

Learning Objective

We are learning how to write sentences about cassowaries that use a semi-colon to mark a boundary between two main clauses.

Challenge 1

Decide where you think the semi-colon should go in each of the following sentences.

- 1) Their feathers are glossy black their legs are scaly.
- 2) In Australia cassowaries are an endangered species it is thought that there could be fewer than 2,000 individuals left in the wild.
- 3) Adult cassowaries will sometimes kill dogs dogs will sometimes kill young cassowaries.
- 4) The cassowary lay dead on the back of a ranger's pick-up truck it had been collected shortly after the road accident had been reported.
- 5) The wings of the cassowary were tiny they were almost non-existent.
- 6) The mother was foraging for fruit the father was protecting the chicks.
- 7) Cassowaries are shy and reclusive nevertheless, they can become aggressive when threatened.
- 8) Cassowaries emit very low bellows they are the lowest bird calls known to humans.

Challenge 2

Complete the following sentences with a second main clause after the semi-colon. This clause should express a complete thought. It should also relate closely to what has been stated in the first main clause.

- 1) The cassowary was extremely wary of the snake; ...
- 2) I have never been so scared in all my life; ...
- 3) Cassowaries love nothing more than eating large, ripe fruit; ...
- 4) The cassowary is my second favourite bird; ...
- 5) Cassowaries have a reputation for being dangerous; ...
- 6) The father looked after the three chicks for over nine months;

Challenge 3

Your home is on the edge of a rainforest in Queensland, Australia. The forest is home to a healthy population of southern cassowary. One day a cassowary wanders into your back garden and starts to behave in an aggressive manner. Write about this encounter. Try to include a range of sentence types and punctuation marks that include semi-colons. Try also to use some of the descriptive words from the Word Wall.

Word Wall

cassowary

vulnerable chick

undergrowth

reassuring

prehistoric rainforest

protective father

bond

drooping red wattles

lurking

horny helmet

booming vocal call

screeching

predators

dagger-like claws