Course unit: *English for Political Studies (Advanced Level)*
Second-Cycle Degree in "International Policies and Sustainability"
October 2024

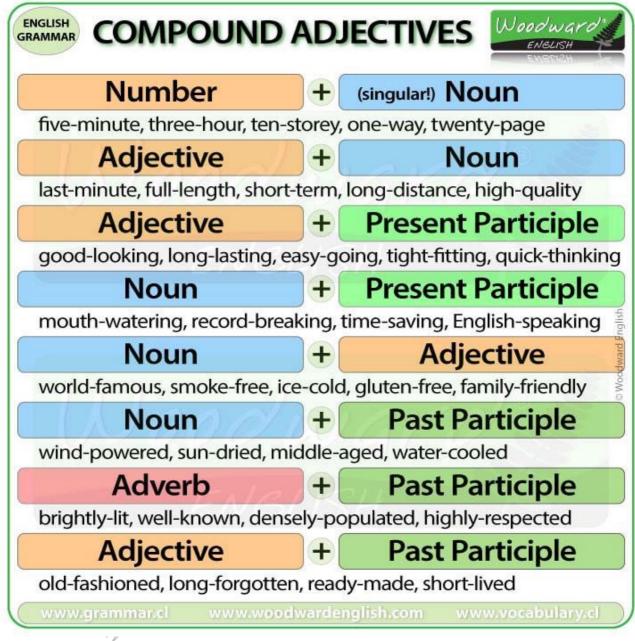# Word-Formation Processes in EPS

COMPOUNDING
(part two: compound adjectives)

The following examples, in *italics*, show some patterns of compound adjectives:

- *student-friendly* (n + adv = adj) coursebooks
- *purpose-built* (n + past part. = adj) premises
- *family-run* (n + past part. = adj) business
- *market-oriented* (n + past part. = adj) policy
- *government-led* (n + past part. = adj) investment initiatives
- *state-owned* (n + past part. = adj) concerns

A compound adjective is an adjective made up of two parts and usually written with a hyphen (a *trait d'union*, in French): the second part is frequently an *-ing form* or a past participle. Its meaning is usually clear from the words it combines.

COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

FORM

1 Two-word adjectives

Many adjectives are formed by joining two (or more) words with a hyphen (-). There are many types of combinations:

adj + noun:	a **small-scale** operation, a **long-term** policy
adj + noun + *-ed*:	a **narrow-minded** approach, a **short-sighted** policy
adj or adv + past participle:	**low-paid** workers, a **well-informed** person
adj, adv, noun + present participle:	a **high-flying** professional, a **far-reaching** effect, a **record-breaking** year, a **problem-solving** approach
noun + adj:	a **tax-free** salary, a **brand-new** product

A few compound adjectives consist of three words:

the **day-to-day** organisation   **up-to-date** information

an **out-of-court** settlement   a **down-to-earth** approach

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A particular group of compound adjectives are those where the second part is a preposition. Some of these adjectives are listed below along with a typical noun:

- an *all-out*[1] strike
- a *run-down*[2] area
- a *built-up*[3] area
- *well-off*[4] bankers

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[1] A synonym for *total.*
[2] A synonym for *in poor condition.*
[3] A synonym for *with lots of buildings in it.*
[4] A synonym for *wealthy*.

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