

**ENGLISH 10
UNIT III**

LESSON TWO: Dashes (–)

There are three basic uses of the dash. Use dashes to indicate an abrupt change of thought, a dramatic interrupting idea, or a summary statement.

RULES FOR THE USE OF DASHES

Rule One: Use a dash to indicate an abrupt change of thought.

EXAMPLES: a. I think the answer is – I’ve forgotten what I was going to say.

b. All of us – I mean most of us – look forward to Spring Break.

c. _____

Rule Two: Use a dash to set off interrupting ideas dramatically.

EXAMPLES: a. The star – if you can call her that – will begin a new TV show soon.

b. The TV show *The Office* – why did Michael Scott leave? – will still air next season.

c. _____

Rule Three: Use a dash to set off a summary statement.

EXAMPLES: a. A string cast, funny writers, and a good time slot – all of these can lead to a successful TV series.

b. It was a spin-off of the number one comedy – this was all the critics needed to know to predict success.

c. _____
