

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

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1a. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

The decorator used special quick drying-paint on the front door.



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1b. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

The play we went to watch had a well-known actor in the main part.



VF

2a. Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

The \_\_\_\_\_ woman didn't care.

cold  
hearted

cold-  
hearted



VF

2b. Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

The \_\_\_\_\_ girl was often in trouble.

hot-headed

hot headed



VF

3a. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

The big-wheel is a fun looking fairground ride.

Jane quickly side stepped the muddy-puddle.

The medicine was very fast-acting.



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3b. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

The library was full-of book loving people.

The take-off went very smoothly.

The fat-cat stole all of the cat food.



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4a. Combine two words from the word bank with a hyphen to match the following definition.

soft

feather

light

Almost weightless



VF

4b. Combine two words from the word bank with a hyphen to match the following definition.

gift

release

slow

Gradually distributed



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5a. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

After dropping all the plates on the floor, Roger had to re-serve the meal.



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5b. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

The answer that Janet gave to the teachers question was in-correct.



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6a. Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

Nina's drama training \_\_\_\_\_ her confidence.



restored

re-stored

VF

6b. Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

Jack was proud to \_\_\_\_\_ his school.



re-present

represent

VF

7a. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

The dog trainer found-Pip very cooperative.

Betty was delighted to receive a re-ward for finding the purse.

Barney has a part-time job delivering newspapers.



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7b. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

When the clock wound down I had to re-turn the key.

The circus had an incredible tight rope-walker.

Karen returned to the library to re-new her book.



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8a. Select the word from the word bank which matches the following definition.

resign

re-sign

To sign again



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8b. Select the word from the word bank which matches the following definition.

recover

re-cover

To get better



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9a. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

After getting cross and – rudely – putting the phone down, Nick knew we would have to re-call and apologise.



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9b. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

The young girls – finding the man's hat very funny – struggled to re-press their giggles.



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10a. Use both words to correctly complete the sentence below.

Philip – a successful business man – would have to \_\_\_\_\_ if he didn't \_\_\_\_\_ his contract.



resign

re-sign

VF

10b. Use both words to correctly complete the sentence below.

The pop group \_\_\_\_\_ – two years after splitting up – now the singer had \_\_\_\_\_ his ways.



re-formed

reformed

VF

11a. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

Sam – tired and cold though he was – agreed to re-try.

Liz – a prize winning-engineer – decided to reinvent the machine.

He was shy – very shy – and found he was completely tongue-tied.



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11b. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

No one – absolutely no one – knew my deep-dark secret.

I found my way to the waters-edge – eventually.

The dentist – a very strict man – insisted on a sugar-free diet.



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12a. Select the word from the word bank which completes the following sentence.

re-nowned

renowned

Barney Collins – a \_\_\_\_\_ author – came to school to talk about his new book.



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12b. Select the word from the word bank which completes the following sentence.

re-view

review

The film – which I thoroughly enjoyed – received a very critical \_\_\_\_\_.



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