Unit 15 – Lesson 25

Expanding Nominal Compounds – Words with multiple meanings

Nominal compound is a grammatical structure in which nouns are linked together to indicate a new concept. Adjectives are used to describe the characteristics of nouns for example

Long table

Broken table

Noun in noun compounds can also serve this junction though they usually describe categories rather than characteristics.

Example – metal table

Picnic table – card table

Noun compounds consisting of two nouns occur in many everyday activities

Example – Dinner plate, tooth brush, book shelf, hair – clip, rain coat etc. In American English nominal compounds are not hyphenated.

The difficulty of understanding noun compounds can be alleviated in most cases by teaching the parallels between the categories of English Definitions and the categories of nominal compounds.

Drinking water

Washing machine

Maintenance crew

Cat food

Oil pump

Dog house

Glass door

Food bowl

Newspaper

Bullet hole

The first member of the nominal compound can be either common noun or proper noun. a single **We can define a nominal compound as a string of two or more nouns having the same distribution as noun-Student invention, Repair man, Cooling device – head noun is interpreted as subject argument. The action nominal is interpreted as denoting a permanent role or function of the reversed meaning and eventually acceptability are affected**.

The analysis of Nominal Compounds represents an important and largely unsolved problem from a theoretical point of view. In Some Linguists perspective, Nominal compounds have turned out to be an important stumbling block for systems that attempt to deal with real life text especially in technical domains.

Unit 15 – Lesson 26

Error Correction

Compound Adjectives

Error Correction

English being a foreign language the non native speakers, tend to translate from their mother tongue or regional language due to which errors occur. Only practices help one to develop correct usage.

Common Pronoun errors

1. x She took me and shilpa for a ride

   ✓ She took shilpa and me for a ride

2. x He was driven crazy by him nagging

   ✓ He was driven crazy by his nagging

3. x Hari and me drove to Salem

   ✓ Hari and I drove to Salem

4. x Just between you and I, the food was terrible

   ✓ Just between you and me, the food was terrible

5. x Anyone who wants to join should see <u>their</u> counselor
   ✓ Anyone who wants to join should see <u>his</u> or <u>her</u> counselor

6. x The people <u>which</u> you befriend will not forget you
   ✓ The people <u>whom</u> you befriend will not forget you

Adverbial expressions

7. x I am very much excited after my results

   ✓ I am very excited after my result

8. x I am very much happy as you have come home.

   ✓ I am very happy as you have come home.

But the following sentences are correct. He is very much afraid he will miss the opportunity.

We were much surprised at her behaviour.

I am very much relieved to hear that dad is getting back to normal after the severe attack

Confusion with prepositions & infinitives

9. x He went for the garden to pluck flowers

   ✓ He went to the garden to pluck flowers

10. x My brother works <u>at</u> Delhi

    ✓ My brother works <u>in</u> Delhi

She studies at Pilani in Rajasthan (at with small places and in with cities)

11. x The father divided the property among his two children

✓ The father divided the property between his two children
(More than two among is used)

Female indicates sex

Should not be used to refer to a girl or women

12. x That female is a snob

✓ That lady / girl is a snob

13. x I hope you are keeping good health

✓ I hope you are enjoying good health

Leave should not be used in the sense of holidays.

14. x Where are you planning to go in the leave?

✓ Where are you planning to go during the holidays?

Use of the expression family members is incorrect. Say members of the family.

15. x Please convey my regards to your family members

✓ Please convey my regards to the members of your family

16 x Google are going to take over the world

✓ Google is going to take over the world.

17. x I am not speaking to nobody in the class (using double negative)

✓ I am not speaking to anybody in the class

18. x It was the most funniest comedy I saw (using double superlative)

✓ It was the funniest comedy I saw

All right – these words should always be written as two separate words and not as alright.

Rather and Very should not be used together

x He is rather very foolish

✓ He is rather foolish and not as you think

The use the same for an pronoun it, them, they is incorrect.

x When you have altered the shirt, return the same

✓ When you have altered the shirt return it

x I kindly request you to grant leave

✓ I request you to kindly grant leave

List of commonly confused words

Words	Meanings
There – their	Place – possession
Fair – fare	Complexion – bus fare
Affect – effect	Cause a change – bring about
Biannual – biennial	Twice a year – once in two years
Deprecate – Depreciate	Disapprove of – Lower in value
Ingenious - Ingenuous	Well thought off – Innocent / honest
Imply – Infer	Suggest strongly – Deduce
Loose - lose	Not fastened –lose something
Perquisite - prerequisite	Special right – needed in advance
Prescribe – proscribe	Recommend with authority / Prescription – Forbid or condemn
Refute – Repudiate	Prove a statement to be wrong – Refuse to accept / reject
Tortuous – Torturous	Twisting / devious – tormenting / causing torture

Assignment

Write 20 pairs of confused words you know.

Compound Adjectives

A compound adjective is an adjective which is made up of two parts and usually written with hyphen. Eg. Well – dressed, never – ending, etc. Its meaning is usually clear from the word it combines. The second part of the compound adjective is frequently a present or past participle. A large number of compound adjectives describe personal appearance. Eg. Curly – haired, thin – lipped, sun – tanned, blue – eyed, long –legged, etc.

Another set of compound adjectives describes a person's character. Eg. Absent - minded, Easy - going, good - tempered, warm – hearted, quick – witted, etc.

The next one is where the second part is a preposition.

Eg. An all - out strike

A burnt - out car

A broken – down bus

A built – up area

A well – off gentleman

A drive – in - theatre

Some more compound Adjectives

Record – breaking, bullet – proof, long – distance, fool – proof, drip – dry, so – called, part – time, world – famous, time – consuming, long – standing, interest – free, etc.

You can vary the compound adjectives listed by changing one part of the adjective. Eg. Curly – haired can be changed as red – haired, straight – haired, etc.

Assignment

Answer the questions by using a compound adjectives which is opposite in meaning to the adjective in question. Note that the answer may or may not have the same element as in the adjective in the question.

1. Isn't she rather short – sighted
2. Is your brother well behaved
3. Are your shoes high – heeled

Fill each of the blanks to form a new adjective

1. _____ eyed
2. _____ made
3. _____ proof
4. _____ necked
5. _____ headed
6. _____ hearted

Answers

1. Long - sighted
2. Badly - behaved
3. Flat - heeled
4. Blue – eyed
5. self – made
6. fool – proof
7. Long – necked
8. Strong – headed
9. warm – hearted