

Virgule Is a What?

Virgule is the fancy word for “diagonal” or “forward slash”. At one time, you could simply say “slash”, but with the wonderful invention of the World Wide Web, back slashes have become popular. Therefore, you need to specify “forward slash” when speaking of virgules.

The virgule is used in three different ways:

1. Between two words to indicate either word could apply:
My husband and/or my son will pick me up.
It should be up to him/her.
2. To divide dates, fractions, and abbreviations:
01/01/01
2/3
c/o
3. With a long passage of poetry to indicate where one line ends and another begins:
Little Miss Muffet/Sat on her tuffet/Eating her curds and whey

Not a difficult punctuation mark to use; it’s probably harder to pronounce!