# 5 Compounds

## A Nouns

English has a large number of compound nouns formed from a ***noun*** + ***noun***. Cover the compounds below and read the meanings. Do you know these compounds, or can you guess them?



**drawing pin**



**paper clip**



**barbed wire**



**nail polish/varnish**

| Meaning | Compound noun |
|---|---|
| an official document that shows you are qualified to drive | **driving licence** |
| an official document showing when and where someone was born | **birth certificate** |
| a card given to customers by a shop to encourage them to shop there regularly. Each time they shop, they get money off goods they buy in the future. | **loyalty card** |
| a part for a car or machine to replace an old or broken part | **spare part** |
| confidence in yourself and your abilities | **self-confidence** |
| the number of years that a person is likely to live | **life expectancy** |
| a path or route that is quicker than the normal way | **shortcut** |
| the language that you first learn to speak as a child | **mother tongue** |
| food that is quick and easy to prepare and eat but not good for your health | **junk food** |
| a person that you admire and try to copy | **role model** |

**1 Replace the crossed-out word with a word that forms a compound noun.**

1 Do you know a short ~~way~~ to the school from here? .....
2 Have you got any nail ~~paint~~? .....
3 Does she have enough ~~personal~~ confidence? .....
4 I ripped my shirt on the ~~twisted~~ wire around the field. .....
5 What's the average life ~~length~~ for men in your country? .....
6 I stepped on a drawing ~~nail~~ – it really hurt. .....
7 I need some paper ~~staples~~ to put these notes together. .....
8 Is it easy to get ~~new~~ parts for your car? .....

**2 Complete the compound in each sentence.**

1 What is your mother _____ ? What other languages do you speak?
2 Have you got a driving _____ ? How long have you had it?
3 Do you know where your birth _____ is? If so, where?
4 Do you have any _____ cards for different shops? If so, which?
5 Are there any short _____ you often take? If so, where to?
6 Who has been the most important role _____ in your life?
7 Do you ever wear _____ polish? If so, what colour?
8 Do you often eat _____ food? If so, what, and why?

**3** ABOUT YOU **Write answers to the questions in Exercise 2, or ask another student.**

**4 Eight of the words below form compounds with *card*, one forms a compound with *pass*, and one forms a compound with *pass* and *card* (with the same meaning). Can you complete the compounds correctly?**

greetings identity bus credit rail post boarding debit SIM gift

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# B Adjectives

Most compound adjectives have a hyphen (-).

It was very much a **last-minute** decision to go, but the kids loved it and were very **well behaved**.

My cousin is very **absent-minded**. We have a **long-standing** joke that whenever we meet, he pretends he doesn't know me.

These boots are **worn out** now, but they've been incredibly **hard-wearing**.

I have an uncle who is very **narrow-minded** and **self-righteous**. He thinks I'm **bad-tempered**, but it's only him who makes me angry; we argue all the time.

**GLOSSARY**

| | |
|---|---|
| **last-minute** | happening at the last possible moment |
| **well behaved** | (compounds with *well* are hyphenated before a noun but not after a noun) behaving in a way that people think is correct and polite: ***a well-behaved child*** |
| **long-standing** | that has existed or lasted for a long time |
| **worn out** | **1** (of a thing) no longer useful because it has been used so much<br>**2** (of a person) exhausted from work or exercise |
| **hard-wearing** | (of a product) remaining in good condition for a long time |
| **self-righteous** | believing that what you say or do is right and other people are wrong |
| **bad-tempered** | often angry and easily annoyed |

**SPOTLIGHT** adjectives with *-minded*

You can be **narrow-minded** (= not willing to listen to the ideas and opinions of others) OPP **broad-minded**, **open-minded**; **absent-minded** (= forgetful); or **single-minded** (= thinking in a concentrated way about sth and determined to achieve it).

**5 Answer the questions.**

1 If something is worn out, is it ***no use*** or ***very comfortable***? .....
2 If something is last-minute, is it ***very quick*** or ***at the last possible moment***? .....
3 If someone is single-minded, are they ***determined*** or ***closed to new ideas***? .....
4 If something is hard-wearing, is it ***uncomfortable*** or does it ***last a long time***? .....
5 If someone is worn out, are they ***exhausted*** or ***unhealthy***? .....
6 If someone is absent-minded, are they ***stupid*** or ***forgetful***? .....

**6 Form six compound adjectives using words from the box.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| long | worn | behaved | standing | minded | self |
| tempered | well | narrow | bad | righteous | out |

..... ..... .....
..... ..... .....

**7 Complete the dialogues with a suitable compound adjective.**

1 He always thinks he's right, doesn't he? ~ Yes, he's very .....-.....
2 Had you planned to go? ~ No, it was a .....-..... decision.
3 Do you often meet up? ~ Yes, we have a .....-..... arrangement.
4 She's very determined, isn't she? ~ Yes, she's extremely .....-.....
5 He gets angry very easily. ~ I know, he's a very .....-..... man.
6 Your parents are always open to ideas. ~ Yes, they're very .....-.....

**8 Can you complete these compound adjectives using either *self* or *well*?**

..... known ..... confident ..... employed
..... behaved ..... dressed ..... conscious
..... service ..... informed

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