

Application and Reasoning

Step 1 – Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (6G5.13) [Using hyphens to avoid ambiguity](#)

English Year 6: (6G5.13) [How hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity \[for example, man eating shark versus man-eating shark, or recover versus re-cover\]](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- (6G5.13) [hyphen](#)

Differentiation:

Questions 1, 4 and 7 (Reasoning)

Developing Identify when a hyphen is used to avoid ambiguity. Includes hyphens between two words.

Expected Identify when a hyphen is used to avoid ambiguity. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.

Greater Depth Identify when a hyphen is used to avoid ambiguity in a sentence that includes dashes to indicate parentheses. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.

Questions 2, 5 and 8 (Reasoning)

Developing Explain how a hyphen to avoid ambiguity changes the meaning of a sentence. Includes hyphens between two words.

Expected Explain how a hyphen to avoid ambiguity changes the meaning of a sentence. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.

Greater Depth Explain how a hyphen to avoid ambiguity changes the meaning of a sentence that includes dashes to mark boundaries. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.

Questions 3, 6 and 9 (Application)

Developing Create a sentence using a given word with hyphens to avoid ambiguity. Includes hyphens between two words.

Expected Create a sentence using given words with hyphens to avoid ambiguity. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.

Greater Depth Create a sentence using both the given hyphenated and unhyphenated form of words in the correct context.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

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1a. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

co-operate

six-foot

build-up



R

1b. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

ice-cold

re-enter

fish-net



R

2a. Alice has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

The red-hot iron left a burn on the table.



R

2b. Charlie has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

Jan took some fast-acting medicine before she left home.



R

3a. Create a sentence using the words below.

man-eating tiger



A

3b. Create a sentence using the words below.

blow-dry



A

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

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4a. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

pitch-black self-help

re-sign hair-loss

fast-moving re-enter



R

4b. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

rose-red re-move

re-print co-operate

co-own horse-riding



R

5a. Suki has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

I re-sent the message that my brother had forwarded.



R

5b. Jonathan has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

I re-paired all my socks at the weekend.



R

6a. Create a sentence using the words below.

open-air pool

re-cover



A

6b. Create a sentence using the words below.

bride-to-be

re-press



A

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

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7a. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

A. Suddenly – as if from no-where – six foot soldiers appeared on the road in front of them.

B. The father-to-be receiving his award – while his family looked on – smiled from ear to ear.



R

7b. Which of the following uses a hyphen to avoid ambiguity? Explain your reasoning.

A. After a full – and exhausting – season of three-monthly matches, Robbie decided it was time for a break.

B. There was a break-in service – which nearly ruined the film – on the television channel on Saturday.



R

8a. Betty has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

The clean-shaven man – who was one of my friendlier neighbours – always waved as he walked past my window.



R

8b. Morris has written the sentence below. Explain how the hyphen changes the meaning of the sentence.

The car – a flashy red saloon – belonged to a small-business owner.



R

9a. Create a sentence using the words below.

re-search

research



A

9b. Create a sentence using the words below.

recover

re-cover



A

Application and Reasoning Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

Developing

1a. Build-up describes the time approaching an event; **build up** describes something being made bigger.

2a. Various possible answers, for example: A **red-hot** iron describes its very high temperature. A **red hot** iron describes the colour of the hot iron.

3a. Various possible answers, for example: Bert narrowly escaped from the **man-eating** tiger.

Expected

4a. Re-sign describes signing again; **resign** describes leaving a job.

5a. Various possible answers, for example: **Re-sent** describes Suki sending the message again; **resent** describes how Suki feels about the message.

6a. Various possible answers, for example: They had to **re-cover** the water at the **open-air** pool.

Greater Depth

7a. Sentence B. The hyphens tell us that the man being rewarded will shortly become a **father**.

8a. Various possible answers, for example: **Clean-shaven** describes a man without facial hair. **Clean shaven** describes a man who was clean and had recently shaved.

9a. Various possible answers, for example: I had to **re-search** my office to find the lost **research** file.

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Developing

1b. Fish-net describes a net for fish; **fishnet** describes a type of fabric.

2b. Various possible answers, for example: **Fast-acting** medicine is medicine that works quickly. **Fast acting** medicine is medication that enables her to act quickly.

3b. Various possible answers, for example: After my bath I always **blow-dry** my hair.

Expected

4b. Re-move describes moving again; **remove** describes taking away.

5b. Various possible answers, for example: **Re-paired** describes Jonathan pairing up socks; **repaired** describes Jonathan mending his socks.

6b. Various possible answers, for example: The **bride-to-be** needed to **re-press** her **wedding** dress.

Greater Depth

7b. Sentence A. The hyphens tell us that the matches took place every **three months**.

8b. Various possible answers, for example: A **small-business** owner describes the owner of a small business. A **small business** owner describes a small person that owns a business.

9b. Various possible answers, for example: To **recover** its former glory, the train needed to **re-cover** its faded seats.