

Compound Adjectives

Teacher's Notes

Description: Just how many Compound Adjectives do you think you use on an average day? Probably more than you can count... Though these two- (and sometimes even three-) part adjectives may be second nature to many of us, for our poor students they are anything but. And with so many different structures to master, their confusion is highly understandable. The exercises in this activity sheet help to familiarise students with these perplexing parts of speech, offering them fun and varied practice, both alone and with a partner.

Aim: To practise Compound Adjectives through a series of written and communicative exercises.

Procedure: Give each student a copy of the two-page activity sheet.

Exercise A: Students begin by completing the sentences showing examples of the different types of Compound Adjectives by choosing from the Compound Adjectives provided.

answer key:

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. old-fashioned | 2. densely-populated | 3. middle-aged | 4. mouth-watering |
| 5. slow-moving | 6. sugar-free | 7. last-minute | 8. six-storey |

Exercise B: Next, students complete the sentences using Compound Adjectives made up of an adjective from each of the two boxes.

answer key:

- | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. open minded | 2. brand-new | 3. three-bedroom | 4. good-looking | 5. ice-cold |
| 6. well-known | 7. full-time | 8. home-grown | 9. self-employed | 10. second hand |

Exercise C: Students then try and come up with Compound Adjectives based on the descriptions provided.

answer key:

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. badly-behaved | 2. time-saving | 3. fat-free | 4. English-speaking |
| 5. well-deserved | 6. home-made | 7. full-time | 8. two-year-old |
| 9. left-handed | 10. long-lasting | | |

Exercise D: Following this, students complete the conversation questions by providing the missing half of the Compound-Adjective. They then take turns asking them to a partner.

answer key:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| 1. -hand, -new | 2. -made | 3. -minute | 4. self- |
| 5. -handed | 6. -behaved | 7. sugar- | |

Exercise E: Lastly, students complete the list of prompts by writing in the missing part of the Compound Adjective. When they've done this, they chat with their partner and try and come up with two words for each prompt, writing them in the space below.

answer key:

- | | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1. -moving | 2. long- | 3. time- | 4. -free | 5. ice- |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|