

Compound Adjectives and Hyphens

Author

Enago Academy

Post Url

<https://www.enago.com/academy/compound-adjectives-and-hyphens/>



 Stressula is an FDA approved drug.

 Stressula is an FDA-approved drug.

Incorrect vs. Correct


Wish to learn more? Visit [enago.com/academy](https://www.enago.com/academy) today!

 @Enago

 enagoacademy

 [enago.com/academy](https://www.enago.com/academy)

 [enago.com/app](https://www.enago.com/app)






Stressula is an FDA approved drug.

Stressula is an FDA-approved drug.

Incorrect vs. Correct

Wish to learn more? Visit enago.com/academy today!

 @Enago
  enagoacademy
  enago.com/academy
  enago.com/app

When two or more words are used to describe the accompanying noun, the resulting compound adjective (a combination of two or more words) often gets hyphenated. In certain instances, not using a hyphen for a compound adjective can drastically alter the perceived meaning, as evident in the following case:

“The airport authorities detained Jacob for not carrying a concealed weapons permit.”

*(From the above sentence, it is not quite clear whether Jacob was detained for not **carrying** the permit or for not **concealing** it!)*

“The airport authorities detained Jacob for not carrying a concealed-weapons permit.”

*(Adding the hyphen brings in more clarity, because now we know that he was **detained for not carrying a permit at all!**)*

Cite this article

Enago Academy, Compound Adjectives and Hyphens. Enago Academy. 2018/07/12. <https://www.enago.com/academy/compound-adjectives-and-hyphens/>