

LC. Can I understand and  
apply hyphens and dashes?

Starter: Hyphens to make compound words.

*From the table of words below, can you make the 6 hyphenated words in less than 3 minutes? E.g wagon and wheel can be joined to create 'wagon-wheel'.*

mid	going	dressed	hot
wheel	red	September	check
well	spot	water	easy

Spot the difference...

Hyphen  
dash

—

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# The double dash

Used in the same way commas and brackets can be used (to contain extra information):

- When we get there - if we get there - I'll have something to say to him about his confounded map.
- When we get there (if we get there) I'll have something to say to him about his confounded map.
- When we get there, if we get there, I'll have something to say to him about his confounded map.

# The single dash 1

A dash before a final comment or afterthought:

- My mum said the man was very thoughtful – I don't know him.
- "She got home, put the kettle on and sat down - then she remembered.
- I'd love to go out with you to the dinner - when hell freezes over!

## The single dash 2

### A dash for suspense:

As the door creaked open, I peered inside and saw – nothing.

It was only when I squinted that I could see what lay at the bottom of the steps – bones. Lots of bones.

## The single dash 3

### A dash showing repetition:

- His writing was full of mistakes – mistakes that could have been avoided.
- "You-you monster!" cried the frightened woman.

# Task

On paper, write a short diary entry about what you did at the weekend or your last trip out. (If you can't think of anything to write about, just make it up and use your imagination!)

In your diary entries you must include:

- A hyphenated word
- A sentence with a double dash
- A sentence with a dash before a final comment or afterthought
- A dash for suspense
- A dash showing repetition



# Test style questions

Which sentence uses the **hyphen** correctly?

Tick **one**

There are thirty seven year-olds in Class 2.

Dashes can be used to provide additional information.

There are thirty seven-year-olds in Class 2.

For example:

*The new pupil – who is exceptionally clever – is likely to win the prize.*

There are thirty-seven year olds in Class 2.

Insert a pair of dashes in each sentence below.

There are thirty-seven-year-olds in Class 2.

The opposing football team an imposing group of strong  
players looked set to beat us.

The new manager an able and very experienced  
person looks likely to transform the team.

Insert a **pair of dashes** in the correct place in the sentence below.

Some of the vegetables in the school garden especially the  
carrots and pumpkins had grown to an enormous size.