

The Mystery of the Taos Hum

A strange sound has haunted New Mexico for decades.

About the Story

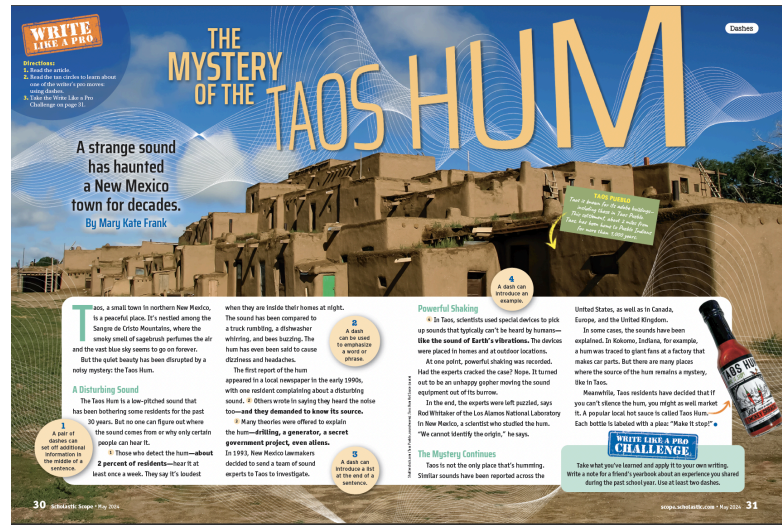
Learning Objective: to understand how a writer uses dashes, then compose sentences using dashes

Featured Skill: grammar, usage, and mechanics

Standards:

The article and its suite of support materials support this Common Core anchor standard: L.2

For more standards information—including TEKS—go to [Scope Online](#).



Your Teaching Package

Find your full suite of support materials at scope.scholastic.com.

Audio:

- Text-to-speech

Activities to print, project, or share digitally:

- Anchor Chart and Practice Activity: Dashes
- In-Magazine Activity: Interactive Version

Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

1. Prepare to Read (5 minutes)

- Draw students' attention to the directions in the upper left-hand corner of page 30 or at the top of the digital story page. Read the directions aloud.

2. Read and Discuss (25 minutes)

1. Have students read the article and the explanations in the tan circles with a partner.
2. Optionally, before students complete the **Write Like a Pro Challenge**, work together to write some sentences that contain dashes. Project the following pairs of sentences, then have students combine them using a dash.

1. **Emphasize a word or a phrase:**

She finally realized the truth. Darth Vader was her father.

2. **Set off additional information in the middle of a sentence:**

The recipe called for unique ingredients to create its signature flavor. It called for dandelion greens and raisins.

3. **Introduce a list at the end of a sentence:**

I have four pets. I have a dog, two fish, and a rat.

4. **Introduce an example:**

Keith loves fruit desserts. For example, he likes apple pie.

Answers:

1. *She finally realized the truth—Darth Vader was her father.*
 2. *The recipe called for unique ingredients—dandelion greens and raisins—to create its signature flavor.*
 3. *I have four pets—a dog, two fish, and a rat.*
 4. *Keith loves fruit desserts—like apple pie.*

3. Optionally, provide students with the **Anchor Chart: Dashes** to use and keep as a handy reference in their notebooks.

3. Write (25 minutes)

- Have students work in pairs or independently to take the **Write Like a Pro Challenge** on page 31 of the printed magazine or at the bottom of the digital story page:

Take what you've learned and apply it to your own writing. Write a note for a friend's yearbook about an experience you shared during the past school year. Use at least two dashes.

- Project students' notes on your whiteboard and discuss the ways they used dashes. Alternatively, have students exchange and discuss their sentences with a partner.