

## COMPOUND NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

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### COMPOUND NOUNS

**A big deal** – a big problem or event. (This is not a compound noun, but it's so useful I've added it to the list).

*'I missed the train, but it wasn't a big deal.'*

**A breakthrough** – you're working on a problem and then you suddenly make a big step forward. You haven't solved the problem but you're on your way. This is a breakthrough.

*'I've just made a breakthrough on the case. We've found a new piece of evidence.'*

**To have burnout** – to work too hard and then feel so tired and disillusioned you don't want to work on that job anymore.

*'My cousin made a lot of money as a trader on the stock exchange, but he had burnout by the time he was forty.'*

**A comeback** – something that was popular before and then falls from popularity makes a 'big return.'

*'Vinyl records are making a comeback.'*

**A conversation-killer** – when something 'kills' a conversation.

*'Talking about IT problems with friends is often a conversation killer.'*

**To have a change-of-heart / to have a change-of-mind** – to change your mind.

*'I have had a change of heart. We should paint the living room blue instead.'*

**A daredevil** – someone who likes to do dangerous things for fun.

*'My cousin is a daredevil; he loves extreme sports.'*

**A drawback** – a disadvantage.

*'I drawback of using the cloud is that you need a good internet connection.'*

**A heads-up** – to have a warning about something so that you can prepare for it.

*'Heads-up; we're having a meeting this afternoon and I want you to explain the issue to the directors.'*

**To be a lifesaver** – someone/ something that helps you.

*'Thanks for chairing the meeting – you're a lifesaver.'*

**A must-see** – a film, place or event that someone must see.

*'What is a must-see in your city? In London it has to be the Natural History Museum.'*

**A no-brainer** – the decision is so easy you don't have to use your brain.

*'Do you want to take tomorrow off (with no repercussions)?' 'Of course, it's a no-brainer!'*

**A no-show** – someone who was supposed to attend a meeting, call or event doesn't show up (come).

*'I've had three sessions today and one no-show.'*

**A onetime thing** – something that happens only once.

*'You have to come with me to see the inauguration of the new museum. It's a onetime opportunity.'*

**An outcome** – result

*'The outcome of the meeting was good. We got a new client!'*

**A painkiller** – paracetamol or aspirin.

*'I took a painkiller for my headache.'*

**A setback** – you're working on something but there is a problem which takes the project back a step.

*'We were going to launch the product next week but we've had a setback so we'll have to delay.'*

**A timesaver** – something that saves you time.

*'A Nespresso machine is a timesaver in the morning when you just want a quick coffee.'*

**To make a to-do list** – a list of things that you have to do.

*'What's on the to-do list this morning? Do you have time for a coffee?'*

**A trade-off** – a compromise.

*'A career is a trade-off between doing what you want to do and doing what your boss requires you to do.'*

**A washout** – when no one comes to an event (often due to the bad weather).

*'We planned a picnic, but it was a washout due to the thunderstorm.'*

**A win-win** – both sides win.

*'Let my company help you with this. We get a new client and you finish your project early. It's a win-win.'*

## COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

Just like compound nouns, a compound adjective is made of two words joined together by a hyphen to make a new meaning. There are lots of great adjectives to teach C1 students.

For a complete list take a look at our **Extreme Adjective** post.

**To be ground-breaking** – a new thing which is so important it's going to change the world.

**To be life-changing** – something that changes one's life.

**To be long-lasting** – something that has a long duration.

**To be ongoing** – something that continues for a long time.

*'An ongoing issue.'*

**To be time-consuming** – something that takes lot of time to do.

**To be thought-provoking** – something that makes you think.