

Lesson Plan: Compound adjectives

Level	Advanced (C1)
Time	60–90 minutes
Skills	Vocabulary, writing
Focus	Forming and using compound adjectives correctly; hyphenation rules

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Form common compound adjectives correctly and know when to hyphenate
- Understand the different patterns: adjective-noun, noun-adjective, adverb-adjective, etc.
- Use compound adjectives to make writing more precise and concise
- Avoid ambiguity by using hyphens correctly

TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

Patterns

- Adjective + noun + -ed: a short-sighted approach, a long-term investment
- Number + noun: a five-year plan, a three-hour meeting
- Adverb + past participle: a well-known author, a highly-skilled team
- Noun + present participle: a thought-provoking idea, a time-consuming task

Hyphenation rules

- Before a noun: a well-known author (hyphenated)
- After a verb: The author is well known. (no hyphen)
- With adverbs in -ly: a highly skilled employee (no hyphen — most style guides)

Precision and concision

- 'a plan that will last five years' → 'a five-year plan'
- 'an argument that makes you think' → 'a thought-provoking argument'
- 'a meeting that lasts three hours' → 'a three-hour meeting'

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up (10 min)

Task: Compound adjective race: students write as many as they can in 3 minutes.

- Judge for spelling, hyphenation, and meaning.

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Introduce 4 main patterns with examples.

- Hyphenation focus: attributive (before noun) vs. predicative (after verb).
- Tricky cases: most adverb + pp compounds don't need a hyphen when the adverb ends in -ly.

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Rewrite phrases using compound adjectives.

- 'a contract that lasts 6 months' → 'a six-month contract'
- 'a person who speaks two languages' → 'a bilingual person' (different strategy — discuss)

4. Writing task (25 min)

Task: Write a product or project description using at least 8 compound adjectives.

- Peer check: are hyphens used correctly?

5. Error correction (5–10 min)

Task: Fix 5 hyphenation errors in a marketing text.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Rewrite 8 phrases as compound adjectives, paying attention to hyphenation.
2. Write a short professional description of a project or product using at least 6 compound adjectives.
3. Find 10 compound adjectives in a news or business article. Which patterns do they follow?