

## Year 6 – Spring Block 5 – Hyphens – Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

### Notes and Guidance:

- Hyphens can be used to join or separate words or parts of words, or to avoid ambiguity.
- Hyphens are sometimes necessary in words with prefixes in order to avoid confusion with words spelt in a similar way, for example: *re-formed* and *reformed*. Where a prefix ends with a vowel and the root word also begins with a vowel, a hyphen is used to avoid two vowels sitting next to each other, such as *co-operate*.
- In this step, children will identify hyphens and recognise the different meanings that can be conveyed in words and sentences with or without a hyphen, for example: *man eating shark* versus *man-eating shark*.

### Focused Questions

- What are the different meanings in this sentence when the hyphen is used or not used?
- Does the meaning of the word change when you remove the hyphen? Explain how.

# Step 1: Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

## Introduction

Tick the sentences that are correctly punctuated with a colon, semicolon or dash.

It was all that they had dreamed of;  
blue sea and sandy beaches.

☐

The clown – our party entertainer – was  
carrying an enormous bunch of balloons.

☐

Bring the following items on the trip;  
a pencil, a notepad and a ruler.

☐

## Introduction

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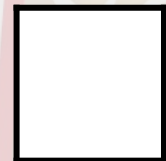
It was all that they had dreamed of;  
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carrying an enormous bunch of balloons.



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## Varied Fluency 1

**True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.**

**The sudden downpour of rain re-freshed the flowers in the garden.**

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**True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.**

**The sudden downpour of rain re-freshed the flowers in the garden.**

**False, refreshed does not need a hyphen.**



## Varied Fluency 2

Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

David suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ when he caught sight of the snake.

re-coiled

recoiled

## Varied Fluency 2

Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

David suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ **recoiled** \_\_\_\_\_ when he caught sight of the snake.

re-coiled

**recoiled**



### Varied Fluency 3

Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

Daniel was a thorough-and hard working man.

☐

There are some beautiful-looking flowers in the garden.

☐

Philip suddenly remembered that he needed to re-new his passport.

☐

### Varied Fluency 3

Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

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Philip suddenly remembered that he needed to re-new his passport.

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## Varied Fluency 4

Select the word from the word bank which matches the following definition.

re-act

react

To respond to something.

## Varied Fluency 4

Select the word from the word bank which matches the following definition.

re-act

react

To respond to something.

React means to respond to something.

## Reasoning 1

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

heat-loss

de-ice

sad-looking

close-up

brightly-lit

snow-white

## Reasoning 1

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

heat-loss

de-ice

sad-looking

close-up

brightly-lit

snow-white

A close-up is a ....  
close up means...



## Reasoning 1

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

heat-loss

de-ice

sad-looking

close-up

brightly-lit

snow-white

A close-up is a picture or film that shows a lot of detail whereas close up means to close completely, as in closing up a shop.

## Reasoning 2

**Roger has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.**

**My father owns a heavy-metal detector.**

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**My father owns a heavy-metal detector.**

**A heavy-metal detector ...**

**A heavy metal detector ...**

## Reasoning 2

**Roger has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.**

**My father owns a heavy-metal detector.**

**A heavy-metal detector describes a detector for heavy metal.  
A heavy metal detector describes the weight of the detector.**

## Application 1

Create a sentence using the words below.

**twenty-four hour**

**re-mark**

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Create a sentence using the words below.

**twenty-four hour**

**re-mark**

**Various possible answers, for example:**

**She had a twenty-four hour period to re-mark all the tests.**