

TRANSLATION ACES NEWS

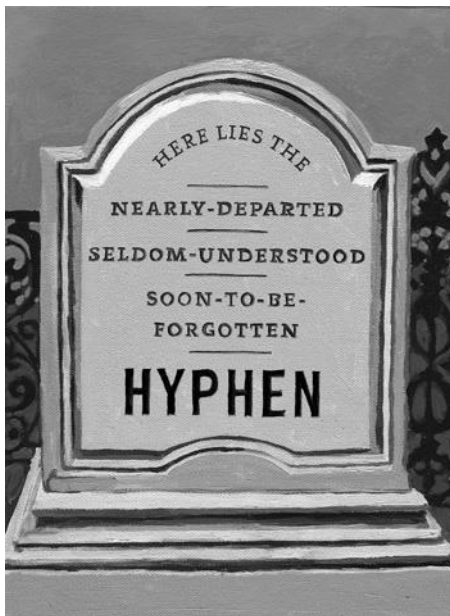


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◆ DASH IT ALL, at TRANSLATION ACES! ◆

Hyphenated.
 Non-hyphenated.
 Oh, how ironic.



Since it's trendy to discuss the travails of the **hyphen** and its comrades-in-arms: the **dash**, the **em dash**, the **en dash** as well as the ellipsis, let's join the linguista-bandwagon. From late Latin and from Greek, the word **hyphen** comprises *hyph' hen* [under one], from *hypo* [under] + *hen*, neuter of *heis* [one]; its first known use was around 1620. But usage of a **hyphen** and a **dash** is quite different and both occur more frequently in other languages around the world. For example, in French, the **trait d'union** is mandatory in numerous common adverbial phrases and compound nouns, many of which are even often used in English, such as: *c'est-à-dire*, *vis-à-vis*, *n'est-ce pas*, *rendez-vous*, *laissez-faire* – and, of course, all imperative verb forms such as *dites-moi* and *allez-y*.

Reuters reports: Close to 16,000 words fell to the pressures of the Internet age and lost their **hyphens** in a new edition of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. Native-English translators just love making texts shorter, decreasing the cost to you all, dear clients!

Reuters reports: Bumble-**bee** has now become bumblebee, ice-**cream** is ice cream, down-**town** is downtown, and week-**end** is weekend, even in France. Not to mention to-**day** is today today! Linguists can't help noticing this stuff. Texts just look better when simpler – we mean, without so much punctuation, anyway.

Punctuation	Looks Like	Definition	Example of Correct Usage
HYPHEN	-	⇒ A punctuation mark used to join words and separate syllables of a single word. Hyphens should not be confused with dashes (–, —, —), which are longer and have different uses, or with the minus sign (−), which is also longer.	state-of-the-art hy- phen- a- tion

DASH	—	<p>⇒ A punctuation mark used especially to show a break in thought or in the structure of a sentence</p> <p>⇒ A small amount of something that is added to something else</p> <p>⇒ The act of running or moving quickly or suddenly in a particular direction or to a particular place; a short race</p>	<p>He forgot the keys — again!</p> <p>See illustration 3b, below</p> <p>See illustration 3a, below</p>
EM DASH	—	Denotes a pause in thought, a parenthetical statement or — more casually — an afterthought	A parenthetical statement or — more casually — an afterthought
EN DASH	—	Denotes a range, especially of numbers	Cost: \$100—150



"Is there a hyphen in stickup?"



"I'll agree to a fifty-fifty split, but I get the hyphen."



MARC BILGREY

Dashes, like commas, semicolons, colons, ellipses, and parentheses, indicate added emphasis, an interruption, or an abrupt change of thought. Experienced writers know that these marks are not interchangeable and that they can subtly change the tone of a sentence. "Twenty-odd people came to the party," he said. Or was it twenty odd people?

◆ **NEW FEATURE!** ◆ We've been collecting "*silly signs*" for years and encouraging everyone to consult us before posting and printing anything, in any language, ever. Want to know "What's wrong with this picture?" Just ask!



WHOSE SALT?



AS IN CHEAP?

◆ **FEATURE** ◆ Lingua Quiz!

1. CAN YOU GUESS:

(a) What rhymes with **hyphen**?

(b) What do they do at  023 8022 6879 ?

2. TRUE -- OR FALSE?

- (a) Words and phrases between **dashes** are not generally part of the subject.
- (b) Always **hyphenate** double letters in the middle of a word at the end of a line.
- (c) One-syllable words are never divided at the end of a line.
- (d) Prefixes and suffixes make natural divisions to **hyphenate** words.
- (e) Divide **hyphenated** words using the **hyphen** already in the word.
- (f) A **hyphen** dividing a word can go either at the end of the first line OR at the beginning of the next line.

3. MIX & MATCH: Which visuals go with which descriptive items?



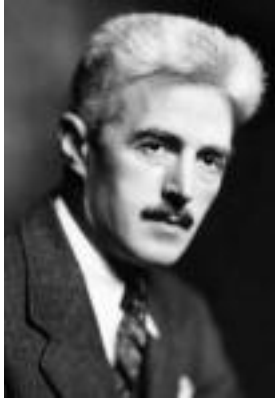
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)



(h)



(i)

- (1) Dashiell Hammett
- (2) 50-Yard dash
- (3) Dashboard

- (4) Dashing Errol Flynn
- (5) Dash of salt
- (6) On Dasher!

- (7) Dashing Dan
- (8) Caran d'Ache
- (9) Dash cam

4. MIX & MATCH: What's the word for "hyphen" in:

- (1) Barcelona
- (2) Berlin
- (3) Bolzano
- (4) Brno
- (5) Bryansk
- (6) Bordeaux

- (a) Tupe
- (b) Pomlčka
- (c) Tíret
- (d) Bindestrich
- (e) Guión
- (f) Trattino

ANSWERS:

4. (1) = (e); (2) = (d); (3) = (f); (4) = (b); (5) = (a); (6) = (c)
3. (a) = (7); (b) = (5); (c) = (6); (d) = (1); (e) = (8); (f) = (9); (g) = (3); (h) = (2); (i) = (4)

1. (a) Python, siphon; (b) It's a transportation company
2. (a) T; e.g.: Joe—and his sister—was always welcome.
 (b) T; always sup-port, not su-port
 (c) T; e.g., never sp-orts
 (d) T; e.g., inter-national
 (e) T; e.g., mother-in-law
 NOT moth in-law
- (f) F; Hyphen must appear at the end of the 1st line,
 e.g., Thanks for your sup-port
 NOT Thanks for your sup-port