

Hyphens and Dashes



What Are They?

- A **hyphen** is used to mark the changing of a word's meaning. They can also be used when two separate words have been linked together to form a new one. For example:
 - "Football manager resigns!"
 - "Football manager re-signs for another year."
 - "He worked twenty-four hour shifts."
 - "He worked twenty four-hour shifts."
 - "It was a half-hearted affair."
- **Dashes** are used in pairs as an informal alternative to brackets. They allow extra information or an aside to be added. They can also be used alone to add an explanation. For example:
 - "The whole cast - actors, directors and make-up artists included - walked out of rehearsal."
 - "It was a done deal - a deal that couldn't be discussed yet."

Task One:

The following sentences are missing their hyphens and dashes - can you add them in to help alter or update the meaning of them?

- A. His face looked panic stricken as he read the news he was going to have to compete in Sports Day after all!
- B. The saucepan was advertised as non stick but that pancake was never coming off not even with a hack saw.
- C. Born in 1770, William Wordsworth poet and avid nature lover lived out his days celebrating the beauty and teachings of the natural world.
- D. Chapter seven where the character meets his nemesis explores heroism in more detail.
- E. It was just a part time job, so why did Wayne have to work twenty eight hour shifts?!
- F. It would be alright after all, mum was a gale force hurricane to be reckoned with.



Task Two:

Can you rewrite and correct the punctuation in the following paragraph?

The lead actor was being over dramatic as usual this was nothing new. Apparently the air con was too cold and the coat she was wearing was too hot how confusing! The director resigned herself to the overly dramatic tantrum after all, she had chosen to work with actors. However, the show needed to go on the panic stricken staff needed calming after the lead actor's storm, and the camera men were being paid by the hour. The director turned to the actor and said: "Get off your soap box, be a grown up and for once act like a professional." The actor near stumbled from the shock, put the coat back on, and sat down huffing and puffing but finally co operative: however, the director had no doubt won the day.

