Conrey, Sean M., and Karl Stolley. "Welcome to the Purdue OWL." *Purdue OWL: Hyphens*. N.p., 07 June 2013. Web. 01 Oct. 2013.Use a hyphen to join two or more words serving as a single adjective before a noun:

a one-way street  
chocolate-covered peanuts  
well-known author

However, when compound modifiers come after a noun, they are not hyphenated:

The peanuts were chocolate covered.  
The author was well known.

1. Use a hyphen with compound numbers:

forty-six  
sixty-three  
Our much-loved teacher was sixty-three years old.

1. Use a hyphen to avoid confusion or an awkward combination of letters:

re-sign a petition (vs. resign from a job)  
semi-independent (but semiconscious)  
shell-like (but childlike)

1. Use a hyphen with the prefixes ex- (meaning former), self-, all-; with the suffix -elect; between a prefix and a capitalized word; and with figures or letters:

ex-husband  
self-assured  
mid-September  
all-inclusive  
mayor-elect  
anti-American  
T-shirt  
pre-Civil War  
mid-1980s

1. Use a hyphen to divide words at the end of a line if necessary, and make the break only between syllables:

pref-er-ence  
sell-ing  
in-di-vid-u-al-ist

1. For line breaks, divide already-hyphenated words only at the hyphen:

mass-  
produced  
self-  
conscious

1. For line breaks in words ending in -ing, if a single final consonant in the root word is doubled before the suffix, hyphenate between the consonants; otherwise, hyphenate at the suffix itself:

plan-ning  
run-ning  
driv-ing  
call-ing

1. Never put the first or last letter of a word at the end or beginning of a line, and don't put two-letter suffixes at the beginning of a new line:

lovely (Do not separate in a way which leaves *ly* beginning a new line.)  
eval-u-ate (Separate only on either side of the u; do not leave the initial e- at the end of a line.)