

Compound Word Activities

Clapping Activity Speak the first word of a compound word aloud. Instruct the child to say the word and clap. Then speak the second word of the compound aloud. Have the child repeat this word and clap. Then tell the child to say both words together and to clap for each word. For example: apple (clap) + sauce (clap) → apple (clap) sauce (clap). The clapping activity teaches children that compounds consist of multiple words.

Picture Cards For each compound word make three picture cards. One card should include an image of the compound word while the other two cards should include images of the two words that form the compound. For example, use a picture of a tooth and a picture of a brush for the compound word *toothbrush*. As an activity, hold up the two cards that make up the compound. Have the child figure out the words and then the compound word. Once the child has figured out the compound word, show them the picture of the compound word. This picture card activity also teaches young children that compounds are formed by combining two or more words. Free pictures can be downloaded from <http://thefirstgradepride.blogspot.com/2011/03/potpourri.html>. Go to the website and scroll down to “click to download compound words sorting cards”.

Silly Compounds For a fun compound word activity have the child think up new and possibly silly compounds. Also have the child describe what their new words mean. For example, cat + shower → catshower (a shower for cats) and monkey + pants → monkeypants (pants for monkeys or pants with a monkey pattern). This activity helps reinforce the idea that compound words are new words that are made up of two other words. Compound words are common words in the English language that consist of two or more words that combine to form a single new word.

Websites

www.spellingcity.com/compound-words.html

www.vocabulary.co.il/compound-words/primary/general-compound-word-match/

<https://www.turtlediary.com/game/making-compound-words.html>

More Compound Words

airport	goldfish	bathtub
campfire	football	forgive
rainbow	spaceship	cowboy
highway	birthday	blackboard
inside	bedroom	ladybug
footprint	watermelon	homework
weekend	meatball	strawberry
myself	hallway	backpack
grandmother		outdoor
popcorn	toolbox	classroom
playground		

Books for Teaching Compound Words

Once There Was A Bull...(Frog) By Rick Walton and Greg Nally

If You Were a Compound Word By Trisha Shasken and Sara Gray

Flying Butter (Rookie Reader) By Patricia Trattles and Gary Swift

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs By Judi and Ron Brett