

Using hyphens to clarify meaning

high energy physics



means, literally, high physics of energy

high-energy physics



means physics of high energy
(which is the intended meaning)

a highly energetic particle



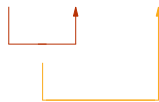
does not need a hyphen, because the adverb *highly* can modify the adjective *energetic* but not the noun *particle*

a high-energy physics student



is a physics student with a lot of energy

a high-energy physics student



is a student of high-energy physics: this phrase with a double hyphen is correct but hard to read

a student of high-energy physics



is a better choice