

Compound noun

A compound noun consists of two or more words that express a complete thought.

It consists of a headword and one or more modifiers used to refer to people or things more specifically in terms of :

- 1) what they are for
- 2) what they are made of
- 3) what work they do
- 4) what kind they are
- 5) or where and when they happen or are used

Note : Compound nouns are written as two separate words (**web site**), as two words joined with a hyphen (**web-site**) or as one word (**website**). Unfortunately, there are no rules. Some compounds change over time.

- 1 Can opener - application form
- 2 Paper plates - glass tube
- 3 History teacher - airline safety inspector
- 4 Health food magazine - detective story
- 5 University library - summer holidays

Plural forms of compound nouns

In general, we make the plural of a compound noun by adding **s/es** to the headword.

Note : A **woman** can be anything except an adjective.

Compound adjectives

A compound adjective is a group of two or more words linked with a hyphen when they are before a noun (acting as a single idea describing something) but not after a noun.

Examples :

She is a **well-recognized** expert in technology. (with a hyphen)

The expert is **well recognized** in technology. (no hyphen)

Compare the meaning in these following sentences:

1) saw a **man-scanning** machine.

2) saw a **man scanning** machine.

In **(1)** a **man-scanning** is a compound adjective describing the machine.

In **(2)** a **man** is **scanning** a machine. (no compound adjective).

1 and **2** have two different meanings.

The -ing forms

We use the **-ing** form in these ways :

- 1) Taking** blood or varicose vein treatment.....
- 2) This new technology is transforming** every facet.....
- 3) growth with this emerging** technology.

In **1**, **Taking** is a gerund (see below), acting as the subject.
A gerund refers to an activity or process.

In **2**, **transforming** is a present participle .This is used in continuous tenses (in the above example, the present continuous) and reduced relative clauses.

.... they operate, **allowing** the doctor to focus with (=....,which allows the doctor to focus....)

In **3**, **emerging** is an adjective.

Gerund functions

We use gerunds in the following ways :

- As the subject of a verb :
Envisioning your completed property with AR.....
- As the complement of the subject :
AR is **enhancing** the real world with virtual objects.
- As the object of a verb :
.....tried **decorating** your home....
- After a preposition :
We all dream of **living** in the perfectly.....

Gerund uses

Some verbs are followed by the gerund, not by the infinitive, e.g. **avoid, finish, give up, hate, imagine, involve, keep, mind, suggest, enjoy, deny, postpone, resist, admit, explain**, etc.

After certain expressions: **it's no use, can't stand, get used to, there's no point in, it's not worth, can't help, be used to.**

While people ***are getting used to being*** transported.....

Compound adjectives with numbers, colours and proper names

When numbers are used as the first part of a compound adjective, use a hyphen to connect them to the noun that follows them. This applies whether the number is written in words or in digits.

E.g. The student gave a 20-minute presentation to his classmates.

However, a hyphen is not required if the number is the second word in the compound adjective.

E.g. He is a victim of type 2 diabetes.

When using a fraction as part of a compound adjective, it should be hyphenated.

E.g. A quarter-million dollars is still a large amount of money.

In compound adjectives about **age, distance** and **time**, the plural noun becomes an adjective and so it is invariable.

E.g. This girl is 5 years old

She is a five-year-old girl

E.g. The tower is 300 feet high

It's a **300-foot-high** tower

E.g. The exam lasts 2 hours

It's a **two-hour** exam

In colour combinations, modifiers are hyphenated.

E.g. a blue-green solution

Compound Adjectives made from Proper nouns don't need a hyphen though must have capital letters.

E.g. I bought the James Jackson tickets for us.

James Jackson is a compound adjective describing the tickets (What type of tickets? James Jackson tickets).

Since the adjective is a Proper noun, we don't need a hyphen between the two names.