

COMPOUNDS¹

WORD CLASSES	SYNTACTIC UNDERLYING REPRESENTATION	RESULTANT WORD
Noun + Noun	A case for books The report of the crime X writes songs Steam powers the engine The worm produces silk The gas produces light The door has a knob The lady is a doctor The man is like a frog The bar consists of chocolate The cloth is for the table	Bookcase Crime report Songwriter Steam engine Silkworm Gaslight Doorknob Lady doctor Frogman Chocolate bar Face cloth
Noun + Verb	The day breaks The keeping of the house X eats man	Day + break House + keeping--→ housekeeping Man + eating → man-eating
Noun + Adjective	Sick with respect to home As red as a brick Green like a sea	Homesick Brickred Seagreen
Verb + Noun	The dog watches A girl who dances X pins up the girl Water for drinking	Watch + dog→ watch + dog Dancing + girl→dancing girl Pin+up+girl→ pin-up girl Drinking +water>drinking-water
Verb + adverb	X comes back X takes it away	Come+ back → comeback Take + away→ take away
Adverbial + verb	X falls X shouts	Down+fall→ downfall Out+cry → outcry
Adjective + Adverbial	X means well X works hard X is quickly frozen	Well-meaning Hard-working Quick-frozen
Adjective + noun	The man is mad A book with a paper cover A hat for building workers X works in buildings	Madman Paperback Hard-hat Building worker cf. A hotdog, a greenhouse, a hothouse, a glasshouse

¹ COMPOUNDING IS A VERY COMPLEX SYNTACTIC PROCESS. A lot has been discussed about this word formation lexical process. In general, we can say that we find compounding when two or more free morphemes occur in combination to form a new item the meaning of which can sometimes, not always, be deduced out of the meanings that make up those pieces of language. Compound lexical items often result of the reduction of larger syntactic units.