

**Hyphens, Dashes, and Ellipses**

More Practice

Key

**A. Using the Hyphen**

In these sentences, underline each word that requires a hyphen, and write the corrected word on the line at the right.

1. Raspberry fudge was voted the mostliked ice cream flavor of the month. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the election for class treasurer, I received thirtyfour more votes than my opponent. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The selfproclaimed automotive genius ran out of gas on the way to school this morning. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Joshua's sisterinlaw gave him a Labrador retriever for his birthday. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Governorelect Williams enjoyed attending county fairs around the state. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Using Dashes in Sentences**

Rewrite each sentence inserting dashes where they are needed.

1. Talking animals, evil witches, elves, and fairies all these characters are commonplace in fairy tales. \_\_\_\_\_
2. It was all my fault no, I take that back the fault was partially yours. \_\_\_\_\_
3. All of your nervous habits tapping your fingers, cracking your knuckles, and scratching your head are getting out of hand. \_\_\_\_\_
4. This painting if I must say so myself is my best work to date. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Using Ellipses**

Read the following passage. Then choose the passage below in which ellipses points have been used correctly to quote the passage. Circle the letter before the correct passage.

The Ship Island region was as woodsy and tenantless as ever. The island has ceased to be an island; has joined itself compactly to the main shore, and wagons travel, now, where the steamboats used to navigate.

Mark Twain, *Life on the Mississippi*

1. The Ship Island region was as woodsy. . . . as ever. The island. . . . has joined itself compactly to the main shore, and wagons travel, now . . .
2. The Ship Island. . . . has ceased to be an island . . . and wagons travel, now, where the steamboats used to navigate.

# Using the Hyphen and Dash

Key

**DIRECTIONS:** Place a hyphen or a dash (two hyphens) where one is needed in the sentences below.

**EXAMPLE:** We made a U-turn when we realized we had forgotten something my brother Zach.

1. The Humphrey-Hawkins bill passed last week.
2. I couldn't believe it, could you that her daughter speaks three languages at age five?
3. Three-fourths of the student body doesn't know the school song and doesn't care!
4. The Bobcats lost the game 24-18.
5. He just played a B-flat on the violin.
6. The gas tank is two-thirds empty.
7. Sonia, did you hear that the principal just Oh, I see that you already know.
8. Rick's blue Nova skidded into the ditch at the top of the S-curve.
9. He lived through the crash barely, but he'll never forget it.
10. He's paralyzed from the shoulders down; he'll never regain more than one-fifth of his motor skills.
11. That means, for the rest of his life, someone else will have to fasten the buttons on his shirt sleeves, tie his shoes, and cut his fingernails all the little things we take for granted.
12. He will never again enjoy the luxury of being an average, run-of-the-mill person.
13. I sometimes wonder why it's so difficult to appreciate really appreciate being able to walk and talk and see and hear.
14. So many of our efforts amount to no more than half-hearted attempts to go through the motions of living.
15. Sloppy living really is what's the word pathetic?
16. People are still experiencing the effects of the first H bomb.
17. My brother-in-law loves to sail.
18. One-third of the freshman class reads below the sixth-grade level.
19. Sandy spent those years (1975-1977) studying in Germany.
20. I'll never forget when Andria couldn't remember that Oh, John, what was that silly thing which Andria couldn't remember?
21. The little girl had X-rays taken of her ankle.
22. The little boy's two-for-a-dime approach sold three gallons of lemonade.

Name

Date

Hour



errors

insert or delete

Identify and correct all errors in the use of hyphens, dashes, and ellipses. If a sentence contains no errors, write Correct.

**Reporter's Notes: Con Artist Nabbed**

(1) With moves worthy of an all-star football player, Detective Sonia Lopez tackled Willie Smith as he attempted to escape a well-engineered sting operation. (2) Smith is wanted in four states Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, and Texas for bilking patriotic but gullible citizens of their savings. (3) One victim said, "I felt so stupid . . . I should have known the Washington Monument wasn't for sale." (4) Undercover officer Laura Hernández, ~~for~~ two, posed as a wealthy widow looking for a nest egg. (5) Exuding self-confidence, Smith had presented quasi-authentic shares in the Washington Monument.

→ this word means "overflowing with" or "boiling over"