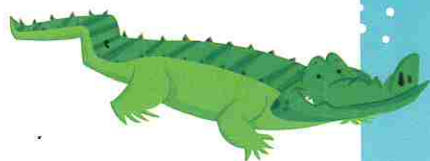


Hyphens

Compound words are words made from two or more shorter words. They have one unit of meaning. Compound **nouns** do not usually have a **hyphen** (-).

- A **football** is a ball you kick with your **foot**.



We do use hyphens to join words that make compound **adjectives**.

- The **man-eating** crocodile lurked on the bank of the deep river.
- The **rosy-cheeked** children sang and danced in the park.

Get started

Copy out these sentences, underlining the compound word in each one. These compound words do not have hyphens. One has been done for you.

1. This morning, our headteacher said he had an exciting new scheme to challenge us.
2. He said the school had won some money, and asked us to design a new school playground.
3. For the last two years, I have been the goalkeeper in our school team.
4. Therefore, of course, I designed a large grassy area to act as a huge football pitch.
5. The day they revealed the winner, we had a great party outdoors with music and cakes.
6. The newspaper reporter came to report on the event.
7. She wanted to conduct an interview with the prizewinner.
8. The winning design – which was not mine – included a big classroom space in the fresh air.



Try these

Look at each pair of phrases. Copy out the phrases that use hyphens correctly. One has been done for you.

1. a) The short-sighted man

- b) The short sighted man

Answer: *The short-sighted man*

2. a) Our city centre school

- b) Our city-centre school

3. a) Pretty gold hair

- b) Pretty-gold hair

4. a) The kind-hearted girl

- b) The kind hearted girl

5. a) The kind old man

- b) The kind-old man

6. a) One two-year-old child

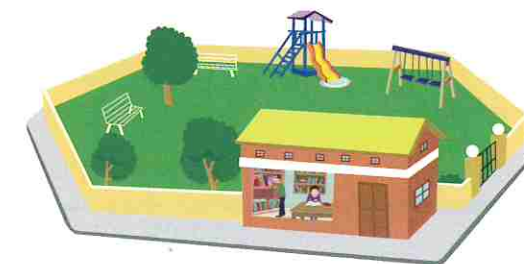
- b) One two year-old child

7. a) The dish washing sponge

- b) The dish-washing sponge

8. a) A happy go-lucky smile

- b) A happy-go-lucky smile



Now try these

Change each phrase into a description that uses a hyphenated compound adjective. Then use it in a sentence.

1. Paint that dries quickly

2. Cow that has brown spots

3. Mouse with three legs

4. Man who eats fire

5. Bird with yellow feathers

6. Lizard with a long neck

