

Hyphenated Modifiers

A hyphenated modifier is a string of words connected by hyphens that can replace an adjective or an “ordinary” description; it can really make your writing much more entertaining.

Hyphens go between every word except between the last word and the noun you are describing.

A hyphenated modifier always comes before a noun.

Ordinary: Last night my dad and I watched an incredibly boring movie.

Hyphenated Modifier: Last night my dad and I watched an I’d-rather-be-doing-my-homework movie.

Ordinary: Mr. Baker is such a handsome guy.

Hyphenated Modifier: Mr. Baker is such an oh-my-gosh-does-Zac-Efron-have-a-twin-brother type of guy.

Ordinary: At dinner I chewed on my mom’s disgusting string beans.

Hyphenated Modifier: At dinner I chewed on my mom’s could-you-please-take-a-cooking-class-so-I-don’t-die string beans.

Ordinary: My older brother’s girlfriend came over and gave me a totally rude smile.

Hyphenated Modifier: My older brother’s girlfriend came over and gave me a you’re-just-a-loser-little-kid-and-I-only-acknowledge-you-because-your-brother-is-hot smile.