

Hyphens and Dashes Quiz by Laura King, MA, ELS

Directions: Edit the following sentences based on your understanding of section 8.3 of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

Edit the following phrases using the appropriate hyphen (-), en dash (–), or em dash (—).

1. The article reported the results of the placebo controlled trial.

ANSWER:

The article reported the results of the placebo-controlled trial.

Editor's Note: *Hyphenate an adjective-noun compound when it precedes and modifies another noun but not when it follows the noun (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*

2. The study included 32 HIV 1 positive patients.

ANSWER:

The study included 32 HIV-1–positive patients.

Editor's Note: *Use an en dash to show relational distinction in a hyphenated or compound modifier, 1 element of which consists of 2 words or a hyphenated word, or when the word being modified is a compound (§8.3.2, Dashes, En Dash, pp 352-353 in print; see also §15.14.3 for correct usage of HIV-1).*

3. Computed tomography revealed a 5 cm diameter necrotic lesion.

ANSWER:

Computed tomography revealed a 5-cm-diameter necrotic lesion.

Editor's Note: *When expressing ranges or dimensions used as modifiers, use hyphens between all modifying words (eg, 5-mm-thick lesion, 20-cm-long hepatic limb) (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Expressing Ranges and Dimensions, p 349 in print).*

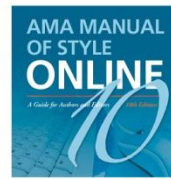
4. A group of 5 year old to 13 year old girls were enrolled in the study.

ANSWER:

A group of 5- to 13-year-old girls were enrolled in the study.

Editor's Note: *When 2 or more hyphenated compounds have a common base, omit the base in all but the last. In unhyphenated compounds written as 1 word, repeat the base (eg, first-, second-, and third-grade students, 10- and 15-year-old boys, anterolateral and posterolateral aspects) (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*





5. Osler, Billings, Apgar these were the physicians she tried to emulate.

ANSWER:

Osler, Billings, Apgar—these were the physicians she tried to emulate.

Editor's Note: *Em dashes are used to indicate a marked or pronounced interruption or break in thought. It is best to use this mode sparingly; do not use an em dash when another punctuation mark will suffice, for instance, the comma or the colon, or to imply namely, that is, or in other words, when an explanation follows (§8.3.2, Dashes, Em Dash, p 352 in print).*

6. The investigators examined health risks in very low birth weight infants.

ANSWER:

The investigators examined health risks in very low-birth-weight infants.

Editor's Note: *Hyphenate an adjective-noun compound when it precedes and modifies another noun but not when it follows the noun (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*

7. Anti tumor necrosis factor α therapy is useful in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

ANSWER:

Anti-tumor necrosis factor α therapy is useful in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

Editor's Note: *Use an en dash to show relational distinction in a hyphenated or compound modifier, 1 element of which consists of 2 words or a hyphenated word, or when the word being modified is a compound (§8.3.2, Dashes, En Dash, pp 352-353 in print).*

8. The facility was state of the art.

ANSWER:

The facility was state-of-the-art.

Editor's Note: *For compound adjectival phrases, adverb-participle compounds, and adjective-noun compounds that have become commonplace and familiar in everyday usage, hyphenate these phrases or compounds whether they precede or follow the noun they modify (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*

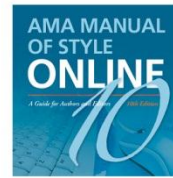
9. The patient's high density lipoprotein cholesterol level was normal.

ANSWER:

The patient's high-density lipoprotein cholesterol level was normal.

Editor's Note: *In most instances middle-, high-, and low- adjectival compounds are hyphenated (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*





10. Stevens Johnson syndrome is a life-threatening skin disorder.

ANSWER:

Stevens-Johnson syndrome is a life-threatening skin disorder.

Editor's Note: *Hyphenate a combination of 2 or more nouns used coordinately as a unit modifier when preceding the noun but not when following (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*

11. The physician agreed to an on-call duty of 12 hours.

ANSWER:

The physician agreed to an on-call duty of 12 hours.

Editor's Note: *Hyphenate most compound nouns that contain a preposition. Follow the latest edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*

12. To be enrolled in the study, patients had to have at least a sixth grade reading level.

ANSWER:

To be enrolled in the study, patients had to have at least a sixth-grade reading level.

Editor's Note: *Hyphenate a compound in which a number is the first element and the compound precedes the noun it modifies (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*

13. The study results were revealed to be false negative.

ANSWER:

The study results were revealed to be false-negative.

Editor's Note: *Hyphenate 2 or more adjectives used coordinately or as conflicting terms whether they precede the noun or follow as a predicate adjective (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*

14. The bruises progressed from a bluish red to a blue black color.

ANSWER:

The bruises progressed from a bluish red to a blue-black color.

Editor's Note: *Hyphenate color terms in which the 2 elements are of equal weight. Note that bluish red is not hyphenated because the terms are not equal (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*

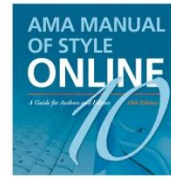
15. The patients self reported their age and weight.

ANSWER:

The patients self-reported their age and weight.

Editor's Note: *Hyphenate compounds formed with the prefixes all-, self-, and ex- whether they precede or follow the noun (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*





16. One fourth of the patients were lost to follow-up.

ANSWER:

One-fourth of the patients were lost to follow-up.

Editor's Note: *Hyphenate fractions used as nouns or adjectives (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds, pp 344-348 in print).*

17. A radioimmunoassay has been developed for iodine 125 labeled amikacin.

ANSWER:

A radioimmunoassay has been developed for iodine 125–labeled amikacin.

Editor's Note: *Use an en dash to show relational distinction in a hyphenated or compound modifier, 1 element of which consists of 2 words or a hyphenated word, or when the word being modified is a compound (§8.3.2, Dashes, En Dash, pp 352-353 in print).*

18. All non English language journal articles were excluded from the meta-analysis.

ANSWER:

All non–English-language journal articles were excluded from the meta-analysis.

Editor's Note: *In complex modifying phrases that include suffixes or prefixes, hyphens and en dashes are sometimes used to avoid ambiguity (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Clarity, pp 348-349 in print).*

19. The patient physician focused study explored issues in the patient physician relationship.

ANSWER:

The patient-physician–focused study explored issues in the patient-physician relationship.

Editor's Note: *Use an en dash to show relational distinction in a hyphenated or compound modifier, 1 element of which consists of 2 words or a hyphenated word, or when the word being modified is a compound (§8.3.2, Dashes, En Dash, pp 352-353 in print).*

20. The patients were prescribed antiinflammatory drugs to reduce inflammation and fever.

ANSWER:

The patients were prescribed anti-inflammatory drugs to reduce inflammation and fever.

Editor's Note: *Although most prefixes and suffixes are closed up, occasionally a hyphen is used after a prefix or before a suffix to avoid an awkward combination of letters, such as 2 of the same vowel or 3 of the same consonant (§8.3.1, Hyphen, Clarity, pp 348-349 in print).*

