

# VOCABULARY BUILDING

## 2. Compound words

In this lesson you will learn the different types of compound words and how they are used in texts. A compound word is a combination of two or more words that function as a single unit of meaning.

**They can be used as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns.**



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# TYPES OF COMPOUND WORDS

**1. Solid compound (closed)**

**2. Hyphenated compounds**

**3. Separate compound (open)**

**3.1. Permanent compounds\***

**3.2. Temporary compound**

# 1. SOLID COMPOUND (CLOSED)

These compounds are written in ONE word. See these examples.

*Broadband*

*Chairman*

*Shutdown*

*Software*

*Wholesale*

*Blowout*

Click here to see *the software in action*.

*A blowout is the uncontrolled release of crude oil.*

## 2. HYPHENATED COMPOUND ( - )

Two words united with an hyphen (-). See these examples.

*X-rays*

*Word-of-mouth*

*Ex-wife*

*Close-up*

*Father-in-law*

*Hand-picked*

**This research is time-comsuming.**

**The limestone weathers into 20-cm-thick, irregular-shaped plates.**

# 3. SEPARATE COMPOUND (OPEN)

Two separate words as a single unit. See these examples.

*Signed language*

*Human rights*

*Crude oil*

*Police station*

*High school*

*Drilling rig*

Deaf students use signed language to “talk” to their friends.

A great collection of books on business education.

# 3.1. PERMANENT COMPOUNDS

These are **institutionalised** compound. See these examples.

*Signed language*

*Labor Market*

*oil reservoir*

*Bus stop*

*Income tax*

*Drilling ship*

Governments should invest in education to develop ***human capital***.

We have the best qualified ***human resources***.

## 3.1. TEMPORARY COMPOUNDS

These are creative compound made by authors. See these examples.

A dictionary generally will not list *temporary compounds*, those created to meet a writer's need at a particular moment. (Merriam-Webster online).

Dear Madge,

I am writing from the dark, damp depths of a dugout on the front line near St. Quentin. Before my arrival I was thrilled to discover that I was to become a member of C company, led by *my school-time friend Captain Stanhope*.

# COMPOUNDS IN TEXTS

The GNU operating system is the Unix-like operating system, which is entirely free software.

Kuala Lumpur, a town that began as a tin-mining post 150 years ago and now dazzles with skyscrapers and five-star restaurants.





An open-air market in the neighborhood of Little India.



The multifloored interior of Suria Retail Complex.



View of the old railway station.

# WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED?

- **Compound words are a combination of 2 or more words that work as a unit.**
- **There exist 3 types of compound words:**
  - **Solid compound (closed)**
  - **Hyphenated compounds**
  - **Separate compounds**
- **Compounds can be used as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. Pay attention to their position in the phrase.**
- **There exist “institutionalised” compound nouns.**