

# Compound Nouns: Formation, Spacing, and Plurals

Medium

A2 | Elementary | Pre-intermediate

Noun

English Grammar Basics

1. Complete the real estate agent's enthusiastic email to a plant-loving client.

You will absolutely love this property! It features a massive \_\_\_\_\_ in the backyard where you can grow tropical plants all winter.

Select one.

- A) green house
- B) green-house
- C) greenhouse
- D) greens house

2. Detective Paws is cataloging evidence from the great bakery heist, but his spelling is a bit rusty. Select ALL the items that are written as correctly formatted compound nouns.

Select all that apply.

- A) A half-eaten **cupcake** was found near the safe.
- B) The thief left a **finger print** on the display glass.
- C) There was a suspicious **getaway car** parked in the alley.
- D) We discovered a broken **rollingpin** under the counter.

3. Finish the local newspaper's report on the chaotic pie-baking contest.

Because the judge accidentally ate the scorecards, there were three \_\_\_\_\_ who all demanded the silver trophy.

Select one.

- A) runner-ups
- B) runners-up
- C) runners-ups
- D) runner-up's

4. A quirky real estate agent is drafting property descriptions. Select ALL the sentences that contain a true compound noun (where two words combine to create a new, specific meaning), rather than just an adjective describing a noun.

Select all that apply.

- A) This charming estate features a beautiful **greenhouse** for your carnivorous plants.
- B) The previous owner painted it a very **green house** to match the lawn.
- C) You will love the enormous **swimming pool** in the backyard.
- D) The **swimming duck** in the pond is not included in the sale.

5. Help the stressed wedding planner finalize the seating chart by choosing the correct word.

The bride has five \_\_\_\_\_, and they all want to sit right next to the open bar.

Select one.

- A) brother-in-laws
- B) brothers-in-law
- C) brothers-in-laws
- D) brother's-in-law

6. Complete the junior lawyer's notes on a bizarre inheritance case.

The judge ruled that my \_\_\_\_\_ vintage car collection belongs entirely to me, but all three of my \_\_\_\_\_ are planning to appeal the decision tomorrow.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

**Blank 1**

- A) brother-in-laws
- B) brothers-in-law
- C) brother-in-law's

**Blank 2**

- A) sister-in-law's
- B) sisters-in-law
- C) sisters-in-law's

7. Complete the angry traveler's online review by choosing the correctly spelled compound noun for each blank.

The hotel room was a disaster! I found a half-eaten bowl of \_\_\_\_\_ under the bed, and the bathroom was completely out of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- A) icecream
- B) ice cream
- C) ice-cream

**Blank 2**

- A) tooth paste
- B) toothpaste
- C) tooth-paste

8. Help the event planner complete her notes about the chaotic family reunion by choosing the correct words for each blank.

To avoid any drama, the planner seated all the \_\_\_\_\_ at a separate table, far away from the two \_\_\_\_\_ of last year's pie-eating contest.

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- A) mother-in-laws
- B) mothers-in-law
- C) mothers-ins-law

**Blank 2**

- A) runner-ups
- B) runners-up
- C) runners-ups

9. Help the journalist finish her article about a chaotic baking competition.

During the awards ceremony, the \_\_\_\_\_ demanded a recount of the votes, while the \_\_\_\_\_ in the audience started throwing handfuls of flour at the judges.

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- A) runner-ups
- B) runners-up
- C) runners-ups

**Blank 2**

- A) grows-up
- B) grows-ups
- C) grown-ups

10. Complete the new employee's survival guide by choosing the correctly formatted compound noun for each blank.

To survive Monday mornings, you need to master the art of the \_\_\_\_\_ and never miss a strict Friday \_\_\_\_\_.

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- A) brain storm
- B) brainstorm
- C) brain-storm

**Blank 2**

- A) dead line
- B) deadline
- C) dead-line

11. Complete the wedding planner's frantic text message.

The \_\_\_\_\_ are arguing about the floral arrangements again, and two \_\_\_\_\_ just wandered in from the street and tried to steal a slice of the wedding cake!

*Choose the correct option for each gap.*

**Blank 1**

- A) mother-in-laws
- B) mothers-in-law
- C) mothers-in-laws

**Blank 2**

- A) passerbys
- B) passersbys
- C) passersby