

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

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**

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)



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



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:

1. As one word.

Example: *policeman, boyfriend*


2. As two words joined with a hyphen.

Example: *dining-table*

3. 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 compounds 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.



washing machine high school spark plug

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

noun + noun

Examples

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