

Compounds

A Compound nouns

Compound nouns consist of two or more words used together as a single word, e.g. *hard drive*. In a compound there is a headword and one or more modifiers.

ink-jet *printer*
modifier head

Modifiers can refer to different things:

- material, e.g. silicon chip = a chip made of silicon
- use or function, e.g. search engine = a program used to find information on the Web
- activity or profession, e.g. software engineer = a person who designs software
- place, e.g. web portal = a site on the Web that acts as a gateway to other sites

Compound nouns are written in different ways:

- as two separate words, e.g. control panel = a utility that lets you configure and adjust a system
- as two words joined with a hyphen, e.g. self-test = an automatic examination of a device
- as one word, e.g. clipboard = a holding place for text or graphics you've just cut or copied

Unfortunately there are no rules. For example, you may see *clip art*, *clip-art* and *cliptart*. Some compounds change over time, for example two words – *web site* – become hyphenated after a time, and then eventually end up as one word – *website*.

The two parts may be:

- 1 noun + noun
address bus = a set of wires that identifies locations, addresses, in the main memory
bandwidth = the rate at which data flows through a cable or network
mail merge = a tool that combines a standard letter with a mailing list to create personalized letters
 - 2 adjective + noun
broadband = high-speed connection, e.g. cable or ADSL. Internet access shortcut = a small file, 1KB in size, that links to a real file stored elsewhere
smart card = a plastic card that contains a small chip
scrollbar = part of a window that lets you move through a document
 - 3 verb or verbal noun + noun
recording head = a mechanism that transfers data to a disk
 - 4 verb + particle
add-on = a hardware or software module that can be added to a computer
set-up / setup = the way in which a program or device is configured
- Compound nouns normally have the main stress on the first part and a secondary stress on the second part, e.g. screen *saver* /skrin 'seɪvə(r)/.

B Compound adjectives

Compound adjectives are made up of two words, normally with hyphens between them. The second part is often a past participle.

- A menu-driven program lets you select a command from a menu.
 - A voice-activated product is activated by the user's voice.
- Object-oriented programming is based on objects and their effects on each other, rather than on a series of instructions.

Other common patterns include:

- noun + present participle
Space-saving PCs take up very little desktop space.
- noun + adjective
A hands-free device does not require the hands for operation.
A stand-alone computer or business can operate on its own.



An experimental robot receiving voice-activated instructions

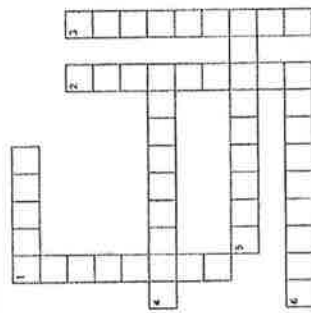
35.1 Look at A opposite. Which compound do these definitions refer to?

- 1 a small piece of silicon which is used in computers
- 2 a site that offers email, news, forums, web searching, online shopping and links to other sites
- 3 a utility used to adjust computer settings such as fonts, sound and networks
- 4 the read/write head of a disk drive
- 5 a computer bus used by the CPU to communicate memory locations

35.2 Complete these sentences with a compound from A opposite.

- 1 enables you to combine two files, one containing names and addresses and the other containing a non-specific letter intended for multiple recipients.
- 2 A USB headset is a useful, the ideal accessory for your computer games and music.
- 3 The printer's didn't identify any errors.
- 4 Because the Web has no central organization, every Web surfer needs a – a special site that locates other sites based on words or phrases you type in.
- 5 They are seeking a to help write and test a new operating system.

35.3 Complete the puzzle with compound nouns.



Across

- 1 the configuration of hardware and software
- 4 a bar that allows you to select the portion of the document you want to see
- 5 an area that holds the things you copy, ready to be pasted anywhere else
- 6 a type of data transmission that provides fast Internet access

Down

- 1 a special file which redirects to another file or program
- 2 a small card with an embedded microchip
- 3 the amount of data that can be transmitted along a channel

35.4 Complete these sentences with a compound adjective from B opposite.

- 1 A telephone allows people with limited mobility to dial and answer the phone with just the sound of their voice.
- 2 A fax machine is a device, so it does not require any other device to function.
- 3 A application is operated by making choices from menus instead of giving instructions on a keyboard.
- 4 In some countries it is obligatory to use a car kit when you are using a mobile phone while driving.
- 5 An language like C++ lets the programmer concatenate on individual units (e.g. a piece of text, a graphic or a table) and give each object functions which can be changed easily.
- 6 They've launched a new computer, an entire PC embedded inside a keyboard.



A space-saving PC

What a collocation is

A collocation is a pair or group of words that are often used together. You need to learn them in order to sound natural in English. For example, in computing we say 'attach a file', not 'enclose a file'.

New collocations are particularly common in ICT. Notice the combinations that are worth learning from these reviews.



With the Nokia 770 Internet Tabler you can browse your favourite sites and catch up on your email – from right where you are. Whether you're relaxing on the sofa or enjoying the moment at your favourite café, if you have broadband access over Wi-Fi, the

Nokia 770 Internet Tabler gives you instant wireless access to the Web. You can also stream files, tune in to Internet radio and News Reader, or play your favourite videos and music.



A Blu-ray Disc is a new optical disc that provides five times more data storage than a DVD, with a capacity of 25 GB (single-layer), 50 GB (dual-layer) and 100 GB (four-layer).

Unlike current DVDs, which use a red laser to read and write data, Blu-ray uses a blue laser (which is where the format gets its name). Blu-ray discs can record and play back high-definition television and digital audio, as well as computer data.

Blu-ray Disc players are fully backward compatible with CDDVD formats. They also let users go online and download subtitles.

- ¹ Listen to audio or watch video directly from the Internet rather than downloading and saving it first
- ² Able to share data with older systems

Some types of collocations

Verb + noun

The easiest way to connect to the Internet is by using a DSL modem.

A DSL modem can transmit data at high speed.

Your ISP will probably give you a CD with instructions on how to install the software on your PC.

Once you are online, you can access the Web or send and receive emails.

You may like to burn CDs, i.e. copy your favourite songs or important files onto CDs.

Verbs with particles

Can you show me where the microphone plugs into the computer?

If you want to log onto your account you will need your user ID and password.

Computer criminals are getting better at hacking into other people's computers.

Adjective + noun

High-speed networks and multimedia phones allow customers to view live TV.

To send outgoing mail and retrieve incoming mail, you need to configure the email settings.

Most teenagers use instant messaging to chat with friends.

Electronic commerce – from a PC, digital TV or mobile phone – offers competitive prices.

Wireless hotspots provide Wi-Fi Internet access in airports, hotels and other places.

Users can interact with a virtual environment through the use of VR displays and data gloves.

Typical interactive TV uses are voting in polls, video on demand and shopping from home.

Adverb + adjective

Don't send highly sensitive information via email or fax unless it is encrypted.

This movie is freely available on the Internet, so it can be downloaded free of charge.

Phrases

When you chat in a chat room, you are interacting in real time since it is immediate.

A USB device is a good example of plug and play; you install it and use it immediately.

To drag and drop, just click on the object and drag it to a different location.

36.1 Look at A opposite. Match each word on the left with its partner on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 high-definition | a Internet radio |
| 2 read and write | b disc |
| 3 play | c videos and music |
| 4 tune in to | d television |
| 5 broadband | e data |
| 6 optical | f your favourite sites |
| 7 browse | g compatible |
| 8 fully backward | h access |

36.2 Answer these questions using collocations from B opposite.

- What sort of locations or access points can be used to surf the Net without wires?
- What feature allows an electronic device to be used as soon as it is connected to a computer?
- If you are *gaining illegal or unauthorized access to computer data*, what are you doing?
- If you want to move a picture to a new location, what do you do?
- What expression is used to refer to personal, confidential or classified information?

36.3 Read these statements by computer users and complete them with suitable collocations.

- I have a program that monitors both incoming and mail and also blocks spam.
- With a webcam you can add video to online chats and messaging. Simply the software included, plug the webcam your PC, and start having video conferences.
- This software enables you to burn and DVDs containing any data files.
- I use a media player to audio and video files from the Web. I can play them directly.
- NetMeeting allows us to perform video conferencing in time, without any delay.
- We have decided to make the material available on the Web.
- I often log my Internet bank account to make payments; I never forget to log off.

36.4 Complete the collocations in this text.

Fast connections

Connecting to the (1) using DSL lines, cable TV and satellite increases bandwidth dramatically, making the Web more useful. Increased speed has ignited an explosion of (2) commerce, video on demand, telecommuting, collaborative scientific projects, video conferencing and (3) environments.

Internet2, shaping the future

Internet2 is not a single network, but a consortium of hundreds of (4) networks linked by fibre-optic backbones that span the United States and link to other countries. The network transmits at speeds up to 2.4 gigabits per second – 45,000 times faster than a 56 Kbps modem (5) – allowing scientists to test their laboratory discoveries in the real world.

The next-generation network went (6) in February 1999, linking a number of universities around the world. When it is in commercial use, services will be available like (7) television, virtual 3-D videoconferencing, and much more.

A new kind of Web

While PCs were once the primary means of accessing the Internet, we're now seeing Internet-enabled devices such as PDAs and cell phones that send and receive (8) and access the (9) Soon, everything from your car to your refrigerator will be connected to the global network, all communicating with each other wirelessly.

