

Commas and Semicolons

Writing lists - Commas are used to separate items in a list.

For example:

The features of a country:

- Mountains
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Forests

Mountains, rivers, lakes and forests are features of many countries.

NOTICE that no comma is needed between lakes and the “and”.

Writing lists - Semicolons are used to separate items in a list when the items are described in greater detail and may contain commas.

For example:

The features of the UK:

- Ben Nevis, the highest mountain
- The River Severn, the longest river
- Lough Neagh, the largest lake
- Galloway Forest, the largest forest

Ben Nevis, the highest mountain at 1345m; the River Severn, the longest river; Lough Neagh, the largest lake; and the Galloway Forest, the largest forest, are all spectacular features of the United Kingdom.

NOTICE that a semicolon is needed between Lough Neagh, the largest lake and the “and”.

YOUR LEARNING

Rewrite the following using semicolons to separate the items in the list.

Some of the moons of Saturn:

- Titan, the largest and the size of a planet
- Tethys, with a huge crater which makes it look like the 'Death Star' from the Star Wars movies
- Mimas, also with a giant crater which is hundreds of kilometres across
- Enceladus, with a smooth icy surface

Write each of the moons and their descriptions before completing your sentence with...

are some of the incredible moons of Saturn.