



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.

1. To cut costs, the company chose to **outsource** their software detailing.
 - a. transfer data from one location to another
 - b. send work to an outside resource
 - c. moved employees from one place to another
 - d. send workers to lunch

2. Being shorter and lighter than her opponent, Sandy was considered the **underdog** in the wrestling competition.
 - a. one that is expected to lose
 - b. person who has an advantage
 - c. person who draws attention away from the intended issue
 - d. at the back of the pack

3. 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. a state of nervous irritability
 - b. a complete lack of movement or progress
 - c. an informal meeting for the exchange of views
 - d. uncertainty in cost limits

4. Eileen was well-known for her **common sense** until she left the car running all night.
 - a. sixth sense
 - b. confusion
 - c. speed
 - d. 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