

SPAG (spelling punctuation and grammar)

Focus on dashes and hyphens

Task 1

In informal writing, dashes can be used to separate two independent main clauses.

Add a dash at the end of the clause and then add another main clause with some additional dramatic information, for example:

It was a long wait – every minute felt like an hour.

1. His Aston Martin pulled into the car park

2. James Bond scanned the room

3. The underground lair was quiet apart from the low hum of machinery

4. Miss Money Penny smiled across the room

5. He looked at his watch

Task 2

Explain which one uses the dash correctly each time and why.

It doesn't matter if you can't eat all your lunch – I know you've been feeling unwell.

It doesn't matter if you can't eat – all your lunch I know you've been feeling unwell.

It doesn't matter if you can't eat all your lunch I know you've been – feeling unwell.

A huge cloud swirled angrily above them – a cloud that threatened to break into a storm.

A huge cloud – swirled angrily above them a cloud that threatened to break into a storm.

A huge cloud swirled angrily above them a cloud that – threatened to break into a storm.

There really is a monster hiding – under my bed the trail of monster slime is proof!

There really is – a monster hiding under my bed the trail of monster slime is proof!

There really is a monster hiding under my bed – the trail of monster slime is proof!

Task 3 Hyphens:

Watch this video and research hyphens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOWptUlhfu>

Now look at these sentences and decide why the hyphen has been used.

The baby bear was feeling un-

comfortable sitting in the large chair.

The floods arrived at night and they were com-
pletely crazy.

A fox is a dog-like creature.

The cute-looking child smiled.

His father-in-law had been ill for a while.

The police had a tip-off about the robbery.

There are twenty-four children in this class.

Task 4:



1. The hyphens are not being very helpful in these sentences because they are missing! Can you work out where the missing hyphens should go and rewrite the sentences to include them?

Remember hyphenated words should not contain spaces.

a) Tim wore his lime green shirt for the photoshoot.

b) Despite being quite moth eaten, the vintage wedding dress was very beautiful.

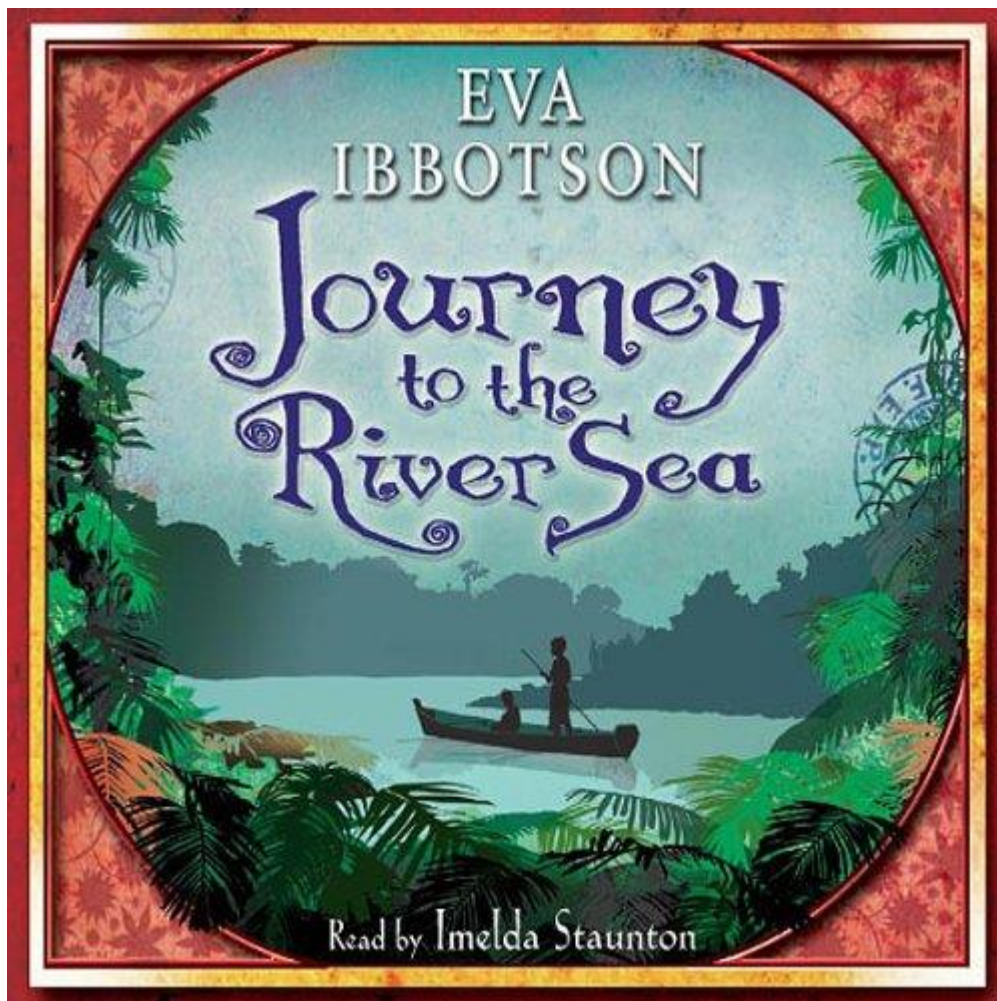
c) Our lodger seemed a fly by night character and mum worried she would not pay her rent.

d) The chocolate ice cream is absolutely delicious.

e) The nasty looking villain spotted his next victim in the heaving crowd.

f) There are two hundred and fifty three pupils at our school.

English



Th

This is our class reader for this term. Can you research the author - Eva Ibbotson.

Task 1:

A lot of the book is set around the backdrop of the Amazon. Can you create a fact file about this wonderful location?

Task 2:

Read the attached extract (chapter 1) and answer the questions on what you have read.