

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## SEMICOLON CONSTRUCTION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

A semicolon is a comma with a period above it ( ; ). A semicolon joins two thoughts that are about the same thing (topic). The two thoughts joined by a semicolon must be complete thoughts. That means that each thought could stand alone as a sentence.

We must make sure we understand if a group of words says a complete thought.

Examples: This puppy has a cute nose. ( **complete thought** )  
( **sentence** )

When our dad came home. ( **not a complete thought** )  
( **not a sentence** )

(We have a subject [ dad ] and a verb [ came ].

However, we don't know what happened when Dad came home.)

Ran down the street. ( **not a complete thought** )  
( **not a sentence** )

(We do not know *who* ran down the street. We are missing a subject.)

Directions: Write **S** in the blank if the group of words says a complete thought.  
Write **NS** in the blank if the group of words does not say a complete thought.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Their sister plays soccer.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ If you leave.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ In the afternoon.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ A jump rope is on the floor.