

NOUNS**COMPOUND NOUNS****Formation**

Words can be combined to form ***compound nouns***. These are very common, and new combinations are invented almost daily. They normally have two parts. The **second part** identifies the object or person in question (***man, friend, tank, table, room***). The **first part** tells us what kind of object or person it is, or what its purpose is (***police, boy, water, dining, bed***):

What type / what purpose	What or who
police	man
boy	friend
water	tank
dining	table
bed	room

The two parts may be written in a number of ways :

1. as one word.

Example: ***policeman, boyfriend***

2. as two words joined with a hyphen.

Example: ***dining-table***

3. as two separate words.

Example: ***fish tank***.

There are no clear rules about this - so write the common compounds that you know well as one word, and the others as two words.

The two parts may be:

Examples:

bedroom

noun + noun *water tank*

motorcycle

printer cartridge

rainfall

noun + verb *haircut*

train-spotting

noun + adverb *hanger-on*

passer-by

washing machine

verb + noun *driving licence*

swimming pool

lookout

verb + adverb* *take-off*

drawback

