

Grammar Goal: To use dashes to add extra information and for dramatic effect.

Two reasons why dashes are used are:

1. To join two independent clauses together and add dramatic effect.

e.g. Here, let me tell you of the time Hrothgar - king of Denmark - built a hall in his castle.

2. To add extra information (parenthesis).

e.g. Finally it became clear King Hrothgar needed help killing the beast in battle - his warriors were dying one by one in this gruesome Grendel War.

Look at the following sentences and add dashes where you think they are needed. Some of them will need one dash (to join two clauses) and some will need two (to add information).

1. You only have one choice leave now while you can.
2. My favourite TV show Blue Peter was on at 5 o'clock.
3. In the distance I saw a shadow a huge, looming shadow.
4. Mr Kershaw a year six teacher enjoyed playing football.
5. I know you are there I can hear you breathing.
6. Many people both young and old love playing sports.

Challenge! Write two of your own sentences using dashes.

Remember to use dashes in your narrative!