



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



(An Autonomous Institution)

Coimbatore - 35

COMPOUND NOUNS

Words can be combined to form compound nouns. These are very common, and new combinations are invented almost daily. They normally have two parts. The first part tells us what kind of object or person it is, or what its purpose is. The second part identifies the object or person in question.

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

First part: type or purpose Second part: what or who Compound noun

Police man- policeman

Boy friend- boyfriend

Fish tank - water tank

Dining table - dining-table

Compound elements	Examples	Compound elements	Examples
noun + noun	bedroom	adverb + noun	onlooker
	water tank		bystander
	motorcycle	adjective + verb	dry-cleaning
	printer cartridge		public speaking
noun + verb	rainfall	adjective + noun	greenhouse
	haircut		software
	train-spotting		redhead
noun + adverb	hanger-on	adverb + verb	output
	passer-by		overthrow
verb + noun	washing machine		upturn
	driving licence		input
	swimming pool		
verb + adverb	lookout		
	take-off		
	drawback		

EXAMPLES

1. a 'greenhouse = place where we grow plants (compound noun)
2. a green 'house = house painted green (adjective and noun)
3. a 'bluebird = type of bird (compound noun)
4. a blue 'bird = any bird with blue feathers (adjective and noun)

Compound Nouns Exercises

Choose the word that makes each of these nouns into a compound noun.

1. Fund _____ (A – driver, B – seat, C – raiser)
2. News _____ (A– paper, B – story, C – travels)
3. Sun _____ (A– day, B – glasses, C – heat)
4. Child _____ (A – hood, B – ren, C – play)

5. Door _____ (A– frame, B – handle, C – way)

Answer Key: 1 – C, 2 – A, 3 – B, 4 – A, 5 – C

Fill in the blanks to complete each compound noun, or with the one-word compound noun that fits best.

6. Prevent a heart _____ by eating properly and getting enough exercise. (A – stroke, B – attack, C – murmur)

7. Do you prefer peppermint or cinnamon flavored _____? (A– cookies, B – toothpaste, C – applesauce)

8. The full _____ looked enormous as it rose over the horizon. (A – moon, B – sun, C – sunset)

9. I'm going to the barber for a _____. (A – trim, B – new style, C – haircut)

10. They're digging a new swimming _____ in the park. (A – suit, B – pool, C – game)

11. I'd love to learn to pilot an _____ (A–boat, B – airplane, C – submarine)

12. One reason donuts are fattening is that they're fried in cooking _____. (A – oil, B – sugar, C – pans)

13. Sherrie is upset because she lost an _____. (A – input, B – earring, C – friendship)

14. We put a _____ in the garden to chase birds away. (A – runway, B – sunshade, C – scarecrow)

15. I've got to pick up a package at the post _____. (A – man, B – office, C – book)
