



# 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**

**gridlock**

**superhighway**

**underdog**

**benchmark**

**outsource**

**tip-off**

**wind chime**

**common sense**

**overkill**

### 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.
- high-speed telecommunication networks that link millions of sources
  - an expressway that has four or more lanes for traffic
  - something attached as a permanent appendage or apparatus
  - a road above all other roads
6. My parents thought the extra banners, giant balloons, and circus clowns were **overkill**, but I liked everything.
- more of something than is necessary or appropriate
  - a superficial impression of brilliance
  - entirely without fault or imperfection
  - an action performed perfectly
7. Professor Jeeves collects **wind chimes** from Asian and European countries.
- boxes of knickknacks
  - hanging decorations that make noise when there is a breeze
  - the sound the wind makes as it passes over pipes
  - 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.
- foolish chatter
  - a place or situation regarded as isolated or backward
  - an antagonistic reaction to an earlier action
  - 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.
- confidential disclosure
  - official document issued by city police
  - written note intended as an explanation
  - blank piece of paper
10. The quality of Mrs. Monahan's sixth period class projects will serve as a **benchmark** for this class.
- something consumed to produce energy
  - seat for only Mark to sit on
  - the amount of time between two specified events
  - a standard in measuring or judging a quality or characteristic