



The Grape Metaphor Machination

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When teaching English, it's imperative to make grammar reviews lively. Use metaphors and visual aids in order to clarify grammatical rules. For example, I employ a visual aid when I draw a balance scale containing red grapes and green grapes in its respective balance dishes on the screen; the grapes have equal weight.



At the top of the balance scale, I draw a semicolon and say that the punctuation mark is the pivot upon which the balance dishes swing. I then ask my students, "Do both types of grapes weigh the same?" "Yes," they reply. I next ask them, "What is the difference between the grapes?"

They answer, "The difference lies in the color." I proceed to tell them that the red and green grapes metaphorically represent two main clauses (since two main clauses are two complete sentences of equal "weight") that are closely related in subject matter (since the grapes are the same fruit, even though they are two different types of grapes). Therefore, the semicolon in this visual aid is the metaphorical pivot upon which two main clauses containing closely related subject matter "swings" or is properly connected.

What clever metaphors could you create to empower your review sessions even if you don't teach English?