

Name _____

Date _____

To hyphenate or not to hyphenate... that is the question...
(No-Nonsense, Adjective-Hyphenating Exercises)

RULE 1

Use a hyphen to join adjectives that appear before a noun to describe it.

example: We went to a **first-rate** hotel.

RULE 2

When you're writing someone's age or size to describe them, separate each word with a hyphen.

example: He is a smart **ten-year-old** boy.

In the sentences below, circle the words that should be connected by a hyphen.

1. Amy got a **part-time** job working at a pet store.
2. Tommy's **12-year-old** dog is the oldest in the neighborhood.
3. My mom drove the wrong way down a **one-way** street yesterday!
4. Joshua is the smartest **nine-year-old** boy I have ever met.
5. That police officer is a **friendly-looking** man.
6. The **well-known** actress accepted her award.
7. Brian got a **much-needed** haircut.
8. Our class president is a very **self-assured** boy.
9. There is an **old-fashioned** love song on the radio.
10. All of the students were **well-dressed** for their class photo.
11. Of all the ice cream flavors, chocolate and vanilla are the **best-known**.
12. Everyone likes Mary because she is so **happy-go-lucky**.
13. The **eight-foot-tall** man looked out of place in the tiny room.
14. The toy drive was a huge success because of the **well-placed** collection bins.