

## WORKING WITH THE SEMICOLON

**A semicolon is used to join two related independent clauses.** (She would not sing; he could not sing.) A semicolon is used before a word or word group, such as *for example* and *however*, when that word or word group it joins two related independent clauses. (The mule was stubborn; however, it finally moved an inch.)

A. Add a semicolon to each of the following sentences. Underline the independent clause in each sentence. Circle any word or word group that joins two independent clauses.

1. Elephant tusks have many uses. For example, they are used to make bracelets.
2. Elephants were once common in some parts of the world however they are now a threatened species
3. Too many people have hunted the elephants too many people have killed the m.
4. Substitutes for the ivory from the elephant tusks are being used for instance, some "ivory" bracelets are now made from highly polished plastics.
5. Naturalists realized that the elephant is in danger yet people ignore their warnings.

B. Combine the following short, choppy sentences by using semicolons and adding words or word groups that help join the sentences.

1. Elephants are short of grazing lands. Elephants are short of water.

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2. Elephant reservations have been established. They are not enough.

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3. Other animal attack elephants. The elephants are often too weak to resist.

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4. Something should be done. It should be done soon.

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5. Elephants need protection. Otherwise they will not survive.

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