

Lesson 90

The Hyphen

Use a hyphen after any prefix joined to a proper noun or proper adjective. Use a hyphen after the prefixes *all-*, *ex-*, and *self-* joined to any noun or adjective. Use a hyphen after the prefix *anti-* when it joins a word beginning with *i*. Also use a hyphen after the prefix *vice-*, except in *vice president*.

anti-British all-state ex-senator self-employed anti-inflationary vice-principal

Use a hyphen in a compound adjective that precedes a noun, but not when it follows a noun.

a fifteen-year-old dog the dog was fifteen years old
a well-written article the article was well written

Use a hyphen to avoid confusion between words beginning with *re-* that look alike but are different in meaning and pronunciation.

re-lay the carpet relay the message

Do not hyphenate an expression made up of an adverb ending in *-ly* and an adjective.

a surprisingly good movie an oddly beautiful song

Hyphenate any spelled-out cardinal or ordinal numbers up to ninety-nine or ninety-ninth. Hyphenate a fraction used as an adjective (but not one used as a noun).

sixty-seven thirty-second two-thirds vote two thirds of the voters

Divide a word at the end of a line between syllables or pronounceable parts. In general, if a word contains two consonants occurring between two vowels or if it contains a double consonant, divide the word between the two consonants. If a suffix has been added to a complete word that ends in two consonants, divide the word after the two consonants.

sig-nificant rep-resent statis-tic stall-ing grand-est
