

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.

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

2 Complete the compound in each sentence.

- What is your mother? What other languages do you speak?
- Have you got a driving? How long have you had it?
- Do you know where your birth is? If so, where?
- Do you have any cards for different shops? If so, which?
- Are there any short you often take? If so, where to?
- Who has been the most important role in your life?
- Do you ever wear polish? If so, what colour?
- 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



TEST YOURSELF

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 <i>well</i> 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 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.

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

- He always thinks he's right, doesn't he? ~ Yes, he's very **self-righteous**.
- Had you planned to go? ~ No, it was a **last-minute** decision.
- Do you often meet up? ~ Yes, we have a **long-standing** arrangement.
- She's very determined, isn't she? ~ Yes, she's extremely **single-minded**.
- He gets angry very easily. ~ I know, he's a very **bad-tempered** man.
- Your parents are always open to ideas. ~ Yes, they're very **open-minded**.

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

known	confident	employed
behaved	dressed	conscious
service	informed	



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