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GRAMMAR QUIZ:

Dashes & Hyphens - Intermediate Level

If you enjoyed the beginner level quiz, try yourself against this tougher quiz on em dashes, en dashes, and hyphens.

Reminder: This is based on Chicago Manual of Style

1. Which punctuation is correct to use in this sentence?
"The meeting—scheduled for 2 p.m.—was postponed."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
2. Choose the correct punctuation to show a range of dates in a business report.
"The conference runs from June 3 _ September 8."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
3. Which is the proper punctuation to connect two words forming a compound adjective before a noun?
"a well _ known author"
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
4. Select the correct use of punctuation to separate elements in a sentence with a sudden break.
"Our sales—especially in Asia—have grown rapidly."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen



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5. Choose the correct punctuation for connecting two related business terms showing partnership.
"The Smith _ Johnson merger was finalized."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
6. Which punctuation mark is appropriate for this phrase?
"state- _ of-the-art technology"
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
7. Select the best punctuation for these numbers indicating a fiscal quarter range.
"Q1 _ Q3 earnings improved significantly."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
8. Choose the correct punctuation to replace the underscore in:
"profit _ margin analysis"
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
9. In business writing, which punctuation best adds emphasis or interruption within a sentence?
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen



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10. Which punctuation is incorrect in this context?
"The New York–Los Angeles flight"
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
11. For these budget figures, choose the correct punctuation:
"\$40 _ \$60 million"
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
12. Which punctuation is correct in this sentence?
"Long-term contracts are favored in fluctuating markets."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
13. Select the best punctuation for the phrase indicating a partnership:
"The writer–editor collaboration was seamless."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
14. Which punctuation correctly replaces the underscore for interruption?
"The deadline—although tight—was met."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
15. Identify the correct punctuation for a business division range:
"Sales East _ West regions are combined."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen



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16. In this compound adjective, choose the right punctuation:
"a profit_and_loss statement"
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
17. Which punctuation correctly replaces the underscore to clarify a break?
"Revenue—increased last quarter—exceeded expectations."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
18. Select the correct punctuation to indicate a negative number range:
"Losses of -5 _ -1 million dollars"
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
19. Which punctuation correctly joins words in "cost-saving measure"?
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
20. Choose the punctuation used for an interruption in this sentence:
"Our CEO—due to unforeseen circumstances—could not attend."
a) Em dash
b) En dash
c) Hyphen
21. In which example is the en dash used correctly?
a) "The New York–London flight was delayed."
b) "The New York–London flight was delayed."
c) "The New York—London flight was delayed."



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22. Select the punctuation that correctly signals a compound number adjective:

"twenty-five-year plan"

- a) Em dash
- b) En dash
- c) Hyphen

23. Choose the correct punctuation to replace underscore for a date range:

"Fiscal years 2022 _ 2025"

- a) Em dash
- b) En dash
- c) Hyphen

24. Which punctuation correctly connects two job titles linked as one role?

"editor _ writer"

- a) Em dash
- b) En dash
- c) Hyphen

25. Identify the correct punctuation mark here:

"The final offer—one that exceeded expectations—was accepted."

- a) Em dash
- b) En dash
- c) Hyphen

26. For indicating a span in stock prices this month, which is correct?

"\$25 _ \$30 per share"

- a) Em dash
- b) En dash
- c) Hyphen

27. Which punctuation is suitable in the phrase?

"cost-effective strategy"

- a) Em dash
- b) En dash
- c) Hyphen



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28. Select the appropriate punctuation for a sudden break in a business email:

"The budget—unexpectedly—was cut."

- a) Em dash
- b) En dash
- c) Hyphen

29. Which punctuation is best between two company names in a joint venture?

"TechCorp _ Innovate Inc. signed the deal."

- a) Em dash
- b) En dash
- c) Hyphen

30. What punctuation replaces the underscore in this fully hyphenated compound modifier?

"up-to-date information"

- a) Em dash
- b) En dash
- c) Hyphen



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Answers – Intermediate Level

1. Answer: a) Em dash

Explanation: Em dashes set off a phrase or clause for emphasis or interruption.

2. Answer: b) En dash

Explanation: En dashes indicate ranges, such as dates or numbers.

3. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens join words in compound modifiers before nouns.

4. Answer: a) Em dash

Explanation: Em dashes indicate abrupt breaks or explanatory elements.

5. Answer: b) En dash

Explanation: En dashes link two equal entities, like business partners.

6. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens connect words in complex compound modifiers.

7. Answer: b) En dash

Explanation: En dashes show ranges in numbers or periods.

8. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens join compound nouns.

9. Answer: a) Em dash

Explanation: Em dashes highlight or interrupt information.

10. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: En dash is proper for indicating connection between two places.

11. Answer: b) En dash

Explanation: En dashes denote numeric ranges.

12. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens join modifiers like "long-term."

13. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens join compound nouns when words act as one unit.

14. Answer: a) Em dash

Explanation: Em dashes set off interrupting phrases.

15. Answer: b) En dash

Explanation: En dashes indicate ranges or connections between equal elements.



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16. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens join words forming compound modifiers.

17. Answer: a) Em dash

Explanation: Em dashes highlight inserted comments or interruptions.

18. Answer: b) En dash

Explanation: En dashes show ranges, including negative numbers.

19. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens connect modifiers before nouns.

20. Answer: a) Em dash

Explanation: Em dashes indicate parenthetical or interrupting material.

21. Answer: a) "The New York–London flight was delayed."

Explanation: En dashes connect two equal nouns such as cities for routes.

22. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens join numbers and words in compound adjectives.

23. Answer: b) En dash

Explanation: Use en dash for ranges between years.

24. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens join compound job titles.

25. Answer: a) Em dash

Explanation: Em dashes enclose additional information or emphasis.

26. Answer: b) En dash

Explanation: En dashes indicate numeric ranges.

27. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens connect adjectives forming a unit modifying a noun.

28. Answer: a) Em dash

Explanation: Em dashes highlight an inserted, sudden comment.

29. Answer: b) En dash

Explanation: Use en dashes to connect two equal entities.

30. Answer: c) Hyphen

Explanation: Hyphens connect multi-word modifiers before nouns.