Semicolons

Why and when do we use semicolons?
There are several options for punctuation, so why bother with semicolons? Semicolons aid in connecting two complete ideas while also remaining grammatically correct.

Using semicolons in sentences:
As with any other form of punctuation, there are correct and incorrect ways to utilize semicolons in sentences. You should use semicolons to:

1. Combine related independent clauses (clauses that can stand on their own) into one sentence.
   Ex. Studying all hours of the day will exhaust you; take breaks to keep yourself from getting overwhelmed.

2. Combine independent clauses using “however” and “nonetheless.”
   Ex. She felt like she had been studying for days; nonetheless, she continued to take notes.
   OR
   Ex. He had been practicing for days; however, there weren’t enough hours in the day to prepare him for such a judgmental panel.

3. Separate items in a list already utilizing commas
   Ex. While planning for her trip, she planned to visit several places, including: Tokyo, Japan—where her favorite fictional character once visited; Okinawa, Japan—because she’d once read about ikigai; Kyoto, Japan—where her ancestors were from.

Don’t use semicolons...
1. To join clauses when they’re not both independent.
   Ex. Forgetting to wear a hat; Dave’s hair stood up everywhere.
   In this example, a comma should be used.

2. In front of a list:
   Ex. She read many books over the summer: Jane Eyre, 19Q4, and Dorian Gray.
   In this example, a colon should be used.