

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: $sister-in-law \rightarrow sisters-in-law$ passer-by \rightarrow 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 moreover, nonetheless, furthermore (linking words) remember that the first noun entering a compound (i.e., the modifier) is usu in the singular form, unless the first noun occurs generally in the plural forr a shoe manufacturer, a 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	-
	ercise 10 ange the following phrases into compound nouns.	
	A commission for a painting.	
2)) The Madonna in Munich.	
3)) Imaging with computers.	
4)) Texts used for art history.	
5)) Strokes made by a brush.	
6)) The collection of the Medici.	
7)) Issues regarding art theft.	
8)) 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.
- 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.