



Uni-edit English Writing Tip: Semi-colons for monster lists

英文寫作秘訣：條列內容很複雜時可使用分號

難度：中等

研究報告常見一長串複雜的詞彙，有時候光用逗號並無法將其中各個組成單位清楚區分開來。舉例如下：

Incorrect: We had four professors on our committee: Peter Wursthorn, Professor of Mathematics, Ronald Pepin, Professor of English, Cynthia Greenblatt, Professor of Education, and Nada Light, Professor of Nursing.

因為文中人名和身分間已使用逗號，所以在區分不同人的時候應改用分號。

Correct: We had four professors on our committee: Peter Wursthorn, Professor of Mathematics; Ronald Pepin, Professor of English; Cynthia Greenblatt, Professor of Education; and Nada Light, Professor of Nursing.

以下是另一個例子：

Correct: The participants in the first group scored 70 points; the second, 60; and the third, 40.

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Level of difficulty: Intermediate

Your research reports often include long lists of complex items. Sometimes using commas only is insufficient to offset the items. Here is an example:

Incorrect: We had four professors on our committee: Peter Wursthorn, Professor of Mathematics, Ronald Pepin, Professor of English, Cynthia Greenblatt, Professor of Education, and Nada Light, Professor of Nursing.

As each item already includes a comma, separate the items using semi-colons. You can think of semi-colons as big commas in this situation.

Correct: We had four professors on our committee: Peter Wursthorn, Professor of Mathematics; Ronald Pepin, Professor of English Literature; Cynthia Greenblatt, Professor of Education; and Nada Light, Professor of Nursing.

Here is another example:

Incorrect: The participants in the first group scored 70 points, the second, 60, and the third, 40.

Correct: The participants in the first group scored 70 points; the second, 60; and the third, 40.

END OF TIP