

## Lesson 90

### The Hyphen

Use a hyphen after any prefix joined to a proper noun or proper adjective. Use a hyphen after the prefixes *all-*, *ex-*, and *self-* joined to any noun or adjective. Use a hyphen after the prefix *anti-* when it joins a word beginning with *i*. Also use a hyphen after the prefix *vice-*, except in *vice president*.

anti-British    all-state    ex-senator    self-employed    anti-inflationary    vice-principal

Use a hyphen in a compound adjective that precedes a noun, but not when it follows a noun.

a fifteen-year-old dog                      the dog was fifteen years old  
 a well-written article                      the article was well written

Use a hyphen to avoid confusion between words beginning with *re-* that look alike but are different in meaning and pronunciation.

re-lay the carpet                      relay the message

Do not hyphenate an expression made up of an adverb ending in *-ly* and an adjective.

a surprisingly good movie              an oddly beautiful song

Hyphenate any spelled-out cardinal or ordinal numbers up to ninety-nine or ninety-ninth. Hyphenate a fraction used as an adjective (but not one used as a noun).

sixty-seven    thirty-second    two-thirds vote    two thirds of the voters

Divide a word at the end of a line between syllables or pronounceable parts. In general, if a word contains two consonants occurring between two vowels or if it contains a double consonant, divide the word between the two consonants. If a suffix has been added to a complete word that ends in two consonants, divide the word after the two consonants.

sig-nificant    rep-resent    statis-tic    stall-ing    grand-est

► **Exercise 1 Add hyphens where needed. If the sentence is correct, write C in the blank.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Herbert Hoover was the thirty-first president of the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. To ensure a reply, Juan sent a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Virginia is remarkably well traveled for a fourteen year old girl.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The theme of the professor's talk was that the country is currently experiencing an antiintellectual period.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. PreColumbian refers to the time period before Columbus arrived in the Americas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Rogan's mother came in fifty first out of ninety nine runners in her age class in the marathon last week.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Mr. Gillespie has a well trained golden retriever that can jump up and put letters in the mailbox.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The election was a tie, so we had to recount the votes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. If the bill passes, a two thirds majority will be needed to raise taxes in this state.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Queen Victoria, perhaps Britain's greatest monarch, ruled for sixty four years, from 1837-1901.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The Chos' new car is mostly red with a tan interior and a white racing stripe on the side.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. One half of a liter is about the same amount as one half quart.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The judge's far reaching decision was likely to affect thousands of people in many parts of the country.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. In government class, we studied the beginnings of the antipoverty programs of President Lyndon Johnson in the 1960s.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Sarah's eighty five year old great-grandmother was happily married to her husband for sixty one years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Be sure to include a well written letter with your job application.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Because the waiter dropped the tray with our dinners, he was forced to re serve the entire meal!
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Jessica's dad and step-mom are thirty two and thirty four.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Nicole was surprised at how tiny a two week old baby is.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. The news show offered a wide ranging review of the week's important stories.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Because he suffers from hay fever and other allergies, my uncle has to take antihistamines often.

► **Exercise 2** Indicate where each word would be divided at the end of a line.

rich<sup>est</sup> wash<sup>able</sup> rust<sup>ic</sup> rapp<sup>er</sup>

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|--------------|-------------|
| 1. strolling | 6. vulture  |
| 2. darkness  | 7. scolding |
| 3. flimsy    | 8. hurting  |
| 4. teacher   | 9. contest  |
| 5. rampage   | 10. member  |