Punctuate to clarify meaning: the semi-colon (;)

Think of the semi-colon (;) as a rolling stop at a stop sign. Some call it a soft period. One purpose is to separate two sentences that are closely related and of equal weight, and where a full stop (that is, a period) seems too abrupt.

Examples

The amplitude should be 1 mv; the interval should be 1 second.

The Gateway Project is more than the replacement of old and unsatisfactory facilities; it revitalizes the Burnaby Campus SW1 complex.

The commitment to industry is not unique to the School; in fact, it is integral to BCIT's vision.

Substantial student demand is expected for this international program; however, program marketing will rest with the host country's Ministry of Education.



A message from the Instructional Materials Developers in the Learning and Teaching Centre.

Increasing student engagement with clearer content