

Hyphens

Hyphens join together words or parts of words. For example: **small-scale** **re-formed**

Hyphens are very useful as they can help to clarify the meaning of a word or phrase and avoid ambiguity in writing. For example:

Paula decided to resign from her job but Steve re-signed his contract.

Hyphens can be used in a variety of different ways:

To Create Compound Adjectives

The dog padded across the room on its bear-like paws.

Georgina hung her hot-pink coat on the hook.

Clarifying a Word Meaning

Dad decided to re-press his shirt as it was still creased.

Bill requested that the email should be re-sent later today.

Avoiding Awkward Letter or Sound Combinations

The children seemed incapable of co-operating with each other.

The policeman called for help to de-escalate the situation.

To Join 2 Nouns To Create a New Noun or Objective

Dan hung up a skeleton-head garland on Halloween.

The student-teacher taught the children about hyphens.

In Written Numbers 21 - 99

Twenty-seven people ran the race.

There are thirty-two known species of fish in our school pond.

Create Informal Words/Phrases

The man is an out-and-out thief.

The meeting became a bit of a free-for-all with everyone speaking at once.

Splitting a Word at the End of a Line

Fiona thought that the new James Bond film was stupendous-ly enjoyable.