Compounds nouns

Verb + preposition
• A large number of compound nouns are based on phrasal verbs.
• The meaning of the compound noun is indicated in brackets at the end of the sentence.
• To form the plural, ‘s’ is added to the end, e.g. pin-ups.
Nouns based on phrasal verbs often have an informal feel to them and they are particularly common in newspaper reporting.

• In response to the pay offer, there was a **walk-out** at the factory.
• There is going to be a **crack-down** on public spending.
• There has been a **break-out** from the local prison.
• Last month saw a tremendous **shake-up** in personnel.
• I never expected the **break-up** of the USSR.

• **STRIKE**
• **ACTION**
• **AGAINST**
• **ESCAPE**
• **CHANGE**
• **COLLAPSE**
A number of these nouns have economic associations

- **takeover** of one of our leading hotel chains has just been announced.
- We’re trying to find some new **outlets** for our products.
- Take your things to the **check-out** to pay for them.
- **Cutbacks** will be essential until the recession is over.
- We made a profit of £1000 on a **turnover** of £10,000

- **Purchase by another company.**
- **Places to sell**
- **Cash-desk**
- **Reductions**
- **Money passing through a company**
Some of these nouns are associated with technology and aspects of contemporary life

• What the computer produces depends on the quality of the **input**.
• **Output** has increased thanks to new technology.
• We have a rather rapid staff **turnover**.
• Just after leaving school he went through the stage of being a **dropout**.
• It will be a long time before the consequences of **fallout** from Chernobyl are no longer felt.
• I can easily get you a **printout** of the latest figures.
• A **breakthrough** has been made in AIDS research.
  • **Information** that is put in
  • **Production**
  • **Change**
  • **Person who rejects society**
  • **Radio- active dust in the atmosphere**
  • **Paper on which computer information has been printed**
  • **Important discovery**
Some of the words can be used in general circumstances

- Many of the problems were caused by a **breakdown** in communications.
- The **outlook** for tomorrow is good - sunny in most places.
- There are **drawbacks** as well as advantages to every situation.
- The **outcome** of the situation was not very satisfactory.
- TV companies always welcome **feedback** from viewers.
- We parked in a **lay-by** on the **by-pass**.
- The **outbreak** of war surprised them.
- Failure
- Prospect
- Negative aspects
- Conclusion
- Comments
- Start; situation
- Parking space at the side of the road; road avoiding the centre of a town.
- Start of something unpleasant, e.g. Disease, violence
Here are some more compound nouns based on phrasal verbs. Guess the meaning of the underlined word from its context.

1. Because of the accident there was a three-mile tailback along the motorway.
2. Police are warning of an increased number of break-ins in this area.
3. The papers are claiming the Prime Minister organised a cover-up.
4. Unfortunately, our plans soon suffered a setback.
5. I’m sorry I’m late. There was a terrible hold-up on the bridge.
6. The robbers made their getaway in a stolen car.
1 queue of traffic  3 attempt to conceal information  5 delay to traffic
2 burglaries  4 obstacle in the way of progress  6 escape
Here are some more words of this type. In each case the preposition element of the noun is given but the other part is missing. Choose from the list of possibilities.

work     hand     hold     clear     write     lie     turn     press

1. Their car was a ...................-off after the accident.
2. The lecturer distributed ...................-outs before she started speaking.
3. Jack does a daily ...................-out at the gym, starting with 20 ...................-ups.
4. There is an interesting ...................-up of the match in today’s paper.
5. I’m giving my office a major ...................-out this week.
6. Did you read about the ...................-up at our bank?
7. There was a surprisingly large ...................-out at the concert.
8. I love having a ...................-in on Sundays.
1. write
2. hand
3. work; press
4. write
5. clear
6. hold
7. turn
8. lie