

# **Expanding Nominal Compounds – Words with multiple meanings**

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## 1. Expanding Nominal Compounds – Words with multiple meanings

Nominal compound is a grammatical structure in which nouns are linked together to indicate a new concept. Adjectives are used to describe the characteristics of nouns for example

Long table

Broken table

Noun in noun compounds can also serve this function though they usually describe categories rather than characteristics.

Example – metal table

Picnic table – card table

Noun compounds consisting of two nouns occur in many everyday activities

Example – Dinner plate, tooth brush, book shelf, hair – clip, rain coat etc. In American English nominal compounds are not hyphenated.

The difficulty of understanding noun compounds can be alleviated in most cases by teaching the parallels between the categories of English Definitions and the categories of nominal compounds.

**Drinking water**

**Washing machine**

**Maintenance crew**

**Cat food**

**Oil pump**

**Dog house**

**Glass door**

**Food bowl**

**Newspaper**

**Bullet hole**



The first member of the nominal compound can be either be a common noun or proper noun **We can define a nominal compound as a string of two or more nouns having the same distribution as noun - *Student invention, Repair man, Cooling device* – head noun is interpreted as subject. The action nominal is interpreted as denoting a permanent role or function of the reversed meaning and eventually acceptability are affected.**

The analysis of Nominal Compounds represents an important and largely unsolved problem from a theoretical point of view. In Some Linguists perspective, Nominal compounds have turned out to be an important stumbling block for systems that attempt to deal with real life text especially in technical domains.