

Open compound nouns

Exercise 1

Match the words from column 1 with the words in column 2. _____

column 1	column 2	compound noun
full	estate	
dining	cheese	
real	coaster	
disk	page	
memory	room	
cream	aid	
apple	card	
web	mug	
fire	office	
roller	moon	
first	game	
video	band	
coffee	drive	
post	wave	
upper	pie	
sweet	exit	
vice	deck	
rubber	tooth	
radio	hockey	
ice	president	

Answer key

Exercise 1

full moon

dining room

real estate

disk drive

memory card

cream cheese

apple pie

web page

fire exit

roller coaster

first aid

video game

coffee mug

post office

upper deck

sweet tooth

vice president

rubber band

radio wave

ice hockey

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Closed compound nouns (one word)

Exercise 2

Make compound nouns to match the definitions. _____

a human figure created with snow

s _____ m _____

a cat living in forests or mountains

w _____ c _____

someone who is in the same class at school

c _____ m _____

a cosmetic product that makes your lips look colourful

l _____ s _____

a strip of ground for the landing and takeoff of planes

r _____ w _____

an arch of colours seen in the sky when the sun shines through rain

r _____ b _____

a person with reddish hair

r _____ h _____

a public place where children can play

p _____ g _____

a son of your son or daughter

g _____ s _____

the time when the sun first appears in the sky

s _____ r _____

the line of short hairs above your eyes

e _____ b _____

a sudden bright light used in taking photos

f _____ l _____

a tower with a light to guide ships at sea

l _____ h _____

a set of buttons used for typing on a computer

k _____ b _____

a book used for taking notes

n _____ b _____

a place where you can buy books

b _____ s _____

a puzzle in which you write words horizontally and vertically

c _____ w _____

a thing placed between the pages of a book to find a place

b _____ m _____

a mark made on a surface by a foot

f _____ p _____

a style in which your hair is shaped

h _____ c _____

Answer key

Exercise 2

snowman

wildcat

classmate

lipstick

runway

rainbow

redhead

playground

grandson

sunrise

eyebrow

flashlight

lighthouse

keyboard

notebook

bookshop

crossword

bookmark

footprint

haircut

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Hyphenated compound nouns

Exercise 3

Complete the definitions with compound nouns. Use the word in brackets, add one or two words and hyphens. _____

A is someone who finished second in a competition. (runner)

Your is the father of your husband or wife. (law)

In a system you are not served, but collect goods or food yourself. (self)

A is a ride for children that turns round and has seats in the form of animals. (merry)

A is a modern building with many floors. (rise)

A is a person you work with, typically in a similar role. (co)

An is a woman someone is no longer married to. (ex)

A is an extra game in a tennis match when the score is 6 : 6. (break)

An is used by doctors if they need to take pictures of bones or organs in your body. (ray)

A is a person who walks past someone or something. (by)

A is the point at which someone registers. (check)

A is something which is produced in the process of making something else. (product)

A is a company establishing its new business. (up)

A is an illegal entry of a building, usually by damaging a door or window. (in)

A is a person who tries to be friendly with important people to get an advantage. (hanger)

Answer key

Exercise 3

A runner-up is someone who finished second in a competition.

Your father-in-law is the father of your husband or wife.

In a self-service system you are not served, but collect goods or food yourself.

A merry-go-round is a ride for children that turns round and has seats in the form of animals.

A high-rise is a modern building with many floors.

A co-worker is a person you work with, typically in a similar role.

An ex-wife is a woman someone who is no longer married to.

A tie-break is an extra game in a tennis match when the score is 6 : 6.

An X-ray is used by doctors if they need to take pictures of bones or organs in your body.

A passer-by is a person who walks past someone or something.

A check-in is the point at which someone registers.

A by-product is something which is produced in the process of making something else.

A start-up is a company establishing its new business.

A break-in is an illegal entry of a building, usually by damaging a door or window.

A hanger-on is a person who tries to be friendly with important people to get an advantage.

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