## Grammar and Mechanics Skills - Grades 6-12

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Skill</th>
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| 6th   | Semicolons and Commas  
Semicolons are most commonly used to link (in a single sentence) two independent clauses that are closely related in thought.  
*Ex.* I ordered fries with my lunch; life is too short to count calories.  
Commas are used for many things, but focus on using commas in a list.  
*Ex.* We need milk, bread, eggs, ice cream, and sugar from the grocery store. |
| 7th   | Commas  
Coordinate adjectives are adjectives that appear in sequence with one another to modify the same noun.  
*Ex.* Tuesday was a bright, sunny day! Scary stories are usually set on a dark and stormy night.  
Non example: Did you see the green Christmas tree? (It wouldn’t be a Christmas green tree.) |
| 8th   | Commas to indicate a pause, break, or omission  
Writers use a comma, ellipsis, or dash when they want the reader to stop briefly, or pause before continuing. Think about a time-out in football or basketball. The coach calls a time-out because he wants his team to come back together for a new strategy or play.  
*Ex.* After I watched the soccer game, I did my homework. |
| High School | Focus on transition words, academic vocabulary, and domain-specific vocabulary. See handout. |

**Notes:**