

**Compound Words**

A *compound word* is made up of two or more whole words joined together:

- |                  |                   |                     |                     |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>bathroom</b>  | <b>football</b>   | <b>grasshopper</b>  | <b>database</b>     |
| <b>somewhere</b> | <b>downstairs</b> | <b>breakthrough</b> | <b>nevertheless</b> |

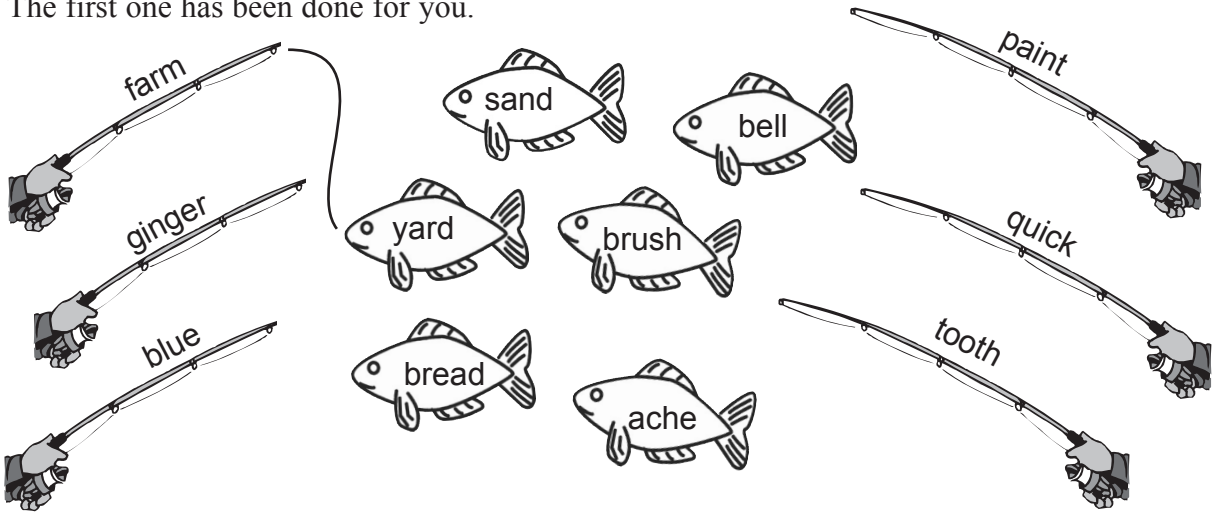
It may help you to remember the spelling of these words if you break them down into their separate parts, especially when there is a silent letter in the compound word, such as the **p** in *cupboard*.

Can you draw lines to join these ten words together in pairs, making five new compound words?

tea	ball	hold	hand	shine
sun	eye	bag	pot	house

**GONE FISHIN'**

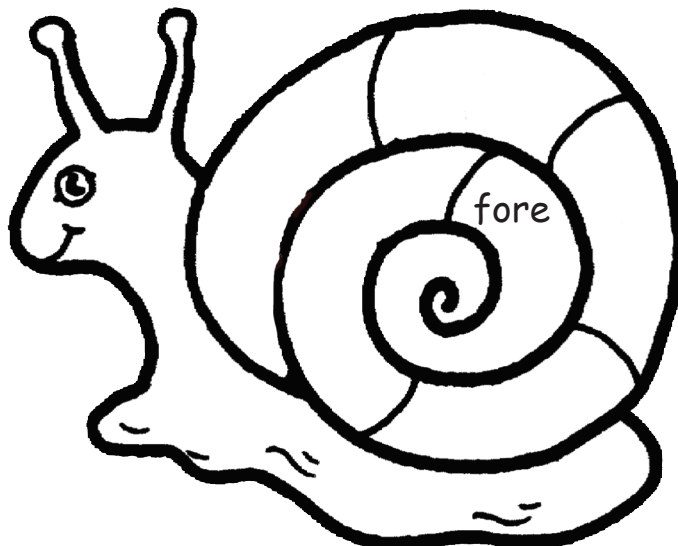
Each fishing rod has a word inside. 'Catch' a fish with each to make six compound words. The first one has been done for you.



**WORD SNAIL**

Each word below can be either the first or second element of a compound word. Can you arrange them in the spiral of the snail's shell to form five compound words? The first one has been entered to help you.

- fore**
- work**
- head**
- out**
- house**
- light**



**Meaning**

Compound words are often nouns. A compound word does not necessarily have the same meaning as the two words used separately. For example, a raven is a *black bird*, but it is not a *blackbird*. Can you make up sentences showing the difference between compound words and their separate parts, as in the examples below:

*Everyone brought me a cake and I ate every one.*  
*Nobody was charged with murder because no body was found.*

**PICKING PAIRS**

Here are pairs which can either be written as two words, or combined to make one compound word. Fill in the gaps in the sentences with the right word or words. The first one has been done for you.

blackbird  
black bird

Yesterday we saw a black bird in the garden. It might have been a crow, as it was much bigger than a blackbird .

maybe  
may be

\_\_\_\_\_ we should have gone for help earlier. It  
 \_\_\_\_\_ too late to save them now!

goodnight  
good night

I had a really \_\_\_\_\_ last Friday with my friends, so I  
 hugged them all as we said \_\_\_\_\_ .

Words do not usually change their spelling when they are joined together, although there are some exceptions, such as **all**, **full** and **till**. The parts of a compound word are sometimes linked by a hyphen, as in *hold-up* or *absent-minded*. Many compound words can be spelt with or without a hyphen. For example, you can write *baby-sitter* or *babysitter*. Some hyphenated compounds can also be written as two separate words: *dining-room* or *dining room*.

**BUILDING COMPOUNDS**

How many compound words can you think of that include each of the following words? Write as many words as you can on each of the clipboards.

**head**

bighead  
skinhead  
headlong

**light**

**eye**

**Connectives**

Connectives are words used to link or extend sentences. Many connectives are compound words: *however*, *meanwhile*, *moreover*, *nevertheless*, *notwithstanding*, *therefore*, *whereas*.