

## ***HYPHENS*** (OR NOT) by Christine Pickett

Solid (closed), two words, or hyphenated? Check journal style, dictionary. Usage/treatment varies! GOAL: avoid difficult reading and ambiguity

1. for compound adjectives before a noun: hyphen (first-class study). After noun, no hyphen if clear.
2. adverbs ending in ly: no hyphen (highly regarded study)
3. “all”—most with hyphen: all-inclusive study
4. “cross”—many words with hyphen (cross-referenced entries) but some one word (crosshatched)
5. “fold”—tenfold but 10-fold
6. “full”—all with before noun (full-scale)
7. “half”—most with hyphen (half-baked plan)
8. high, lower, upper, lower, middle, mid—most with hyphen except most with “mid” are solid/closed.
9. “over,” “under”—closed (overexposed, undervalued)
10. “self”—most with (self-respect)
11. “wide”—closed (systemwide) except if long and cumbersome (university-wide)
12. “least,” “lesser”—with hyphen (lesser-known research)
13. noun + adjective— with hyphen (fuel-efficient vehicle, user-friendly system) before noun; after can be open if no ambiguity
14. words with common prefixes one word, no hyphen (solid/closed): anti, bi, co, counter, extra, infra, inter, intra, macro, meta, micro, mid, mini, multi, neo, non, over, post, pre, pro, pseudo, re, semi, socio, sub, super, supra, trans, ultra, un, under
15. EXCEPTIONS:
  - capitalized words or numbers: pre-Lagrangian mechanics, mid-1985
  - homographs: re-cover, re-create
  - more than one word: pre-latency-period (but note exceptions here)
  - with repeated vowels (but not all style guides agree): anti-inflammatory
  - if confusion results: pro-choice