

## Grammar Practice

### Semicolons

#### ■ To Join Two Independent Clauses



Indicate where a semicolon is needed in the following sentences by writing the semicolon along with the words that surround it (as shown in red).

**Example:** Aliens from outer space are still a popular subject movies like *Independence Day*, *Signs*, and *Men in Black* attest to that.

... **subject; movies** ...

1. Recently, the imagined aliens are unfriendly indeed, they are the “let’s-take-over-the-earth” variety.
2. Long ago, people were crazy about the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* however, this movie’s aliens were a more friendly type.
3. You wanted to meet these guys you wanted to take a ride in their brightly lit, saucer-shaped spacecraft!
4. Their spaceship was gargantuan it dwarfed the Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming!
5. Area 51, a military facility north of Las Vegas, is shrouded in secrecy at the center of this 60-square-mile plot of land, a site once used to test the U-2 spy plane, is an air base the government will not discuss.
6. Many unidentified flying object (UFO) stories are connected with this place Area 51 has become the symbol for the government’s alleged UFO cover-up.
7. Whatever you choose to believe about aliens, they remain an interesting topic plenty of stories are yet to be told.

#### Model

Model the following sentences to practice using semicolons to join two independent clauses.

No one dared touch the bowls of steaming food; instead, they sat quietly, waiting to be invited.

—Lois Krenzke, “The Long Table”

The small fox trembled a moment; it had heard something, a warning.