



What Is A Compound Word?

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Compound words are when **two or more words combine** to form a new single word.

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The new single word can have a literal meaning that is the sum of the two words together.

E.g. toothbrush (tooth + brush)

A brush for your teeth

What is A Compound Word?

Or it can be non-literal, where the words combine to create an entirely new meaning.

E.g. butterfly (butter + fly)

An insect

What is A Compound Word?

The compound word can be created by any part of speech. In general, each original word doesn't change their spelling.

The outcome could be a compound noun, compound adjective, compound verb or compound adverb, where the final word has this function.

What is A Compound Word?

People invent compound words daily and the rules are very loose around how they are spoken and written.

We advise using a reliable source to learn the correct forms of the most compound words that you may need in your English.