

I'm not a bot



I have a stomach ache. I have a stomachache. Wich one is more common or better? In AE stomachache is more common. In BE I write stomachache because the dictionary I use (Collins) has this. I used to write stomach ache 40 years ago.I have stomachache (without "a") is also common.I have always written earache as one word, and stomachache follows this tendency (I think). Thank you both for your time and help! Although one word 'stomachache' would be logical after the pattern of 'earache', 'backache', 'headache', I think it looks funny and would always write it as two words. I think stomachache looks both funny haha and funny peculiar. I had been going to write that I have been writing stomach ache for over 60 years and have no intention of changing, but when I came to think about it I doubt I have ever written it before! Cheers!Hermione Although one word 'stomachache' would be logical after the pattern of 'earache', 'backache', 'headache', I think it looks funny and would always write it as two words. I think stomachache looks both funny haha and funny peculiar. I had been going to write that I have been writing stomach ache for over 60 years and have no intention of changing. ... Likewise the authors of the COED who give stomachache no mention. I would expect to see stomach ache or stomach-ache - for me preferably the latter. I prefer the hyphenated version too. At this point, it would be nice to read the opinion of an US english speaker. Thanks a lot, all of you! And, Kitenok, they call me orni, btw, how did you know that I'll go for the weird strange word: stomachache. Edit: COCA... I didn't know that existed. Thanks! So the conclusion for pronunciation in AmE, the "stomacheache" /stm 'kek/ is more common than "stomach ache". Am I right? The Google Ngram Viewer favors "stomachache" in AE, "stomach ache" in BE.On that graph you can specify BE or AE and see the difference.You can also see that "have a stomach ache" is more frequent than "have stomach ache" in BE.In AE you would never omit the "a". Hyphenation, especially with compound nouns, is much less common in contemporary English than it used to be in the past. Even a lot of compound nouns that were hyphenated in the past have dropped the hyphen. So hyphenating stomach ache surprises me a bit. It's simply a matter of personal preference. Post 9 expresses the same preference. There's a limited number of body parts with a single word -ache ending: headache, toothache, earache, stomachache, (bellyache, tummyache), and backache.(Heartache exists but in an emotional sense not a physical one.) I'm afraid I can't read these symbols, so I'm unable to comment. The stress falls on "stomach", not on "ache". Yes.Actually, I hear a small difference between stoma+cake and the way I pronounce "stomach ache", but it's probably not important, so if stoma+cake is easier for you there shouldn't be any problem. Last edited: May 20, 2018 I agree. If I heard it pronounced slightly differently I wouldn't bellyache about it. I find it curious that some people still write stomach-ache (with a hyphen). Perhaps it's time to move on. They may say it is a matter of personal taste, but it comes a poor third compared with stomachache or stomach ache.Of course, it does look somewhat odd, compared with headache, earache etc.After all, hardly anyone would argue in favour of breast-cancer. In AE, I would write stomachache. The two chs make it look a little odd, but thats how the component words are written.If I were e-mailing an excuse for non-attendance, I might write stomach ache just to make certain there was no ambiguity, but I dont think thats strictly necessary. The ngram shows curious results for BE.Google Ngram Viewer I suggest you extend the date range to 2008 to see a possible come-back for the hyphenated version. Hardly a "poor third" in BE when it is slightly more common than stomachache and slightly above half the frequency of stomach ache. Clearly AE writers are happy with the appearance of stomachache while BE writers are much less so. Those who favour stomach-ache might like to take note of the frequencies in the iWeb corpus, which was released in May 2018. It is based on 14 billion words.stomachache 1337stomach ache 3207stomach-ache 100Most certainly a "poor third". Based on web sites selected by Amazon, in which the predominant form of English is AE, with BE being a minority form. Since it doesn't discriminate, all it tells us is that in global English the hyphenated form is relatively unusual. We already know that from Google Books. I don't write global English. Those who favour stomach-ache might like to take note of the frequencies in the iWeb corpus, which was released in May 2018. It is based on 14 billion words.stomachache 1337stomach ache 3207stomach-ache 100Most certainly a "poor third". Great research.My humble question to all the members who prefer stomach-ache: Would you also hyphenate chest pain, back pain, (windowpane) room temperature, roommate, and ice cream at the (very) end of a sentence? If not, why? Thanks. It's not "great research", it takes about 30 seconds on the Brigham Young University's website. The iWeb corpus is a corpus of web English rather than printed English or spoken English, as found in the British National Corpus and the Corpus of Contemporary American English. None of those words is relevant, and the development of compound nouns is a process that occurs over time. I don't write "stomachache", probably because it looks, to me, weird. My preferred compound form is "stomach-ache". As I already said, it's a matter of personal preference, and I really couldn't care less that websites selected by Alexa.com for Amazon don't much like "stomach-ache". My point is that there is nothing wrong with that form, and there is good evidence that the hyphenated form remains fairly common in BE - about as common as "stomachache". Those who favour stomach-ache might like to take note of the frequencies in the iWeb corpus, which was released in May 2018. It is based on 14 billion words.stomachache 1337stomach ache 3207stomach-ache 100Most certainly a "poor third". I think its worth pointing out that spell-check and autocorrect programs are seriously reducing the occurrence of English compound words, so Im not sure that this search produces an accurate representation. My humble question to all the members who prefer stomach-ache: Would you also hyphenate chest pain, back pain, (windowpane) room temperature, roommate, and ice cream at the (very) end of a sentence? If not, why? I would hyphenate these if there were surrounding modifiers, e.g. strong chest-pain (not strong-chest pain) lowest room-temperature (not lowest-room temperature) ice-cream sandwich (not ice cream-sandwich)I might well hyphenate them in isolation. I would certainly hyphenate "stomach-ache". We don't hyphenate those others because we don't, in general, hyphen medical compounds like lung cancer. However, 'ache' is unusual in preferring to be fused (headache). The hyphenation of stomach-ache is not to match the unused lung-cancer, but to avoid the odd appearance of the regular form stomachache. So "stomach ache/stomach-ache" is the only one of "the 5 aches*" that isn't written as one word? *Plus, as noted above, heartache and bellyache (both figurative). I also think that "backache" is almost always located in the lumbar region. And usually "toothache" is in only one tooth, thus there's no plural form "teethache". >> > < Threads merged. Cagney, moderator. > Last edited by a moderator: Aug 16, 2016 What did he mean by add pigeonsbutterflies in your stomach means so nervous, but what are they adding to being so nervous? Julian means that we can add your question to the thread that he linked to "Butterflies" means "nervous." "pigeons" means "extremely nervous." He meant we now have a list of "things" in the stomach that describe the feeling of nervousness. That thread/link had mentioned two things - knots and butterflies. We can add pigeons to the (growing) list of "things"(Cross-posted. The threads may end up merged too) Having butterflies in the stomach is a metaphor describing the feeling of nervousness. The writer extends the implicit comparison. Butterflies are not quite big enough, pigeons would seem more appropriate but in the same register. This is supposed to be amusing. >> Oh, I say, finally catching on. My stomach sinks. Im not here to make friends. . I shake my head and start to turn away from her. Last edited by a moderator: Nov 27, 2020 Your author is quite keen on physical sensations and gestures suggesting emotions!! think this one is the mildly unpleasant quickening somewhere around the stomach that comes with a sudden feeling of anxiety, apprehension, maybe disappointment. I guess physically relating to a release of some stress hormone like adrenaline, which is produced somewhere down there! Last edited: Nov 24, 2020 One's stomach sinks. (idiom): This describes the feeling of disappointment and depression that we suddenly experience when we are confronted with a set of circumstances that we did not want to happen."The refugees had walked for days towards the only bridge across the river - the bridge that would take them to safety. On the morning of the fourth day they had seen the bridge about three kilometres away. But even as they looked at it, a bomb hit it and it was destroyed - their stomachs sank..." >> > > > .

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