### COMPOUND NOUNS

Nouns can be formed out of two or more combinations of words:

noun + noun: eyeline

noun + gerund: *action painting* gerund + noun: *vanishing point* 

verb + adverb: take-off

The noun can also be used as an attribute to define an object: *perspective device* (rather than *construction device*).

It can also be used to shorten such phrases as:

the frame of the picture  $\rightarrow$  picture frame the key of the car  $\rightarrow$  the car key.

The plural is formed adding -s on the second noun:  $picture\ plane \rightarrow picture\ planes$   $church\ roof \rightarrow church\ roofs$ .

However, there are some exceptions:

sister-in-law → sisters-in-law

passer-by → passers-by.

If the noun is uncountable then no plural occurs: Renaissance music.

#### **FURTHER NOTES ON COMPOUND NOUNS**

- ✓ Compound nouns are nouns formed by joining two or more already-existing words
- ✓ A compound noun is composed of one (or more) modifier(s) + a head

#### **EXAMPLES:**

action movie (open compound) singer-songwriter (hyphenated compound) artwork (solid compound)

- ✓ Often a compound noun is also a lexical collocation. It happens when neither replacement nor inversion are allowed.
- ✓ Other examples of compound words: on line, on-line, online (spelling evolution into three stages) a layout

a setup

widespread, worldwide, throughout, into, onto moreover, nonetheless, furthermore (linking words)

- ✓ remember that the first noun entering a compound (i.e., the modifier) is usually
  in the singular form, unless the first noun occurs generally in the plural form:
  a book club, movie industry, shoe manufacturer, car factory
  needs analysis, media studies
- ✓ when the first noun of a compound is a numerical expression, it is singular:
   a five-star hotel
   a ten-floor building
   a three-month English course

	A commission for a painting.
	The Madonna in Munich.
	Imaging with computers.
	Texts used for art history.
9	Strokes made by a brush.
	The collection of the Medici.
	Issues regarding art theft.
	A course for the appreciation of oil painting.

#### NOTES

Plane (picture plane) and plain (plain ground) are homophones. They have the same sound but different spellings and meaning. The English language is full of such cases.

# Exercise 7

Give alternate spellings to the following words.

whole	new	scene
SO	steal	sight
whose	sure	moor

## WORD STUDY

The suffix -ful (as in skilful) added to a noun means 'full of'. The suffix -less (as in doubtless) has the opposite meaning. Sometimes the suffix does not have the equivalent opposite (like beautiful - we cannot say beautyless!)

# Exercise 9

Add an appropriate suffix to the noun.

- 1) I think Hogarth's engravings are (WONDER).
- 2) His action was very (THOUGHT) and he regretted it afterwards.
- 3) You must be (CARE) when you handle the painting.
- 4) The auctioneers were (HOPE) they really thought they could sell the statue.
- 5) This text book is completely (USE) it's too old and out of date.