

Commas and Semicolons in a Series

James Forten
Grammar: Commas and
Semicolons

Commas and semicolons are used to separate three or more items within a series or list. A semicolon is used when the items in the series already contain a comma.

Thinking Question

Do the items in the series or list contain commas?

Items separated by commas: He was shocked by the dirt, the smell, and the noise on the ship.

Items separated by semicolons: The documentary aired on Channel 11, PBS; Channel 35, WGN; and Channel 70, HMN.

Insert commas or semicolons to correctly punctuate each sentence.

1. When James signed up to be a sailor, he had no idea of the discomfort danger and hard work involved.
2. He carried gunpowder ran errands and helped the wounded.
3. The four officers on the ship were from Malvern, Pennsylvania Trenton, New Jersey Lebanon, Pennsylvania and Baltimore, Maryland.
4. The captain the first mate and the cabin boys remained on deck during the battle.
5. The wind rain thunder and lightning made the battle worse.
6. Finally, the sea calmed down the skies cleared and the battle ended.
7. James felt relieved grateful and exhausted.
8. To find out more about this battle, we looked for these three books at the library: *War Heroes*, *Then and Now Sailors*, *Soldiers*, *Heroes How They Fought*, *How They Won*.