

## COMPOUND NOUNS

Compound expressions are very common in English. You can increase your vocabulary range by learning them. They are usually called 'compound nouns', which means that two nouns put together make one. You will also see terms such as 'compound adjective' and explanations that the first word can be a gerund: 'driving instructor' is an example.

There are many good sources on internet which go into the details. Sometimes the two words are written as one -- 'breakthrough' -- for example. There are others which are almost always hyphenated, such as 'by-product'. Very many compounds consist of two separate words. Easy-to-remember examples of this are: 'post office', 'table leg', 'swimming pool' etc.

If we simplify, a logical conclusion is that the first of the two words -- whether it's a noun or not -- *functions as an adjective*, and does not determine what the expression should be. It's the second word which is the 'real' noun.

In the simple examples above, grammatically 'post office' could be 'busy office', 'table leg' could be 'broken leg', and 'swimming pool' could be 'big pool'.

A common language error is to make the first word possessive: '**shoe's shop**'\* or '**shoes' shop**'\* should always be 'shoe shop' (plural: 'shoe shops'). They don't possess the store, and it's not important how many are sold, as adjectives *don't have plurals*.

Check out the links on the page below, which concentrate on compounds as vocabulary items that you should know. You can sort both columns, but try to sort only the one on the right if possible. This will give you the correct order of the answers when you hit the 'check' button. You may think that several of the combinations are already correct, and you will often be right. The aim, though, is to get an optimal solution.

<https://myproject.1dialog.com/kohana/index.php/compound>