Are you perplexed over the proper use of the semicolon? Have you been allowing it to distress you to the point where you neglect to use this spectacular punctuation mark at all? Well, cease such nonsense immediately! There are only two basic ways to go about using a semicolon, and the explanations for these uses can be found below.

1. **Connecting Two Independent Clauses**

Use a semicolon to connect two independent clauses—meaning two complete sentences—that directly relate to each other.

Example: Semicolons are my favorite punctuation mark; I make sure to use them at least five times before breakfast every day.

You may use semicolons to connect a sentence with another sentence containing transitional words/phrases such as however, moreover, on the other hand, etc. You cannot, however, use a semicolon to connect two sentences containing a conjunction.

Example: Colons are fantastic; however, semicolons are the most fantastical of all. Example: Colons are fantastic, but semicolons are the most fantastical of all.

2. **Separating Items in a List**

Use semicolons to separate items within a list that already contains commas. This will help organize the list and enhance its clarity.

Example: Using semicolons is more fun than many things: it is more fun than rollercoasters, which can make you sick; it is more fun than driving monster trucks, which can make you sick; it is more fun than ice cream-eating-contests, which can make you sick; and it is more fun than listening to Nickelback, which can also make you sick.