University English Editing & Translation Service
journal papers • conference papers • master theses
PhD dissertations • books • proposals

Uni-edit English Writing Tip: Semi-colons for monster lists
Uni-edit 영작 팁: 여러 가지를 나열할 때 쓰는 세미콜론

난이도: 중급

연구 보고서에는 복잡한 항목들을 여러 개 나열해야 할 경우가 많은데, 그런 경우 콤마만으로는 항목들을 제대로 구분해주기가 힘든 경우가 종종 있습니다:

잘못된 예: 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.

이 예에서는 개별 항목들 안에 콤마가 이미 포함되어 있기 때문에 세미콜론을 사용해서 항목들을 구분해 주어야 합니다. 이런 경우, 세미콜론은 일종의 큰 콤마라고 생각하시면 됩니다.

옳은 예: 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.

또 다른 예를 들어 보겠습니다:

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

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

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