

Compound Adjectives in English

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the major role of developing of usage compound adjectives in English. The author concludes that compound adjective is an integral part of learning languages, as the language is the means of communication, and the level of its progress and efficiency in learning is mainly identified by this certain aspect. Besides, the author also makes some recommendations on improving teaching compound adjectives for foreign language teachers.

KEYWORDS: *foreign language, student, teacher, foreign language speech, communication, oral speech, educational material, task, student communication, teacher communication*

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There is a place for creativity in the English language! It is universal in every sense. You yourself are able to come up with something new and unique in English. To express your thoughts vividly and in an original way, you can compose words yourself, knowing the rules of their formation. Many English writers replenished the lexical fund of the language when they invented the author's words of an unusual form. Such grammatical units are not one, but several words. They add precise details to the statement, bring specifics, make the speech rich and colorful. This is achieved in different ways. Let's look at how compound adjectives are composed and used.

What are compound adjectives?

This is a single word that includes two or more words. They are usually written with a hyphen. The meaning of each of them individually may differ from the meaning they are given together. The composition of such complex word forms includes not only adjectives. They may consist of different parts of speech, but together they always denote a feature of the subject.

➤ Adjective + participle.
Long-lasting. / Durable.

➤ Adjective + noun.
Grey-haired. / Gray.

➤ Adjective + adverb.
Low-paid. / Low-paid.

Rules of education compound adjectives

In English, there are patterns by which compound adjectives are formed. They are made out differently on the letter. They can be written separately, together or hyphenated. In this regard, there are small difficulties in writing and using complex words. Let's try to overcome them. Often, a hyphen is put if the adjective stands in front of the object that it distributes. If after, then the hyphen is no longer needed. Compare:

➤ The well-known actor. / Famous actor.

The actor is well known. / The actor is well known.

➤ An angry-sounding message. / An angry sounding message.

Message is sounding angry. / The message sounds angry.

➤ The ill-conceived plan. / An ill-conceived plan.

The plan is ill conceived. / The plan is poorly thought out.

However, this rule does not apply to all compound words. For example, "convert the day-trip trade" cannot be replaced with "the trade is day trip". In order not to make a mistake in spelling, adhere to the norms established in the language. In English, hyphens are always put only in a few cases.

1. If a complex adjective has a prefix first. It is necessarily separated by a hyphen from the rest of the word.

Semi-skilled. / Semi-qualified.

Post-war. / Post-war.

2. If there are numbers in the compound word. At the same time, they should stand only in the singular. In the plural, such words are not used, even if it means not one object, but a lot of something.

Thirty-two-year-old pianist. / A thirty-two-year-old pianist.

Second-class ticket. / Second class ticket.

3. If you need to differentiate the meaning and remove ambiguity. There are cases when, without a hyphen, such words acquire a completely different meaning in the same sentence.

We encountered a man-eating bear. / We came across a bear eating people.

We encountered a man eating bear. / We came across a man devouring a bear.

Sometimes in a letter, parts of one compound adjective are separated by commas. In this case, you will get not one complex, but two simple definitions. To decide which punctuation mark to put, first read the entire statement out loud. With the same value, both use cases are possible. And with a different shade and a changed sense of the combination, it is better not to put a comma.

He was a good, looking man. / He was a good, handsome man.

He was a good-looking man. / He was an attractive man.

Compound adjectives that include adverbs for "ly" are never written with a hyphen. Such words are always used separately from each other, although they form a whole phrase, denote a single feature of one subject.

Newly free country. / A free country again.

Internationally recognized singer. / Internationally recognized singer.

If the adverb that is part of the word does not end with "ly", but the compound adjective also stands in

front of the object that it illustrates, then a hyphen will be needed.

Types of compound adjectives

They can mean a qualitative characteristic, a distinctive feature, a color scheme and other signs of an object or an animated person. Depending on this, thematic groups of compound adjectives are distinguished:

1. Colors.

Snow-white. / Snow-white.

Flesh-coloured. / Bodily.

Blue-black. / Blue-black.

2. Classifications.

Full-scale. / Full-scale.

Ready-made. / Ready.

Interest-free. / Interest-free.

3. Qualities.

Kind-hearted. / Kind.

Narrow-minded. / Narrow-minded.

Short-tempered. / Hot-tempered.

4. Quantities.

Twenty-story building. / Twenty-storey building.

Six-month-old baby. / A six-month-old baby.

Hundred-dollar bill. / Hundred-dollar bill.

Compound adjectives are distinguished by different characteristics. Due to the fact that this group of words is quite mobile, it is difficult to single out a strict framework for each definition. After all, its constituent elements can be easily changed to other parts, which will lead to a change in the meaning of the whole combination, and hence its appearance.

Compound adjectives are actively used by native speakers in both oral and written speech. These words noticeably "enliven" communication, add bright colors to it. The most interesting thing is that there is no stable base for them. The lexical fund is constantly replenished with new grammatical units, invented by people themselves. Try it and you! We advise you to write out compound adjectives that you will meet, and actively use them in dialogues and in writing. As soon as you master the basic models of their education, you will be able to create similar combinations yourself and make your monologues individual. They not only increase your vocabulary, but also give a complete picture of the structure of the language.

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