



Vocabulary Power

Lesson 18 Compound Words

Whenever a new invention or a new situation requires a new word to describe it, people often turn to compound words to do the job. A compound word is a word formed from two or more words to express a single idea. Compound words can take one of three different forms: separate words, as in sleeping bag; hyphenated words, as in baby-sitter; and single words, as in turtleneck or onlooker. No simple rule explains the difference. Instead, you need to check a dictionary for the correct form of compound words.

Word List

backlash

benchmark

common sense

gridlock

outsource

overkill

superhighway

tip-off

underdog

wind chime

EXERCISE Context Clues

Read the sentences below. Then, circle the letter of the correct definition of the boldfaced word.

- To cut costs, the company chose to **outsource** their software detailing.
 - transfer data from one location to another
 - send work to an outside resource
 - moved employees from one place to another
 - send workers to lunch
- Being shorter and lighter than her opponent, Sandy was considered the **underdog** in the wrestling competition.
 - one that is expected to lose
 - person who has an advantage
 - person who draws attention away from the intended issue
 - at the back of the pack
- With the school administration refusing to spend any more money and the seniors adamant about needing more decorations for the dance, work on the prom had reached a **gridlock**.
 - a state of nervous irritability
 - a complete lack of movement or progress
 - an informal meeting for the exchange of views
 - uncertainty in cost limits
- Eileen was well-known for her **common sense** until she left the car running all night.
 - sixth sense
 - confusion
 - speed
 - sound judgment



Vocabulary Power *continued*

5. Many people like to travel on a divided **superhighway**, but I prefer the more scenic two-lane roads.
 - a. high-speed telecommunication networks that link millions of sources
 - b. an expressway that has four or more lanes for traffic
 - c. something attached as a permanent appendage or apparatus
 - d. a road above all other roads
6. My parents thought the extra banners, giant balloons, and circus clowns were **overkill**, but I liked everything.
 - a. more of something than is necessary or appropriate
 - b. a superficial impression of brilliance
 - c. entirely without fault or imperfection
 - d. an action performed perfectly
7. Professor Jeeves collects **wind chimes** from Asian and European countries.
 - a. boxes of knickknacks
 - b. hanging decorations that make noise when there is a breeze
 - c. the sound the wind makes as it passes over pipes
 - d. organ pipes and the noises they make
8. Those who had voted for the town pool never imagined the **backlash** from residents who don't use it.
 - a. foolish chatter
 - b. a place or situation regarded as isolated or backward
 - c. an antagonistic reaction to an earlier action
 - d. uncertain reaction to an event
9. Detective Smits successfully broke up the smuggling ring with the help of a **tip-off** from one of his most trusted sources.
 - a. confidential disclosure
 - b. official document issued by city police
 - c. written note intended as an explanation
 - d. blank piece of paper
10. The quality of Mrs. Monahan's sixth period class projects will serve as a **benchmark** for this class.
 - a. something consumed to produce energy
 - b. seat for only Mark to sit on
 - c. the amount of time between two specified events
 - d. a standard in measuring or judging a quality or characteristic