

Category/specific term	Examples	Summary of rule
<b>1. COMPOUNDS ACCORDING TO CATEGORY</b>		
<b>age terms</b>	<p>a <i>three-year-old</i>  a <i>five-year-old</i> child  a <i>fifty-five-year-old</i> woman  a group of <i>eight-</i> to <i>ten-year-olds</i>  but  <i>seven years old</i>  <i>eighteen years of age</i></p>	<p>Hyphenated in both noun and adjective forms (except as in the last two examples); note the space after the first hyphen in the fourth example (see 7.84). The examples apply equally to ages expressed as numerals.</p>
<b>chemical terms</b>	<p><i>sodium chloride</i>  <i>sodium chloride</i> solution</p>	<p>Open in both noun and adjective forms.</p>
<b>colors</b>	<p><i>emerald-green</i> tie  <i>reddish-brown</i> flagstone  <i>blue-green</i> algae  <i>snow-white</i> dress  <i>black-and-white</i> print  but  his tie is <i>emerald green</i>  the stone is <i>reddish brown</i>  the water is <i>blue green</i>  the clouds are <i>snow white</i>  the truth isn't <i>black and white</i></p>	<p>Hyphenated before but not after a noun. This departure from Chicago's former usage serves both simplicity and logic.</p>
<b>compass points and directions</b>	<p><i>northeast</i>  <i>southwest</i>  <i>east-northeast</i>  a <i>north-south</i> street  <i>the street runs north-south</i></p>	<p>Closed in noun, adjective, and adverb forms unless three directions are combined, in which case a hyphen is used after the first. When <i>from . . . to</i> is implied, an en dash is used (see 6.78).</p>
<b>ethnic terms. See proper nouns and adjectives relating to geography or nationality</b> in section 2.		
<b>foreign phrases</b>	<p>an <i>a priori</i> argument  a <i>Sturm und Drang</i> drama  <i>in vitro</i> fertilization  a <i>tête-à-tête</i> approach</p>	<p>Open unless hyphens appear in the original language.</p>

Category/specific term	Examples	Summary of rule
<b>1. COMPOUNDS ACCORDING TO CATEGORY (continued)</b>		
<b>fractions, compounds formed with</b>	<i>a half hour</i> <i>a half-hour session</i> <i>a quarter mile</i> <i>a quarter-mile run</i> <i>an eighth note</i>	Noun form open; adjective form hyphenated. See also <b>numbers</b> in this section and <b>half</b> in section 3.
<b>fractions, simple</b>	<i>one-half</i> <i>two-thirds</i> <i>three-quarters</i> <i>one twenty-fifth</i> <i>one and three-quarters</i> <i>a two-thirds majority</i> <i>three-quarters done</i> <i>a one twenty-fifth share</i>	Hyphenated in noun, adjective, and adverb forms, except when second element is already hyphenated. See also <b>number + noun</b> and 9.14.
<b>number + abbreviation</b>	<i>the 33 m distance</i> <i>a 2 kg weight</i> <i>a 3 ft. high wall</i>	Always open. See also <b>number + noun</b> .
<b>number + noun</b>	<i>a hundred-meter race</i> <i>a 250-page book</i> <i>a fifty-year project</i> <i>a three-inch-high statuette</i> <i>it's three inches high</i> <i>a one-and-a-half-inch hem</i> <i>one and a half inches</i> <i>a five-foot-ten quarterback</i> <i>five feet ten [inches tall]</i> <i>five- to ten-minute intervals</i>	Hyphenated before a noun, otherwise open. Note the space after the first number in the last example. See also <b>number + abbreviation</b> . See also 9.13.
<b>number + percentage</b>	<i>50 percent</i> <i>a 10 percent raise</i>	Both noun and adjective forms always open.
<b>number, ordinal, + noun</b>	<i>on the third floor</i> <i>third-floor apartment</i> <i>103rd-floor view</i> <i>fifth-place contestant</i> <i>twenty-first-row seats</i>	Adjective form hyphenated before a noun, otherwise open. See also <b>century</b> in section 3.
<b>number, ordinal, + superlative</b>	<i>a second-best decision</i> <i>third-largest town</i> <i>fourth-to-last contestant</i> <i>he arrived fourth to last</i>	Hyphenated before a noun, otherwise open.
<b>numbers, spelled out</b>	<i>twenty-eight</i> <i>three hundred</i> <i>nineteen forty-five</i> <i>five hundred fifty</i>	Twenty-one through ninety-nine hyphenated; others open. See also <b>fractions, simple</b> .
<b>relationships. See foster, grand, in-law, and step</b> in section 3.		

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<b>1. COMPOUNDS ACCORDING TO CATEGORY (continued)</b>		
<b>time</b>	at <i>three thirty</i> the <i>three-thirty</i> train a <i>four o'clock</i> train the <i>5:00 p.m.</i> news	Usually open; forms such as "three thirty," "four twenty," etc., are hyphenated before the noun.
<b>2. COMPOUNDS ACCORDING TO PARTS OF SPEECH</b>		
<b>adjective + noun</b>	<i>small-state</i> senators a <i>high-quality</i> alkylate a <i>middle-class</i> neighborhood the neighborhood is <i>middle class</i>	Hyphenated before but not after a noun.
<b>adjective + participle</b>	<i>tight-lipped</i> person <i>high-jumping</i> grasshoppers <i>open-ended</i> question the question was <i>open ended</i>	Hyphenated before but not after a noun.
<b>adverb ending in ly + participle or adjective</b>	a <i>highly paid</i> ragpicker a <i>fully open</i> society he was <i>mildly amusing</i>	Open whether before or after a noun.
<b>adverb not ending in ly + participle or adjective</b>	a <i>much-needed</i> addition it was <i>much needed</i> a very <i>well-read</i> child <i>little-understood</i> rules a <i>too-easy</i> answer the <i>best-known</i> author the <i>highest-ranking</i> officer the <i>worst-paid</i> job a <i>lesser-paid</i> colleague the <i>most efficient</i> method a <i>less prolific</i> artist a <i>more thorough</i> exam the <i>most skilled</i> workers (most in number) but the <i>most-skilled</i> workers (most in skill) a very <i>much needed</i> addition	Hyphenated before but not after a noun; compounds with <i>more</i> , <i>most</i> , <i>less</i> , <i>least</i> , and <i>very</i> usually open unless ambiguity threatens. When the adverb rather than the compound as a whole is modified by another adverb, the entire expression is open.
<b>combining forms</b>	<i>electrocardiogram</i> <i>socioeconomic</i> <i>politico-scientific</i> studies the <i>practico-inert</i>	Usually closed if permanent, hyphenated if temporary. See 7.78.
<b>gerund + noun</b>	<i>running shoes</i> <i>cooking class</i> <i>running-shoe</i> store	Noun form open; adjective form hyphenated. See also <b>noun + gerund</b> .
<b>noun + adjective</b>	<i>computer-literate</i> accountants <i>HIV-positive</i> men the stadium is <i>fan friendly</i> she is <i>HIV positive</i>	Hyphenated before a noun; usually open after a noun.

Category/specific term	Examples	Summary of rule
<b>2. COMPOUNDS ACCORDING TO PARTS OF SPEECH (continued)</b>		
<b>noun + gerund</b>	<i>decision making</i> <i>a decision-making body</i> <i>mountain climbing</i> <i>time-clock-punching employees</i> <i>a Nobel Prize-winning chemist</i> (see 6.80) <i>bookkeeping</i> <i>caregiving</i> <i>copyediting</i>	Noun form usually open; adjective form hyphenated before a noun. Some permanent compounds closed (see 7.78).
<b>noun + noun, single function (first noun modifies second noun)</b>	<i>student nurse</i> <i>restaurant owner</i> <i>directory path</i> <i>tenure track</i> <i>tenure-track position</i> <i>home-rule governance</i> <i>shipbuilder</i> <i>gunrunner</i> <i>copyeditor</i>	Noun form open; adjective form hyphenated before a noun. Some permanent compounds closed (see 7.78).
<b>noun + noun, two functions (both nouns equal)</b>	<i>nurse-practitioner</i> <i>philosopher-king</i> <i>city-state</i> <i>city-state governance</i>	Both noun and adjective forms always hyphenated.
<b>noun + numeral or enumerator</b>	<i>type A</i> <i>a type A executive</i> <i>type 2 diabetes</i> <i>size 12 slacks</i> <i>a page 1 headline</i>	Both noun and adjective forms always open.
<b>noun + participle</b>	<i>a Wagner-burdened repertoire</i> <i>flower-filled garden</i> <i>a clothes-buying grandmother</i> <i>a day of clothes buying</i>	Hyphenated before a noun, otherwise open.
<b>participle + noun</b>	<i>chopped-liver pâté</i> <i>cutting-edge methods</i> <i>their approach was cutting edge</i>	Adjective form hyphenated before but not after a noun.
<b>participle + up, out, and similar adverbs</b>	<i>dressed-up children</i> <i>burned-out buildings</i> <i>ironed-on decal</i> <i>we were dressed up</i> <i>that decal is ironed on</i>	Adjective form hyphenated before but not after a noun. Verb form always open.
<b>phrases, adjectival</b>	<i>an over-the-counter drug</i> <i>a matter-of-fact reply</i> <i>an up-to-date solution</i> <i>sold over the counter</i> <i>her tone was matter of fact</i> <i>his equipment was up to date</i>	Hyphenated before a noun; usually open after a noun.

Category/specific term	Examples	Summary of rule
<b>2. COMPOUNDS ACCORDING TO PARTS OF SPEECH (continued)</b>		
<b>phrases, noun</b>	<i>stick-in-the-mud</i> <i>jack-of-all-trades</i> <i>a flash in the pan</i>	Hyphenated or open as listed in Webster's. If not in the dictionary, open.
<b>proper nouns and adjectives relating to geography or nationality</b>	<i>African Americans</i> <i>African American president</i> <i>a Chinese American</i> <i>French Canadians</i> <i>South Asian Americans</i> <i>the Scotch Irish</i> <i>the North Central region</i> <i>Middle Eastern countries</i> but <i>Sino-Tibetan languages</i> <i>the Franco-Prussian War</i> <i>the US-Canada border</i> <i>Anglo-American cooperation</i> <i>Anglo-Americans</i>	Open in both noun and adjective forms, unless the first term is a prefix or unless <i>between</i> is implied. See also 8.38.
<b>3. COMPOUNDS FORMED WITH SPECIFIC TERMS</b>		
<b>ache</b>	<i>toothache</i> <i>stomachache</i>	Always closed.
<b>all</b>	<i>all out</i> <i>all along</i> <i>all over</i> <i>an all-out effort</i> <i>an all-American player</i> <i>the book is all-encompassing</i> but <i>we were all in [tired]</i>	Adverbial phrases open; adjectival phrases usually hyphenated both before and after a noun.
<b>book</b>	<i>reference book</i> <i>coupon book</i> <i>checkbook</i> <i>cookbook</i>	Closed or open as listed in Webster's. If not in the dictionary, open.
<b>borne</b>	<i>waterborne</i> <i>food-borne</i> <i>e-mail-borne</i> <i>mosquito-borne</i>	Closed if listed as such in Webster's. If not in Webster's, hyphenated; compounds retain the hyphen both before and after a noun.
<b>century</b>	<i>the twenty-first century</i> <i>fourteenth-century monastery</i> <i>twenty-first-century history</i> <i>a mid-eighteenth-century poet</i> <i>late nineteenth-century politicians</i> <i>her style was nineteenth century</i>	Noun forms always open; adjectival compounds hyphenated before but not after a noun. See also <b>old</b> (below), <b>mid</b> (in section 4), and 7.83.

Category/specific term	Examples	Summary of rule
<b>3. COMPOUNDS FORMED WITH SPECIFIC TERMS (continued)</b>		
<b>cross</b>	a cross section a cross-reference cross-referenced cross-grained cross-country crossbow crossover	Many compounds formed with <i>cross</i> are in <i>Webster's</i> (as those listed here). If not in <i>Webster's</i> , noun, adjective, adverb, and verb forms should be open.
<b>e</b>	e-mail e-book eBay	Hyphenated except with proper nouns. See also 8.163.
<b>elect</b>	president-elect vice president elect mayor-elect county assessor elect	Hyphenated unless the name of the office consists of an open compound.
<b>ever</b>	ever-ready help ever-recurring problem everlasting he was ever eager	Usually hyphenated before but not after a noun; some permanent compounds closed.
<b>ex</b>	ex-partner ex-marine ex-corporate executive	Hyphenated, but use en dash if <i>ex-</i> precedes an open compound.
<b>foster</b>	foster mother foster parents a foster-family background	Noun forms open; adjective forms hyphenated.
<b>free</b>	toll-free number accident-free driver the number is toll-free the driver is accident-free	Compounds formed with <i>free</i> as second element are hyphenated both before and after a noun.
<b>full</b>	full-length mirror the mirror is full length three bags full a suitcase full	Hyphenated before a noun, otherwise open. Use <i>ful</i> only in such permanent compounds as <i>cupful</i> , <i>handful</i> .
<b>general</b>	attorney general postmaster general lieutenants general	Always open; in plural forms, <i>general</i> remains singular.
<b>grand, great-grand</b>	grandfather granddaughter great-grandmother great-great-grandson	<i>Grand</i> compounds closed; <i>great</i> compounds hyphenated.

Category/specific term	Examples	Summary of rule
<b>3. COMPOUNDS FORMED WITH SPECIFIC TERMS (continued)</b>		
<b>half</b>	<i>half-asleep</i> <i>half-finished</i> <i>a half sister</i> <i>a half hour</i> <i>a half-hour session</i> <i>halfway</i> <i>halfhearted</i>	Adjective forms hyphenated before and after the noun; noun forms open. Some permanent compounds closed, whether nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. Check <i>Webster's</i> . See also <b>fractions</b> in section 1.
<b>house</b>	<i>schoolhouse</i> <i>courthouse</i> <i>safe house</i> <i>rest house</i>	Closed or open as listed in <i>Webster's</i> . If not in the dictionary, open.
<b>in-law</b>	<i>sister-in-law</i> <i>parents-in-law</i>	All compounds hyphenated; only the first element takes a plural form.
<b>like</b>	<i>catlike</i> <i>childlike</i> <i>Christlike</i> <i>bell-like</i> <i>a penitentiary-like institution</i>	Closed if listed as such in <i>Webster's</i> . If not in <i>Webster's</i> , hyphenated; compounds retain the hyphen both before and after a noun.
<b>mid.</b> See section 4.		
<b>near</b>	<i>in the near term</i> <i>a near accident</i> <i>a near-term proposal</i> <i>a near-dead language</i>	Noun forms open; adjective forms hyphenated.
<b>odd</b>	<i>a hundred-odd manuscripts</i> <i>350-odd books</i>	Always hyphenated.
<b>old</b>	<i>a three-year-old</i> <i>a 105-year-old woman</i> <i>a decade-old union</i> <i>a centuries-old debate</i> <i>a child who is three years old</i> <i>the debate is centuries old</i>	Noun forms hyphenated. Adjective forms hyphenated before a noun, open after. See also <b>age terms</b> in section 1.
<b>on</b>	<i>online</i> <i>onstage</i> <i>ongoing</i> <i>on-screen</i> <i>on-site</i>	Sometimes closed, sometimes hyphenated. Check <i>Webster's</i> and hyphenate if term is not listed. See also 7.79.
<b>percent</b>	<i>5 percent</i> <i>a 10 percent increase</i>	Both noun and adjective forms always open.

Category/specific term	Examples	Summary of rule
<b>3. COMPOUNDS FORMED WITH SPECIFIC TERMS (continued)</b>		
<b>pseudo.</b> See section 4.		
<b>quasi</b>	a <i>quasi corporation</i> a <i>quasi-public corporation</i> <i>quasi-judicial</i> <i>quasiperiodic</i> <i>quasicrystal</i>	Noun form usually open; adjective form usually hyphenated. A handful of permanent compounds are listed in <i>Webster's</i> .
<b>self</b>	<i>self-restraint</i> <i>self-realization</i> <i>self-sustaining</i> <i>self-conscious</i> the behavior is <i>self-destructive</i> <i>selfless</i> <i>unselfconscious</i>	Both noun and adjective forms hyphenated, except where <i>self</i> is followed by a suffix or preceded by <i>un</i> . Note that <i>unselfconscious</i> , Chicago's preference, is contrary to <i>Webster's</i> .
<b>step</b>	<i>stepbrother</i> <i>stepparent</i> <i>step-granddaughter</i> <i>step-great-granddaughter</i>	Always closed except with <i>grand</i> and <i>great</i> .
<b>style</b>	<i>dined family-style</i> <i>1920s-style dancing</i> <i>danced 1920s-style</i> <i>Chicago-style hyphenation</i> according to <i>Chicago style</i> <i>headline-style capitalization</i> use <i>headline style</i>	Adjective and adverb forms hyphenated; noun form usually open.
<b>vice</b>	<i>vice-consul</i> <i>vice-chancellor</i> <i>vice president</i> <i>vice presidential duties</i> <i>vice admiral</i> <i>viceroys</i>	Sometimes hyphenated, sometimes open, occasionally closed. Check <i>Webster's</i> and hyphenate if term is not listed.
<b>web</b>	a <i>website</i> a <i>web page</i> <i>web-related matters</i>	Noun form open or closed, as shown; if term is not in any dictionary, opt for open. Adjective form hyphenated. See also 7.76.
<b>wide</b>	<i>worldwide</i> <i>citywide</i> <i>Chicago-wide</i> the canvass was <i>university-wide</i>	Closed if listed as such in <i>Webster's</i> . If not in <i>Webster's</i> , hyphenated; compounds retain the hyphen both before and after a noun.

#### 4. WORDS FORMED WITH PREFIXES

Compounds formed with prefixes are normally closed, whether they are nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs. A hyphen should appear, however, (1) before a capitalized word or a numeral, such as *sub-Saharan*, *pre-1950*; (2) before a compound term, such as *non-self-sustaining*, *pre-Vietnam War* (before an open compound, an en dash is used; see 6.80); (3) to separate two *i*'s, two *a*'s, and other combinations of letters or syllables that might cause misreading, such as *anti-intellectual*, *extra-alkaline*, *pro-life*; (4) to separate the repeated terms in a double prefix, such as *sub-subentry*; (5) when a prefix or combining form stands alone, such as *over-* and *underused*, *macro-* and *microeconomics*. The spellings shown below conform largely to *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. Compounds formed with combining forms not listed here, such as *auto*, *tri*, and *para*, follow the same pattern.

<b>ante</b>	antebellum, antenatal, antediluvian
<b>anti</b>	antihypertensive, antihero, <i>but</i> anti-inflammatory, anti-Hitlerian
<b>bi</b>	binomial, bivalent, bisexual
<b>bio</b>	bioecology, biophysical, biosociology
<b>co</b>	coequal, coauthor, coeditor, coordinate, cooperation, coworker, <i>but</i> co-op, co-opt
<b>counter</b>	counterclockwise, counterrevolution
<b>cyber</b>	cyberspace, cyberstore
<b>extra</b>	extramural, extrafine, <i>but</i> extra-administrative
<b>fold</b>	fourfold, hundredfold, <i>but</i> twenty-five-fold, 150-fold
<b>hyper</b>	hypertension, hyperactive, hypertext
<b>infra</b>	infrasonic, infrastructure
<b>inter</b>	interorganizational, interfaith
<b>intra</b>	intrazonal, intramural, <i>but</i> intra-arterial
<b>macro</b>	macroeconomics, macromolecular
<b>mega</b>	megavitamin, megamall, <i>but</i> mega-annoyance
<b>meta</b>	metalanguage, metaethical, <i>but</i> meta-analysis (not the same as <i>metanalysis</i> )
<b>micro</b>	microeconomics, micromethodical
<b>mid</b>	midthirties, a midcareer event, midcentury, <i>but</i> mid-July, the mid-1990s, the mid-twentieth century, mid-twentieth-century history
<b>mini</b>	minivan, minimarket
<b>multi</b>	multiauthor, multiconductor, <i>but</i> multi-institutional
<b>neo</b>	neonate, neoorthodox, Neoplatonism, neo-Nazi ( <i>neo</i> lowercase or capital and hyphenated as in dictionary; lowercase and hyphenate if not in dictionary)
<b>non</b>	nonviolent, nonevent, nonnegotiable, <i>but</i> non-beer-drinking
<b>over</b>	overmagnified, overshoes, overconscientious
<b>post</b>	postdoctoral, postmodernism, posttraumatic, <i>but</i> post-Vietnam, post-World War II (see 6.80)
<b>pre</b>	premodern, preregistration, prewar, preempt, <i>but</i> pre-Columbian, Pre-Raphaelite ( <i>pre</i> lowercase or capital as in dictionary; lowercase if term is not in dictionary)
<b>pro</b>	proindustrial, promarket, <i>but</i> pro-life, pro-Canadian

4. WORDS FORMED WITH PREFIXES (continued)

<b>proto</b>	protolanguage, protogalaxy, protomartyr
<b>pseudo</b>	pseudotechnocrat, pseudomodern, <i>but</i> pseudo-Tudor
<b>re</b>	reedit, reunify, reposition, <i>but</i> re-cover, re-creation (as distinct from <i>recover</i> , <i>recreation</i> )
<b>semi</b>	semiopaque, semiconductor, <i>but</i> semi-invalid
<b>sub</b>	subbasement, subzero, subcutaneous
<b>super</b>	superannuated, supervirtuoso, superpowerful
<b>supra</b>	supranational, suprarenal, supraorbital, <i>but</i> supra-American
<b>trans</b>	transsocietal, transmembrane, transcontinental, transatlantic, <i>but</i> trans-American
<b>ultra</b>	ultrasophisticated, ultraorganized, ultraevangelical
<b>un</b>	unfunded, unneutered, <i>but</i> un-English, un-unionized
<b>under</b>	underemployed, underrate, undercount