

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

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1a. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

co-operate

six-foot

build-up



R

1b. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

ice-cold

re-enter

fish-net



R

2a. Alice has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

The red-hot iron left a burn on the table.



R

2b. Charlie has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

Jan took some fast-acting medicine before she left home.



R

3a. Create a sentence using the words below.

man-eating tiger



A

3b. Create a sentence using the words below.

blow-dry



A

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4a. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

pitch-black self-help

re-sign hair-loss

fast-moving re-enter



R

4b. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

rose-red re-move

re-print co-operate

co-own horse-riding



R

5a. Suki has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

I re-sent the message that my brother had forwarded.



R

5b. Jonathan has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

I re-paired all my socks at the weekend.



R

6a. Create a sentence using the words below.

open-air pool

re-cover



A

6b. Create a sentence using the words below.

bride-to-be

re-press



A

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7a. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

A. Suddenly – as if from no-where – six foot soldiers appeared on the road in front of them.

B. The father-to-be receiving his award – while his family looked on – smiled from ear to ear.



R

7b. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

A. After a full – and exhausting – season of three-monthly matches, Robbie decided it was time for a break.

B. There was a break-in service – which nearly ruined the film – on the television channel on Saturday.



R

8a. Betty has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

The clean-shaven man – who was one of my friendlier neighbours – always waved as he walked past my window.



R

8b. Morris has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

The car – a flashy red saloon – belonged to a small-business owner.



R

9a. Create a sentence using the words below.

re-search

research



A

9b. Create a sentence using the words below.

recover

re-cover



A

Application and Reasoning Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

Developing

1a. Build-up describes the time approaching an event; build up describes something being made bigger.

2a. Various possible answers, for example: A red-hot iron describes its very high temperature. A red hot iron describes the colour of the hot iron.

3a. Various possible answers, for example: Bert narrowly escaped from the man-eating tiger.

Expected

4a. Re-sign describes signing again; resign describes leaving a job.

5a. Various possible answers, for example: Re-sent describes Suki sending the message again; resent describes how Suki feels about the message.

6a. Various possible answers, for example: They had to re-cover the water at the open-air pool.

Greater Depth

7a. Sentence B. The hyphens tell us that the man being rewarded will shortly become a father.

8a. Various possible answers, for example: Clean-shaven describes a man without facial hair. Clean shaven describes a man who was clean and had recently shaved.

9a. Various possible answers, for example: I had to re-search my office to find the lost research file.

Application and Reasoning Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

Developing

1b. Fish-net describes a net for fish; fishnet describes a type of fabric.

2b. Various possible answers, for example: Fast-acting medicine is medicine that works quickly. Fast acting medicine is medication that enables her to act quickly.

3b. Various possible answers, for example: After my bath I always blow-dry my hair.

Expected

4b. Re-move describes moving again; remove describes taking away.

5b. Various possible answers, for example: Re-paired describes Jonathan pairing up socks; repaired describes Jonathan mending his socks.

6b. Various possible answers, for example: The bride-to-be needed to re-press her wedding dress.

Greater Depth

7b. Sentence A. The hyphens tell us that the matches took place every three months.

8b. Various possible answers, for example: A small-business owner describes the owner of a small business. A small business owner describes a small person that owns a business.

9b. Various possible answers, for example: To recover its former glory, the train needed to re-cover its faded seats.