

COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

A **compound adjective** is an adjective which is made up of two parts and it is usually written with a hyphen. The second part of the compound adjective is frequently a present or past participle.

1. A large number of compound adjectives describe personal appearance: *curly-haired, blue-eyed, tight-fitting, ...*
2. Another set of compound adjectives describes a person's character: *absent-minded, easy-going, two-faced, ...*
3. Another group of compound adjectives are those where the second part is a preposition:
an *all-out* strike (total)
a *burnt-out* car (nothing left in it after the fire)
a *broken-down* bus (it won't work)
a *built-up* area (poor)
a *hard-up* students (lots of buildings in it)
worn-out shoes (can't be worn anymore)
a *worn-out* man (exhausted)
a *drive-in* movie (you watch from your car)
a *run-down* area (in poor condition)
cast-off clothes (no longer wanted by the owner)
well-off people (wealthy)
4. Other useful compound adjectives are: *duty-free, long-distance, bullet-proof, hand-made, air-conditioned, second-hand, long-lasting, last-minute, part-time, ...*

COMPOUND NOUNS

1. A **compound noun** is a fixed expression which is made up of more than one word and functions as a noun. They can be written as two words (tin opener, bank account, address book, human being ...), with a hyphen (baby-sitter, post-office, ice-cream, ...) or as one word (doormat, earring, teapot, ...).
2. Compound nouns may be countable, uncountable or only used in either the singular or the plural:

COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE	SINGULAR	PLURAL
alarm clock	air-traffic control	arms race	grass roots
burglar alarm	data-processing	generation gap	race relations
heart attack	income tax	mother-tongue	luxury goods
tea-bag	birth control	greenhouse effect	human rights
contact lens	family planning	death penalty	sunglasses
package holiday	junk food	labour force	traffic lights
windscreen	blood pressure	sound barrier	kitchen scissors
blood donor	food poisoning	welfare state	
credit card	pocket money		
youth hostel	hay fever		

3. A large number of compound nouns are based on phrasal verbs. Nouns based on phrasal verbs often have an informal feel and are particularly common in newspaper reporting:

There was a *walk-out* at the factory (strike)
There's going to be a *crack-down* on public spending (action against)
There was a *break-out* from the local prison (escape)
There has been a tremendous *shake-up* in personnel (change)
I never expected the *break-up* of the USSR (collapse)
The *take-over* of one of our hotel chains has just been announced (purchase by another company)
We're trying to find new *outlets* for our products (places to sell.)
What the computer produces depends on the *input* (information that is put in)
Output has increased thanks to new technology (productions)
I can easily get you a *printout* of the report (paper on which computer information has been printed)
A *breakthrough* has been made in AIDS research (important discovery)
The *outlook* for tomorrow is good (prospect)
There are *drawbacks* as well as advantages (negative aspects)
The outcome wasn't satisfactory (conclusion)
Teachers need *feedback* from students (comments)
The *outbreak* of war surprised them (start of something unpleasant)
Just after leaving school he went through the stage of being a *dropout* (person who rejects society)
Many of the problems were caused by a *breakdown* in communications (failure)