

79 Compound nouns

A What are compound nouns?

This is common in English: word + word = new word. For example:

police + officer = **police officer** phone + number = **phone number**

bath + room = **bathroom** art + gallery = **art gallery**

- We write some compound nouns as one word, e.g. **bathroom**, but many are two words, e.g. **phone number**.
- Many compound nouns are easy to understand when you know the other words, e.g. **railway station**, **address book**, **first floor**, **dining room**, **bus stop**, **dishwasher**. Sometimes they are less easy to understand, e.g. a **disc jockey** (usually called a **DJ**) is a person who plays music on the radio and in clubs.
- You will meet many compound nouns as you learn English: **past tense**; **past participle**; **phrasal verb** (see Unit 99); **capital letter**, e.g. **ABC**; **full stop** (at the end of a sentence); **question mark** = ?
- With compound nouns, the main stress is usually on the first word, e.g. **phone** number, but sometimes it is on the second word, e.g. full **stop**.

1 Underline the main stress on these compound words. Use the APP to help you.

Practise saying the words.

- ▶ art gallery ▶ full stop bathroom railway station first floor address book
 bus stop phone number dishwasher capital letter police officer

2 What do we call these places or things? Use a compound noun to label each picture.



1



2



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8

3 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ I'd like to visit that art gallery.
- My phone is 07897 493321.
 - I found a police and spoke to him.
 - My brother would like to be a disc on the radio.
 - If it's a question, don't forget the question
 - What's the past and past of forget?
 ~ That's easy. *Forgot* and *forgotten*.
 - My parents live on the first of the building.
 - I waited at the bus for about twenty minutes.
 - Get on* and *get off* are both verbs.
 - You have to put a stop at the end of the sentence.
 - A new sentence always begins with a letter.



TEST YOURSELF

B In the town centre

... just after the **traffic lights**, we found a **car park**. Millie went to the **sports centre** to use the **swimming pool**, while Dan and I went to the **department store** in the new **shopping centre** to look at **washing machines**. We didn't buy one, but we had a very helpful **sales assistant**. After that, I did some shopping in the **high street**, and Dan went to the **ticket office** at the theatre. We came home after that, but Millie stayed and came back on **public transport**.



GLOSSARY

car park	an area or a building where you can leave your car
sports centre	a large building where you can play different sports
swimming pool	a place that is built for people to swim in
shopping centre	a large building or area with a lot of shops
sales assistant	a person who serves you in a shop ALSO shop assistant
high street	the main street in a town or city where the shops are
ticket office	a place in a railway station, cinema, etc. where you can buy tickets

SPOTLIGHT **centre and card**

One word often forms part of several compound words, e.g. **sports centre**, **shopping centre**, **town centre**. Another example is **card**: you give people a **birthday card** when it is their birthday; an **identity card** is a card with your name, photo, etc. on it; a **credit card** is a plastic card you use to buy things and pay for them later.

4 Find eight compound words using a word from each box.

car ✓	department	sports	office	transport	street
ticket	traffic	swimming	lights	park ✓	card
credit	public	high	pool	store	centre

car park

5 Complete the sentences.

- Matt uses the gym in the sports centre.
- I don't travel much on _____ transport these days.
- Do you normally use your _____ card to buy expensive things?
- Did you remember to send Tia a _____ card? She was 21 last week.
- A police officer asked to see my _____ card yesterday. I was very surprised.
- There are lots of cafés now in the _____ street. They're replacing shops.
- The _____ lights were red when that car went through.
- By 10.30 there are very few spaces in the car _____.
- I need to buy a new washing _____.
- They had to go to the ticket _____ to collect the tickets.
- We had a terrible _____ assistant in the _____ store yesterday.

6 Complete the sentences.

- How often do you use public transport?
- Do you have an _____ card? What information is on it?
- Do you go to a sports _____? If so, what do you do there?
- Do you have a _____ card? If so, what do you buy with it?
- Do you use a local swimming _____? If so, how often?
- How many _____ cards do you buy and send every year?
- Do you often shop in a department _____? If so, what do you buy there?

ABOUT YOU

Quite a lot. I use the buses every day.

7 ABOUT YOU Write answers to Exercise 6, or talk to another student.



TEST YOURSELF