

Varied Fluency

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:

Developing Questions to support recognising hyphens to avoid ambiguity within two words and understanding how this changes their meaning (for example, man eating shark and man-eating shark).

Expected Questions to support recognising hyphens to avoid ambiguity within two words and within single words, and understanding how this changes the meaning (for example, re-cover and recover).

Greater Depth Questions to support recognising hyphens to avoid ambiguity, and comparing the use of hyphens and dashes to mark boundaries.

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

Did you like this resource? Don't forget to [review](#) it on our website.

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

1a. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

The decorator used special quick drying-paint on the front door.



VF

1b. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

The play we went to watch had a well-known actor in the main part.



VF

2a. Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

The _____ woman didn't care.

cold
hearted

cold-
hearted



VF

2b. Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

The _____ girl was often in trouble.

hot-headed

hot headed



VF

3a. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

The big-wheel is a fun looking fairground ride.

Jane quickly side stepped the muddy-puddle.

The medicine was very fast-acting.



VF

3b. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

The library was full-of book loving people.

The take-off went very smoothly.

The fat-cat stole all of the cat food.



VF

4a. Combine two words from the word bank with a hyphen to match the following definition.

soft

feather

light

Almost weightless



VF

4b. Combine two words from the word bank with a hyphen to match the following definition.

gift

release

slow

Gradually distributed



VF

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

5a. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

After dropping all the plates on the floor, Roger had to re-serve the meal.



VF

5b. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

The answer that Janet gave to the teachers question was in-correct.



VF

6a. Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

Nina's drama training _____ her confidence.



restored

re-stored

VF

6b. Which option correctly completes the sentence below?

Jack was proud to _____ his school.



re-present

represent

VF

7a. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

The dog trainer found-Pip very cooperative.

Betty was delighted to receive a re-ward for finding the purse.

Barney has a part-time job delivering newspapers.



VF

7b. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

When the clock wound down I had to re-turn the key.

The circus had an incredible tight rope-walker.

Karen returned to the library to re-new her book.



VF

8a. Select the word from the word bank which matches the following definition.

resign

re-sign

To sign again



VF

8b. Select the word from the word bank which matches the following definition.

recover

re-cover

To get better



VF

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

Recognising Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

9a. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

After getting cross and – rudely – putting the phone down, Nick knew we would have to re-call and apologise.



VF

9b. True or false? The sentence below has correctly used a hyphen to avoid ambiguity.

The young girls – finding the man's hat very funny – struggled to re-press their giggles.



VF

10a. Use both words to correctly complete the sentence below.

Philip – a successful business man – would have to _____ if he didn't _____ his contract.



resign

re-sign

VF

10b. Use both words to correctly complete the sentence below.

The pop group _____ – two years after splitting up – now the singer had _____ his ways.



re-formed

reformed

VF

11a. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

Sam – tired and cold though he was – agreed to re-try.

Liz – a prize winning-engineer – decided to reinvent the machine.

He was shy – very shy – and found he was completely tongue-tied.



VF

11b. Tick the sentence which has correctly used a hyphen.

No one – absolutely no one – knew my deep-dark secret.

I found my way to the waters-edge – eventually.

The dentist – a very strict man – insisted on a sugar-free diet.



VF

12a. Select the word from the word bank which completes the following sentence.

re-nowned

renowned

Barney Collins – a _____ author – came to school to talk about his new book.



VF

12b. Select the word from the word bank which completes the following sentence.

re-view

review

The film – which I thoroughly enjoyed – received a very critical _____.



VF

Varied Fluency
Recognising Hyphens to Avoid
Ambiguity

Developing

- 1a. **False; quick-drying**
- 2a. **cold-hearted**
- 3a. **The medicine was very fast-acting.**
- 4a. **feather-light**

Expected

- 5a. **True**
- 6a. **restored**
- 7a. **Barney had a part-time job delivering newspapers.**
- 8a. **re-sign**

Greater Depth

- 9a. **True**
- 10a. **Philip – a successful business man – would have to resign if he didn't re-sign his contract.**
- 11a. **He was shy – very shy – and found he was completely tongue-tied.**
- 12a. **Barney Collins – a renowned author – came to school to talk about his new book.**

Varied Fluency
Recognising Hyphens to Avoid
Ambiguity

Developing

- 1b. **True**
- 2b. **hot-headed**
- 3b. **The take-off went very smoothly.**
- 4b. **slow-release**

Expected

- 5b. **False; incorrect doesn't use a hyphen.**
- 6b. **represent**
- 7b. **When the clock wound down I had to re-turn the key.**
- 8b. **recover**

Greater Depth

- 9b. **False; the word repress does not need a hyphen.**
- 10b. **The pop group re-formed – two years after splitting up – now the singer had reformed his ways.**
- 11b. **The dentist – a very strict man – insisted on a sugar-free diet.**
- 12b. **The film – which I thoroughly enjoyed – received a very critical review.**