

What Is an En Dash?

An **en dash** (–) is commonly used to connect inclusive numbers (e.g., date, time, or reference numbers). Very often, there is confusion between a **hyphen** (-) and an en dash. It should be noted that the en dash is slightly longer than the hyphen; it is the width of a typesetter's letter **N**.

The en dash sign is inbuilt in word processors such as Microsoft Word. It can be obtained by simultaneously pressing the **Ctrl** key and the - key on the number pad of your keyboard.

Example 1

Incorrect: A 10%-15% reduction was observed.

Correct: A 10%–15% reduction was observed.

Further, a range can also be represented using the phrases **from-to** (e.g., from 1 to 10) and **between-and** (e.g., between 1 and 10). However, when using these representations, the words **to** and **and** cannot be substituted with an en dash.

Example 2

Incorrect: The age of the patients ranged **from** 25–50 years.

Correct: The age of the patients ranged **from** 25 **to** 50 years.