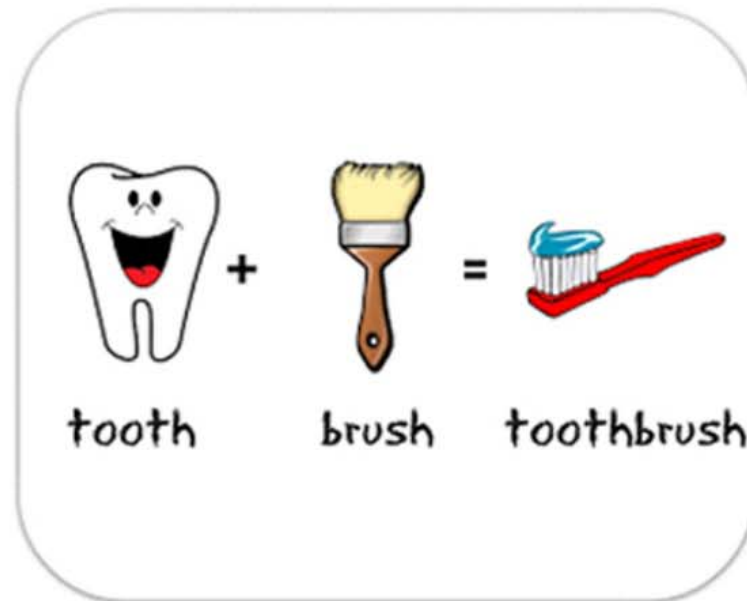


Compound nouns

Hello and welcome back, in this lesson we will be exploring compound nouns. We will find out what they are how to form them and what makes them different from other nouns.



How to form a compound noun

Words can be combined to form compound nouns. These are very common, and new combinations are invented almost daily. They normally have two parts.

1. The first part tells us what kind of object or person it is, or what its purpose is.
2. The second part identifies the object or person in question.



Hand

+



Bag

=



Handbag

Table

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

First part: type or purpose	Second part: what or who	Compound noun
police	man	policeman
boy	friend	boyfriend
fish	tank	water tank

Example:



The first noun is acting like an adjective to give us more information on the second noun. The first noun, like an **adjective**, tells us what type of player it is ?

We now know that it is a **video** player and not a *CD* or *cassette* player.

If you know this, it will help you remember and even create nouns of your own.

Take Notice

Notice that the compound nouns can be written either as a single word, as a word with a hyphen, or as two words. There are no clear rules about this. A good rule of thumb is to write the most common compound nouns as one word, and the others as two words.

Rainfall



Dry-cleaning



Compound nouns vs adjective +noun.

a 'greenhouse = place where we grow plants (compound noun)



a green 'house = house painted green (adjective and noun)



a 'bluebird = type of bird
(compound noun)



a blue 'bird = any bird with blue
feathers (adjective and noun)



Pronunciation

Stress is important in pronunciation, as it distinguishes between a compound noun and an adjective with a noun.

In compound nouns, the stress usually falls on the first syllable.



