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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)** growns-up
- **B)** growns-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