

# Tools for Instruction

## Decode Compound Words

A compound word is made of two component words; for example: *airplane* is made up of *air* and *plane*.

Developing readers learn to look for familiar words within the longer word and to put them together to say the compound. Two-syllable compound words can be a useful introduction to the concept of syllables, because the syllables naturally break apart at the word boundaries. For each of the following activities, select compound words from the word list **Compound Words** (page 2) that are appropriate for your students.

### Three Ways to Teach

#### Find the Base Words 10–15 minutes

- Name a two-syllable compound word and clap each syllable, inviting students to clap along.
- Display the compound word. Have students name the two words that make up the compound word. Draw a slash mark in the word to show where to divide the syllables.

*snow/storm*    *pan/cake*    *flash/light*    *pea/nut*

- Display one or two compound words for students to divide on their own. Students may then play the role of teacher and explain to a learner how to read a compound word.

#### Build Compound Words 10–15 minutes

- Prepare a set of word cards by breaking apart compound words and writing the component words on separate word cards.
- Display the cards and have students read them.
- Challenge students to put the cards together in pairs to make real compound words. Read the compound words together and discuss their meanings.

#### Use Clues to Make Compound Words 10–15 minutes

Display a list of compound words. Provide oral clues using both words in the compound. Have students identify and then write the compound word. See the examples below.

a shelf for books (**bookshelf**)

a pack to carry on your back (**backpack**)

a bird with black feathers (**blackbird**)

the light that comes from the sun (**sunlight**)

### Check for Understanding

If you observe...	Then try...
difficulty identifying both component words in a compound	using compound words that share a base word, such as <i>raincoat</i> , <i>rainstorm</i> , and <i>snowstorm</i> . Guide students to use the shared word to tell how the compounds are alike.

## Compound Words

This word list includes two-syllable compound words. Choose words and levels of difficulty that match your students' needs and abilities.

backbone	backpack	baseball	bathroom	bedroom
birdbath	blackbird	bluebird	bookcase	bookshelf
bookworm	classroom	cupcake	daydream	daylight
earplug	fireplace	fireworks	flashlight	football
handbook	notebook	oatmeal	pancake	peanut
placemat	popcorn	raincoat	rainstorm	roommate
seacoast	seafood	seagull	seashell	seashore
snowball	snowflake	snowstorm	suitcase	sunlight
sunrise	sunscreen	sunset	toenail	