

## Nouns Modifying Nouns

It's common in English for nouns to modify other nouns, in the same way that adjectives modify nouns. In a noun-noun phrase, the second noun is the main noun. The first noun usually answers the question 'What kind?' For example, 'What kind of cabinet is that?' 'It's a kitchen cabinet'. Many phrases of this kind are so common that they have become compound nouns, like 'bathtub'. Compound nouns are usually two nouns put together to create a new noun, whereas noun-noun phrases or collocations are two or more words that are associated together.

### A. Each pair of phrases contains one noun-noun phrase and one adjective-noun phrase. Circle each noun-noun phrase and rewrite it in other words.

|                          |                         |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Example: sturdy hook     | <u>fish hook</u>        | ..... <i>a hook used for catching fish</i> ..... |
| 1. sharp edge            | knife edge              | .....  |
| 2. cow leather           | tough leather           | .....  |
| 3. wooden fence          | privacy fence           | .....  |
| 4. huge explosion        | gas explosion           | .....  |
| 5. sustainable ink       | soy ink                 | .....  |
| 6. heart health          | excellent health        | .....  |
| 7. unique fashion        | winter fashion          | .....  |
| 8. New England cottage   | quiet cottage           | .....  |
| 9. company director      | theatrical director     | .....  |
| 10. personal loan        | business loan           | .....  |
| 11. software engineer    | electrical engineer     | .....  |
| 12. machine intelligence | artificial intelligence | .....  |

### B. Write three nouns that can modify each of these nouns.

|                                  |                 |                    |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Ex. .... <i>time</i> ..... limit | 1. .... uniform | 2. .... insurance  |
| .... <i>word</i> .....           | .....           | .....              |
| .... <i>baggage</i> .....        | .....           | .....              |
| 3. .... store                    | 4. .... book    | 5. .... document   |
| .....                            | .....           | .....              |
| .....                            | .....           | .....              |
| 6. .... team                     | 7. .... company | 8. .... membership |
| .....                            | .....           | .....              |
| .....                            | .....           | .....              |

**C. Use the nouns from the box to complete the sentences with noun-noun phrases.**

engineer aircraft health salesperson fashion musician model table design  
car gym furniture industry jazz department boots identification jewelry  
kitchen hiking documents train magazine office insurance membership

Example: Jane is a highly-skilled .....*aircraft*..... .....*engineer*..... working at the airport.

1. I got my son a ..... and track for his birthday.
2. We usually eat breakfast at the .....
3. Detroit is famous for its .....
4. Please take these drawings to the .....
5. It is important to have ..... in case you get sick or injured.
6. My wife is a great ..... I love to hear her play the piano.
7. I need a new pair of ..... My old ones have a hole in the toe.
8. You need ..... when flying to another country.
9. I went to the newsstand to get the latest .....
10. A lot of people start a ..... in January to get fit in the new year.
11. After hiring some new employees, the company needed new .....
12. After working as a ....., he got promoted to manager.



**D. Complete the chains of noun collocations with the nouns from the box.**

table morning tennis dog oil state park home business game  
phone bus fish board traffic world guide call strawberry city car

Example: .....*morning*..... coffee .....*table*..... .....*tennis*..... racket  
(morning coffee / coffee table / table tennis / tennis racket)

1. .... tour ..... food
2. surf ..... show .....
3. .... capital ..... stop
4. .... police ..... avenue
5. .... jelly ..... company
6. dream ..... centre