National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (6G5.13) **Using hyphens to avoid ambiguity**
English Year 6: (6G5.13) **How hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity** [for example, *man eating shark* versus *man-eating shark*, or *recover* versus *re-cover*]

Terminology for pupils:
- (6G5.13) **hyphen**

Differentiation:

Questions 1, 4 and 7 (Application)
**Developing** Identify when a hyphen is needed to avoid ambiguity. Includes hyphens between two words.
**Expected** Identify when a hyphen is needed to avoid ambiguity. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.
**Greater Depth** Identify when a hyphen is needed to avoid ambiguity in a sentence that includes dashes to indicate parentheses. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.

Questions 2, 5 and 8 (Reasoning)
**Developing** Identify and explain the purpose of a hyphen in a sentence. Includes hyphens between two words.
**Expected** Identify and explain the purpose of a hyphen in a sentence. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.
**Greater Depth** Identify and explain the purpose of a hyphen in a sentence that includes dashes to indicate parentheses. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.

Questions 3, 6 and 9 (Reasoning)
**Developing** Add a hyphen to a sentence and explain how it changes the meaning of the sentence. Includes hyphens between two words.
**Expected** Replace a comma with a hyphen and explain how it changes the meaning of the sentence. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.
**Greater Depth** Identify and replace an appropriate comma with a hyphen and explain how it changes the meaning of the sentence. Includes hyphens between two words and within single words.

More resources from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

Did you like this resource? Don’t forget to review it on our website.
### Using Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1a. Rewrite the sentence below. Remember to put a hyphen in the correct place.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The college café was a hot bed of exciting ideas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1b. Rewrite the sentence below. Remember to put a hyphen in the correct place.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Harper had a funny smelling dog.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2a. Brad has written a sentence below. Has he used a hyphen correctly?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our car got stuck behind a slow-moving van which made us late for the film.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2b. Maisie has written a sentence below. Has she used a hyphen correctly?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My dad is a super strong bodybuilder and he goes to the gym every-day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3a. Add a hyphen to the sentence below.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaiden bought some trendy looking glasses from the optician.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3b. Add a hyphen to the sentence below.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jane was terrified to see the bird eating spider.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Application and Reasoning – Using Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity – Year 6 Developing
4a. Rewrite the sentence below. Remember to put a hyphen in the correct place.

The players were repaired for the next round of tennis matches.

4b. Rewrite the sentence below. Remember to put a hyphen in the correct place.

The fast paced game was over in a matter of minutes.

5a. Tilly has written a sentence below. Has she used a hyphen correctly? Explain how you know.

My new Labrador puppy is chocolate-brown and has floppy ears.

5b. Patrick has written a sentence below. Has he used a hyphen correctly? Explain how you know.

My mum re-served a table at my favourite restaurant for my birthday treat.

6a. Replace the comma with a hyphen in the sentence below. Explain how it changes the meaning of the sentence.

Michael took his heavy, grey suit with him when he went away in the winter.

6b. Replace the comma with a hyphen in the sentence below. Explain how it changes the meaning of the sentence.

My favourite luggage is my deep, green duffle bag.
### Using Hyphens to Avoid Ambiguity

**7a.** Rewrite the sentence below. Remember to put hyphens in the correct places.

The winners of the quiz – which took place between two rival schools – got a behind the scenes tour of the studio.

**7b.** Rewrite the sentence below. Remember to put hyphens in the correct place.

Karen’s father in law – a local shopkeeper – provided all the food for the wedding.

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**8a. Gemma has written a sentence below. Has she used a hyphen correctly?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To re-dress the balance,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tony – the school bus driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– let the bullied boy sit on the front seat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explain how you know.

**8b. Jack has written a sentence below. Has he used a hyphen correctly?**

| Last week – when it was my birthday – I got twenty-five pound notes to spend how I want. |

Explain how you know.

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**9a. Replace a comma with a hyphen in the sentence below.**

As he got ready to leave, Rupert – thinking it might get colder later – picked up an extra, warm woolly jumper.

Explain how it changes the meaning of the sentence.

**9b. Replace a comma with a hyphen in the sentence below.**

As winter approached, the morning darkness lasted longer and Saleem – when she walked to work – started to use the super, bright torch she got for her birthday.

Explain how it changes the meaning of the sentence.
Developing
1a. The college café was a hot-bed of exciting ideas.
2a. Yes, Brad is correct because the sentence describes a van moving slowly.
3a. Kaiden bought some trendy-looking glasses from the optician. By adding a hyphen, the glasses are described as looking trendy.

Expected
4a. The players were re-paired for the next round of tennis matches.
5a. Yes, Tilly is correct because chocolate-brown describes the colour.
6a. Michael took his heavy-grey suit with him when he went away in the winter. By replacing the comma with a hyphen, the word heavy now describes the shade of grey.

Greater Depth
7a. The winners of the quiz – which took place between two rival schools – got a behind-the-scenes tour of the studio.
8a. No, Gemma is incorrect because re-dress means to dress again.
9a. As he got ready to leave, Rupert – thinking it might get colder later – picked up an extra-warm woolly jumper. By replacing the comma between extra and warm with a hyphen, the word extra now describes how warm the jumper is.

Developing
1b. Mr Harper had a funny-smelling dog.
2b. No, Maisie is incorrect because every day does not need a hyphen and a hyphen is needed between super and strong.
3b. Jane was terrified to see the bird-eating spider. By adding a hyphen, the spider is described as bird eating.

Expected
4b. The fast-paced game was over in a matter of minutes.
5b. No, Patrick is incorrect because re-served describes serving again.
6b. My favourite luggage is my deep-green duffle bag. By replacing the comma with a hyphen, the word deep now describes the shade of green.

Greater Depth
7b. Karen’s father-in-law – a local shopkeeper – provided all the food for the wedding.
8b. No, Jack is incorrect because he is describing notes worth twenty five pounds each.
9b. As winter approached, the morning darkness lasted longer and Saleem – when she walked to work – started to use the super-bright torch she got for her birthday. By replacing the comma between super and bright with a hyphen, the word super now describes how bright the torch is.