Compound Words - Individual Activities

**Compound word:** a word (with a single unit of meaning) that is made by putting two (or more) existing words together.

**Important:** these activities were used after copious group work on compound words, decoding and predicting meaning. They are not designed to be used in isolation. Do not bombard your learners with all the worksheets – be selective! Please see our accompanying resource, **themed compound word games**, for ideas for paired and whole group activities.

**Main Entry 3 Curriculum References**
(many activities also suitable for Entry 2 and Level 1)
Split compound words into component parts for reading and spelling, e.g. football, himself, underneath, airport, playground.

Ww/E3.1 - Spell correctly common words and relevant key words for work and special interest.

Ww/E3.2 - Use developing knowledge of sound-symbol relationships and phonological patterns to help spell a greater range of words and longer words. (c) Understand how segmenting words into phonemes and breaking them into syllables (beats) phonemes or components (compounds) helps work out spelling.

Rw/E3.5 - Use a variety of reading strategies to help decode an increasing range of unfamiliar words (c) apply knowledge of sound and letter patterns and of structure of words, including compounds, root words, grammatical endings, prefixes, suffixes and syllable divisions to help decode words. E.g. read common compound words such as underneath, airport, whiteboard; split compound words into two to discuss their likely origins.

Rs/E3.2 - Use implicit and explicit knowledge of different types of words (e.g. connectives, nouns, verbs, adjectives), of word order, and of possible plausible meanings to help decode unfamiliar words & predict meaning. (a) understand that grammatical patterns, word order, types of word and meanings are inter-related and that only certain types of words and certain meanings will make sense in any particular place in a sentence.

**Contents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Curriculum links and contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>(G) Dictionary definitions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 2</td>
<td>(A) Spelling and vocabulary</td>
<td>Page 8</td>
<td>(H) Weather report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 3</td>
<td>(B) Reading practice</td>
<td>Page 9</td>
<td>(I) Sports word search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 4</td>
<td>(C) Reading and spelling</td>
<td>Page 10</td>
<td>(A-D) answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 5</td>
<td>(D) Spelling practice</td>
<td>Page 11</td>
<td>(E-H) answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 6</td>
<td>(E) Compound pairs</td>
<td>Page 12</td>
<td>(I) answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 7</td>
<td>(F) Foodstuff!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To obtain an editable version of the original Word document please send teaching ideas or any adult basic skills resource that you would like to share to maggie@skillsworkshop.org

THANK YOU
### A Recognising and spelling compound nouns

Write the compound nouns under the pictures.

| Tip | Each part of the compound word must spell a proper word. If you get stuck – read **Sheet B** for some clues. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><img src="image" alt="toothbrush" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="cloth" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="mushroom" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>toothbrush</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><img src="image" alt="flip-flops" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="horse" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="weather vane" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><img src="image" alt="pineapple" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="drinking glass" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="cloth" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><img src="image" alt="whiteboard" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="bellflower" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="helmet" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><img src="image" alt="turbine" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="screwdriver" /></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="clip" /></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
B Reading practice

Fill in the gaps with the compound nouns from sheet A. Use each word only once.

1. The ____________ snapped so I used the tumble drier.
2. I made my daughter some ________________ butter sandwiches.
3. There is a pot of gold at the end of a ________________.
4. A ________________ looks like a mushroom but can be poisonous.
5. He ordered gammon and ________________ for his lunch.
6. We have a new electronic ________________ in the classroom.
7. The old ________________ has fallen off the church roof.
8. A sunrise ________________ is made with tequila and orange juice.
9. The ________________ is one of the first spring flowers.
10. I need a ________________ before I can fix the broken toy.
11. Red Rum was a famous ________________.
12. The spray from the ________________ cooled me down.
13. I will buy a new ________________ at the chemist.
15. Children love having ________________ fights in the winter.

Read each sentence all the way through. Cross off each compound word picture as you use it.
Part of each compound word is missing.
Complete each word.

\[
\text{tip}\quad \text{The grid on sheet D shows the number of letters in each compound word.}
\]

1. I like to make _______nut stuffing to go with roast turkey.
2. Night driving gives Steve a bad head_______.
3. The cycle track is a good short_______ to the shops.
4. She left a trail of foot_______s in the sand.
5. _______back books are expensive but make a nice gift.
6. I love walking _______foot on the beach.
7. Sarah always keeps a _______back book in her bag.
8. We really want a dish_______ in the kitchen.
9. The _______path is blocked by a fallen tree.
10. My kitchen cup_______s need replacing.
11. She liked to have back_______ music whilst she was working.
12. The Queen had two foot_______ standing at the back of her carriage.
13. The shop had a huge foot_______ sale.
14. My back_______ is really heavy.
15. The surprise birth_______ party was a great success!
D  Spelling practice

Write the words from sheet D in the grid. Find the two hidden compound words.

Hidden compound words

(a) __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

(b) __ __ __ __ __

Hidden word (b) is found at an airport.
### Compound pairs

The same word is missing from each pair of compound words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>sauce________</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>post________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cake</td>
<td></td>
<td>board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>news________</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>whirl________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>back</td>
<td></td>
<td>screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>sun________</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>wind________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>house</td>
<td></td>
<td>stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>pea________</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>star________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pit</td>
<td></td>
<td>cake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>cart________</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>clothes______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>barrow</td>
<td></td>
<td>radish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>hot________</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>snow________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fish</td>
<td></td>
<td>point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tip:** The picture clues (shown in a random order) will help you with some word pairs.
Foodstuff!

Match the words together to make new food words. Write the new food words inside the blank shapes.

Tip: Tick the words as you use them. Use each shape only once.

- hot
- cress
- burger
- dog
- nut
- water
- horse
- drum
- ham
- milk
- food
- stick
- radish
- pea
- shake
- butter
- comb
- honey
- milk
- stuff

food + stuff = 1 foodstuff

_/\ + \_/\ = 2
\_/\ + \_/\ = 3
\_/\ + \_/\ = 4
\_/\ + \_/\ = 5
\_/\ + \_/\ = 6
\_/\ + \_/\ = 7
\_/\ + \_/\ = 8
\_/\ + \_/\ = 9
\_/\ + \_/\ = 10
Dictionary definitions

Read the definitions and work out the compound word.

Use a dictionary to check your spellings.

The words below are listed in alphabetical order.

c_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ A room where students are taught.
_ _ _ _ _ _ Made by a spider.
_c _ _ _ _ y _ _ _ A space surrounded by buildings or walls.
_c _ _ s _ _ _ A small yellow wildflower.
_c _ _ _ b _ _ _ _ A small dark red fruit used to make sauce.
d_ _ _ _ _ _ f _ _ A beautiful insect with transparent wings.
d_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ 1. A piece of chicken
2. Used to beat a musical instrument.
e_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ A sudden shaking inside the earth.
e_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ A large purple vegetable.
f_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Part of the face between the hair and eyes.
g_ _ _ _ f _ _ _ _ A bright orange pet kept in a bowl
_ _ _ _ _ _ f _ _ _ _ A large yellow sour fruit.
g_ _ _ _ _ y _ _ _ A place where bodies are buried.

Choose 2 new compound words and write your own definitions

__________________  ____________________ _________________
__________________  ____________________ _________________


Spot the compound words

Read the text and circle the compound words. Write them in the list.

There are 21 compound words in the text. Work for 5-10 minutes then discuss and swap ideas with a partner.

Long range weather report

A dry weekend for many areas with some sunshine in the southeast of England.

By midweek, most places will see a fair amount of rainfall, with some heavy downpours in Scotland, particularly the Highlands.

Northern Ireland and western parts of the mainland are also likely to see strong winds, with speeds up to 70mph forecast which could cause uprooted trees and some structural damage.

However, by Thursday the wind should die down but it will remain overcast and wet at times.

The overall picture is that the weather will remain changeable, with temperatures feeling agreeably warm during the sunnier spells. This could lead to occasional thunderstorms.

Please remember to put your clocks backward one hour when British summertime finishes at 2am on Sunday morning.

1 ____________ 2 ____________ 3 ____________ 4 ____________ 5 ____________ 6 ____________ 7 ____________ 8 ____________ 9 ____________ 10 ____________ 11 ____________ 12 ____________ 13 ____________ 14 ____________ 15 ____________ 16 ____________ 17 ____________ 18 ____________ 19 ____________ 20 ____________ 21 ____________
I Sports word search

Circle the compound words. Write them in the list.

Tip: There are 20 compound words in the word search. All are related to sport. Words go across and down. They do not go backwards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>if</td>
<td>sk</td>
<td>at</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>bo</td>
<td>ar</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>q</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>q</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>q</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reading and spelling compound words: Ww/E3.1 Ww/E3.2 Rw/E3.5 Rw/E3.2

© Maggie Harnew 2006
Sheets A and B

1. The clothesline snapped so I used the tumble drier.
2. I made my daughter some peanut butter sandwiches.
3. There is a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.
4. A toadstool looks like a mushroom but can be poisonous.
5. He ordered gammon and pineapple for his lunch.
6. We have a new electronic whiteboard in the classroom.
7. The old weathercock has fallen off the church roof.
8. A sunrise cocktail is made with tequila and orange juice.
9. The snowdrop is one of the first spring flowers.
10. I need a screwdriver before I can fix the broken toy.
11. Red Rum was a famous racehorse.
12. The spray from the waterfall cooled me down.
13. I will buy a new toothbrush at the chemist.
15. Children love having snowball fights in the winter.

Sheets C and D

Hidden compound words
a. thunderstorm  b. runway

```
1  chestnut
2  headache
3  shortcut
4  footprints
5  hardback
6  barefoot
7  paperback
8  dishwasher
9  footpath
10 cupboards
11 background
12 footmen
13 footwear
14 backpack
15 birthday
```
Compound Words
Answers

Sheets E and F

1 saucepan pancake
2 newspaper paperback
3 sunlight lighthouse
4 peacock cockpit
5 cartwheel wheelbarrow
6 hotdog dogfish
7 postcard cardboard
8 whirlwind windscreen
9 windmill millstone
10 starfish fishcake
11 clotheshorse horseradish
12 snowball ballpoint

Foodstuff, hamburger, horseradish, hotdog, buttermilk, milkshake, drumstick, watercress, peanut, honeycomb

Sheets G and H

classroom A room where students are taught.
cobweb Made by a spider.
courtyard A space surrounded by buildings or walls.
cowslip A small yellow wildflower.
cranberry A small dark red fruit used to make sauce.
dragonfly A beautiful insect with transparent wings.
drumstick 1. A piece of chicken 2. Used to beat a musical instrument.
earthquake A sudden shaking inside the earth.
eggplant A large purple vegetable.
forehead Part of the face between the hair and eyes.
goldfish A bright orange pet kept in a bowl
grapefruit A large yellow sour fruit.
graveyard A place where bodies are buried.

A dry weekend for many areas with some sunshine in the southeast of England. By midweek, most places will see a fair amount of rainfall, with some heavy downpours in Scotland, particularly the Highlands. Northern Ireland and western parts of the mainland are also likely to see strong winds, with speeds up to 70mph forecast which could cause uprooted trees and some structural damage. However, by Thursday the wind should die down but it will remain overcast and wet at times. The overall picture is that the weather will remain changeable, with temperatures feeling agreeably warm during the sunnier spells. This could lead to occasional thunderstorms.

Please remember to put your clocks backward one hour when British summertime finishes at 2am on Sunday morning.
Sheet I

| i | f | s | k | a | t | e | b | o | a | r | d | g | k | k |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| l | c | h | a | m | p | i | o | n | s | h | i | p | p | t | t |
| i | q | b | k | s | r | a | c | e | c | o | u | r | e | s |
| n | s | i | i | u | s | p | o | r | t | s | w | e | a | r |
| e | h | g | c | r | z | s | k | y | d | i | v | i | n | g |
| s | u | o | k | f | v | j | b | a | s | e | b | a | l | l |
| m | t | a | o | b | a | c | k | s | t | r | o | k | e | c |
| a | t | l | f | o | v | o | l | l | y | b | a | l | l |
| n | l | k | f | a | u | s | s | n | o | w | b | o | a | r | d |
| m | e | e | p | r | w | i | n | d | s | u | r | f | e | r |
| j | c | e | q | d | b | a | c | k | h | a | n | d | g | m |
| e | o | p | h | o | r | s | e | r | a | c | i | n | g | p |
| a | c | e | i | o | f | o | o | o | o | o | o | o | o | o |
| s | k | r | c | u | b | a | s | k | t | b | a | l | l |
| f | k | i | c | k | b | o | x | i | n | g | x | p | j | q |

backhand championship kickboxing shuttlecock sportswear
backstroke football kickoff skateboard surfboard
baseball goalkeeper linesman skydiving volleyball
basketball horseracing racecourse snowboard windsurfer