

Lesson 84

Dashes to Signal Change and to Emphasize

Use a dash to indicate an abrupt break or change in thought within a sentence.

I was happy—no, I was ecstatic—about being selected to work on an actual television show.

Use a dash to set off and emphasize supplemental information or parenthetical comments.

The thin dog—as thin as a sliver he was—nosed around in the garbage for a scrap of food.

I'm saving for a really warm coat—you know, one that's filled with goose down and comes down below the knees.

► Exercise 1 Insert a dash or dashes where necessary.

I just heard a strange noise—shush, there it is again.

1. The poster offered a huge reward I think it was \$500 for finding the lost show horse.
2. My father has typical middle-class values he believes in hard work, family life, education, and property ownership although he was born very poor.
3. It was either 1990 or 1991 I can't remember exactly when I first set eyes on the Pacific Ocean.
4. Grab a handful of those marbles say, about fifteen or twenty of them.
5. To top it off you won't believe this he said he had actually spoken to Michael Jordan!
6. We have more than a thousand envelopes to address not all in one day, of course.
7. The girl I met at summer camp I think her name is Darla is in my homeroom at school.
8. Elena shares whatever she has she's just that kind of person.
9. When it comes to strength and endurance, too Sachel is an incredible athlete.
10. Nora's last name something like Schultz or Schmidt is frequently misspelled by others.
11. The main character in the story knew he must have always known that he was descended from an African prince.
12. I think Cody's behavior if you'll allow me to be frank was extremely selfish.
13. The hikers' next task and this was critical was to find some sort of shelter from the cold, driving rain.
14. There was nothing in the barren Arctic landscape just pure emptiness.

15. I am telling the truth cross my heart.
16. Time after time even in near darkness Maggie's arrow struck the bull's-eye of the target.
17. It takes a keen eye actually it takes two to be a good archer.
18. Hear what I have to say just a few words if you please.
19. At her new school in Germany, Dale is taking Latin, German, English, math, physics, and biology; and if you can believe it! she plays soccer and takes oboe lessons!
20. They all agreed every one of them.
21. Lucy squandered much of her time too much of it, probably trying to guess what the future would bring.
22. I got a letter it was ten pages long! from my sister in Taiwan!
23. There's just one more thing something I've never told anyone before.
24. Beyond that log on the trail, it looks like no, it can't be a timber rattler!
25. The new student about the same age as Leo but a foot taller had a good chance of making the basketball team.
26. The raft was made of six-inch timbers lashed together with stout rope a very solid craft.
27. Bonita had nothing to say nothing at all.
28. He was a good friend more like a brother than a friend and I will miss him very much.
29. The trainer held the white rabbit in his hand, and then with the turn of his head it was gone!
30. Walk this way mind your head on that low door to the castle dungeon.
31. Nicki everyone else calls her Nicole is the first person I've ever met who speaks two languages fluently.
32. I intend to graduate from high school or should I say I hope to do so? with a *B* average.
33. If I know William and I think I do he'll be the first one to volunteer for the clean-up project.
34. Jackie broke the school record in the long jump and she did it not once, but twice.
35. A beautiful cat its fur thick and shiny was lying on my pink bedspread!