Hyphen Position Check

See where a compound description belongs.

8.L.GC.1.51 "Mechanics: Use hyphens with appropriate affixes and compound words. (Master)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

HYPHEN NEEDED	NO HYPHEN NEEDED
Use a hyphen when a two-word compound description comes right before a noun. a low-cost ticket	Do not use a hyphen when the same description comes after a linking verb, such as is or are. The ticket is low cost.

1 SORT

8 items

For each phrase or sentence, circle HYPHEN or NO HYPHEN, then choose two items and explain what tells you which category each one belongs in.

1.	a high-speed train	HYPHEN NO HYPHEN
2.	a three-year-old tree	HYPHEN NO HYPHEN
3.	The athlete is well trained.	HYPHEN NO HYPHEN
4.	a full-length mirror	HYPHEN NO HYPHEN
5.	The trail is well marked.	HYPHEN NO HYPHEN
6.	The berries are bright red.	HYPHEN NO HYPHEN
7.	a five-star restaurant	HYPHEN NO HYPHEN
8.	The child is two years old.	HYPHEN NO HYPHEN

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new HYPHEN example and one new NO HYPHEN example. Use different words from the sort.

HYPHEN _____

NO HYPHEN _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so the description comes before the noun: The scientist described a method that saved energy.

ANSWER KEY

Hyphen Position Check

GRADE 8 · 8.L.GC.1.51

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	a high-speed train	**HYPHEN**	The compound description high-speed comes before the noun train.
2	a three-year-old tree	**HYPHEN**	The compound description three-year-old comes before the noun tree.
3	The athlete is well trained.	**NO HYPHEN**	Well trained follows the linking verb is.
4	a full-length mirror	**HYPHEN**	The compound description full-length comes before the noun mirror.
5	The trail is well marked.	**NO HYPHEN**	Well marked follows the linking verb is.
6	The berries are bright red.	**NO HYPHEN**	Bright red follows the linking verb are.
7	a five-star restaurant	**HYPHEN**	The compound description five-star comes before the noun restaurant.
8	The child is two years old.	**NO HYPHEN**	Two years old follows the linking verb is.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **HYPHEN**: a hand-painted mural
- **NO HYPHEN**: The mural is hand painted.

Challenge: The scientist described an energy-saving method.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify whether the compound description comes before a noun or after a linking verb. For Part 3, answers will vary if the hyphen use matches the category.