

Compound Adjectives

What is a compound adjective?

A compound adjective is a combination of two or more words which can perform the role of an adjective in a sentence. A compound adjective is formed by adding a noun, a present participle, or a past participle to the adjective. In some cases, the adjective is preceded by either of these and in other cases, the adjective is followed by either of them. Compound adjectives are mostly hyphenated.

Word 1	Word 2	Compound word	Example sentences:
Five (adjective)	Page (noun)	five-page	I signed a five-page contract.
Worry (noun)	Free (adjective)	worry-free	It was a worry-free trip with everything already included.
Warm (adjective)	Blooded (past participle)	warm-blooded	A dolphin is a warm-blooded mammal.

How compound adjectives are formed:

1. A Noun and a Noun

Examples:

- An entrepreneur is more than just a **risk-taker**.
- You don't have to be a **man-hater** to be a successful woman.

2. A Noun and an Adjective

Examples:

- The town boasts a **world-famous** art gallery.
- It was a **family-friendly** sport enjoyed by men, women and children.

3. A Noun and a Present Participle

Examples:

- Look at those **mouth-watering** cakes.
- The show had a **record-breaking** run in the London theater.

4. A Noun and a Past Participle

Examples:

- The ingredients of the dish are chopped spinach, **sun-dried** tomatoes, pesto and feta cheese.
- Thus the schoolboy hears both sides, and is so far better off than the **homebred** boy who hears only one.

5. An Adjective and a Noun

Examples:

- His **short-term** memory was damaged in the accident.
- He received a **long-distance** phone call from his girlfriend in Colorado.

6. An Adjective and a Past Participle

Examples:

- The people were dressed in **old-fashioned** clothes.
- It was a **long-forgotten** tradition that still exists in a few far-flung areas.

7. An Adverb and a Past Participle

Examples:

- They stretched all the way down the **brightly-lit** space.
- He had been rushed to a **well-known** Philadelphia hospital.

8. A Number and a Noun

Examples:

- The house was only a **five-minute** walk away.
- It's a **three-hour** trek, so you can expect them between five and six.

Exercise:

Identify the compound adjectives in the following sentences and find out the parts of speech which form the compound adjectives.

1. All my students are well-behaved.
2. The villain in that movie seemed to be a cold-blooded man.
3. Gokul works as a part-time trainer.
4. Each one of us were able to make it to the top of the 100-feet high mountain.
5. The three-legged, green-eyed monster in the movie looked really scary.
6. Since you are a diabetes patient, make sure you consume only sugar-free food.

7. Find out if the widely-known singer would be available to be our chief guest for the inter-state musical competition.
8. The marriage and reception were well-planned.
9. The movie about the life of nurses in the Middle East countries had a long-lasting effect on the audience.
10. The ten-hour long journey was worth it.