



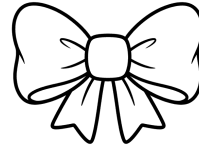
Compound words list for kids

A compound word is **two small words joined** to make a new one. The first word is in **bold**. Cover one half with your finger and read the other. Then read the whole word.



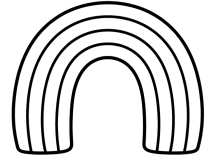
rain

+



bow

=



rainbow



sun

sun + set = sunset

Stage 1: two short words

kindergarten or 1st grade

Both halves are short words your child can sound out.

sunset

bedbug

cannot

laptop

pigpen

catnap

hilltop

hatbox

suntan

uphill

sunup



sandbox

sand + box

Stage 2: short words with sh, ch, th, ck and blends

1st grade

Still short vowels, now with two-letter sounds and blends.

backpack

eggshell

drumstick

dishpan

quicksand

catfish

nutshell

chopstick

sunfish

pickup

bathtub

handstand

sandbag

desktop

handbag

sandbox

handprint

windmill

lunchbox

snapshot



cupcake

cup + cake

Stage 3: one half ends in a quiet e

1st grade

One half ends in an e you don't hear, so its vowel says its name.

cupcake

sunrise

pancake

lunchtime

bedtime

sunshine



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snowman

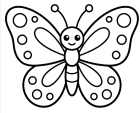
snow + man

keyhole
bookshelf
farmhouse
haircut

Stage 4: two letters for one vowel sound, or an r after the vowel

1st grade Like *rain*, *snow* and *star*, or the *all* in *ball*.

rain bow	rain coat	rain drop	snow man
snow ball	snow flake	mail box	sail boat
row boat	tea pot	sea shell	bee hive
foot ball	kick ball	pin ball	tooth brush
note book	star fish	pop corn	arm chair
bird house	cow boy	dog house	ear ring
back yard	play ground		



butterfly

butter + fly

Stage 5: longer compound words

2nd grade Three or four syllables, read in two big chunks.

water melon	grass hopper	basket ball	after noon
sun flower	straw berry	butter fly	lady bug
pine apple			

Everyday compound words your child already says

into	onto	inside	outside	something
some one	some where	somet imes	any thing	any one
every one	every thing	every where	no body	no where
my self	your self	him self	it self	may be
with out	to day	ton ight	birth day	up stairs
down stairs	week end	grand ma	grand pa	play time

Some, any, one, to, where and your are heart words, so words with them are read by sight at first.

Not compound words

A word only counts if it was made from two real words, and both keep their sound.

Two words hiding inside, but the word wasn't made from them: carpet (no car, no pet), hamburger (from the city Hamburg), mushroom, pumpkin, island, cartoon, together

A word plus an ending or a start, not two words: helpful, jumping, unhappy, redo

Usually written as two words: ice cream, hot dog, fire truck, tree house, bow tie, pine cone



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