

Anglais  
Mme Twell

## Compound Nouns and Adjectives

Compound nouns are formed when one or more nouns are put together to describe something. This happens often in science as new things are discovered and terms must be found to describe them.

In compound nouns one noun is used to *modify* another. This first noun acts as an *adjective* or *modifier*.

Example:

<u>modifiers</u>		<u>noun</u>
a	leg	muscle
two	leg	muscles
sore	leg	muscles

In the last two examples, leg remains singular as it is used as an adjective. The main noun may be singular or plural depending on the context. Take a look these examples:

- a fifty euro note (50 euros)
- a four wheel drive car (four wheels)

To better understand compound nouns, one should look at the last word. This is the main noun which is being modified by the others.

a steel tool box - a box that is made of steel and used for tools  
a sport injury research centre - a centre which does research for injuries related to sports

Compound adjectives are composed using three methods:

a) by using the present participle of the verb as a modifier.

- a hard - working student (he or she works hard)
- a soft-sounding bell ( a bell that has a soft sound)

b) by using the past participle.

- a well - trained athlete
- a well - earned medal

c) by using nouns as verbs by adding -ed.

- a four - legged mammal
- a warm - blooded animal

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English

## Compound Nouns and Adjectives

Two or more nouns and adjectives can be linked together to express a complex single idea. Compound Nouns, in particular, are widely used in scientific literature and journalism to allow concepts with many parameters to be expressed in a concise fashion. There are many standard compound nouns in daily use: night-vision cameras, space programme, World Health Organisation, mousetrap; but combinations are always being invented to express new ideas.

### SELF EVALUATION

#### I. Form compound nouns from the following definitions:

Example: A book for exercises.

*An exercise book.*

1. A plant for reprocessing water
2. A box used for tools which is made of steel.
3. An area used for testing missiles.
4. Reference books for self-study.
5. A centre for the research of what happens underwater.
6. Tigers which are known for eating men.
7. A copper strip which measures 2 inches across.
8. A survey of children who have only one of their parents.

#### II. To understand compound nouns it is helpful to think about what they define. Write the definitions of these compound nouns and adjectives:

Example: A tiny uninhabited island.

*An island that is small and uninhabited.*

1. water droplets
2. adult nesting birds
3. snake's-eye view
4. four-legged animal
5. ideal operating temperature

#### III. Select two words from the following list and make your own compound nouns. Practice their pronunciation. Take the second word of your compound noun and try to create the next pair. Try to make the longest possible chain. They do have to make sense!

Example: sea water, water molecule, molecule structure, etc.

cell	simulation	water	molecule	pilot
bone	disease	structure	risk	gas
satellite	sea	student	pollution	heart
thermometer	damage	sperm	analysis	sample