



## Compounding in Various Types of Discourses

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**Abstract:** This article provides some information about compounding, its types and distinguishing characteristics in English and Uzbek. This article also includes basic spelling rules of compounding.

**Key words:** word formation, composition, compounding, spelling rules, hyphenated, separate word.

A compound is the most fixed word combination and it is completely frozen and has no variants at all. A compound is also a lexical element of more than one word. It means that the meaning of compound is always seen from the whole words as one set, or in other words, it cannot be separated from each other. There are three forms of compound words in the novel:

1. **The closed form**, in which the words are blending together, such as “*firefly*”, “*secondhand*”, “*softball*”, “*childlike*”, “*redhead*”, “*makeup*”, “*notebook*”.
2. **The hyphenated form**, such as “*daughter-in-law*”, “*mass-produced*”, “*six-pack*”.
3. **The open form**, such as “*post office*”, “*real estate*”, “*full moon*”, “*middle class*”.

There are many data of compound words found in the English novel “The Pale horse” written by Agatha Christie, which are divided into three forms. They are noun compounds, verb compounds and adjective compounds.

1. overhead	11. seventeen	21. offhand	31. funny-looking
2. headstone	12. half-uncle	22. bathroom	32. outgrown
3. homemade	13. ruthless	23. backward	33. touchstone
4. windblown	14. reasonable	24. old-fashioned	34. self-consciously
5. become	15. lifetime	25. nightgown	35. northern-wing
6. homework	16. blocking-out	26. mid-sky	36. grandparents
7. put-away	17. country side	27. lady fair	37. grandfather
8. leatherbound	18. outdoor	28. stone-cold	38. bedroom
9. hopeless	19. daydreams	29. eye-level	39. stairways
10. butterfly	20. very house	30. handprints	40. knee-high

In the novel of “The Pale horse” we found 146 words consisting 11 compound verbs, 25 compound adjectives, and 110 compound nouns. Each word occurs several times.

Therefore, the frequency of compound words that are in novel is presented into the table as follow:



The types of compound words in the novel “The Pale horse”

Types	Indicator	Occurrences	Percentage
Compound Verbs	A word consisting of two (or more) words, in which one of them acts as a verb	11	8%
Compound adjectives	An adjective consisting of two (or more) adjectival terms that are combined	25	17%
Compound nouns	Noun consisting of two (or more) noun like words.	110	75%
<b>Total</b>		146	100%

It can be seen from the table the compound noun is the most dominant type of compound word that occurs in “The Pale horse” followed with compound adjectives and compound verbs.

- 1) “When I reach the side of the building that **overlooks** the street, ...” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 11)
- 2) ““Owning your own business isn’t **downgrading**,” he says.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 15)
- 3) “I press my face into the couch and **fake-cry** into a throw pillow.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 25)
- 4) “..., in contrast to the village girls whose mannerisms – **overdoing** their makeup, cussing, and smoking – **outranked** their foothills.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 98)
- 5) “... Until he followed into a place where gray-blue light beams slanted through the quiet and **highlighted** their forms.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 121)

The adjectives in this novel is used to describe the situation or to describe things or people. For example:

- 1) “That chair must be made from **marine-grade** polymer.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 9)
- 2) “This guy must realize he’s no match for such a **highquality** material, ...” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 9)
- 3) “..., she stopped scrubbing grits from the pot and lowered it into the basin of **worn-out** suds.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 15)
- 4) “The **stubby-nosed** shoes were fake alligator skin.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 15)
- 5) “A heaviness, thick as **black-cotton** mud, pushed her chest as she returned to the steps to wait.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 16)

The compound nouns in the novel is mostly used by the authors to describe things, or even place. For instance,

- 1) “Adored mayor of my **hometown** of Plethora, Maine.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 7)
- 2) “..., I expect the **stairwell** to spit a human out onto the **rooftop**.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 8)
- 3) “The door slams shut again and **footsteps** move swiftly across the deck.” (Agatha Christie The Pale horse 2012: 8)



- 4) “*The shack sat back from the palmettos, which sprawled across sand flats to **necklace** of green lagoons and, ...*” (Agatha Christie *The Pale horse* 2012: 16)
- 5) “*Miles of **blade-grass** so tough it grew in salt water, ...*” (Agatha Christie *The Pale horse* 2012: 16)

While our research we found compound epithets in the novel “*The Pale horse*”. Speaking of compound epithets based on simile, most examples present vivid and powerful descriptions, such as *sphinx-like* expression, *god-like* chin or *soldier-like* desire. Nevertheless, there is an instance of the simile-based compound epithet the usage of which remains on the verge of hyperbole as in *bear-like* torso. What all these N+like epithets have in common is the fact that the noun from the compound epithet is used to illustrate qualities of the nouns modified by the epithet. For instance, when we say that a man has magnet-like qualities, it means that he attracts attention of other people as a magnet attracts other objects. If we describe someone’s torso as bear-like, we instantly think of a huge wild animal and we assign its physical traits to a human. We base the simile on the comparison between properties of the noun which is a part of the compound epithets (e.g. bear) and the noun being modified by the epithet (e.g. torso). In other words, the noun which constitutes the compound epithets provides enough information for us to compare it with the modified noun and decide on which salient properties the simile is based.

In addition, some compound epithets from the corpus will not be classified within any of the groups from previous sections. The following two examples are compound epithets the meaning of which is neither literal nor based on metonymy, metaphor and simile. When we say that a boy is sparrow weight, it does not literally mean that he weighs the same as a sparrow but we rather point out that his weight is below the average weight of a boy or that he is undernourished. We may see it as an instance of a litotes. Also, a basement wide gasp cannot be literally interpreted and the focus is on the strength of the gasp which, in this case, may even be considered a hyperbole:

“*Mr. Soldier,*” said one chestnut-hued **sparrow-weight** boy in careful English,  
*‘bubblegum please thank you Archie reached into his pocket and pulled out five  
thin pink strips.* (Agatha Christie *The Pale horse* 2012: 94)

*It elicited a spontaneous **basement-wide** gasp, followed by more laughter.* (Agatha Christie *The Pale horse* 2012: 231)

Here the compound adjective *sparrow-weight* describes the boy’s appearance and focuses on his small body. Addressee would like to show the small build of his body and at the same time she shows the lovely feature of it with the current compound word. As everybody knows sparrow is a nice little bird. It is small and light with wonderful feathers. So the writer is using this adjective to give a better idea about his outer feature.

Compound word *basement-wide* defines the character’s ugly, unexpected mouth opening as “basement” is always wet, untidy and disgusting place for all.

We can comprehend from this examples that every single word has its linguistic functions, especially pragmatic function in the context. When it comes pragmatic aspects it raises the question of situational interpretation which, in its turn, introduces the notion of communicative-pragmatic situation. The communicative-pragmatic situation is understood as a complex of external conditions and circumstances of communication.



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