



The Dash as Punctuation: Interruptions

One use of the dash as punctuation is to signal an interruption, particularly in quotations. The dash is longer than a hyphen. When typing a dash, use either two hyphens or the character called an em dash.

Example: Albert began, “I wonder what happens when I pull this—”

Note that the dash works as ending punctuation; there is no period after the dash. There are no spaces around the dash.

Rewrite each sentence below using a dash.

1. Jocelyn said, “But I”
2. “Let me expl” Tracy said before she noticed Cobb had left the room.
3. The teacher was saying, “Take out your books and” when the door flew open.
4. “No one likes a” Sylvia said as she stepped off the curb.
5. The witness started to answer the question by saying, “I don’t”
6. The tree fell just as Robert said, “I think it’s”

