

Compound Nouns



A noun can be made up of one, two, or more words.

- ★ The words in the box are compound nouns. Use the compound nouns to complete the passage. One has been done for you.



Mother Teresa Roman Catholic St Mary's High School
Bharat Ratna Missionaries of Charity Nobel Peace Prize

Mother Teresa was a Roman Catholic nun. She is regarded as a modern-day saint for working selflessly for the poorest of the poor. At the age of 16, she taught at St Mary's High School in Kolkata. Later, she formed her own order called the Missionaries of Charity. She was considered a messiah of peace and compassion. She won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. In 1980, she was awarded with the Bharat Ratna.

- ★ Tick the compound nouns in each set. Cross the word which is not a compound noun.

★ ☒ teaspoon ☒ Sunil Gavaskar ☒ sing ☒ paper-clip ☒ track ☒ mother-in-law
★ ☒ cleaners ☒ jogging park ☒ handful ☒ bookshelf ☒ cabinet ☒ Auntie Suzy
★ ☒ fruit ☒ hovercraft ☒ hill station ☒ prime minister ☒ blazer ☒ courtroom

- ★ Complete the sentences with the compound nouns from the box.

subway matchstick sunflower woodpecker zookeeper
passer-by candlelight news-stand beehive woodland



1. A passer-by caught the robber who tried to snatch my purse in a subway.
2. A beehive was hanging from a tree, made hollow by the pecking of a woodpecker.
3. We lit a candle with a matchstick and had dinner by candlelight.
4. The magazine on the news-stand carried a picture of a beetle and a sunflower.
5. The zookeeper toiled hard to create a beautiful woodland around the zoo.

Say it aloud

- A compound noun is made up of **two** or **more** nouns combined to form a single noun, e.g. book + mark = bookmark.
- Some compound nouns are written as **separate words**, e.g. washing machine, United Nations. Some are **linked** by a **hyphen**, e.g. bird-of-prey, station-master. Some appear as **one word**, e.g. hamburger, Disneyland.
- A compound noun can be **proper** or **common**. The first letter of each word in a proper compound noun is capitalized, e.g. Rajiv Gandhi Park.