

Hyphens are used to connect words. This is for a number of reasons including: to describe something for which no other word exists, to help with pronunciation and to reduce confusion over the meaning. In the past they were used far more often than we use them today and some words (compounds) that were hyphenated in the past have become new words. For example, at the beginning of the 20th century the word 'today' was hyphenated: 'to-day', yet it is now most definitely one word. However not all hyphenated compounds become new words, some stay hyphenated, such as 'daughter-in-law'.

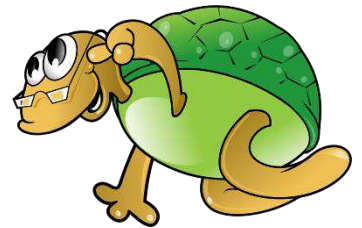
Here are a few examples of words that originally contained hyphens:

earring

lampshade

nowadays

seaside



Some hyphenated words such as 'de-ice' are unlikely to become one word ('deice') as they are visually poor without a hyphen.

Hyphenated words are very tricky because there is no hard and fast rule. Most hyphenated words fall into these categories:

noun and a verb: 'hand-wash'

two nouns: 'bric-a-brac'

adjective and a noun: 'hot-air'

adjective and an adjective: 'red-hot'

a word and suffix: rip-off

a word and prefix: 'co-star'

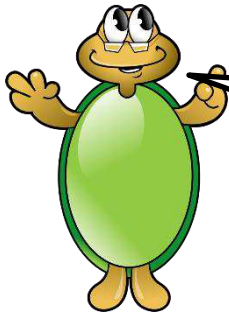
Hyphens help to avoid confusion over the meanings of words.



I'm going to hand-wash my car.



This is a bottle of hand wash.



I have written a story and I would like you to underline the words that could be hyphenated.

I decided to go on holiday to get away from my hurly burly city life. As I am not well off I chose to stay with a friend who is an ex colleague. He lives in a pretty, old fashioned cottage in the English countryside. I had a relaxing week sitting in the garden admiring the landscape and watching hot air balloons floating past. I tried pond dipping and later I helped to build a dry stone wall whilst watching a group of people cross country running, but that seemed far too energetic for me! I returned home fully refreshed after my week away.

Now I'd like you to write sentences using some of the hyphenated words that you have underlined.



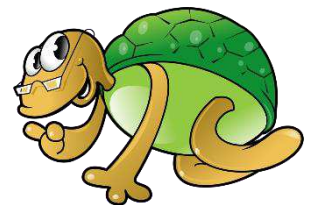
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I have written a story and I would like you to underline the words that could be hyphenated.

I have been reading a first hand account of the Second World War written by a man called Jimmy who was an RAF pilot. He described an afternoon when he heard the air raid siren go off and saw anti aircraft guns being fired at approaching enemy aircraft. Unfortunately, the aeroplane was not get at able by the guns and so Jimmy and his comrades were called to launch a counter attack in their aeroplanes. They set off on this high risk mission and soon enough shots were fired to damage the enemy plane. Jimmy described his bird's eye view of the plane descending through the sky and crash landing on the ground below. The enemy pilot managed to escape scot free but his plane, which was full of bullet holes, was a complete write off.

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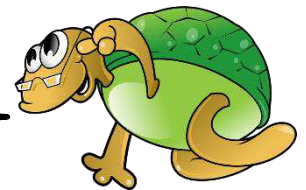
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I have written a story and I would like you to underline the words that could be hyphenated.

I dreamed that I went on a hair raising adventure and met a group of pirates. We were sailing across the Atlantic one night when suddenly I was woken up by shouting from the deck. I got out of bed (somewhat bleary eyed), quickly dressed and rushed up to see what was going on. Far off in the distance a ship flying a Jolly Roger could be seen: that meant pirates! Our Captain did what he could to avoid the pirate ship and cannons shook the boat as we fired at the other ship but by morning he realised it was all to no avail. Suddenly the pirates clambered aboard and they were not prepared to leave empty handed. They attempted to capture our Captain and make him walk the plank, but he and our crew were too quick witted and overpowered them in a sword fight. The pirates fled back to their ship and found that they were knee deep in water due to a massive hole in its side from our cannon fire. Then all of a sudden, I woke up.

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Name:

Answers:

Page 2

The words that could be hyphenated have been underlined:

I decided to go on holiday to get away from my hurly-burly city life. As I am not well-off I chose to stay with a friend who is an ex-colleague. He lives in a pretty, old-fashioned cottage in the English countryside. I had a relaxing week sitting in the garden admiring the landscape and watching hot-air balloons floating past. I tried pond dipping and later I helped to build a dry-stone wall whilst watching a group of people cross-country running, but that seemed far too energetic for me! I returned home fully refreshed after my week away.

Any suitable sentences using some of the hyphenated words underlined from the story.

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