

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:

	<i>bedroom</i>
noun + noun	<i>water tank</i>
	<i>motorcycle</i>
	<i>printer cartridge</i>
	<i>rainfall</i>
noun + verb	<i>haircut</i>
	<i>train-spotting</i>
noun + adverb	<i>hanger-on</i>
	<i>passer-by</i>
	<i>washing machine</i>
verb + noun	<i>driving licence</i>
	<i>swimming pool</i>
	<i>lookout</i>
verb + adverb*	<i>take-off</i>
	<i>drawback</i>

