

## What Are Compound Nouns?

**Compound nouns** are nouns that are made up of two or more words. Compound nouns can be one word, such as *football*; or more than one word, such as *rocking chair*. Other compound nouns have two or more words that are joined by hyphens, such as *hand-me-down*.

When forming plurals of compound nouns add –s or –es to those nouns that are one word.

**Examples:** snowmobile**s**, baseball**s**, grandfathers**s**.

For those compound nouns that are hyphenated or are more than one word, add –s or –es to the most important word (usually the noun).

**Examples:** baby-sitter**s**, runner**s**-up, music box**es**, surgeon**s** general

The English language is full of compound nouns. So many, in fact, that it would be impossible to list all of them here. But, listed below is a small sampling of some common compound nouns.

Compound Nouns				
ladybug	beehive	watermelon	lighthouse	suitcase
fund-raiser	monthly ticket	bathtub	teapot	tablecloth
jelly bean	swimming pool	headphones	eye-opener	sergeant at arms
stomachache	haircut	bowtie	chain link	handcuffs
sweatshirt	dry-cleaning	policeman	motorcycle	horseshoe
go-between	output	snowman	sports car	jack-in-the-box
motor home	input	ice cream	firecracker	bumblebee
self-interest	spotlight	mailbox	distance learning	sunglasses

### FROM *HOLES* BY LOUIS SACHAR

Stanley Yelnats was the only passenger on the bus, not counting the driver or the guard. The guard sat next to the driver with his seat turned around facing Stanley. A rifle lay across his lap

Stanley was sitting about ten rows back, **handcuffed** to his **armrest**. His **backpack** lay on the seat next to him. It contained his **toothbrush**, **toothpaste**, and a box of stationery his mother had given him. He'd promised to write to her at least once a week.

He looked out the window, although there wasn't much to see--mostly fields of hay and cotton. He was on a long bus ride to nowhere. The bus wasn't **air-conditioned**, and the hot, heavy air was almost as stifling as the **handcuffs**. Stanley and his parents had tried to pretend that he was just going away to camp for a while, just like rich kids do. When Stanley was younger he used to play with stuffed animals, and pretend the animals were at camp. Camp Fun and Games he called it. Sometimes he'd have them play soccer with a marble. Other times they'd run an **obstacle course**, or go **bungee jumping** off a table, tied to broken **rubber bands**. Now Stanley tried to pretend he was going to Camp Fun and Games. Maybe he'd make some friends, he thought. At least he'd get to swim in the lake.