

Word-Formation Processes in English for Veterinary Medicine

**** 2. Compound Adjectives****

1

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

- *4-footed* friends
- *antibiotic-resistant* strains
- *black-footed* ferrets¹
- *bloodsucking* insect²
- *BSE-infected* products
- *cloven-hooved* or *cloven-footed* animals³
- *disease-causing* agent
- *drug-resistant* strains
- *evidence-based* prevention
- *foodborne*⁴ illnesses/diseases

¹ The "black-footed ferret" (*Mustela nigripes*), also known as the "American polecat" or "prairie dog hunter", is a species of mustelid native to central North America. **Equivalents in Italian:** "furetto dai piedi neri", "puzzola americana", "cacciatore di cani della prateria".

² "Bloodsucking insects" can torment humans and animals and can transmit disease. They are all parasites of humans or other host animals and are abundant at certain times of the year. Bloodsucking insects can be grouped as mosquitoes, flies, lice, and true bugs. **Equivalents in Italian:** "insetti ematofagi".

³ A "cloven hoof" (also called "cleft hoof", "divided hoof" or "split hoof") is a hoof split into two toes. This is found on members of the mammalian order *Artiodactyla*. Examples of mammals that possess this type of hoof are cattle, deer, antelopes, gazelles, goats, and sheep. Note that the noun *hoof* has two plural forms: *hooves* and *hoofs*, both of them pronounced /hʊvz/.

Equivalents in Italian: "animali biungulati".

⁴ **WARNING!** "borne" is one of the two past participles of the transitive irregular verb *to bear*, *bore*, *born* / *borne*, *bearing*:

- *off-label* drug use⁵
- *purebred* dogs and cats
- *purpose-built* premises
- *short-beaked* common dolphins⁶
- *short-hair[ed]* or *long-hair[ed]* cats
- *spontaneously-occurring* case of BSE or *scrapie-infected* sheep product
- *student-friendly* coursebooks
- *thoroughbred* horse
- *warm-blooded* animals
- *white-footed* mouse⁷

English-Italian

bear LISTEN: UK ['bɛə]

definizione | Sinonimi inglesi | collocazioni inglesi | in spagnolo
Conjugator [EN] | nel contesto | immagini

Inflections of 'bear' (n):
bears: npl (All usages)
bear: npl (Can be used as a collective plural—e.g. "The bear.")

Inflections of 'bear' (v): (⇒ conjugate)
bears: v 3rd person singular
bearing: v pres p
bore: v past (All other usages)

(source: <https://www.wordreference.com/enit/bear>; see also the OALD at the items "bear" as a verb and "-borne").

Italian equivalents in a specifically-scientific context: "portare", "sostenere", "trasmettere", "generare".

⁵ "Off-label use" is the use of pharmaceutical drugs for an unapproved indication or in an unapproved age group, dosage, or route of administration. Off-label use is generally legal unless it violates ethical guidelines or safety regulations. The ability to prescribe drugs for uses beyond the officially approved indications is commonly used to good effect by healthcare providers. **Equivalents in Italian:** "uso di farmaci al di fuori delle condizioni autorizzate dagli enti predisposti per patologia, popolazione o posologia", "uso di farmaci in modalità *off-label*".

⁶ The short-beaked common dolphin is a marine mammal and a member of the genus *Delphinus*, within the dolphin family *Delphinidae* (cfr. Linneus, 1758). **Equivalent in Italian:** "delfino comune".

⁷ Any of several North American woodland mice of the genus *Peromyscus*, esp. *P. leucopus*, having white feet and undersides. Also called "deer mouse", "vesper mouse", "wood mouse". **Equivalent in Italian:** "topo di campagna".

- *X-chromosome-linked* colors

A compound adjective is an adjective made up of two items and written as a solid compound or mostly with a hyphen (a *trait d'union*, in French) as a hyphenated compound: the second part is frequently a past participle or an *-ing* verbal form – i.e. the third and the fourth column of a verbal paradigm – but not only as you can read on the tables below.

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 + <i>-ed</i> :	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

table 1

ENGLISH GRAMMAR		COMPOUND ADJECTIVES		Woodward's ENGLISH
Number	+	(singular!)	Noun	
five-minute, three-hour, ten-storey, one-way, twenty-page				
Adjective	+		Noun	
last-minute, full-length, short-term, long-distance, high-quality				
Adjective	+		Present Participle	
good-looking, long-lasting, easy-going, tight-fitting, quick-thinking				
Noun	+		Present Participle	
mouth-watering, record-breaking, time-saving, English-speaking				
Noun	+		Adjective	
world-famous, smoke-free, ice-cold, gluten-free, family-friendly				
Noun	+		Past Participle	
wind-powered, sun-dried, middle-aged, water-cooled				
Adverb	+		Past Participle	
brightly-lit, well-known, densely-populated, highly-respected				
Adjective	+		Past Participle	
old-fashioned, long-forgotten, ready-made, short-lived				
www.grammar.cl		www.woodwardenglish.com		www.vocabulary.cl

table 2

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*⁸ war
- a *run-down*⁹ inner-city area
- Some animals have a *built-in*¹⁰ sense of directions
- a *built-up*¹¹ area
- a *well-off*¹² family

⁸ A synonym for "total".

⁹ A synonym for "in poor condition".

¹⁰ A synonym for "inherent", "permanently installed".

¹¹ A synonym for "developed", "urbanized".

¹² A synonym for "wealthy".