

# Syntax

## Consider:

There is another and curious class of cases in which close external resemblance does not depend on adaptation to similar habits of life, but has been gained for the sake of protection. I allude to the wonderful manner in which certain butterflies imitate . . . other and quite distinct species. . . . The mockers and mocked always inhabit the same region; we never find an imitator living remote from the form which it imitates. The mockers are almost invariably rare insects; the mocked in almost every case abound in swarms.

— Charles Darwin, “Analogical Resemblances,” *The Origin of Species*

## Discuss:

1. Why does Darwin use a semicolon rather than a period in the last two sentences of this passage?
2. What effect does the sentence structure have on the meaning of the passage?

## Apply:

Write a sentence with two independent clauses describing two schools in your area. Join the two clauses with a semicolon. The two clauses should emphasize the differences between the two schools. Remember not to use a conjunction to join the two clauses. Share your sentence with a partner.