

## Hyphens and Dashes Quiz

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### ANSWER KEY

**Directions:** Edit the following sentences based on your understanding of section §8.3, Hyphens and Dashes 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 (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

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 (§8.3.2.2, Dashes, En Dash). The abbreviation for human immunodeficiency virus 1 is HIV-1 (Table 14.14-10. Viruses of Humans).

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) (§8.3.1.3, Hyphen, Expressing Ranges and Dimensions).

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, pretreatment and posttreatment strategies) (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

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 (§8.3.2.1, Dashes, Em Dash).

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 (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

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

**ANSWER: Anti-tumor necrosis factor 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 (§8.3.2.2, Dashes, En Dash).

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. For example, a middle-aged man or the man was middle-aged. However, for combinations representing colors, nouns plus adjectives, nouns plus participles, and noun phrases, hyphenate before but not after a noun. For example, state-of-the-art equipment but the equipment was state of the art (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

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 (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

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 (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

11. 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 (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

12. 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 (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

13. 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 (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

14. 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 (§8.3.1.1, Hyphen, Temporary Compounds).

15. 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 (§8.3.2.2, Dashes, En Dash; and §14.9.3, Radiopharmaceutical Compounds Without Approved Names).

16. 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 (§8.3.1.2, Hyphen, Clarity).

17. 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 (§8.3.2.2, Dashes, En Dash).

18. 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 (§8.3.1.2, Hyphen, Clarity).

19. The patient’s waist to hip ratio was 1.25.

**ANSWER: The patient’s waist to hip ratio was 1.25.**

**Editor’s Note:** No hyphens are needed in ratios or severity (eg, a case of mild to moderate hypertension, the cup to disc ratio, or male to female ratio) (§8.3.1.3, Hyphen, Expressing Ranges and Dimensions).

20. Data from the 2018 to 2019 survey were collected from January 1, 2020, to February 28, 2020.

**ANSWER: Data from the 2018-2019 survey were collected from January 1, 2020, to February 28, 2020.**

**Editor’s Note:** In the text, do not use hyphens to express ranges; however, hyphens are used for (1) ranges expressing fiscal years, academic years, life spans, or study spans, (2) ranges given in parentheses, and (3) in figures and tables (§8.3.1.3, Hyphen, Expressing Ranges and Dimensions).