

Dyslexia Steps Free dyslexia worksheets

Compound words

6 pages · answer key on the last page

Name: _____ Date: _____

For the grown-up: do one page a day, about 5 to 10 minutes. A compound word is two small words joined together. Finding the two small words is a first step to reading any long word in parts. Answers are on the last page.

1 Read and re-read

Read each word. Find the two small words inside it, then read the whole word. Tick a box each time you read it.

	1	2	3		1	2	3
sunset	☐	☐	☐	bathtub	☐	☐	☐
bedbug	☐	☐	☐	backpack	☐	☐	☐
pigpen	☐	☐	☐	dustpan	☐	☐	☐
hilltop	☐	☐	☐	cobweb	☐	☐	☐
laptop	☐	☐	☐	catnap	☐	☐	☐
handbag	☐	☐	☐	hubcap	☐	☐	☐

Tip: Cover one half of the word with a finger, read the other half, then swap.

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Name: _____

2 Split the word

Draw a line between the two small words. Write each small word on its line.

Tip: Read the word out loud first. Where does the first small word end?

1. c a t n a p _____ _____
2. h u b c a p _____ _____
3. d e s k t o p _____ _____
4. s a n d b a g _____ _____
5. s u n t a n _____ _____
6. b e d b u g _____ _____
7. h i l l t o p _____ _____
8. b a t h t u b _____ _____

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Name: _____

3 Make a word

Pick one word from each box and join them to make a compound word.
Write six words.

Box 1

sun hill bed
pig lap bath

Box 2

tub pen top
set bug top

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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Name: _____

4 Which one is a compound word?

Read the three words in each row. Circle the one that is made of two small words.

1.	rabbit	sunset	muffin
2.	napkin	picnic	laptop
3.	bathtub	basket	magnet
4.	tennis	backpack	dentist
5.	helmet	goblin	hilltop
6.	cactus	puppet	dustpan
7.	pigpen	pencil	insect
8.	kitten	cobweb	mitten

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Name: _____

5 Read the sentences

Read each sentence out loud. Underline the compound words. Tick the box when you can read the sentence smoothly.

1. We sat on the hilltop at sunset. ☐
2. A bedbug is in the backpack. ☐
3. The pig is in the pigpen. ☐
4. Dad hid the handbag in the bathtub. ☐
5. The cat had a catnap on the laptop. ☐

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Answer key

For the grown-up. Check together and keep it light: a mistake shows what to practise next.

2. Split the word

1. **cat | nap**
2. **hub | cap**
3. **desk | top**
4. **sand | bag**
5. **sun | tan**
6. **bed | bug**
7. **hill | top**
8. **bath | tub**

3. Make a word

sunset, hilltop, bedbug, pigpen, laptop, bathtub

Other real words made from the boxes are right too.

4. Which one is a compound word?

1. sunset
2. laptop
3. bathtub
4. backpack
5. hilltop
6. dustpan
7. pigpen
8. cobweb

5. Underlined words

1. hilltop, sunset
2. bedbug, backpack
3. pigpen
4. handbag, bathtub
5. catnap, laptop

Next step: words that were hard today go on tomorrow's practice. When the whole pack feels easy, choose the next pack at dyslexiasteps.com/dyslexia-worksheets.

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