# COMPOUND NOUNS

A noun is the part of speech which names a person, an animal, place, a thing or a quality of a thing. It can be further classified into abstract noun, collective noun, common noun, compound noun, concrete noun, countable noun, uncountable noun, gerund noun and proper noun.

Common noun – girl, boy, woman, book, town, country

Abstract noun – honesty, charity, wisdom

Collective noun – crowd, fleet, team, group

Concrete noun – iron, gold, silver

Countable noun – refers to things that can be counted; pens, chairs, people, car. They can be

singular or plural.

Uncountable noun - sugar

Proper nouns - names; Sita, Rama, Madras, Delhi

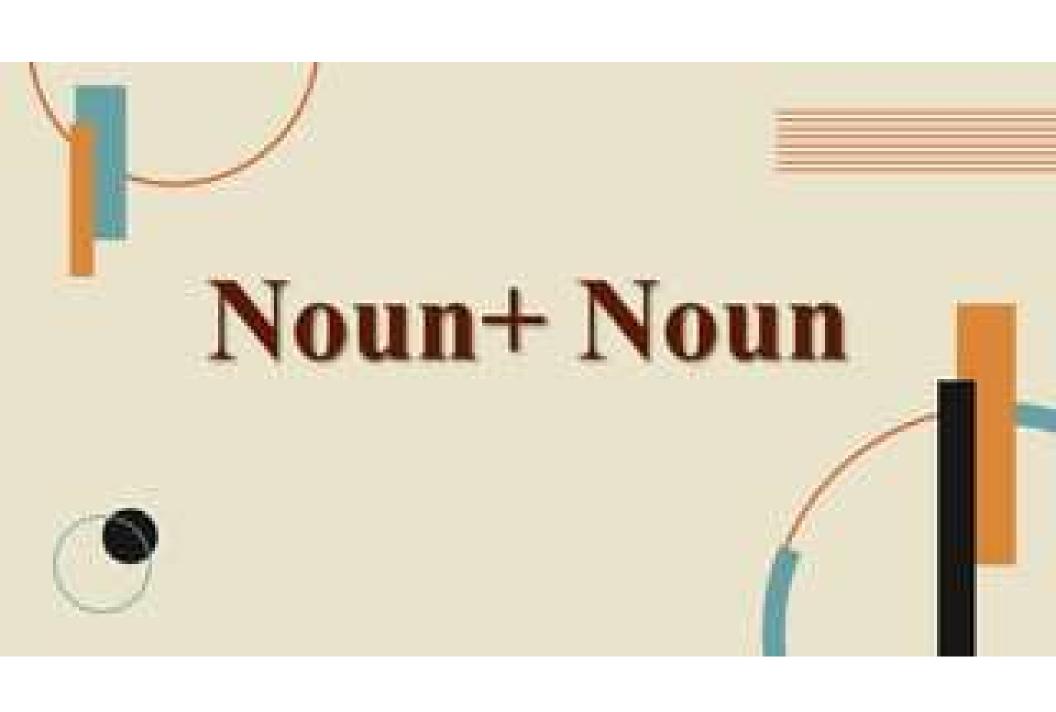
Gerund nouns - nouns that are formed from a verb by adding 'ing" are called gerund

nouns; It can follow a verb, preposition or adjective; I love singing.

# A COMPOUND NOUN consists of two or more words used together to name one person, place, or thing.

# **Compound Nouns**

- A compound noun is a noun that is made with two or more words.
- [noun + noun] or [adjective + noun]
- We have three forms for compound nouns:
- open or spaced space between words (tennis shoe)
- hyphenated hyphen between words (six-pack)
- closed or solid no space or hyphen between words (bedroom)



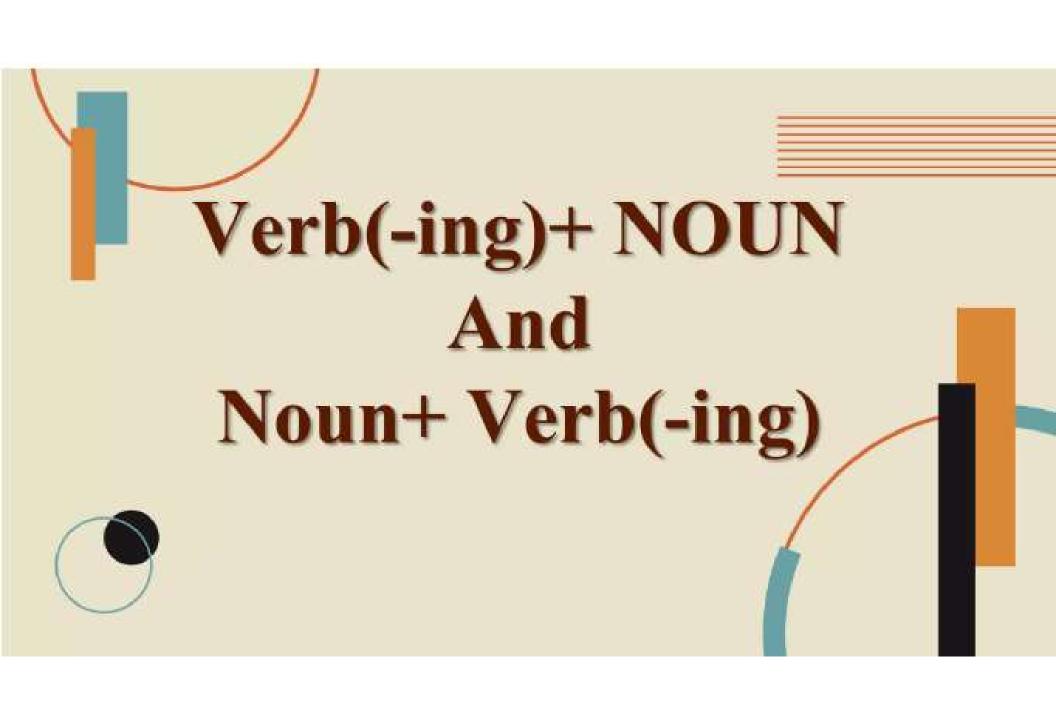
# Noun+ Noun

- Bus + Stop
- Is this the bus stop for the number 12 bus?
- fire+ Fly
- In the tropics you can see fire-flies at night.
- Foot+ Ball= Football
- Shall we play football today?



## Adjective+ Noun and Noun+ Adjective

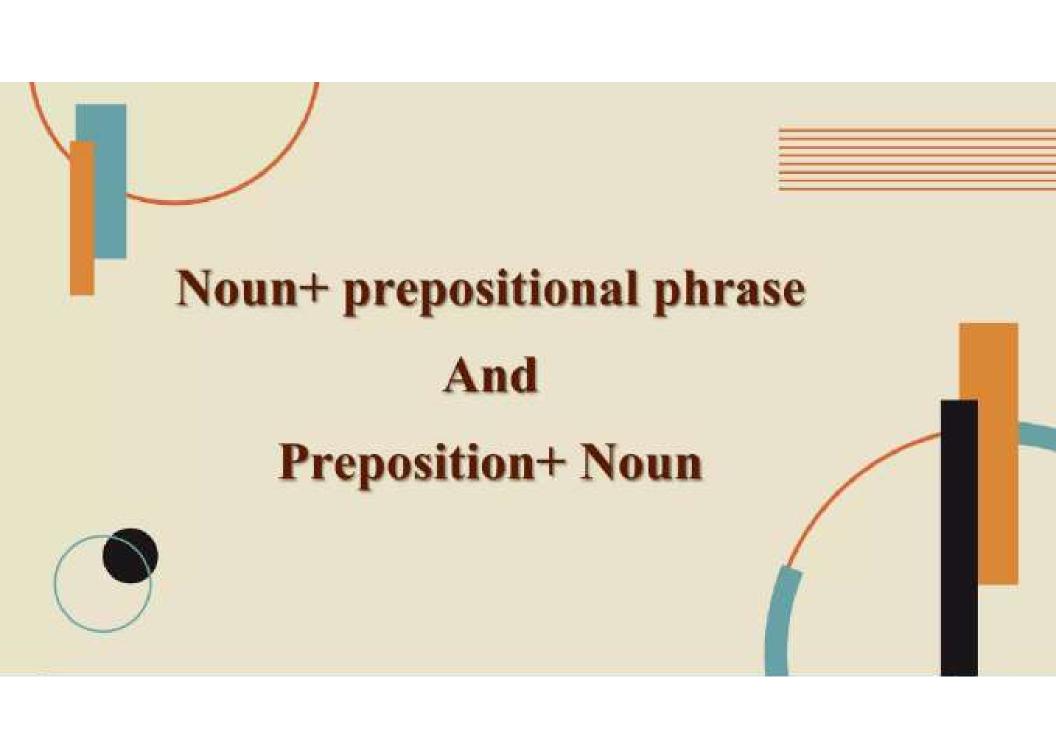
- Full+ moon
- I always feel crazy at full moon.
- Black+ board
- Clean the *blackboard* please.
- Soft+ ware
- I can't install this software on my PC.



# Verb(-ing)+ Noun And Noun+ Verb(-ing)

- Break+ fast
- We always eat breakfast at 8am.
- Washing+ machine
- Put the clothes in the red washing machine.
- Swimming+ pool
- What a beautiful swimming pool!

- Sun+ rise
- I like to get up at sunrise.
- Hair+ cut
- You need a haircut.
- train-spotting
- His hobby is train-spotting.



## Noun+ prepositional phrase And Preposition+ Noun

- . Mother-in-law
- My mother-in-law lives with us.
- Underworld
  - Do you think the police accept money from the *underworld*?

#### **Common Countable Compound Nouns:**

Tea-bag, contact lens, credit card, food token, hand cuffs, windscreen

#### **Common Uncountable Compound Nouns:**

Income-tax, data-processing, family-planning, pocket money, swine-flu, fast-food

#### Compound nouns used only in Singular:

Generation-gap, brain drain, mother-tongue, labour force, death-penalty, blood-pressure

#### Compound Nouns used only in the plural:

Roadworks, traffic-lights, dancing shoes, sun-glasses, human rights

#### Check out the chart below:

WHAT TYPE / WHAT PURPOSE	WHAT / WHO
police	man
boy	friend
water	tank
dining	table
bed	room

The two parts may be written in a number of ways:

As one word.

Example: policeman, boyfriend

As two words joined with a hypen.

Example: dining-table

As two separate words.

Example: fish tank

- The lifeguard saved the boy's life.
- The passers-by made noise in the corridors.
- The ice cream is melting.

There are no clear rules about this – so write the common compunds that you know well as one word, and the others as two words.

The two parts may be:	Examples:
noun + noun	bedroom water tank motorcycle
noun + verb	rainfall haircut train-spotting
noun + adverb	hanger-on passer-by
verb + noun	washing machine swimming pool

verb + adverb	lookout take-off
adjective + noun	greenhouse software
adjective + verb	dry-cleaning public speaking
adverb + noun	bystander
adverb + verb	input output overthrow



# What compound nouns can you make from these words?

room fall foot flake table bed cloth rain ball print snow river

bedroom tablecloth snowfall

rainfall footprint snowflake

football footfall riverbed



Some compound nouns are spelled as two or more words.



Some are spelled with one or more hyphens.

passer-by dry-cleaning mother-in-law

To check whether a compound noun is one word, two words or hyphenated, look it up in a dictionary.





- A noun is a naming word. A compound noun is a noun made by joining two words.
- In the following sentence, the compound nouns are red. There was a red tablecloth, teapot and a vase of sunflowers on the table for breakfast.

Compound nouns often have a meaning that is different, or more specific, than the two separate words.

First part: type or purpose	Second part: what or who	Compound noun
police	man	policeman
boy	friend	boyfriend
water	tank	water tank
dining	table	dining-table

 You have noticed that the compound noun can be written either as a single word, as a word with a hyphen, or as two words. There are no clear rules about this. A good rule of thumb is to write the most common compound nouns as one word, and the others as two words.

Compound elements	Examples
noun + noun	bedroom water tank motorcycle printer cartridge
noun + verb	rainfall haircut train-spotting
noun + adverb	hanger-on passer-by

verb + noun	washing machine driving licence swimming pool
verb + adverb	lookout take-off drawback
adverb + noun	onlooker bystander
adjective + verb	dry-cleaning public speaking

adjective + noun

greenhouse software redhead

adverb + verb

output overthrow upturn input