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Adjective forms

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Many university students have a part-time job.
b Many university students have a part time job.
- 2 a These jobs cannot be done by unexperienced young people.
b These jobs cannot be done by inexperienced young people.

There are many compound adjectives in English which are usually hyphenated:

- *good-looking, good-natured, well-known, well-educated, well-paid, well-equipped*
- *badly-behaved, bad-tempered, ill-equipped, hard-working, easy-going*
- *short-lived, short-tempered, short-term, long-term, long-lasting*
- *fully-qualified, full-scale, full-size, full-time, part-time, time-consuming, time-saving*

Many phrases describing the age, size or length of something are formed in the same way. When they are used before a noun, they are hyphenated:

<i>a six-year-old boy</i>	<i>He is six years old.</i>
<i>a three-month training course</i>	<i>The course lasts three months.</i>
<i>a two-bedroom flat</i>	<i>a flat with two bedrooms</i>

Adjectives are also formed using prefixes, especially to describe opposites:

<i>dis-</i> <i>dissatisfied, disorganised</i>	<i>over-</i> <i>overcrowded, overpriced</i>
<i>in-</i> <i>inexpensive, inexperienced, inappropriate</i>	<i>post-</i> <i>post-school, postgraduate</i>
<i>im-</i> <i>immoral, immature, impolite</i>	<i>pre-</i> <i>pre-school, prearranged</i>
<i>non-</i> <i>nonexistent, non-smoking</i>	<i>un-</i> <i>unaware, unsuitable, unemployed</i>

★ Some of these adjectives are spelt with a hyphen and some as one word; check a dictionary for the correct spelling.

2 Correct the mistake below.

Don't you think that's
a bit unappropriate for
a job interview?

Don't you think?



3 Underline the correct word.

- 1 The figure rose steadily over a *30 year/30-year* period.
- 2 The stalls sell a variety of *non-expensive/inexpensive* snacks.
- 3 He was a polite, *well-educated/good-educated* man.
- 4 The family live in a simple, *single-storey/single storeys* house.
- 5 She is punctual, conscientious and *hard work/hard-working*.
- 6 Everyone needs a healthy, *well-balanced/well balanced* diet.
- 7 All supervisors must attend a *week-long/one week long* safety course.
- 8 Many tourists go into the mountains wearing *insuitable/unsuitable* clothing.