

Aggie Grammar Guide: Commas and Semicolons

Intermediate Practice

Rewrite each sentence to include commas or semicolons, as indicated. In the semicolon questions, if any commas need to be added or removed in your revision, please make these adjustments as well. Note that some variation exists with these revisions, and your revision may work even if it differs from the one given.

Example (add commas): Even though these two countries celebrate Lent they both also use or prefer different types of dishes.

Revision: Even though these two countries celebrate Lent, they both also use or prefer different types of dishes.

Example (revise to add a semicolon): I really do not like to work in groups, however I have to admit that sometimes it is very helpful.

Revision: I really do not like to work in groups; however, I have to admit that sometimes it is very helpful.

- 1) Add commas: To celebrate the graduation of my brother Aaron we must throw a big party.
- 2) Add commas: Both cultures are different yet they share the same purpose of preserving their language.
- 3) Add commas: Besides studying abroad will look amazing on future references and work applications.
- 4) Add commas: For example she did research on babies who were learning to speak Koro Japanese and English.
- 5) Add commas: “The Language of Silence” by Maxine Hong Kingston who is one of the greatest writers in the United States documents the author’s difficulties in speaking since a very young age.
- 6) Add commas: Around 1816 Von Drais a German baron built the first known bicycle a two-wheeled wooden walking machine.
- 7) Add commas: Today social media has become I fear a strong part of people’s lives.

- 8) Add commas: Lewis (2015) shows that there are over 75,000,000 people who speak French as a first language and over 87,000,000 people who use French as a second language; also 53 countries use French as an official language.
- 9) Revise to add a semicolon: People need to start saving water, in many cases people are unaware of the impacts of having a water drought.
- 10) Revise to add a semicolon: I have a blog about some serious but important aspects about college life, and this blog will be a great reference for incoming college freshmen.
- 11) Revise to add a semicolon: Many undergraduate and graduate students consider studying abroad while in college. Although the reasons vary from person to person.
- 12) Revise to add a semicolon: That is why it is important for cultural values to continue in Inupiat communities because they allow them to reflect on their cultural values and see their importance in the Inupiat community.

Advanced Practice

Correct the comma and semicolon use in the following paragraph. Please note, there may be multiple revision options although you will see only one revision in the answer key. Compare your revision to the one provided and determine if one is more effective.

Example: The surrounding images of the personified rose and worm cause the reader to grasp a better understanding of the speaker's feeling towards love; or the lack of love he faced. Ultimately the components of the imagery, figurative language, and setting bestow a mood of gloom, sadness, and betrayal.

Revision: The surrounding images of the personified rose and worm cause the reader to grasp a better understanding of the speaker's feeling towards love or the lack of love he faced. Ultimately, the components of the imagery, figurative language, and setting bestow a mood of gloom, sadness, and betrayal.

For some people biking is not just a way to get around, or a recreational pastime, it is a way of life. People utilize bikes to feel healthier both mentally and physically and to help the environment. Bicycles unite people together, since they have something in common. Bicycles are more than just a toy or exercise machine, they mean freedom from traffic jams, stress and pollution. People do not have to rely on anyone or adjust to others' agenda to get anywhere, or do anything. In addition repairing a bicycle is less expensive than repairing a car. The bicycle has many benefits besides helping people stay in shape and reducing pollution. A bike can be very beneficial if you need to go somewhere and do not want to walk or take the bus. Furthermore it can help you in times of need, for example my bicycle has gotten me out of trouble more than once when I had to race to class on a deadline, because I overslept. When I am unable to think, my bike transports me to another place, a place where "I will suddenly find myself marveling at the joy and exhilaration I feel when the breeze tickles my cheek and the pedaling suddenly becomes effortless" (Chen).