

## English Vocabulary – Compound Nouns

A compound noun is a noun made from two or more words. For example, the words **tooth** and **paste** are both nouns, but if you join them together they form a new word – **toothpaste**. The first word normally modifies or describes the second word, telling us what kind of a thing that it is, or what its purpose is. For example, “toothpaste” is “paste for teeth”. More examples:

- toothbrush
- monthly ticket
- full moon
- underground
- haircut
- check-in
- output
- start-up

Compound nouns can be written:

- As one word. (ex. toothpaste, bedroom)
- As two words (ex. full moon, swimming pool)
- With a hyphen (ex. check-in, dry-cleaning)

### 1. Compound nouns written as one word:

- toothbrush
- notebook
- sunlight
- football
- airport
- bedroom
- blackboard
- willpower
- greenhouse
- lighthouse
- software
- breakfast

### 2. As two words:

- bus stop
- credit card
- coffee shop
- police officer
- free will
- school bus
- coffee cup
- washing machine
- swimming pool
- driving licence

### 3. Hyphenated:

- mother-in-law
- check-in
- runner-up
- self-control
- well-being

**Pronunciation.** For one-word compound nouns, the stress is on the first word:

- TOOTHbrush
- SUNset
- SUNrise
- NOTEbook
- LAPtop
- FOOTball

**Exercise.** Match pairs of words to form compound nouns.

bank	bear	
short	being	
tennis	account	
fairy	circuit	
natural	water	
human	glass	
mineral	phones	
polar	tale	
beer	gas	
head	court	