

Compound nouns

A compound noun is a verb or an adjective made of two or more words or parts of words. It is written as one word or more words, or as words joined by a hyphen.

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Compound words are formed by joining a

1. **Noun+ noun** = seafood, starlight, schoolboy
2. **Adjective + noun** = goodwill, software, gentleman
3. **Gerund + noun** = sewing machine, walking stick
4. **Adverb + noun** = insight, outpost, fast food
5. **Verb + adverb** = wash out, flash back, make- over
6. **Noun + verb** = nightfall, daybreak, waterfall
7. **Adjective + verb** = free-drive, dry-clean, deep – fry
8. **Adverb+ verb** = outrun, well – defined, downcast
9. **Noun+ adjective** = radio-active, light- sensitive
10. **Adjective + adjective** = pale blue, light green
11. **Adverb + participle** = outsourcing, incoming.

Some other examples:

Foothills, Fly- catcher, Ice caps, Airport, Handwritten, Overload, Childhood, Safeguard, Moonlight, Typewrite, Riverbed, Landmark

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Noun + Noun

- a. dream-world
- b. postman
- c. bed-time
- d. motorcycle
- e. rabbit-hole
- f. honeybee
- g. chessmen
- h. cork-screw
- i. sun-dial
- j. wonderland

Noun + Adjective (participle)

- a. knee-deep
- b. homesick
- c. henpecked

Noun in Possessive case + Noun

- a. Craftsman
- b. sportsman
- c. child's play

Adverb + Noun

- a. Insight

- b. out-patient
- c. postscript

Verbal noun in '-ing' + Noun

- a. looking-glass
- b. washing machine

Adjective + '-ing' participle

- a. curious-looking
- b. good-looking
- c. shabby-looking
- d. easy-going

Adjective + '-ed' participle

- a. long-awaited
- b. dreamy-eyed

Adverbial + deverbal Noun

- a. Daydream
- b. boat-ride

Verb + Object

- a. push-button,
- b. treadmill

Adjective + Verb

- a. safeguard,
- b. whitewash

Adverb + Verb

- a. overthrow,
- b. upset

Object + Agential Noun with 'er' / 'or'

- a. telephone operator,
- b. science teacher

Object + verbal Noun with '-ing'

- a. air-conditioning,
- b. sightseeing

Adjective + Noun

- a. blackboard,
- b. blue print

Noun + Adjective

- a. lifelong,
- b. jet black

Verb + Noun

- a. popcorn,
- b. crybaby

[other examples:

Daydream, Afternoon, Flashlight, Bed room, Sunrays

Mad Man, Police officer, Hand shake, Earthquake

Crime reporter, Blood stains, Hair cut, Paper proof, Rain fall,

Story telling, tooth ache, grand mother, gold mines, sleeping beauty,

Born babies, fancy dress, god mother]

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1. Shop- owner
2. Son- in- law
3. **Noun and Verb compounds:**
 - a. sunrise = sun + rise
4. **Noun and Gerund compounds:**
 - a. air-conditioning = air + conditioning
5. **Gerund and Noun compounds:**
 - a. dancing bird = dancing + bird
6. **Noun and Noun compounds** (also known as verb less compounds)
 - a. school girl = school + girl
7. **Noun and Adjective compounds:**
 - a. duty free = duty + free
8. **Preposition and Noun compounds:**
 - a. upstream = up + stream
 - b. downstream = down + stream
9. **Phrase compounds: used as adjectives**
 - a. good-for-nothing = good + for + nothing
 - b. long-forgotten = long + forgotten
 - c. day-to-day = day + to + day