

twinkl



Using Semi-colons and Colons

We are learning to:

Use semi-colons to
mark independent
clauses

Using a Semi-colon

A semi-colon contains a comma and a full stop. It is helpful to remember this. A semi-colon is stronger than a comma, but not as final as a full stop.

;

Semi-Colons

;

A semi-colon can be used to:

- separate items in a list
- separate two **closely related** independent clauses instead of using a conjunction

What Is an Independent Clause?

We are focusing on semi-colons used to separate or link two independent clauses. So what is an independent clause?

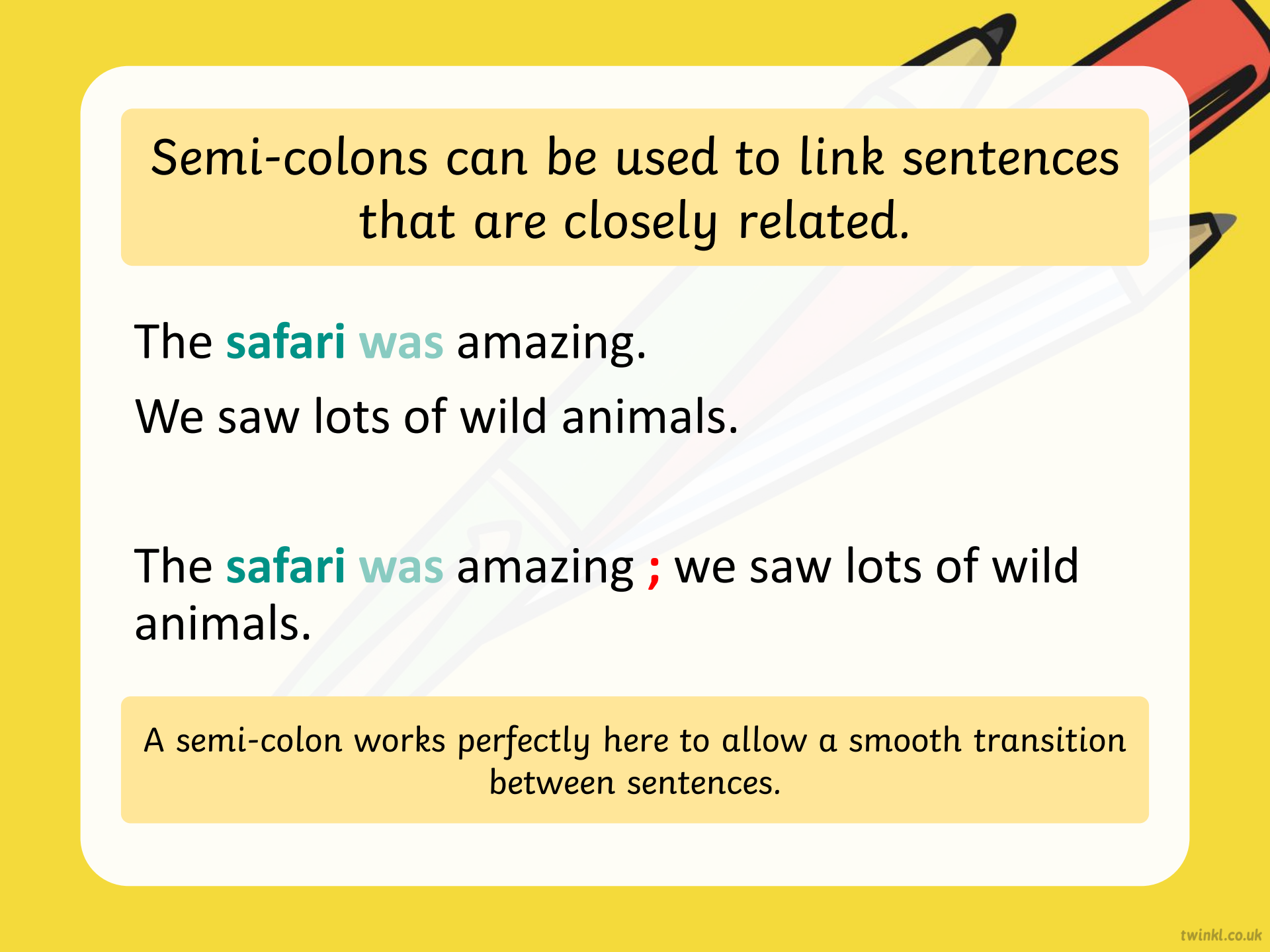
An independent clause is a clause that makes sense on its own as a sentence.

The **safari was** amazing.

We saw lots of wild animals.

An independent (or main) clause always has a **subject** + a **verb** = complete thought.





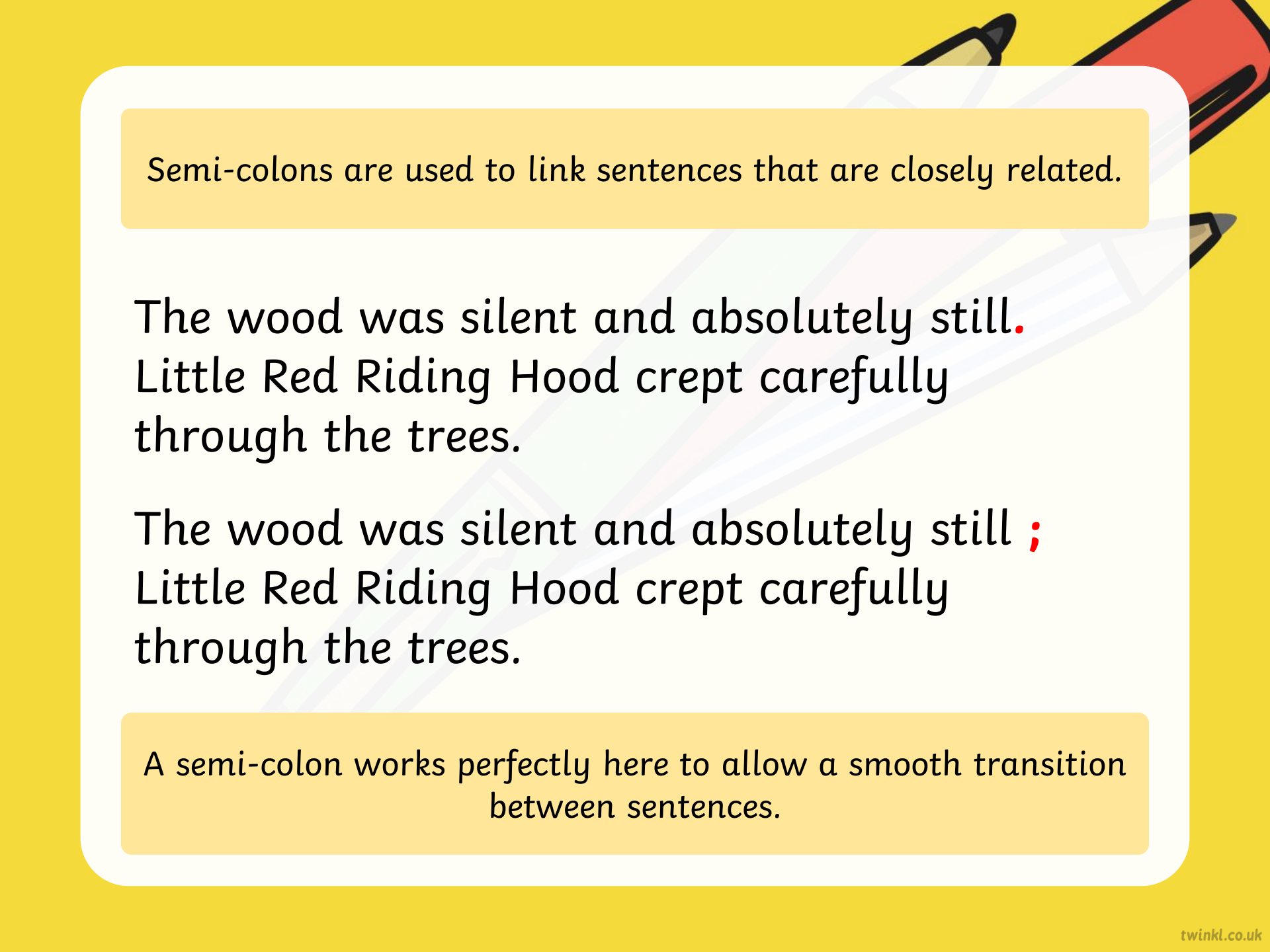
Semi-colons can be used to link sentences that are closely related.

The **safari was** amazing.

We saw lots of wild animals.

The **safari was** amazing ; we saw lots of wild animals.

A semi-colon works perfectly here to allow a smooth transition between sentences.



Semi-colons are used to link sentences that are closely related.

The wood was silent and absolutely still.
Little Red Riding Hood crept carefully
through the trees.

The wood was silent and absolutely still ;
Little Red Riding Hood crept carefully
through the trees.

A semi-colon works perfectly here to allow a smooth transition
between sentences.

Semi-colons are used to link clauses that are closely related - it can often replace *and*, *but* or *so*.

The wolf liked Little Red Riding Hood **and** he was looking forward to eating her.

The wolf liked Little Red Riding Hood ; he was looking forward to eating her.

Little Red Riding Hood didn't like the forest much **but** she did like visiting Grandma.

Little Red Riding Hood didn't like the forest much ; she did like visiting Grandma.

Semi-Colons

Where should the semi-colons be in the following sentences to separate the two independent clauses?

James enjoys playing tennis **but** he doesn't like football.

James enjoys playing tennis **;** he doesn't like football.

Semi-Colons

Where should the semi-colons be in the following sentences to separate the two independent clauses?

I enjoyed my swim this morning **but** I felt exhausted afterwards.

I enjoyed my swim this morning ; I felt exhausted afterwards.

Semi-Colons

Where should the semi-colons be in the following sentences to separate the two independent clauses?

The witch lives in a small cottage in the woods **and** the dragon lives in a cave.

The witch lives in a small cottage in the woods ; the dragon lives in a cave.



Am I Right?

Read the following sentences and decide if I've put the semi-colon in the correct place:

We often go to the library on Tuesdays; we choose lots of new books.

Wendy was excited about the trip ; to the aquarium she mostly wanted to see the sharks.

My sister really likes ice-cream her favourite flavour ; is strawberry.



If it's not correct, work out where the semi-colon should go.

Quick Quiz

Match the independent clauses and put in the missing semi-colon:

Putting up the tent is always
hard work

;

my arm was aching this
evening.

We enjoy spending time in
the museum

;

the hikers were worn out.

Trekking through the jungle
was exhausting

;

forgetting the pegs made it
even harder than usual.

I spent the afternoon playing
tennis

;

the dinosaurs are my
favourite part.

Quick Quiz

Match the independent clauses and put in the missing semi-colon:

Putting up the tent is always hard work

;

We enjoy spending time in the museum

;

Trekking through the jungle was exhausting

;

I spent the afternoon playing tennis

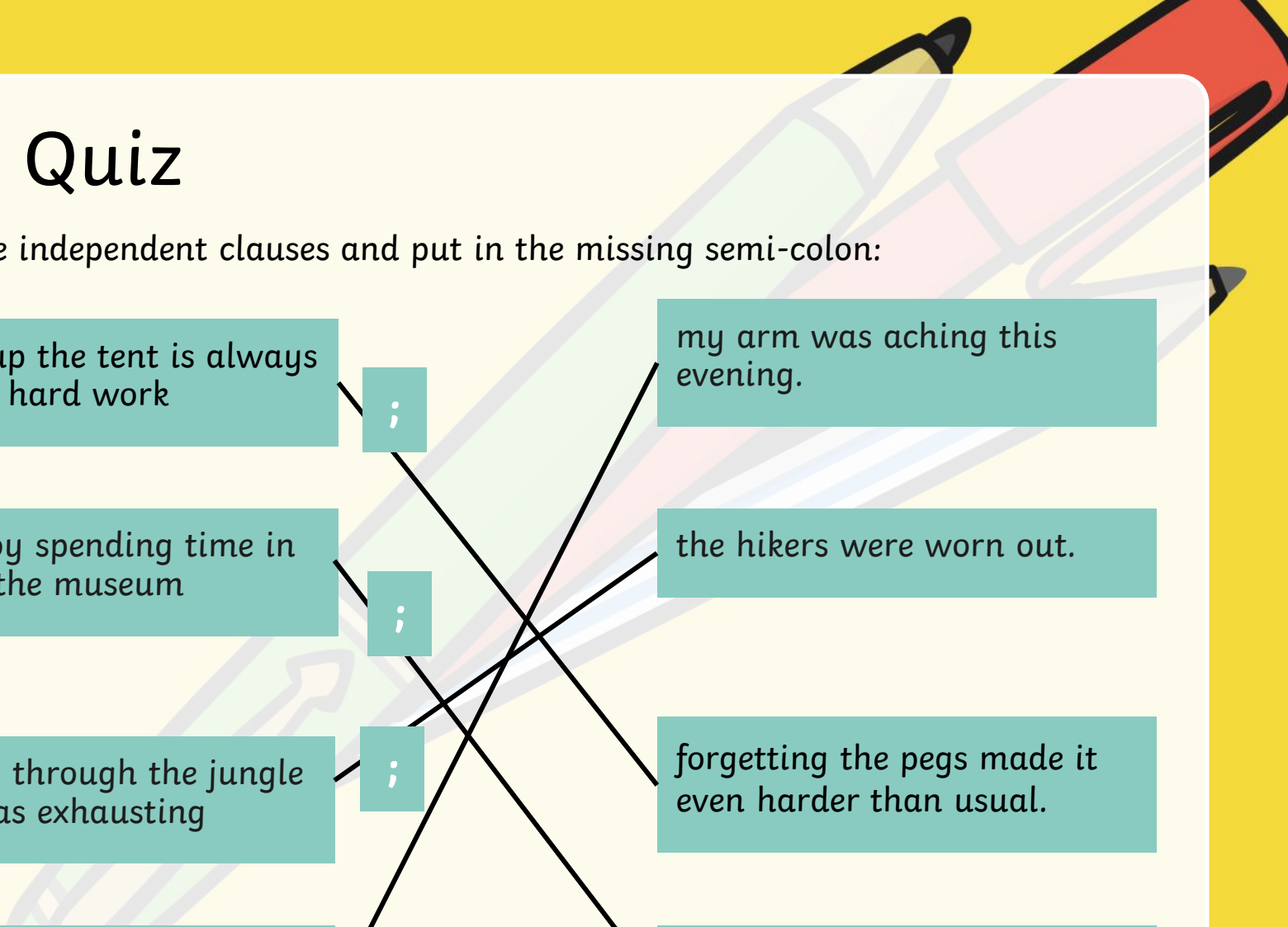
;

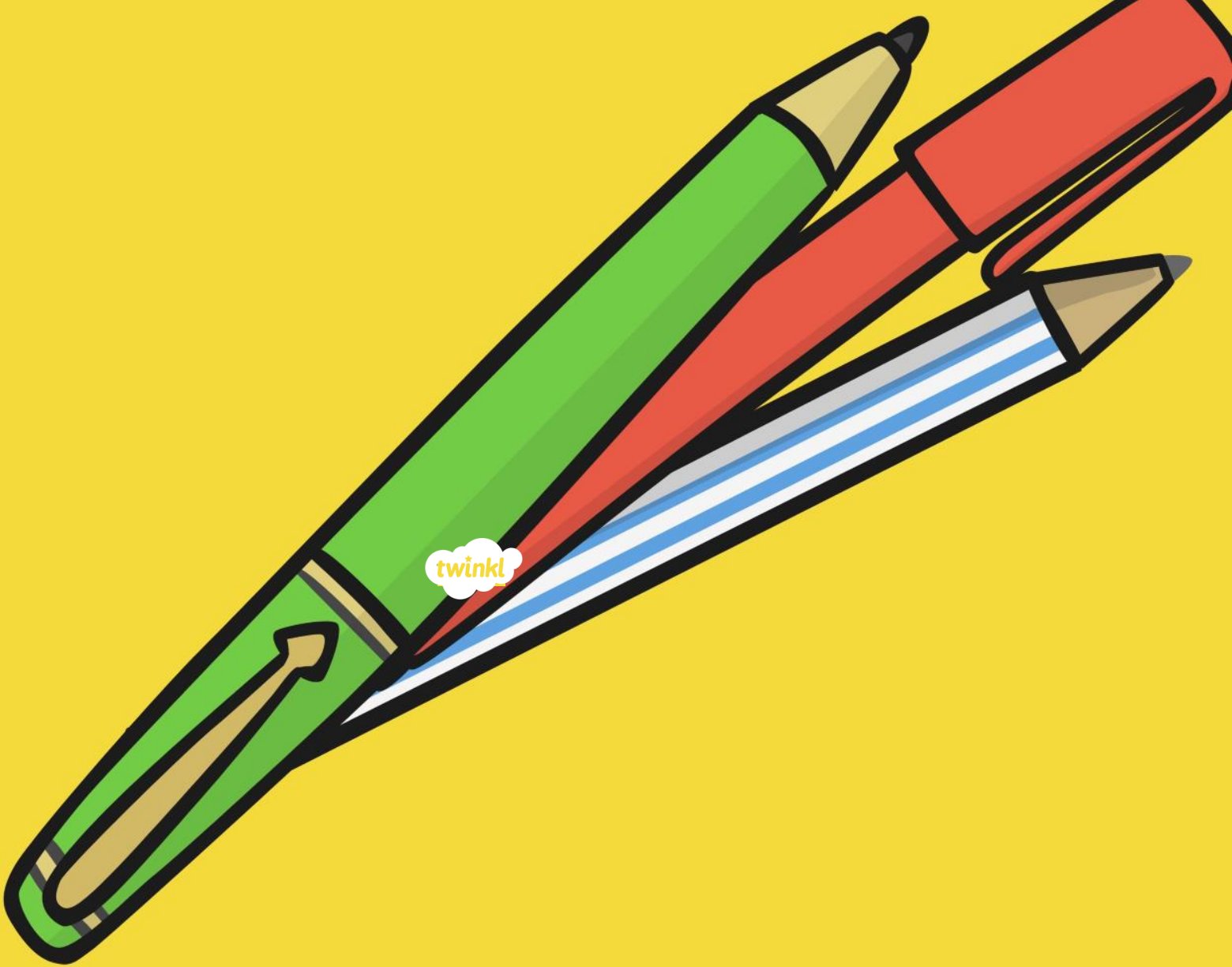
my arm was aching this evening.

the hikers were worn out.

forgetting the pegs made it even harder than usual.

the dinosaurs are my favourite part.





twinkl