



Compound Words

Compound words are when two or more words combine to form a new single word. They may have a literal or a non-literal meaning.

There are three types of compound words;

1. Open compounds (ice cream)
2. Closed compounds (teacup)
3. Hyphenated compounds (merry-go-round)

Any parts of speech can be combined to create a compound noun, compound adjective or compound verb.



LOOK OUT

- ⚠ Only one part of a compound noun can be pluralised (mothers-in-law)
- ⚠ Only content words within a compound should be capitalised when used as a title or pronoun
- ⚠ Only one verb part should be conjugated in a compound verb
- ⚠ The first part is stressed in compound nouns (GREENhouse) but both parts or only the second part may be stressed with individual words (GREEN HOUSE)
- ⚠ Compound adjectives are hyphenated before nouns but not after them
- ⚠ Watch out with confusing compound words: everyday - every day, anyone - any one, alright - all right, a lot - allot, all together - altogether