

COMPOUND WORDS

A compound word is a word constructed from two or more words that have been joined together.

Compound words
written as one word

notebook	lakefront
fingernail	keyboard
lighthouse	backyard
saltshaker	teenager
dinnertime	butterfly
expressway	baseball
loudspeaker	outside

Compound words
separated by hyphens

first-rate
merry-go-round
son-in-law
light-year
baby-sitter
matter-of-fact
toss-up
double-check

Compound words
written as two words

roller coaster	bar code
space shuttle	peanut butter
fire escape	ice cream
banana split	jump rope
living room	post office
sweet tooth	

sky

scraper

Compound Words

Getting Started

Distribute a copy of the mini-chart on page 61 to each student. Then, discuss the definition of a compound word as well as the different ways compound words can be written. Compound words written as one word are called *closed* compounds. *Open* compound words are written as two separate words. *Hyphenated* compounds are two or more words separated by hyphens.

Point out to students that checking a dictionary is the best way to find out whether a compound word is open, closed, or hyphenated.

The mini-chart and the activities that follow are a fun way to explore compound words.

Clap for Compound Words

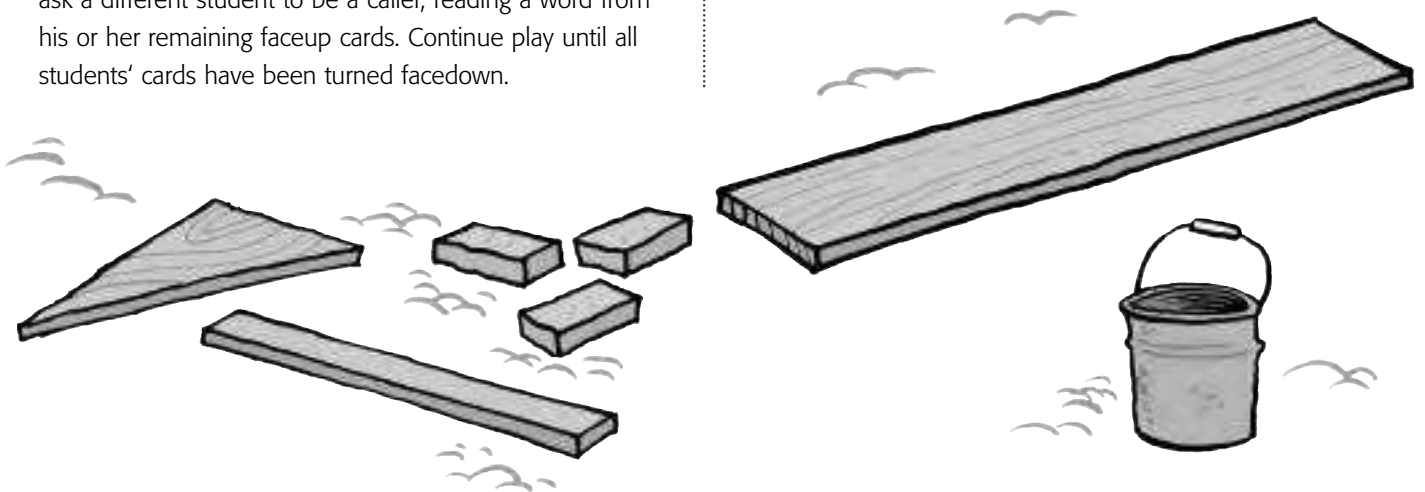
Use this active game to help students identify compound words. First, provide each student with five index cards. Then, ask them to search the room to find items that are represented by compound words. Have them write each word on a separate index card and place the cards faceup on their desks. Invite a student to be a “caller.” He or she will read a compound word from one of his or her cards. If any other students have that same word on their cards, they give a little clap. Then all the students with the matching word turn that card facedown on their desk. For each round, ask a different student to be a caller, reading a word from his or her remaining faceup cards. Continue play until all students’ cards have been turned facedown.

Compound Words Concentration Game

Pairs of students can play this compound-word memory game. Make a copy of the reproducible on page 63 and cut out all the word cards. To play the game, a pair of students turns the cards facedown on a table. The first player flips over two cards. If the words on the cards can be combined to create a compound word, the player names the word, explains its meaning, puts the cards aside, and takes another turn. If words can’t be combined, the other player takes a turn. Players take turns until all cards are used. The player with the most words at the end of the game wins.

Compound Word Relay

Divide students into three groups for this challenging relay. Provide each group with a copy of page 64. Then, give the class a topic, such as “on the road” or “lunchtime.” Ask each group to brainstorm as many compound words as possible related to the topic. Then encourage them to look their words up in the dictionary to determine whether they are closed, open, or hyphenated compound words. Each group should then record their words in the three-column chart on page 64. Finally, invite the groups to share their lists and add up the compound words that all groups wrote.



space

row

lunch

neck

sand

board

fall

ship

eye

work

lid

goal

turtle

box

rail

water

ice

cup

road

keeper

time

boat

tea

ground

bow

key

home

rain

cream

hog

Name _____ Date _____

Compound Word Sort

Sort the compound words you brainstormed into the three categories listed below.

OPEN	CLOSED	HYPHENATED