

WALT: Reason about when to use semi colons

Work through the problems below.

The answers are on the next page!

4a. Rewrite the two sentences below, joining them together with a semi-colon. Punctuate your new sentence correctly. The door opened slowly. A figure, dressed all in black, crept stealthily into the room.  A	4b. Rewrite the two sentences below, joining them together with a semi-colon. Punctuate your new sentence correctly. A large cloud slipped silently in front the full, bright moon. They needed to move now if they were to complete their mission.  A
5a. Complete the rest of the sentence below by adding a related independent clause. He had done the best he could; _____ Include a subordinate clause within your independent clause.  A	5b. Complete the rest of the sentence below by adding a related independent clause. Their mission was complete; _____ Include a subordinate clause within your independent clause.  A
6a. Khalid has used a semi-colon to separate two independent clauses in the sentence below. The wind howled down the chimney; and made the windows rattle in their frames it was going to be a long, cold night. Has he used it correctly? Explain how you know.  B	6b. Tara has used a semi-colon to separate two independent clauses in the sentence below. The party invitations had been written; and posted thirty people were expected to attend. Has she used it correctly? Explain how you know.  B

Expected

4a. The door opened slowly; a figure, dressed all in black, crept stealthily into the room.

5a. Various answers, for example: He had done the best he could; the rest would be up to the police, who he knew were working over-time on the case.

6a. Khalid is incorrect. The semi-colon is in the wrong place. It should be: The wind howled down the chimney and made the windows rattle in their frames; it was going to be a long, cold night.

Expected

4b. A large cloud slipped silently in front the full, bright moon; they needed to move now if they were to complete their mission.

5b. Various answers, for example: Their mission was complete; they could finally stand down now that the thief, who had stolen millions, was safely behind bars.

6b. Tara is incorrect. The semi-colon is in the wrong place. It should be: The party invitations had been written and posted; thirty people were expected to attend.