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 **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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