

A

Formation

We form compound nouns by putting two words together (or three) to create a new idea. Compound nouns are very common in English.

Ice hockey is a game of hockey played on ice.

Public transport is transport that can be used by the public.

A **campsite** is a **site** for camping. [a place used for a special purpose]

A **babysitter** is someone who looks after young children when their parents go out.

Income tax is money you pay to the government out of your **income** [the total amount of money you receive every year from your work and other places].

Your **mother tongue** is the first language you learn as a child.

A **travel agent** is someone whose job is to make travel arrangements for you.

A **film-maker** is someone who makes films for the cinema or television.

A **full stop** is a punctuation mark at the end of a sentence.

A **haircut** is the act of cutting someone's hair, e.g. *That boy needs a haircut.*



B

One word or two?

Some compound nouns are written as one word, e.g. **wheelchair**; a few are written with a hyphen, e.g. **T-shirt**; many are written as two words, e.g. **credit card**, **bus stop**. Use a dictionary to check if necessary.

C

Pronunciation

The main stress is usually on the first part, e.g. **'haircut** or **'income tax**, but sometimes it is on the second part, e.g. **public 'transport**, **full 'stop**. Use a dictionary to check if necessary.

D

Forming new compounds

One part of a compound often forms the basis for a number of compound nouns.

airport e.g. Heathrow

airline e.g. Lufthansa, KLM

aircraft e.g. Airbus A380

bus driver

bus stop

bus station

ID card (identity card)

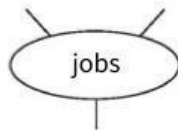
credit card

birthday card

Exercises

73.1 Complete the circles with compound nouns from the opposite page.

*public
transport*



73.2 Complete the sentences.

- I got some money from the *cashpoint*.
- I booked our holiday through a
- We stayed on a very nice, but unfortunately our tent wasn't really big enough.
- He can't walk at all now, so he has to use a to move around.
- I sent her a but she never received it; it must have got lost in the post.
- Liz and Mark wanted to go out, but they couldn't find a for the children.
- When I'm driving I always wear if it's very bright and sunny.
- Most people have to pay on their salary; the more you earn, the more you pay.
- I washed my hair, then discovered that the wasn't working.

73.3 Which words are being defined?

- A substance that you use to clean your teeth. *toothpaste*
- A piece of furniture for keeping clothes in.
- Someone who plays music on the radio or at discos.
- A card with your name, photograph and information to prove who you are.
- The first language you learn as a child.
- A game played on ice using sticks.
- A punctuation mark at the end of a sentence.
- A card you use to pay for things.

73.4 Make new compounds using one part of the compounds below. Answers for 1–6 are on the opposite page, answers for 7–12 are in other parts of the book.

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|---------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1 airport | <i>airline</i> | 7 living room | |
| 2 full stop | | 8 brother-in-law | |
| 3 hairdresser | | 9 sunglasses | |
| 4 credit card | | 10 traffic lights | |
| 5 toothpaste | | 11 wheelchair | |
| 6 bus driver | | 12 film-maker | |