

# Hyphens



Hyphens can be used in several ways. Below are some of them, but be sure to consult a dictionary if you have questions on specific uses.

Use a hyphen in compound numbers from twenty-one to ninety-nine.

Examples:      *thirty-one*      *eighty-four*      *seventy-seven*

Use a hyphen in a compound adjective that precedes a noun. If the compound adjective comes after the noun, do not use a hyphen.

Examples:      *A blue-green bird*      *He used a made-up word*      *The brand is well known*

Use a hyphen after the prefixes *all*, *ex*, *self*, and when identifying a century.

Examples:      *ex-husband*      *fifth-century*      *all-state*      *self-serving*

Use a hyphen when a series of words is compounded into one term or to express age.

Examples:      *holier-than-thou*      *eight-year-olds*      *twenty-year-old sister*

Use a hyphen after a prefix and before a capitalized word.

Example:      *pre-World War II*

Use a hyphen after the prefix *anti* and after the prefix *vice*.

Examples:      *anti-immigration*      *vice-principal*

**Practice.** Add hyphens where needed. Circle the hyphens you insert.

Example: He used twenty-three apples for the pies.

1. Martin is on anti inflammatory medication.
2. There are sixty seven people waiting in line.
3. Who do you think he will ask to be his vice president?
4. We live in a post September 11<sup>th</sup> era.
5. Robert's ex girlfriend called him last night.
6. Heather's mom thinks she lacks self confidence.
7. The Civil War took place in nineteenth century America.
8. He was an all state running back his senior year of high school.
9. My teacher is a very well educated person.
10. He was fascinated by eighteenth century history.
11. I hate self assembly furniture.
12. My five year old cousin is visiting this weekend.