

Nouns to describe other nouns

$oldsymbol{1}$ In English, you often put a noun in front of another noun to tell you more about it:

A What sort of dress was she wearing?

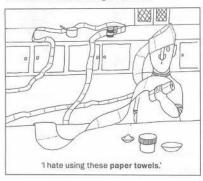
B It was a beautiful silk dress.

A Did you leave it in the dining room?

B No. It's on the kitchen table.

2 You do this:

a to show what something is made of:





They were kept in a glass case. He put it in a cardboard box.

Note: For something made of wood you usually say wooden:

He put it in a wooden box. There was an old wooden table in the corner.

b to say where something is:

Put these flowers on the dining-room table. It's in the kitchen cupboard. London hotels are very expensive.

c to say when it happens:

Are you going to the six o'clock class? Let's have a Christmas party.

d to say what size or how heavy it is:

She bought some milk in a one litre carton. There was a ten foot wall round the house.

e to say how expensive it is:

He wore a fifteen hundred dollar suit. She bought a five dollar ticket.

f to say what it is about:

Where's my history book? I'm listening to the sports news.

You often use a noun with the ...er form of the verb:

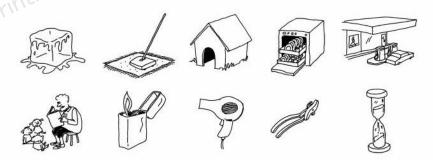
He got a job as a window cleaner. She's a good language learner.

WARNING: The first noun is almost never found in the plural. A man who cleans windows is a window cleaner. A cheque for a hundred pounds is a hundred pound cheque. An exception is sports. We talk about a sports field for example.



 $ilde{\mathbb{A}}$ Write down what these things are. Put in brackets the point they relate to on the previous page: a leather belt (2a) 1 a belt made of leather 2 a handkerchief made out of paper 3 a table made of wood 4 a bag made out of plastic 5 a chair in the kitchen 6 furniture used in the garden 7 seats found in an aeroplane 8 a meeting on Thursday 9 a party on someone's birthday 10 an appointment at two o'clock 11 a traveller's cheque for fifty pounds 12 a note worth ten pounds 13 a bag weighing one hundred kilos 14 a baby weighing three kilos 15 a book about cookery 16 a magazine about fashion 17 the page about sports 18 someone who sells newspapers 19 someone who teaches languages

Note: This is so common in English that it is impossible to list all the ways we use nouns to describe other nouns. Sometimes the two nouns are used together so often that they have become one word. (You dry your hair with a hairdryer.)



Can you find the following?

20 someone who plays cards

2 a dishwasher 3 a tin opener 4 an ice cube 5 a cigarette lighter 1 a story teller 6 an egg-timer 7 a petrol station 8 a dog kennel 9 a carpet sweeper 10 a hairdryer