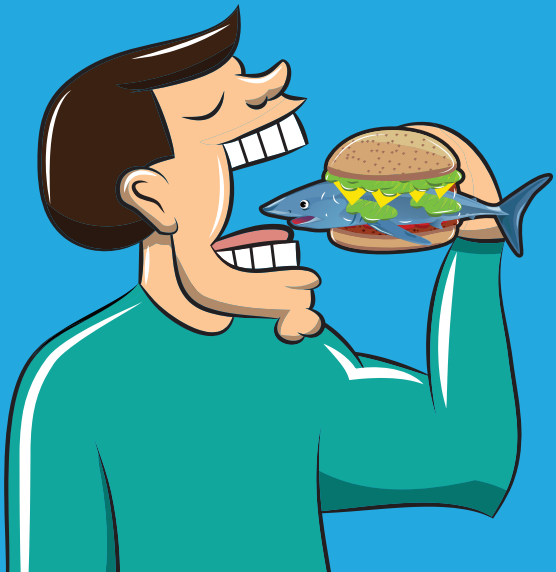


Hyphens



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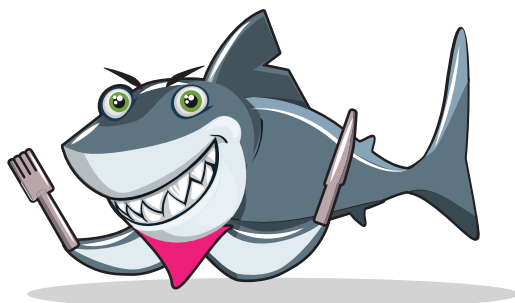
Hyphens - What are they?

Hyphens are often used to avoid ambiguity in sentences.



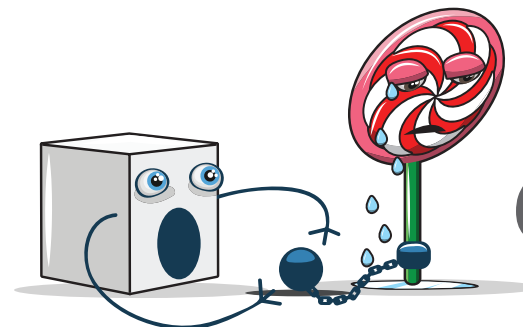
man eating shark

or



man-eating shark

?



sugar free lolly

or



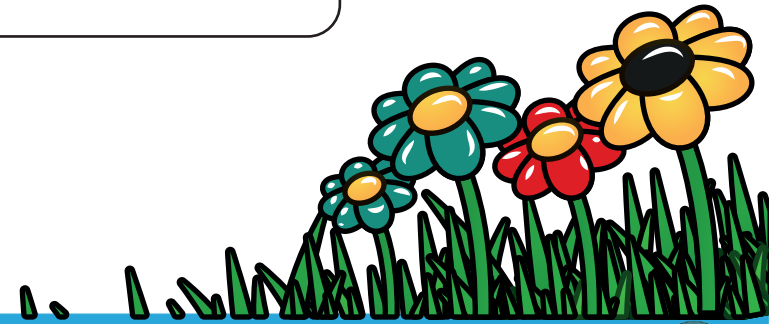
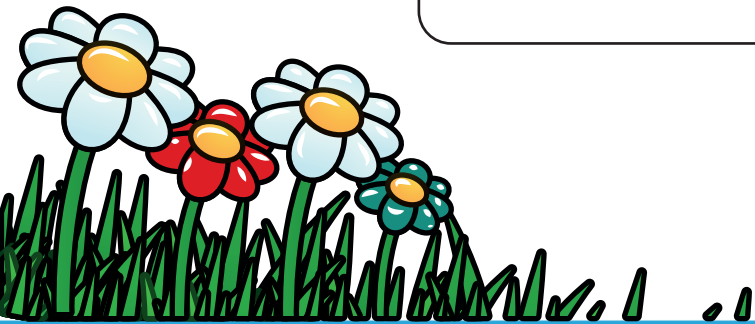
sugar-free lolly

?

Hyphens - What are they?

Hyphens also help to show if a word continues onto the line below.

There are many different varieties of flowers around the world. They come in all shapes and sizes.



Numbers

We also use hyphens for numbers between **twenty** and **ninety-nine** where numbers are put together to create new ones.

twenty-seven

sixty-three

eighty-one

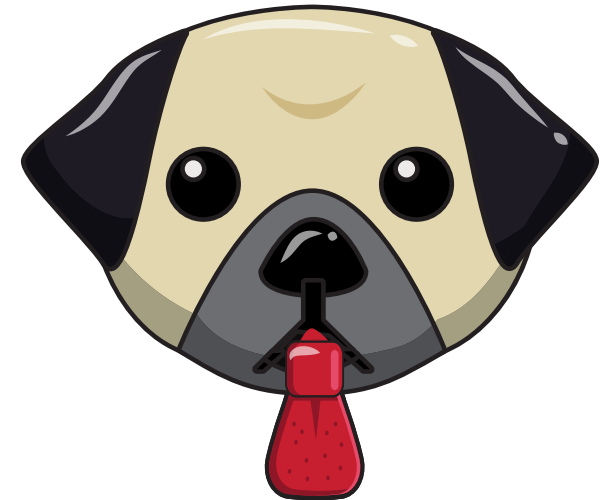


Compound nouns

Words can be combined to form **compound nouns**. Some of these compound nouns use a hyphen.



Mother-in-law
Great-grandma
Passer-by
warm-up



Compound adjectives

Two adjectives can be combined to form **compound adjectives**.
Hyphens can be used to show when these compound adjectives have been used.

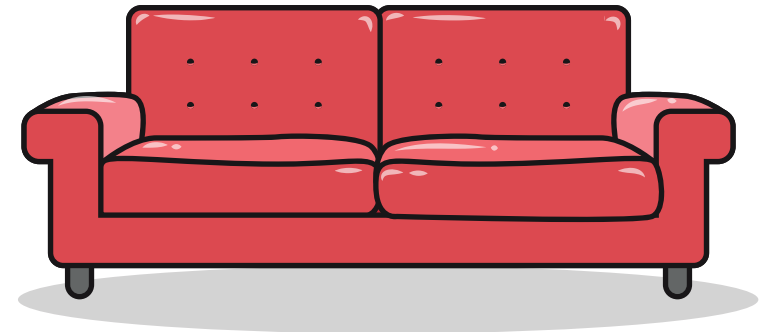


Greeny-grey eyes

Fun-packed day

baby-faced

ice-cold



Read the following extract and decide where the hyphens should go.

Yesterday, we went to visit my mother in law, who is sixty two. She lives in a high rise tower in London.

She has had long term hip problems so really shouldn't live on the twenty fifth floor. Luckily there is a lift, but occasionally it breaks down.

Read the following extract and decide where the hyphens should go.

Yesterday, we went to visit **mother-in-law**, who is **sixty-two**. She lives in a high rise tower in London.

She has had **long-term** hip problems so really shouldn't live on the **twenty-fifth** floor. Luckily there is a lift, but occasionally it breaks down.

Hyphens

Have a go at one of the following activities which will test your understanding of hyphens.

Activities ★

Look at the table below.
Can you match the compound adjectives to their descriptions?
Colour the matching ones the same colour.

Man-eating crocodile	A girl who loves having fun
Cricket-crazy teenager	A Grandfather who has wrinkly skin
A fun-loving girl	A man who has brown eyes
Wrinkly-skinned grandfather	A crocodile which can eat a man
Cold-hearted dictator	A teenager who loves cricket
A brown-eyed man	A dictator who is very mean

Can you think of 3 more examples of your own compound adjectives?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Can you work out the 2 meanings of these ambiguous sentences.
Place the hyphen where you think it should go. *An example has been done for you.*

Example: Two foot soldiers	Two-foot soldiers (Soldiers who are only 2ft tall) Two foot soldiers (2 x soldiers who fight on foot)
Man eating lion.	
I counted fifty pound notes.	
Twenty four hour shifts.	
Two week holidays to be won	

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Activities ★★

Read the following sentences.
Can you identify where the hyphens are?
Circle them in the following colours, recognising which type of hyphen has been used.

Numbers Compound adjective Compound noun

1. I have seventy-three stamps in my collection.
2. The brown-haired girl started crying.
3. She read twenty-one pages of her book.
4. My brother-in-law is married to my sister.
5. There were two hundred and thirty-six children in the whole school.
6. The old lady's great-granddaughter was celebrating her birthday.
7. The aggressive-looking dog charged towards the thief.
8. Soft-boiled eggs are my favourite for breakfast.
9. The passer-by witnessed the terrible accident.
10. The 800-page book was very dusty.

Can you write 5 examples of your own. They can be of any hyphen use.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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Activities ★★★

The following compound words have got mixed up.
Can you sort them so they make sense and then write a sentence for each one.

Twenty-coloured
Mother-in-final
Right-pilot
Bird-six
Multi-law
Semi-handed
auto-eating spider

Decide which type of compound word the examples are above and group them under the correct headings.

Numbers	Compound adjective	Compound noun

Can you think of 5 examples of compound words of your own?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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