

Lesson Plan: Compound nouns

Level: Beginner/Intermediate (A2–B1)

Time: 60 minutes

Skill Focus: Vocabulary, reading, speaking

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will:

- Recognize what compound nouns are and how they are formed.
- Use compound nouns correctly in speech and writing.
- Differentiate between open, hyphenated, and closed compound nouns.

Materials

- Whiteboard or projector
- Printed handouts (compound noun matching and gap-fill)
- Flashcards or image prompts (optional)
- Markers, pens, notebooks

Warm-Up (10 min)

Activity: *Brainstorm & Categorize*

- Ask students: "What do we call a place where we wait for a bus?"
(Expected: *bus stop*)
- Elicit other everyday compound nouns: toothpaste, mailbox, bedroom, etc.

- Write them on the board and ask: What do these words have in common?

Transition: "These are all **compound nouns**—let's explore what that means!"

Presentation (10 min)

Explain:

- A compound noun is made when two words are joined to make a new noun with a specific meaning.
- Types:
 - **Closed** (toothpaste)
 - **Hyphenated** (mother-in-law)
 - **Open** (bus stop)

Use visual aids and write examples under each category.

Practice Activities (25 min)

1. Matching Game (10 min)

- Hand out cut-up word cards (e.g., "hair" + "cut", "sun" + "flower").
- In pairs, students match words to form correct compound nouns.
- Share and correct as a class.

2. Gap-Fill Exercise (10 min)

- Provide a short story or paragraph with missing compound nouns.

Example:

I went to the _____ to catch a train. (train station)

- Students fill in the blanks using a word bank.

3. Picture Prompt Discussion (5 min)

- Show images (e.g., toothpaste, skateboard, laptop).
- Ask: "What is this?" → "Is this one word or two?" → Identify compound nouns.

Production (10 min)

Activity: *Create a Compound Noun Poster*

- In groups, students choose a category (school, home, technology, etc.) and list 5–7 compound nouns with illustrations or sample sentences.
- Share posters with the class.

Wrap-Up & Homework (5 min)

- Quick quiz: You say one half of a compound noun, they guess the rest (e.g., "tooth..." → "brush!").
- Homework: Write a short paragraph using at least 5 compound nouns.