



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：

錯誤：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。

正確：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：

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

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

特別感謝國立台灣大學語言學研究所陳萱芳同學提供寫作秘訣的中文翻譯。

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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