**Dashes**

When do we use them?

# Explanation

Dashes show a change of tone or flow in a sentence. In general, dashes indicate an abrupt break in thought or added information. Use two hyphens on the keyboard to make dashes.

Examples

1. **Break to add information**

The town was full of emotion during the celebration—people laughed and held their loved ones close while lovers exchanged sweet words and flowers.

1. **Break in thought**

The poor condition of the house—it could easily collapse at any moment—made it uninhabitable.

Exercises

*Where could dashes be placed in the following?*

1. Pythons are curious reptiles similar to iguanas they like to sunbathe and occupy trees.
2. Neil Diamond’s song “Sweet Caroline” named after JFK’s daughter is one of my favorites.
3. Jimmy already nervous and awkward spilled popcorn all over his date.
4. All marsupials kangaroos, koalas, and wombats are pouch-bearing mammals.
5. The postcards all being sent to Florida counties will encourage folks to vote with mail-in ballots.