

Understanding Compound Words

Please try to guess the meaning of each **boldfaced** word by breaking it into smaller words. (Q1 is done for you as an example).

Q1. The tradition of growing plants on **rooftops** can be traced back to prehistoric Scandinavia. (B)

A1. Rooftop means the outside part of the roof of a building.

Q2. A living, or green, roof refers to a rooftop covered by water-absorbing plants like grasses and succulents, which lead to significantly less **stormwater** run-off. (A)

A2. _____

Q3. Homes in Norway can still be found where grass, plants, and even full-size **evergreens** spring from the roofs, though the term "sod roof" is a misnomer. (B)

A3. _____

Q4. The roofs are covered with a layer of birch wood that provides the **waterproofing** for the homes below. (B)

A4. _____

Q5. In the 1970s, Germany developed the technology to create **lightweight**, low maintenance living rooftops over urban dwellings. (C)

A5. _____

Q6. Many private and public initiatives help families install their own living roofs, not just for the reduced energy cost and conservation of stormwater but also for the creation of new natural **wildlife** habitats and increased agricultural space. (D)

A6. _____

Q7. Living roofs filter pollutants and carbon dioxide out of the air and pollutants and heavy metals out of **rainwater**. (D)

A7. _____

Q8. The **drawbacks** of green roofs have to do with the expense of installing the technology on existing structures. (E)

A8. _____

Q9. But if you can afford to install a living roof, the advantages seem to far **outweigh** the drawbacks. (E)

A9. _____