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Nouns

NOUNS – L5: COMPOUND NOUNS

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Video Lesson:

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WHEN DO WE USE COMPOUND NOUNS?

If we talk about one "thing" with several characteristics, we usually use compound nouns.

Therefore, we can combine all major classes of words:

- Noun + Noun: "das Haus" + "die Tür" = **die Haustür**
- Verb + Noun: "schreiben" + "der Tisch" = **der Schreibtisch**
- Adjective + Noun: "rot" + "der Wein" = **der Rotwein**
- Adverb + Noun: "zusammen" + "die Arbeit" = **die Zusammenarbeit**

When combining nouns with nouns, you can often do it with a preposition instead, but nevertheless, that's not really common:

- the door of the house / die Tür vom Haus vs. the house door / die Haustür

More examples are on the following pages.

NOUN + NOUN

When we combine two nouns to form a compound noun, the second noun tells you what the object is while the first noun describes that object.

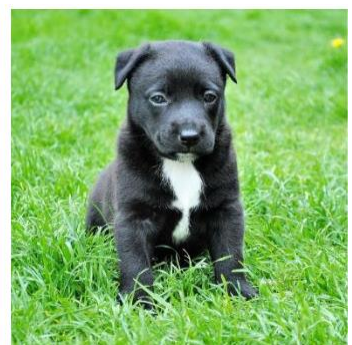
„der Kampfhund“ = „der Kampf“ + „der Hund“



=



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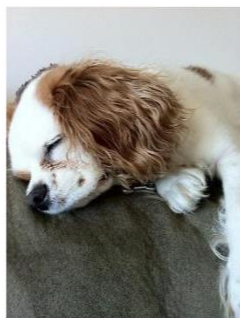
VERB + NOUN

If we put a verb together with a noun, we drop the ending of the verb and put it in front of the noun. The verb gives the noun a specific characteristic.

„das Schlafzimmer“ = „schlafen“ + „das Zimmer“



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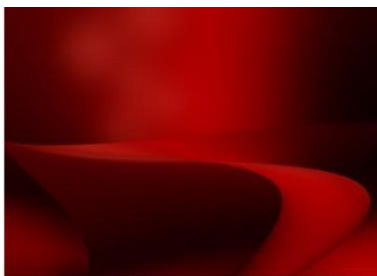
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ADJECTIVE / ADVERB + NOUN

If we use an adverb or an adjective together with a noun, we insert it in front of the noun. Both versions are rare and describe something in particular.

„der Rotwein“ = „rot“ + „der Wein“



WHICH GENDER AND PLURAL FORM?

For all compound nouns, the last noun always determines the genus and the plural form. Everything that comes before it has no influence on it at all.

- "der Kampf" + "der Hund" = **der** Kampfhund(e) / die Kampfhunde
- "das Wasser" + "die Flasche" = **die** Wasserflasche(n)
- "die Kartoffel" + "der Salat" = **der** Kartoffelsalat(e) / die Kartoffelsalate
- "das Haus" + "die Tür" = **die** Haustür(en)

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