**Compound words الكلمات المُركبة**

**The compound word** is a combination of two or more words to form a new word with a new meaning. (**i.e.** two or more words are put together to function as a single unit of meaning).

There are three types of compounds:

**1**/ **Closed compounds** كلمات مركبة مغلقة: Those which are written as single words, with no hyphenation الواصلة . They are the easiest to recognize because they look like a single word.

**For example** the word: **flowerpot** اناء للزهور **handheld** محمول باليد

**lifestyle** نمط حياة أو (نمط العيش)

**lifelong** مدى الحياة weatherproof

**wildlife** الحياة البرية waterproof

**2**/ **Hyphenated compounds**: compound words combined by using hyphens:

**For example**: **merry-go-round** **دوامة الخيل** أو الكاروسيل إحدى ألعاب مدينة الملاهي

**well-being** رفاهية

**life-size** بالحجم الطبيعي

**on-site** بالموقع

**long term loan قرض طويل الأجل Editor-in-chief رئيس تحرير**

**e.g.** He demanded a long term loan**.**

**Note /** we hyphenate two or more words when they come **before** **a noun** they modify and act as a single idea. This is called **a compound adjective**. وتُسمى صفة مركبة

**e.g.** – an **off-campus** **apartment**  شقة خارج الحرم الجامعي

But when a compound adjective **follows** a **noun**, a hyphen is usually not necessary,

**e.g.** – **The apartment** is **off campus** الشقة خارج الحرم الجامعي

**3/ Open compounds: (**those that are written as separate words ككلمات منفصلة **):**

**(i.e**. where **a space** remains between the words)

**For example**: **life expectancy** متوسط العمر **life insurance** التأمين على الحياة

**chocolate chip** رقائق الشوكلاته **Saturday morning** صباح السبت

**high school** المدرسة الثانوية

**weather** **vane** ريشة الطقس

**A /** The pronunciation of thecompound word:

\* – When compound nouns **are spoken aloud**; the first word usually receives **more stress** than the second word – **e.g.** **base**ball (closed) / **stop** sign لافتة توقف (open compound)

\* – ( 3 syllable compound nouns)

If the **first word** of a compound noun is more than one syllable in length, t**he normally stressed syllable of the first word** is the most stressed syllable of the entire compound.

إذا كانت **الكلمة الأولى** من الاسم المركب **أكثر من مقطع واحد** في المقطع فإن المقطع المُشدّد عادة للكلمة الأولى هو المقطع الأكثر تشديداً في الكلمة المُركبة بأكملها.

For instance, in the open compound 'se**cur**ity guard' the '**cur**' syllable receives the most stress in the entire compound because that is the normally stressed syllable of the first word.

**B /** when we use **Hyphen** or **space**:

**Rule 1 /** generally, **hyphenate** two or more words when they come **before** **a noun** they modify and act as a single idea. This is called **a compound adjective**: صفة مركبة

**e.g.** an off-campus **apartment**  شقة خارج الحرم الجامعي

**e.g.** That is our full-time **worker.**

**e.g.** Her father was a high-ranking **official.**

**But** when a compound adjective **follows a noun**, a hyphen is usually **not necessary:**

**i.e.,** these hyphenated compound words become **open compounds** when they are placed after the word they describe**:**

**e.g.** – The **apartment** is **off campus** الشقة خارج الحرم الجامعي

**e.g.** – The **worker** is **full time**.

**Rule 2** **a** / A hyphen is frequently **required** when forming original compound verbs for

vivid writing, humor, or special situations:

كثيرا ما تكون الواصلة مطلوبة عند تكوين أفعال مركبة أصلية للكتابة أو الدعابة أو المواقف الخاصة::

**e.g.** Queen Victoria **throne-sat** for six decades.

**b** / When writing out new, original, or unusual compound nouns, writers **should**

**hyphenate** whenever doing so avoids confusion:

**For examples:** re-form (not to be confused with **reform**)

re-creation (not to be confused with **recreation**)

un-ionized **غير مؤين** (as distinguished from unionized **النقابي**)

re-sign (sign again) **vs.** resign (quit a job)

re-solve (solve again) **vs.** resolve (settle)

re-cover (cover again) **vs.** recover (get better, get back)

**Rule 3** / Another basic rule is that we **never** hyphenate compounds that are created with the adverb **very** and adverbs ending in “-**ly**”:

**e.g.** **a nationally certified teacher** مدرس معتمد وطنيا

**e.g.** **a fully developed plan**  خطة مطورة كُلياً

**e.g.** All **newly employed** **nurses** must be evaluated regularly.

يجب تقييم جميع **الممرضات** **المعينين حديثًا** بانتظام

**But –** the **friendly-looking** dog (correct) (here “**ly**” words are not adverbs) الكلب الودود

**a family-owned** **café**  (correct) مقهى مملوك للعائلة

**Rule 4** / Numbers and Fractions

Fractions should always be hyphenated when they are adjectives or adverbs. They are hyphenated only when they come right in front of **a noun**, called a “**direct adjective**”:

**e.g.** **a seven-eighths** **increase** ……. , but not …increased by seven eighths…..

**e.g.** **one-third** **reduction** in staff ……., but not …only one third of them remained

\* Use **hyphens** when spelling compound numbers between 21 and 99, and fractions.

one-fourth (but, a half hour)

\* تُستخدم الواصلات عند تهجئة **الأرقام المركبة** بين 21 و 99 وأيضا مع الكسور.

**e.g.** sixty-seven **e.g.** Twenty-one

**e.g.** five hundred forty-two

**Rule 5** / Age, Color, and Direction

As with adjectival phrases, these terms act **as a single unit** and will almost always need hyphenation.

\* تُستخدم الواصلات مع –العمر واللون والاتجاه

كما هو الحال مع العبارات الوصفية ، تعمل هذه المصطلحات كوحدة واحدة وستحتاج دائمًا تقريبًا إلى الواصلة

**a nine-year-old** **child** صفة, (but, nine year**s** old) **e.g.** He is nine years old.

**reddish-brown** **clay** (but, **e.g**. The **clay** is **reddish brown**) الطين البني المحمر

**Rule 6 /** Hyphen with Prefixes: **Ex**-, **Self**-, **All**-, / **anti-** / **mid**- / **non-** /

**e.g.** Though he no longer held an official position**,** the **ex-mayor** still attended all the

town’s functions.

**e.g.** The man looked extremely **self-satisfied**.

**e.g.** Do you want a **self-serve** or a **full-serve** gas station**?**

**But /** Make sure you don’t confuse the **prefix self-** with the noun self.

**e.g.** The self serves no other.

**e.g.** Certainly the players’ gloom was **all-encompassing**.

**e.g.** Football isn't cricket, where the captain**'**s role is **all-encompassing**.

**Rule 7 /** Hyphens with ‘**High**’ or ‘**Low**’

When using **high** or **low** as part of a compound adjective, use a hyphen when the compound comes before the **noun** it’s modifying**. Examples:** high-level/low-level and **high**-impact/

عند استخدام "مرتفع" أو "منخفض" كجزء من صفة مركبة ، تُستخدم واصلة عندما يأتي المركب قبل الاسم الذي يحوره.

**e.g.** This car runs best on high-octane **gasoline**.

**e.g.** Low-income **families** often face more stress than their higher-income **counterparts**.

**Note 1 / We don’t need a hyphen** when the modifier محوِّر is made up of **an adverb** and **an adjective**.

**e.g.** Do you expect me to believe this clearly-impossible **story? Incorrect**

**e.g.** Do you expect me to believe this clearly impossible **story**? **Correct**

**Rule 8 /** Use a Hyphen with **a Proper Noun (Hyphens before capitals)**

If your prefix sits before a proper noun, use a hyphen. (i.e., always use a hyphen

when you place a prefix onto a capitalized word**:**

**e.g.** anti-American **e.g.** sub-Saharan **e.g.** neo-Nazi **e.g.** post-Vietnam

**e.g.** un-British **e.g.** pro-Nazi

**Rule 9** / **Do Not Allow** the Same Vowel to Double Up

If the prefix ends in the same vowel that the root words starts with**,** **separate**

**them with a hyphen**.

**e.g.** semi-industrious **e. g.** re-enter **e.g.** ultra-argumentative

**But,** when a prefix ends in a vowel and the root word starts with a different vowel, omit the hyphen.

**e.g.** proactive استباقي **e.g.** reactivate اعادة تفعيل

**Rule 10 /** Always use between an adverb and a participle (verb form that describes a noun). Consider the following

**e.g. well-developed, well-known, self-correcting, home-cooked, problem-**

**solving, ill-advised, fast-moving, friendly-sounding**

**Note 2 /** For every rule in the English language, there are always exceptions**.** So**,** when in

doubt about hyphens (or anything else)**,** consult your dictionary.

**Exercise**

**Q. 1 / True or False**

1. This wall is load bearing.

2. This wall is load-bearing.

3. It’s impossible to eat this cake because it is rock hard.

4. Is this hotel dog friendly**?**

5. Is this hotel dog-friendly**?**

6. We’re looking for a dog-friendly hotel.

7. A quarter-million dollars is still a large amount of money.

8. You’ll need one-third of a pound of flour and one egg.

9. It’s a bad leader who thinks of himself as all-powerful.

10. You’ll need one-third of a pound of flour and one-egg.

**Q. 2 /** **Find** and **name the type** of the **compound word** in the following sentences.

1. Sodium chloride is more commonly known as salt**.**

2. The full moon shone brightly through the window.

3. The factory-made shoes were not as expensive as some of the other shoes.

4. We watched the fireflies move around in the dark.

5. The boys rode by on their skateboards.

6. The handmade dress sold to the highest bidder.

7. This database contains many errors.

8. The nearest star to earth is about 4 light years away.

9. Sodium sulfate displays a moderate tendency to form double salts.

10. They went by subway.