

THE FLATMATES

Language point:
Compound words



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BBC Learning English – The Flatmates

The Flatmates - Language point – Compound words

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<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode02/languagepoint.shtml>

Compound words can be made up of two (or sometimes more) separate words. You can combine nouns (a flatmate), adjectives (lovesick) or verbs (jump-start) to make compound words.

Sometimes they become one word :	
flatmate (noun)	lovesick (adjective)

Sometimes they become two words :	
tourist guide (noun)	travel agent (noun)

Sometimes they become hyphenated :	
low-paid (adjective)	film-goer (noun)

There are no hard and fast rules about which category each compound word goes into but a good dictionary will tell you. You can also help yourself by making a note of new compound words you come across and the category they go into.

Generally the stress is on the first word :		
<u>phone</u> box (noun)	<u>smoke</u> -free (adjective)	<u>spoon</u> -feed (verb)

Vocabulary:

A flatmate (n) – a person who shares a rented house or flat with other people

Lovesick (adj) – a feeling of such strong emotion for someone that it makes you feel almost ill (but not actually physically ill)

A tourist guide (n) – someone who shows visitors around places of interest

Low-paid (adj) – earning a small amount of money for working

To spoon-feed (v) – 1: to feed someone (usually a baby) with a spoon or 2: to give someone so much information or help that a task or job is very easy for them

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