

Writing Centre

Semi-colons

Semi-colons are used

- 1. with independent clauses.
- 2. to separate items in a list or series.

Use a semi-colon with

- Two related independent clauses
 For example:
 I love the TRU Writing Centre; I like to have an appointment at least once a week.
- A compound sentence, instead of the coordinating conjunction and comma For example: TRU has many international students; it also has many Canadian students.
- A transitional expression between two independent clauses For example: TRU has many international students; however, most students are Canadian.
- To separate items in a list or series when the items contain commas For example: At the TRU Writing Centre, we have tutors from Edmonton, Alberta; Orillia, Ontario; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; and Beijing, China.

Do **NOT** use a semi-colon

- 1. between a subordinate clause and the rest of the sentence.
- 2. between an appositive and the word it refers to.
- 3. to introduce a list.
- 4. between independent clauses joined by and, but, or, nor, for, yet, so.