

Semicolons to Join Independent Clauses

Semicolons can join independent clauses in two ways, as shown in the examples below. Look for more information at 618.1 and 618.2 in *Write Source*.

- **Humpback whales are the slowest moving of all whales; they are also the most playful.** (The semicolon connects two independent clauses.)
- **Humpback whales are very social whales; therefore, they take time to play.** (The semicolon is often used with a conjunctive adverb. Note where to place the semicolon and comma.)

Place semicolons where needed in the following sentences. Add commas where necessary.

1. Humpback whales migrate every year they spend the summers in cool northern waters.
2. These whales can't smell, taste, or see well however they have excellent hearing.
3. The calves drink up to two gallons of milk per feeding they may feed 48 times per day.
4. At this rate they gain up to 200 pounds a day moreover they grow nearly a foot a week.
5. Humpback whales are disappearing at an alarming rate their population has dwindled from 102,000 to 8,700.
6. Humpbacks lift their bodies almost completely out of the water this is called "breaching."
7. Humpbacks also point their heads down toward the ocean's floor and make sounds this is called "singing."
8. No one knows why whales sing perhaps it is one of the ways they communicate.
9. Many whale species "sing" still the best singers are the humpbacks.
10. Humpbacks are called "floaters" they float when they die.