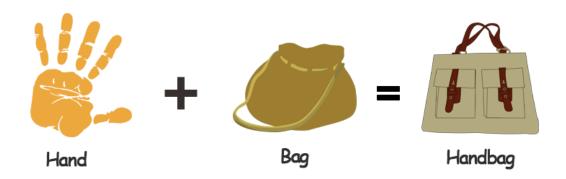


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- - two words melded together to make one word:
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A **compound noun** consists of two or more words that act as a *singular noun*.



via http://lgzsoldos.blogspot.com/2016/03/endocentric-and-exocentric-compund-nouns.html

All compound nouns contain at least one main word, which is usually the *last* in such combination and in most cases is a noun:

 table tennis, playground, school bag, haircut, dishwasher, toothpaste, swimming pool

The other word(s) in this combination may be an <u>adjective</u>, a <u>preposition</u>, or a <u>verb</u>. They modify the main word or add to its meaning:

- We need to go to the **bus stop**. (noun + noun)
- Take a look at the **whiteboard**. (adjective + noun)
- The historic city centre is reachable by **underground**. (preposition + noun)

Here's a great video from Shaw English to help you get started with compound nouns:



How to form compound nouns

Compound nouns can be formed in three different ways:

- two words melded together to make one word:
 - Jennifer needs some time to fix her **makeup**.
 - Michael likes playing football.
 - I need a new **toothbrush** for my trip.
- separate words next to each other:
 - To receive your parcel you should contact your local **post office**.
 - Kids have been playing in the **swimming pool** all day long.
 - Please put the plates on the **kitchen table**, I will wash them later.

- hyphenated words:

- This coat is not suitable for dry-cleaning.
- All visitors are invited to the hotel reception for check-in.
- There are two **six-packs** of beer in my fridge.

How to form plural forms of compound nouns

Plural forms of compound nouns are created by making the final noun plural:

- Babysitter → Good **babysitters** always have reference letters from their clients.
- Haircut → Some **haircuts** can make your face look thinner.
- Cycle race → Nick took part in many cycle races.

Note: In general we make the plural of a compound noun by adding -s to the 'base word' (the most 'significant' word):

- mother-in-law → mothers-in-law
- passer-by → *passers-by*

Some compound nouns have no obvious base word and you may need to consult a dictionary to find the plural:



- grown-up \rightarrow grown-ups
- good-for-nothing \rightarrow *good-for-nothings*

See also:

Nouns: Formation with Common Prefixes

Nouns: Formation with Common Suffixes