

Compound Nouns

What is a Compound Noun?

Compound nouns are words for people, animals, places, things, or ideas, **made up of two or more words**. **Most** compound nouns are **made with nouns** that have been **modified by adjectives or other nouns**.

In many compound nouns, the **first word describes** or modifies the **second word** providing us with clues about the item's purpose. The **second word** usually **identifies the item**.

Example:

Fleece blanket - blanket made of fleece

Family man - man who has a family

Mango shake - _____

Strawberry cake - _____

Compound nouns are sometimes **one word**, like toothpaste, haircut, or bedroom. These are often referred to as closed or solid compound nouns.

Sometimes compound nouns are **connected with a hyphen**: dry-cleaning, daughter-in-law, and well-being are some examples of hyphenated compound nouns.

Sometimes compound nouns appear as **two separate words**: full moon, Christmas tree, and swimming pool are some examples of compound nouns that are formed with two separate words. These are often referred to as open or spaced compound nouns.

Compound Noun Examples

The more you read and write, the more compound noun examples you'll encounter. The following sentences are just a few examples of compound nouns.

Compound nouns can be made with two nouns:

Examples:

Let's just wait at this **bus stop**.

I love watching **fireflies** on warm **summer nights**.

While you're at the store, please pick up some **toothpaste**, a **six-pack** of **ginger ale**, and some **egg rolls**.

How compound nouns are formed:

1. **Compound nouns** can be made with **an adjective and a noun**:

Examples:

Let's watch the **full moon** come up over the mountain.

Please erase the **blackboard** for me.

Give 2 examples:

(1) _____ (2) _____

2. **Compound nouns** can be made with a **verb and a noun**:

Examples:

Be sure to add bleach to the **washing machine**.

Let's be sure to stay somewhere with a **swimming pool**.

Give 2 examples:

(3) _____ (4) _____

3. **Compound nouns** can be made with a **noun and a verb**.

Examples:

He always gets up before **sunrise**.

I really could use an updated **hairstyle**.

Give 2 examples:

(5) _____ (6) _____

4. **Compound nouns** can be made with a **verb and a preposition**:

Examples:

Checkout is at noon.

Please remember to schedule your dog's annual **check-up**.

Give 2 examples:

(7) _____ (8) _____

5. **Compound nouns** can be made with a **noun and a prepositional phrase**

Examples:

My **mother-in-law** is the kindest person I know.

She likes working **behind-the-scenes**.

Give 2 examples:

(9) _____ (10) _____

Exercise:

- I. Read the definitions of these compound words. Use the words in the table below to create the correct compound words. You can use words more than once.

cake	chair	man	stick	tea
tear	lip	spoon	fruit	full
hand	snow	coffee	drop	pan
shake	chop	moon	mug	wheel

1. _____ - A polite way to greet someone.
 2. _____ - A type of makeup worn on the mouth.
 3. _____ - The monthly time when the entire moon is visible.
 4. _____ - A way for people to get around when they can't walk
 5. _____ - A breakfast food made on the stovetop.
 6. _____ - A wintery creation that looks like a person.
 7. _____ - A small measurement in a recipe.
 8. _____ - A common utensil in Asian cuisine.
 9. _____ - A cup used to enjoy a hot beverage.
 10. _____ - A tasty holiday treat.
- II. Give the compound word that's being described in the following.
- _____ 1. An appliance for doing the laundry
 - _____ 2. A container for drinking made from plastic
 - _____ 3. A room for sleeping
 - _____ 4. A sport where you put the ball in the net
 - _____ 5. A person (job) who puts out fire