.

Practice 2

On a separate sheet of paper, write ten sentences that include a semicolon used correctly.