

# MORPHOLOGY

TEACHER RESOURCE





Alberta Regional Consortia

# Compound Words

## What You Need to Know

A compound word is when two base words are combined to make a new word. It is important to remember that the meaning of the new word is connected to the meanings of the two words that make up the compound word.

While most people are talking about **closed form** compound words (such as butterfly, football, or elsewhere), there are two other types of compound words:

- **Open Form** (ice cream, high school, real estate)
- **Hyphenated** (part-time, Jack-in-the-Box, mother-in-law)

## Introducing the Concept

Reading a text rich with compound words would be a great way to introduce this concept to students. Possible titles include:

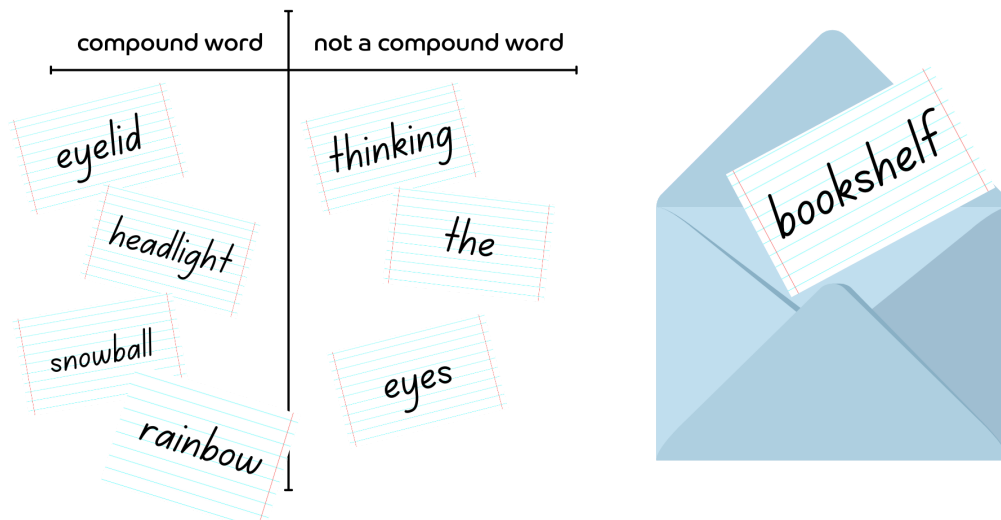
- Walton, R. (1995). *Once There Was a Bull (Frog)*
- Cleary & Gable. (2011). *Thumbtacks, Earwax, Lipstick, Dipstick: What Is a Compound Word?*
- Shasken & Gray. (2008). *If You Were a Compound Word.*
- Barrett & Barrett. (1978). *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.*

Jack Hartman has [a song about compound words](#) and there's also the [Compound Boogie](#). [This site](#) includes a GIANT list of compound words that you might wish to add to your resource collection. If you can't see the connection in meaning to the two base words, visit the [Online Etymology Dictionary](#). The story of the word might clear things up.

# Games and Activities

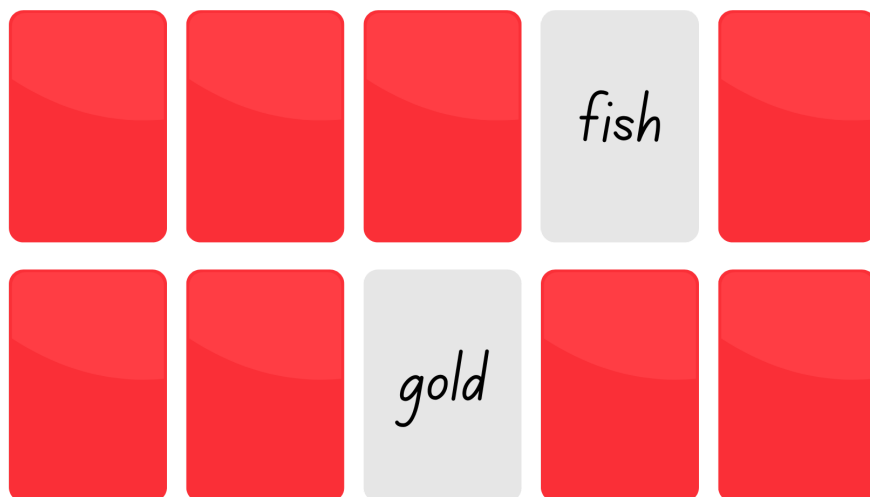
## Word Sort

Create a simple sorting T-chart (or even just two piles) for compound words and not compound words. This can be done as a whole class activity or as a station if students are able to independently read the cards. As each card is pulled from the envelope, decide where it should be placed.



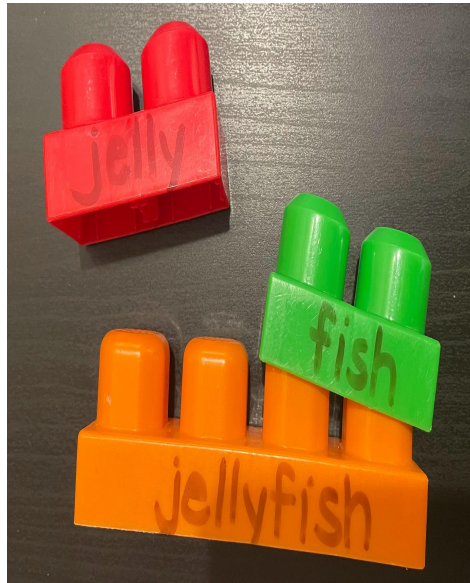
## Matching to Make Compound Words

Compound word matching games are commercially available but you can also have a parent volunteer or older student write the base words on index cards. Students take turns flipping over the cards and a 'pair' is made when the two cards build a compound word, similar to any memory game.



## Build with Blocks

Using mega blocks, write the two base words on smaller blocks and the compound word on a longer block. Students match the two base words to create the compound word.



## Guess the Word

Show two pictures and students guess (by raising their hand or writing on a white board) what the compound word is.



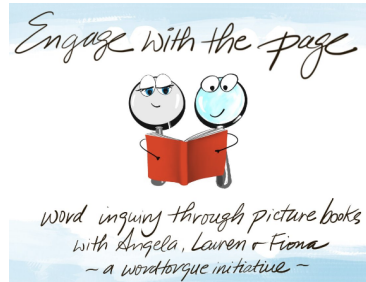
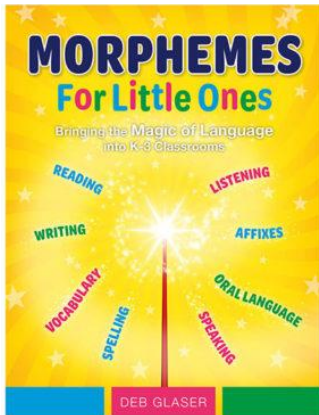
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## Resources



[Engage with the Page](#)

## References

Hegland, S. S. (2021). *Beneath the surface of words: What English spelling reveals and why it matters*. Learning About Spelling.

Hamilton, F. (2023). *WordTorque*. <https://wordtorque.com/>

Richardson, A. (2019). The 8 best compound word activities you need to try. Retrieved from <https://www.mrsrichardsonsclass.com/compound-word-activities/>

Steven, M.B. (2023). *Mrs Steven's classroom blog*. <https://mbsteven.edublogs.org/>

***For more information, please contact your local consortia office.***

