

# WE'RE ON

# FOR HY

Can you help Hyphen Hound find **hyp** (words linked by a short line, such as **cream**), **thirty-four children** or **sugar-**

- your reading book?
- around the classroom?
- on notices around school?
- in magazines?
- in shops?

Collect as many as you can and record

# THE HUNT

## YPHENS

Identified words  
(‘strawberry ice-free cola’) in:

Put them here.



# WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND

Can you sort your hyphenated words into these categories?



**HYPHENS IN  
COMPOUND NOUNS**



**HYPHENS IN  
COMPOUND ADJECTIVES**



**HYPHENS IN NUMBERS  
BETWEEN 20 AND 99**



**HYPHENS IN  
PREFIXES**

# ND, HYPHEN HOUND?

into these categories?

IS IN  
ADJECTIVES



HYPHENS IN ANY  
OTHER WORDS

AFTER  
XES

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# HUNT THE HYPHEN!

Help the Hyphen Hound by finding and underlining the **hyphenated words** in each sentence.

Then think of categories for sorting the phrases.

*e.g. The ex-champion became a coach when he retired.*

This is an example of a hyphen after a prefix.



- 1) My sister-in-law is the person married to my brother.
- 2) There are nearly four hundred and eighty-seven children in our school!
- 3) The vicious-looking dog was kept on a very short lead.
- 4) The film 'Jaws' is all about a man-eating shark.
- 5) Oh wow, strawberry ripple ice-cream is my absolute favourite!
- 6) My dog's fur is red-brown and curly.
- 7) Nearby, we have two supermarkets: the Co-operation and Tesbury's.
- 8) The blond-haired boy won the singing competition.
- 9) "...ninety-eight, ninety-nine, one hundred. Coming, ready or not!"
- 10) Usually, my dad has a hard-boiled egg in his packed lunch.
- 11) I've got a four-year-old brother and a six-year-old sister.
- 12) For a heart-stopping moment, we thought the climber would fall.
- 13) We have both fiction and non-fiction books in our library.
- 14) The London-Paris flight was cancelled, so we had to go by train.
- 15) If my little brother is naughty, mum puts him on a time-out in his bedroom.
- 16) Hyphens are tricky because there aren't any hard-and-fast rules.
- 17) The ex-president makes a lot of money giving speeches now.
- 18) My dictionary got a bit torn, so I decided to re-cover it.
- 19) Wishy-washy, pale colours are rather boring. I prefer bright, bold ones.
- 20) The England-Scotland rugby match was really close!

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Then sort the phrases into the categories below.

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COMPOUND ADJECTIVE

COMPOUND NOUN

AFTER A PREFIX

NUMBER

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- 19) Can you think of some more hyphenated words of your own?

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Help the Hyphen Hound by finding and underlining the **hyphenated words** in each sentence.

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COMPOUND ADJECTIVE

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- 2) The vicious-looking dog was kept on a very short lead.
- 3) The film 'Jaws' is all about a man-eating shark.
- 4) My dog's fur is red-brown and curly.
- 5) You must wear shoes with non-marking soles in the sports hall.
- 6) I had to re-write my homework because my dog chewed it up!
- 7) Nearby, we have two supermarkets: the Co-operation and Tesbury's.
- 8) The blond-haired boy won the singing competition.
- 9) "...ninety-eight, ninety-nine, one hundred. Coming, ready or not!"
- 10) Usually, my dad has a hard-boiled egg in his packed lunch.
- 11) I've got a four-year-old brother and a six-year-old sister.
- 12) Forty-seven children have completed the challenge so far!
- 13) For a heart-stopping moment, we thought the climber would fall.
- 14) We have both fiction and non-fiction books in our library.
- 15) The ex-president makes a lot of money giving speeches now.
- 16) My dictionary got a bit torn, so I decided to re-cover it.
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Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Hyphens for improved description writing

Want to improve your class's descriptive writing? Try encouraging them to use compound adjectives to make their noun phrases more concise.

### **Teacher notes:**

#### For your **lower-ability groups**

- Cut up all the phrases below and mix them up.
- Ask the children to find the two phrases which mean the same thing.
- When they have matched up the same meanings, turn one or the other in the pair face down.
- Try to explain the short, hyphenated noun phrase (e.g. a wrinkly-skinned granny ? "Oh, that means a granny who's got wrinkled skin.") or...
- Turn the longer phrase into one which uses a hyphen.

#### For your **average ability pupils**

- Give them only the phrases from the left OR right column.
- Ask them to provide an explanation for the hyphenated noun phrases, or a hyphenated version of the long phrase.
- As an **extension**, challenge them to alter a word from the left column (e.g. a day that is packed with fun ? a day that is filled with fun)
- Then try to re-write the shorter description, placing the nouns / adjectives correctly (e.g. a fun-filled day)



a boy with long hair

a long-haired boy

a shark which eats humans

a man-eating shark

a girl who is crazy about football

a football-crazy girl

a granny with wrinkly skin

a wrinkly-skinned granny

a tadpole that has grown to half its  
adult size

a half-grown tadpole

a Hindu statue with many arms

a many-armed Hindu statue

a day that is packed with fun

a fun-packed day

a clown who laughs from his belly

a belly-laughing clown

shoes which are easy to undo

easy-undo shoes

a Christmas tree which has been  
decorated perfectly

a perfectly-decorated Christmas tree

a sandwich that someone has eaten  
part of

a partly-eaten sandwich

a pencil which has had half of it  
chewed

a half-chewed pencil

a book with 800 pages

an 800-page book

a girl who is three years old

a three-year-old girl

a dog which weighs 17 kilos

a 17-kilo dog

tickets which cost £10 each

ten-pound tickets

a car with seven seats

a seven-seater car

an auntie who loves to have fun

a fun-loving auntie

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **HELP! THE HYPHENS ARE ON THE LOOSE!**

Hyphens can be used to split long words when you get to the end of a line. But watch out! Split a word in the wrong place, and you never know what might happen!

Read each two-line sentence on the page, in which the last word on the top line has been divided with a hyphen. What should the sentence say (without the hyphen), and what does it **SEEM** to say?

You'll need your largest dictionaries to work out these puns – have fun!

Will was amazed by the selection of clothing in the men-  
swear section of the Department Store.

Dan Sinkween, the music and dance teacher, believed that disco-  
very often leads to effective learning.

The furious demonstrators put on a flag-  
rant display with their banners.

Rob Inkusins gave up figure-skating and became a security off-  
icer at the rink instead.

The old skateboarding park had ramp-  
ant damage as well as being eaten by woodworm.

In Batman's opinion, the Joker's worst crime was the mans-  
laughter on April Fool's Day.

May Denly said she would prefer a wee-  
knight when the extremely tall Sir Loin asked her to the afternoon jousting.

If you're looking for stupidity, you'll find it now-  
here in this school!

"The Meating Place" is a no-  
table restaurant with a long-standing reputation.

KookRite Products is notorious for its unreliable break-  
fast appliances such as toasters and coffee makers.

Olive Althelitezon said the use-  
less laws on energy reduction annoyed her.

You could tell by his hand-  
shake that Serge Unn would be no good at playing 'Operation'!

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## TO HYPHENATE, OR NOT TO HYPHENATE?

The prefix 're' often means 'do again'. However, sometimes the same word with a hyphen after 're' gives a totally different meaning, like this:

- The old wooden chest was really battered, so we **restored** it.
- The caretaker brought the games out of their usual cupboard, then she **re-stored** them after the fair was over.

For each pair of sentences on the next page, choose the best pair of 're' words from the table below to fill the gaps.

Use your dictionary to help you decide which sentence needs the hyphenated word.

refine / re-fine

recover / re-cover

remove / re-move

reflex / re-flex

recount / re-count

research / re-search

return / re-turn

recycle / re-cycle

remark / re-mark

1) Marek has done lots of \_\_\_\_\_ on our new topic about 'Space'.  
The police are going to \_\_\_\_\_ the area in the hopes of finding some clues.

2) The test scores seemed very low, so the teacher decided to \_\_\_\_\_ them.  
It is extremely rude to make personal \_\_\_\_\_ about other people.

3) The basketball hoops have gone from the playground; they were \_\_\_\_\_ by the builders.  
Olly was just learning the rules of chess, so Sam said he could \_\_\_\_\_ the Knight because he'd made a mistake.

4) This new jumper doesn't suit me, so I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ it to the shop.  
Can you please turn the plant pots round in the morning, then \_\_\_\_\_ them every afternoon?

5) If you \_\_\_\_\_ your use of hyphens, your writing will be more exact.  
Dad got a parking ticket last week, and he was \_\_\_\_\_ in the same place today!

6) When you write about what happened, this is called a \_\_\_\_\_ .  
The election for School Councillors was so close, the teacher had to \_\_\_\_\_ all the votes.

7) Our class won a prize for \_\_\_\_\_ more used batteries than all the others.  
Today, we are \_\_\_\_\_ the road we covered on our bikes yesterday.

8) "As Kate straightens and \_\_\_\_\_ her arm, you can see the muscle relax and contract."  
Samir is the best goalkeeper because he has really quick \_\_\_\_\_ .

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# **HYPHEN HOUND'S HYPHEN GUIDE**

Hyphens are used to connect whole words, words and prefixes, and parts of words, either temporarily or permanently.

The rules for hyphenation can be extremely complicated and complex, but this brief guide should give you a head start.

Hyphens are often used to avoid ambiguity in sentences.

Otherwise, how would we know the difference between 'a man-eating shark' (yikes!) and 'a man eating shark' (mmm, that looks tasty).

## **Uses of Hyphens**

### **Creating a compound adjective before a noun:**

- The tired-looking teacher slumped at her desk.
- She has greeny-grey eyes.
- The twins are from a single-parent family. [but NOT, despite what you may see in even the best newspapers, "Mrs Jones is a mother-of-one."]



### **Joining two nouns of equal importance, either to create an adjective or a new noun:**

- Our pupil-teacher relationships develop throughout the year.
- Laurence Olivier was known as an actor-director.

### **Avoiding awkward letter and sound combinations:**

- Foundation subjects have been de-emphasised.
- The doctor prescribed anti-inflammatories for my ankle.



### **Hyphenate when the alternative would have a totally different meaning:**

- The ink ran on my contract, so I re-signed it in blood.
- Mr Dracula, my boss, was so demanding that I resigned.
- The Head Teacher retreated to her office after a particularly demanding day.
- The weedkiller hadn't worked, so I re-treated the grass a week later.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Uses of Hyphens

### Joining the tens and units in numbers which include 20-99:

- Bill Clinton was the forty-second President of the USA.
- There are three hundred and eighty-two children in our school.



### Splitting a long word into two at the end of a line of writing:

- There is such a lot to do during the week, by the week-end I'm exhausted!

### With a prefix before a proper noun:

- The ex-Prime Minister left Downing Street today.
- Jumping the queue is very un-British behaviour!



### Informal phrases with words not usually used singly:

- Those wishy-washy colours really don't suit you.
- I can't stand her lah-di-dah attitude.

