**Using Semicolons**

**1.** Use a **semicolon** to connect sentences that have **closely related ideas**.

Examples: I was tired yesterday; I wasn’t able to finish my work.

Smoking is bad for you; it can damage your lungs.

2. Use a semicolon to add more information.

Examples: I don’t like the weather in Minnesota; it’s so cold in the winter.

The time is up; please stop writing now.

3. Use a semicolon to separate items in a list that contains commas.

Examples: The best dates for our party are Wednesday, September 18; Friday, September 20;

or Sunday, September 22.

I’ve been to St. Paul, MN; Madison, WI; and Chicago, IL.

**Choose whether a comma (,) or semicolon (;) would be better to fill in each blank.**

1. He told me to wait \_ but I didn't.

2. That was Thomas \_ my husband.

3. He couldn't afford the big house \_ however, he was able to buy a smaller one.

4. The guests were Tom, an architect \_ Rachel, a doctor and Bill, a dentist.

5. The guests were German \_ French \_ and Italian.

6. He was drunk \_ this is why he crashed the car.

7. He didn't really laugh at them \_ he just smiled.

8. I like to read \_ and I like to write as well.

9. He wants to make a lot of money \_ in fact, he wants to be a millionaire.

10. He travelled to Frankfurt, Germany \_ Paris, France \_ and Barcelona, Spain.

11. He didn't wait \_ he just left.

12. He called her \_ but she didn't hear him.

13. Yes \_ I do know how to make that dish.

14. He said he would correct my mistakes by Thursday \_ however, he was only able to do this on Friday.

15. He brought Frank, his brother \_ Yvonne, his daughter \_ and his mother.

16. We flew to Frankfurt \_ not Amsterdam.

17. Although he really wanted to go to the game \_ he didn't have enough money for a ticket.

18. Having a cat is great \_ having two is even better.

19. Having a cat is great \_ but having two is even better.

20. There are three ways to get there: by plane, which is expensive \_ by train, which can also be expensive \_ and by bus, which is the cheapest option.