

Hyphens: Exercise 1

Instructions

Keeping hyphen rules in mind, and only considering hyphens, decide whether or not each sentence below is correct or not. It's either correct as is, or incorrect because it's missing a hyphen or it's incorrectly applying a hyphen where it's not needed.

1. As it was such a hot day, we all bought ice-creams.

Correct/Not Correct

2. It hurt a lot. I thought I'd been hit by a ten ton truck.

Correct/Not Correct

3. There were thirty-six athletes in the final race.

Correct/Not Correct

4. Pass me that bag of chocolate-covered nuts. I love them!

Correct/Not Correct

5. The university-campus has been closed due to flood damage.

Correct

Not Correct

6. John's coworkers bought him a new mp3 player for his birthday.

Correct/Not Correct

7. Don't spell it like that. It's H-Y-P-H-E-N.

Correct/Not Correct

8. Mrs. Grayson, the much-loved teacher from New York, died at seventy-four.

Correct/Not Correct

9. The teacher won an award for her literature classes, which focused on nineteenth and twentieth-century novels.

Correct/Not Correct

10. In the restaurant, I saw a woman eating pizza and a man eating shark.

Correct/Not Correct

Exercise 2

Directions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. The Anglo French contest for North America was early in our history.
2. Take a word and work backward to its back formation.
3. I need to deemphasize some of those old concepts.
4. There is a twin bill at the drive in.
5. I hate his so what attitude that he always uses on us.
6. My new brother in law will be here for a visit soon.
7. I love that good to the last drop taste which this has.
8. The test is on chapters 8 through 12 in the math text.
9. The store has its annual better than ever price sale this week.
10. Your off the cuff remarks made for a great interview.

Exercise 3

Rule: Use a hyphen to show the omission of a connecting word. Example: chapters 1-5 (“through” omitted)

Instructions: Supply hyphens and omit the words where they are needed in these sentences.

1. We studied the Franco and Prussian War in our history class.
2. For tomorrow read chapters 6 to 9 in your geography book.
3. The decade 1950 through 1959 was a great time to grow up.
4. The New York to Paris flight will leave on time.
5. Study your letters *l* through *z* for the next quiz.

Exercise 4

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. It was hard to find an antiimperialist among the rulers of ancient Rome.
2. I believe that man had a preexistence before this life.
3. Can you deenergize that bomb in time?
4. If you take that medicine, it could cause the body to be antiimmune.

5. The concerned group was starting an antiimmoral movement.

Exercise 5

Rule: Use a hyphen with special compounds such as *tie-up*, and *drive-in*.

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. Jim was the runner up in the race.
2. The sailors attached the ship to the tie up.
3. Let's get something to eat at a drive in.
4. The jump off was the beginning of the war.
5. This meal is certainly first rate.

Exercise 6

Rule: Use a hyphen in some compound nouns made up of a noun and a prepositional phrase. (Example: sister-in-law)

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. In the woods we saw many flowers including a jack in the pulpit.
2. One old toy that everyone used to have was a jack in the box.
3. The sergeants at arms will escort him from the courtroom.
4. The ship's captain enjoyed using the cat o' nine tails on disobedient sailors.
5. Finding the man seemed to be just a will o' the wisp.

Exercise 7

Rule: Use a hyphen in compounds made up of two or more words used as an adjective before a noun. This includes coined phrases. Do not use a hyphen when one of the words is an adverb ending in *-ly*. These compounds will add vividness to your writing, but one should not use too many. (Example: I received a last-minute call.)

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. The little lost girl had that I'm going to cry again look on her face.
2. Spies must have the I like danger attitude to be successful.
3. We found many interesting things in a forty year old trunk.
4. He gave an I dare you to touch me sneer to the others.
5. Did you read that hair raising story last night?

Exercise 8

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. I need to get rid of my self denial if I am to recover.

2. Is that glass two thirds full?
3. I think that age forty five is rather late to start a family.
4. Our ex captain came to visit our football team.
5. Much anti United States sentiment seems to exist all over the world.
6. Long discussions continued on the mid Atlantic items.
7. His fault was that he was a self made man who loved his creator.
8. I hope to get in the ninety fifth percentile.
9. The one third minority objected to the ruling.
10. Many are worried about our vice president's health.

Exercise 9

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. That man is very self reliant in all he does.
2. To succeed you must become less self indulgent.
3. To lose weight I must be self disciplined in my eating habits.
4. He started his college career with great self determination.
5. He refused to answer the questions because of self incrimination.

Exercise 10

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. George W. Bush is now our President elect.
2. Some people wonder what will happen to our ex President.
3. Carter Jones was named vice consul to India.
4. Our vice president will now speak to us.
5. Our ex secretary will become our vice chairman next year.

Exercise 11

Rule: Use a hyphen in a compound adjective in which the last word is capitalized. Example: un-Christian

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. He was accused of unAmerican activities.
2. He would not move to New York City because he was a totally antiNew York fan.
3. Some businesses have an unEuropean attitude.
4. His unIrish sentiments caused many problems for the family.

5. Road rage certainly should be considered unChristian.

Exercise 12

Rule: Use a hyphen in a compound adjective that is a fraction. Example: You need a two-thirds majority for passage.

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. For that recipe you need one fourth cup of cream.
2. Cut off three eighths of an inch from that board.
3. That bug is only seven sixteenths of an inch long.
4. A three fifths majority is really 60 percent.
5. The bylaws require a three fourths majority to change them.

Exercise 13

Rule: Use a hyphen in compound numbers between *twenty-one* and *ninety-nine* and when used in larger numbers like *two hundred fifty-five*. (Note that you do not use an *and* between any of the numbers as that would indicate a decimal point.) Ordinal numbers such as *thirty-first*, *seventy-second* need hyphens also.

Instructions: Supply hyphens where they are needed in these sentences.

1. It used to be that one had to be twenty one to vote.
2. When adding thirty four and forty two, you get seventy six.
3. One hundred thirty seven people were killed in that crash.
4. The sixty fourth running of that race was cancelled due to weather.
5. Many more privileges come to people who are sixty five or older.