

Using Hyphens

Warm-Up



Hyphens

What do you know about hyphens? Tell your partner.

are shorter than dashes

can be used in
compound adjectives

can be used after prefixes

can be used in some
numbers 20 to 99

can be used in
compound nouns

are used to avoid ambiguity

are used to show that a word
continues on the next line

have no gap between words

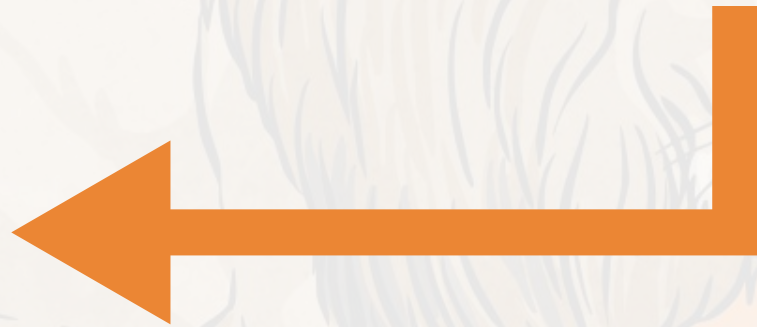
Do you and your partner agree?

Words Continuing on the Next Line

Read the following extract, identifying the hyphen:

We were lucky to go on the most amazing safari trip while we were on holiday in Africa. We saw elephants, lions and **rhino-
ceroses**.

We use hyphens to show that a word is continuing on the following line.



Numbers 20 to 99

Read the following sentences, identifying the hyphens:

“**Ninety-eight, ninety-nine**, one hundred. Coming ready or not!”



Joseph, my eldest brother, turned **twenty-one** last week.

We use hyphens in the numbers from twenty to ninety-nine where two numbers are put together to make another.

Informal Phrases

Read the following sentences, identifying the hyphens:

I don't like those **wishy-washy** colours on you.

I can't stand her **lah-di-dah** attitude.

We use hyphens in informal phrases with words that are not usually used singly.



Compound Nouns

Read the following sentences and identify which one has been written correctly.

I saw a young passer **by staring in through the window.**



I saw a young passer-by staring in through the window.



We use a hyphen to create a compound noun where if we didn't, it might get confusing.



Compound Adjectives

Read the following sentences and identify which one has been written correctly.

The **tired looking** teacher slumped at his desk.



The **tired-looking** teacher slumped at his desk.



We use a hyphen to create a compound adjective before a noun.

Compound Noun or Compound Adjective?

Sort the following words (by clicking on each one) depending on whether they are a compound noun or a compound adjective:

Compound Nouns

Compound Adjectives

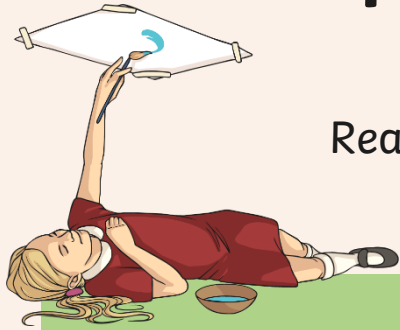
passer-by
five-star
dry-cleaning

take-off
short-sleeved
check-out

two-year-old
bad-tempered
second-hand

six-page
mother-in-law

Hyphens after Prefixes



Read the following sentences and identify where hyphens have been used and why.

The **all-knowing** genie granted my three wishes.



We painted **self-portraits** in our art lesson this afternoon.

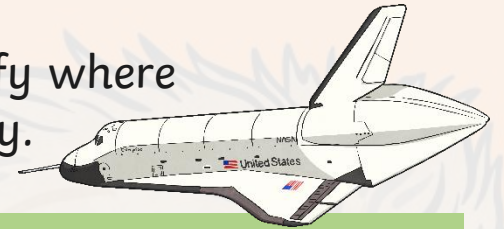


We usually use a hyphen after the prefixes all- and self-, as they make compound adjectives and nouns.

Hyphens after Prefixes



Read the following sentences and identify where hyphens have been used and why.



We will **re-enter** the Earth's atmosphere soon.



We will reenter the Earth's atmosphere soon.



We sometimes need to use a hyphen with a word that has a prefix, to avoid doubling up a vowel and changing the pronunciation.

Hyphens after Prefixes to Avoid Ambiguity



Read the following sentences and identify where hyphens have been used and why.

I had to **re-cover** my book when the cover got damaged.



I had to **recover** my book when the cover got damaged.



We sometimes need to use a hyphen within a word that has a prefix to avoid ambiguity (recover means something very different to re-cover).

Hyphens after Prefixes to Avoid Ambiguity

Choose the appropriate word to complete these sentences.

Our teacher asked me to research / **re-search** my drawer to find my missing homework.

It is important to **recycle** / re-cycle as much as possible.

Mrs Cook said that she was going to remark / **re-mark** the tests because the scores all seemed quite low.

Marek is an excellent goalkeeper because he has quick **reflexes** / re-flexes.