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| **Grammar Masters: Teacher’s Notes**  **Topic: Semicolons** |
| Semicolons help you connect closely related ideas when a punctuation mark stronger than a comma is needed. By using semicolons effectively, you can make your writing sound more sophisticated.   * **1. Link two**[**independent clauses**](javascript:openPopWin(%22indclause.html%22,%20400,%20320,%20%22%22,%2025,%2025))**to connect closely related ideas**   Some people write with a word processor**;** others write with a pen or pencil.   * **2. Link lists where the items contain commas to avoid confusion between list items**   There are basically two ways to write: with a pen or pencil, which is inexpensive and easily accessible**;**or by computer and printer, which is more expensive but quick and neat.   * **3. Link lengthy clauses or clauses with commas to avoid confusion between clauses**   Some people write with a word processor, typewriter, or a computer**;** but others, for different reasons, choose to write with a pen or pencil. |

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