

Compound Nouns

11b. A **compound noun** is made up of two or more words used together as a single noun.

EXAMPLES backpack, Haleakala National Park, brother-in-law

EXERCISE Underline the compound nouns in the following sentences. There may be more than one compound noun in a sentence.

Example 1. The Marx Brothers were a family of comedians.

1. They were born in New York City and began working as children.
2. Originally, five of the brothers were in show business.
3. Their given names were Leonard, Adolph, Julius, Milton, and Herbert.
4. Thousands of theatergoers, however, knew them as Chico, Harpo, Groucho, Gummo, and Zeppo.
5. Their first successful play on Broadway was *I'll Say She Is* in 1924.
6. One of their films was a version of their stage play *The Cocoanuts*, which was written by George S. Kaufman.
7. This film was followed by *Animal Crackers*, *Monkey Business*, and *Duck Soup*.
8. Every film was a whirlwind of hilarity, with nonstop jokes and physical comedy.
9. The three best-known Marx Brothers were Groucho, Chico, and Harpo.
10. Groucho was known for his eyebrows, his moustache, and his constant wisecracks.
11. He often played characters with funny names, such as Rufus T. Firefly in *Duck Soup*.
12. Chico Marx spoke with an accent, mispronounced words, and excelled as a pianist.
13. Harpo never spoke, so he specialized in sight gags and slapstick.
14. His harp playing was a highlight of every film.
15. The actress Margaret Dumont was often the target of Groucho's jokes.
16. One of the brothers' later films was *A Night in Casablanca*.
17. Warner Brothers, a rival studio, threatened to sue the Marx Brothers because of the film.
18. They felt its name was too similar to another film starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.
19. Groucho Marx sent the studio a humorous letter.
20. "I'll sue you," wrote Groucho Marx, "for using the word 'Brothers.'"