



1st semester

Topic 23:

Compound adjectives



Definition ,,,

Two or more words (such as part-time or high-speed) that act as a single idea to modify a noun (a part-time employee, a high-speed chase) or A compound adjective is an adjective that contains two or more words.

In general we put a hyphen between two or more words (before a noun) when we want them to act as a single idea (adjective) that describes something.

I live in an English-speaking country.

Types of Compound adjectives

Compound Adjectives + Periods of Time

When we have compound adjectives using numbers + a time period, that word referring to a time period is in singular form and is joined to the number with a hyphen.

- I work eight hours every day --> I work an **eight-hour** day
- I'm going on vacation for three weeks --> I have a **three-week** vacation
- There was a delay of 5 seconds --> There was a **five-second** delay
- Notice how we normally write the number as a word, not in numerical form.

Adverb + Past Participle

However when we have an Adverb + past participle, we put a hyphen between the two words to make it a compound adjective.

- This is a **brightly-lit** room.
- She is a **well-known** actress.
- We live in a **densely-populated** city.

Noun + Past Participle

When we have a noun + past participle, we put a hyphen between the two words to make it a compound adjective.

- We should start using **wind-powered** generators to cut costs.
- I love eating **sun-dried** raisins.

Noun + Present Participle

When we have a noun + present participle, we put a hyphen between the two words to make it a compound adjective.

- I bought some **mouth-watering** strawberries.
- That was a **record-breaking** jump.

Noun + Adjective

When we have a noun + adjective, we put a hyphen between the two words to make it a compound adjective.

- She is a **world-famous** singer.
- This is a **smoke-free** restaurant.

Adjective + Noun

When we have an adjective + noun, we put a hyphen between the two words to make it a compound adjective.

- It was a **last-minute** decision.
- We watched the **full-length** version of the movie.

Adjective + Past Participle

When we have an adjective + past participle, we put a hyphen between the two words to make it a compound adjective.

- That is an **old-fashioned** dress
- Reptiles are **cold-blooded** creatures.

Adjective + Present Participle

When we have an adjective + present participle, we put a hyphen between the two words to make it a compound adjective.

- She is a **good-looking** girl.
- It left a **long-lasting** taste in my mouth.