

## Compound nouns.

In English, a 'compound' is a thing that has, is made up of, two or more parts. And that's exactly what a compound noun is, it's a combination of two or more nouns, and sometimes an adjective and noun together, that creates a new meaning. And even though a compound noun has two or more parts, we use it like it's a single unit and can be modified by other adjectives and nouns. Some examples are credit card, sunglasses and self-confidence.

As you can see, there are three spelling options for compound nouns. The words can be spaced, like in credit card, this is an 'open compound noun'. The words can be 'hyphenated', meaning they have a hyphen punctuation mark between them, like in self-confidence. And lastly, there sometimes is no space or hyphen between the words, like in sunglasses, this is a 'closed compound noun'. There are no easy rules to know what compound nouns are open, closed or hyphenated, so you need to look in a dictionary to check the spelling.

A few more examples are mother-in-law, meaning the mother of your spouse, check-out, eyeball, apple tree, football, textbook and bus stop.

## Nouns that act like adjectives.

Sometimes we can use nouns to add descriptions to other nouns, which means these nouns are acting like adjectives. A few examples are race car, love story, football, bike shop and cricket bat.

As you can see, the first noun always acts like an adjective, while the second noun is our real noun. Because of this, the first noun is almost always singular, but the second noun can be singular or plural. I'll say that again, it's the second noun that makes the word singular or plural. Race car, race cars. Love story, love stories. Football, Footballs. Bike shop, bike shops. Cricket bat, cricket bats.

Finally, if you want to use an adjective in this situation, you simply obey the normal adjective rules and put it before the first noun, nothing changes with that. For example, the 'new' race car is fast while the 'old' race cars are slow. I prefer to read a 'long' love story, but these are 'short' love stories. 'One new' football is on the pitch but 'two old' footballs are on the sideline. This is my 'favorite' bike shop and those are my 'least favorite' bike shops. I prefer an 'expensive' cricket bat to those 'cheap' cricket bats.