

Spotting Compound Words: How Two Small Words Make One New One

Key points

- A compound word is made when two smaller, separate words join together to create a brand new word.
- Examples include 'sun' and 'flower' joining to make 'sunflower', or 'foot' and 'ball' making 'football'.
- Breaking a long word into two smaller parts can help children read unfamiliar words more easily.
- Spotting the two hidden words often helps children understand what the new, longer word actually means.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and some may find certain patterns easier than others.

Things to try at home

- Play a 'word detective' game while reading a storybook to see if you can spot any compound words together.
- Look around the house for objects that are compound words, such as a 'toothbrush' or 'bookshelf'.
- Try a playful challenge to see how many new words you can make by pairing up two simple words.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher
- The GOV.UK website for National Curriculum guidance
- Your school's literacy or English lead