

## Dash Away!, Dash Away! Dash Away All!

Ms. Merriam Webster says: “Among punctuation marks, dashes have a certain panache. They take the reader aside, and then draw that reader to the next bit like a good dance partner in the lead.”

But Mr. MasterClass says: “Em dashes are such a versatile punctuation mark that you may find yourself overusing them. The next time you use an em dash, think about whether your sentence would be more effective with another type of punctuation, such as a semicolon, colon, commas, or parentheses.”

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Oh how prosaic  
To bury a barb  
Between parentheses.

Or shove it  
Up a colon,  
Semi or otherwise.

Hyphens have their places  
As Asian-Americans (and others)  
Know so well.

And the little en-dash  
—So hard to type!—  
Tells us what’s from to to.

But the em-dash reigns supreme.  
Overuse ‘em? Hardly!  
That’s something we—you and I—  
Can never—never ever!—do!