



# CHAPTER 5



## WORD FORMATION VIA COMPOUNDING

复合构词法



*—Can I say “It’s a you-must-see-it-or-you’ll-be-sorry movie?”*

*—Of course you can, but it’s too wordy. Just say “It’s a must-see movie.”*



Compounding is one of the oldest methods of word formation. It refers to the combination of two or more independent words, each of which can function as an individual word. The meaning of a compound generally extends beyond the original meanings of the individual elements involved. Instead, compounding often induces a completely new word with a new meaning.

Compounding is also often confused with combining. Although both methods conjoin two or more elements into one single word, there are some minute differences between them. First, combining is often completed by one combining form plus a free word, or another combining form, or an affix, while compounding is always completed by two or more free words only. Second, most combining forms usually come from foreign languages such as Greek or Latin, but most free words involved in compounding are often native words that rooted in Old English. Third, words created through combining are mainly scholarly terms. In contrast, words created through compounding are often simple everyday words.

Free words are the essential elements of a compound. A free word has much more freedom than a combining form. For example, *arm*, *head*, *line*, and *land* are free words. On the one hand, they can be freely used as fully functioning individual words in a sentence. On the other hand, they can be comfortably bound to other free words into compounds. In contrast, a combining form, which is mostly to be combined with other forms, seldom appears alone. For example, *self*, *auto*, and *mini* are combining forms and they are hardly used alone in a sentence.

## 5.1 Three Forms of Compounds 复合词的三种形式

Compounds may appear in any of the three forms: solid form, open form, and hyphenated form. In most cases, compounds in all three forms carry the same meaning. For example, *toothache*, *tooth-ache*, and *tooth ache* mean exactly the same. However, some other open-form compounds provoke different interpretations. For example, *superpower* (超级强权) and *super power* (特大的威力); *greenhouse* (温室) and *green house* (绿色的房子).

**Solid-form Compounds:** two or more free words grouped together without a hyphen or a space in between. It is noticed that solid-form compounds are



usually made of words with no more than five letters each. Solid-form compounds usually have been in use at least five years before they are recorded in a decent dictionary.

database <i>n.</i> 数据库, 资料库	website <i>n.</i> 网站
webmaster <i>n.</i> 网站点管理员	webspace <i>n.</i> 网站所占的空间
webpage <i>n.</i> 网页	webwork <i>n.</i> 具有多种联结点的网络

**Open-form Compounds:** two or more free words grouped together with a space in between. It seems that this form applies to compounds made of long words. Open-formed compounds are becoming more and more popular in modern English.

customer service 顾客服务	data retrieval 资料复原
customer service center 顾客服务中心	data storage 资料储存
data backup 资料备份	data transfer 资料传输
data capture 数据截获	delivery service 递送服务
data entry 数据录入	delivery service truck 递送服务车
data processing 数据处理	mass media 大众媒体
data protection 资料保护	web ring 连环网站, 网络联盟

**Hyphenated-form Compounds:** two or more free words connected together by a hyphen or hyphens. It seems that hyphenated-form compounds contain elements that belong to mixed parts of speech or that form a phrase. Compounds of this kind are becoming more and more popular in news publications.

mass-contaminate <i>v.</i> 大规模污染	well-educated <i>adj.</i> 受过良好教育的
mass-destruction <i>n.</i> 大规模毁灭	newly-brewed <i>adj.</i> 新酿造的
mass-manufacture <i>v.</i> 大量制造	artificially-created <i>adj.</i> 人工创造的
mass-produce <i>v.</i> 大规模生产	do-it-yourself <i>adj.</i> 自己动手做的
web-based <i>adj.</i> 以网络为基础的	easy-going <i>adj.</i> 随和的

Many compounds, which used to carry a hyphen in between, now appear without hyphens in latest versions of dictionaries. The general trend is to drop off all unnecessary hyphens. The principle is that if the compound causes confusion or mispronunciation, use a hyphen; if not, just drop it off. However, some hyphenated compounds have been used for such a long time that most people still prefer their traditionally-inherited form.

Since compounds in open forms may involve different interpretations, we will concentrate our study on the solid form and hyphenated form of compounds in this chapter.

## 5.2 Structures of Compounds 复合词的结构

Compounds can be formed in various ways, with two or more independent words.

### TWO-WORD COMPOUNDS

roadside	(road + side)	<i>n.</i> 路旁
roadbed	(road + bed)	<i>n.</i> 路基
roadblock	(road + block)	<i>n.</i> 路障
washbasin	(wash + basin)	<i>n.</i> 洗脸盆
washboard	(wash + board)	<i>n.</i> 洗衣板
washstand	(wash + stand)	<i>n.</i> 脸盆架

### THREE-WORD COMPOUNDS

whatsoever	(what + so + ever)	<i>pron.</i> 无论什么
nevertheless	(never + the + less)	<i>conj. &amp; adv.</i> 然而, 不过
workmanship	(work + man + ship)	<i>n.</i> 手工艺, 技艺, 技巧

The compounded elements can be in almost any part of speech.

### NOUN + NOUN COMPOUNDS

newspaper	(news + paper)	<i>n.</i> 报纸
airbag	(air + bag)	<i>n.</i> 安全气囊
parkway	(park + way)	<i>n.</i> 绿化道路

### NOUN + ADJECTIVE COMPOUNDS

carsick	(car + sick)	<i>adj.</i> 晕车的
waterproof	(water + proof)	<i>adj.</i> 防水的, 不透水的
carefree	(care + free)	<i>adj.</i> 无忧无虑的

### NOUN + VERB COMPOUNDS

housekeep	(house + keep)	<i>v.</i> 主持家务
haircut	(hair + cut)	<i>n.</i> 理发
woodcut	(wood + cut)	<i>n.</i> 木刻

**ADJECTIVE + VERB COMPOUNDS**

hotspur	(hot + spur)	<i>n.</i> 性急的人, 暴躁的人
lowrise	(low + rise)	<i>adj.</i> 低楼 (一层或二层楼的建筑物)
narrowcast	(narrow + cast)	<i>v.</i> 用电缆电视播送

**ADJECTIVE + NOUN COMPOUNDS**

deadline	(dead + line)	<i>n.</i> 最后期限
darkroom	(dark + room)	<i>n.</i> (冲洗底片的) 暗室
blackmail	(black + mail)	<i>n.</i> 勒索

**ADJECTIVE + ADJECTIVE COMPOUNDS**

red-hot	(red + hot)	<i>adj.</i> 炽热的
icy-cold	(icy + cold)	<i>adj.</i> 冰冷的
bittersweet	(bitter + sweet)	<i>adj.</i> 又苦又甜的

**VERB + NOUN COMPOUNDS**

pickpocket	(pick + pocket)	<i>n.</i> 扒手
playboy	(play + boy)	<i>n.</i> 花花公子
cutthroat	(cut + throat)	<i>n.</i> 凶手, 谋杀者

**VERB + ADVERB COMPOUNDS**

diehard	(die + hard)	<i>n.</i> 顽固分子
blowout	(blow + out)	<i>n.</i> (车胎) 爆裂, 保险丝烧断
breakup	(break + up)	<i>n.</i> 完结, 崩溃

**ADVERB + NOUN COMPOUNDS**

overhead	(over + head)	<i>adv.</i> 在头顶上, 在空中
outlaw	(out + law)	<i>n.</i> 歹徒, 逃犯
uphill	(up + hill)	<i>adj.</i> 上坡的

**ADVERB + ADJECTIVE COMPOUNDS**

upright	(up + right)	<i>adj.</i> 垂直的, 竖式的
outsmart	(out + smart)	<i>v.</i> 比……更聪明, 智胜
oversweet	(over + sweet)	<i>adj.</i> 过甜的

**ADVERB + VERB COMPOUNDS**

outburst	(out + burst)	<i>n.</i> (火山、感情等) 爆发
uphold	(up + hold)	<i>v.</i> 支持, 赞成
download	(down + load)	<i>v.</i> 下载

**ADVERB + ADVERB COMPOUNDS**

anyhow	(any + how)	<i>adv.</i> 无论如何, 总之
moreover	(more + over)	<i>adv.</i> 而且, 此外
however	(how + ever)	<i>adv.</i> 无论如何

**PREPOSITION + PREPOSITION COMPOUNDS**

within	(with + in)	<i>adv. &amp; prep.</i> 在内部
into	(in + to)	<i>prep.</i> 到……里, 进入到……之内
upon	(up + on)	<i>prep.</i> 在……之上

**PREPOSITION + NOUN COMPOUNDS**

aftermath	(after + math)	<i>n.</i> 结果, 后果
underdog	(under + dog)	<i>n.</i> 失败者, 受压迫者
afterworld	(after + world)	<i>n.</i> 阴间, 阴世

**PRONOUN + NOUN COMPOUNDS**

heman	(he + man)	<i>n.</i> 专横的大汉
shebang	(she + bang)	<i>n.</i> 赌场, 酒馆, 妓院
she-devil	(she + devil)	<i>n.</i> 恶毒的女人

**5.3 Functions of Compounds 复合词的作用**

Compounds can play different roles in a sentence. They can be used as nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, etc. Look at the following examples:

Example 1: *teargas*

- The police dispelled the mobs with *teargas*. (*teargas* used as a NOUN)
- The police dispelled the mobs by using *teargas* bombs. (*teargas* used as an ADJECTIVE)
- The police *teargased* the mobs. (*teargas* used as a VERB)



Example 2: *air-dry*

- a. The tobacco growers *air-dry* tobacco leaves in shaded sheds. (*air-dry* used as a VERB)
- b. The *air-dry* process was completed in shaded sheds. (*air-dry* used as an ADJECTIVE)

Example 3: *face-to-face*

- a. We will have a *face-to-face* negotiation with the market competitors. (*face-to-face* used as an ADJECTIVE)
- b. We will negotiate with our competitors about market shares *face to face*. (*face to face* used as an ADVERB PHRASE).

**\* Hyphen or no hyphen?**

Linguists have been arguing about whether a hyphen or hyphens should always be used in a phrasal compound. The common practice is to keep the hyphen or hyphens if the compound is used as an adjective; drop it if the compound is used as an adverb (See Example 3 above).

## 5.4 Characteristics of Compounds 复合词的特点

The following rules apply to almost all two-word compounds:

- 1) The plural form of a noun compound usually carries *s* or *es* at the end of the second part, such as *flashlights*, *bookworms*, and *fireflies*.
- 2) A compound usually has its stressed syllable falling on the first part of the compound, such as *afterworld*, *blackmail*, and *output*.
- 3) Most compounds today are treated as completely new words, without a hyphen in between. Some of them still carry hyphens between parts. However, the trend is to simplify spelling by dropping the hyphens.
- 4) In compounds, the first part usually modifies the second part, such as *long-term*, *medium-range*, and *short-lived*.
- 5) The most productive compound elements are usually the three-to-five-lettered words, or the basic Anglo-Saxon vocabulary. For example,



[NOUNS] BODY PARTS: head, hand, ear, face, heart, foot, eye, hair, nose,  
mouth, back

PEOPLE: girl, boy, man, woman, son

TIME: day, night

ANIMALS: dog, cat, horse

THINGS: hook, line, work, oil, gold, iron, silver

SURROUNDINGS: home, house

NATURE: rain, storm, snow, river, water, way, sun, moon, earth,  
land, wood, ground

[VERBS] go, come, play, look, make, take, put

[ADJECTIVES] hard, soft, hot, cold, high, low, good, bad, grand, old,  
new, soft, warm, red, green, black, free, ill, wide, sick.

[PREPOSITIONS & ADVERBS] in, out, on, with, up, down, under,  
after, ever.

## 5.5 Compound NOUNS 复合名词

The constituents in a compound may belong to different parts of speech, but the compounds they create are mostly nouns. The following are some established compounds selected from authoritative dictionaries.

### air 空中, 气

airbag *n.* 安全气囊

airboat *n.* 汽船

airbrush *n.* 油漆喷雾器

airburst *n.* 炸弹在空中的爆炸

air-conditioning *n.* 空气调节系统

airstrip *n.* 飞机跑道

airwaves *n.* 电视广播

airway *n.* 航线

airmail *n.* 航空邮件

airflow *n.* 气流

airfreight *n.* 货物空运

airlift *n.* (紧急情况下的) 空运

airport *n.* 飞机场

airspace *n.* 空域, 领空

aircraft *n.* 航空器

aircrew *n.* 空勤人员

airdrop *n.* 空投

airdrop *n.* 空投

airship *n.* 飞船

airgun *n.* 气枪

**Exercise 5-01** Match the following phrases with their meanings based on your understanding of the element *air*.

- |                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1) treacherous airstrips | a. 隐秘的空军基地 |
| 2) airsick passengers    | b. 晕机的乘客   |
| 3) overwhelming airflow  | c. 机场设备    |
| 4) military airships     | d. 危险的飞机跑道 |
| 5) hidden airbases       | e. 军用飞艇    |
| 6) airport facilities    | f. 强大的气流   |

**after** 在……后

aftershave *n.* 须后水

aftershock *n.* 余震

aftertaste *n.* 回味, 余韵

afterthought *n.* 事后的考虑或想法

afterpains *n.* 产后痛

aftercare *n.* 疾病治疗后的照顾调养

aftereffect *n.* (药物的) 后效, 副作用

afterglow *n.* 晚霞, 夕照

aftermath *n.* 后果

afterworld *n.* 阴间, 后世

**Exercise 5-02** Translate the following sentences into Chinese. Watch how the bold-faced words are used in the contexts.

- 1) The appalling hurricane **aftermath** provoked active responses to donation calls.
- 2) For many religious people, **afterlife** is even more important. Belief in an **afterworld** keeps them optimistic toward death.
- 3) A new mother, after giving birth to her baby, usually experiences a short period of **afterpains**.
- 4) Even if it is a smooth childbirth, both the mother and the baby still need intensive **aftercare**.
- 5) Our scientific finding may help explain a serious **aftereffect** of the drug in a small number of patients.
- 6) The devastating earthquake drove thousands of people homeless. The strong **aftershocks** made their life even more miserable.



**back** 背

backache *n.* 背痛

backblocks *n.* 人烟稀少的腹地

backbiting *n.* 背后中伤他人

backboard *n.* 后挡板, 篮板

backbone *n.* 脊骨, 脊柱

backwoods *n.* 落后的边远地区

backstreet *n.* 偏僻街道, 后街小巷

backstroke *n.* 仰泳

backlash *n.* 反冲, 反撞

backlot *n.* 外景场地

backpack *n.* 背包

backscratching *n.* 互相利用

backsplash *n.* 后挡板, 后防溅板

backcloth *n.* 背景幕布

backcountry *n.* 穷乡僻壤

backup *n.* 后援, 备份

**Exercise 5-03** Translate the following sentences into Chinese. Watch how the bold-faced words are used in the contexts.

- 1) You should refrain your tongue from **backbiting**.
- 2) To prevent data loss in a hard disk failure, you should do data **backup** every day.
- 3) The **backwoods** abounds with many wild animals and rare insects.
- 4) The **backscratching** between politicians disgusts the voters.
- 5) Nobody knew what was going on in the **backstage**.

**black** 黑

blackmail *n.* 勒索

blacklist *n.* 黑名单

blackball *n.* 反对票

blackberry *n.* 黑莓

blackboard *n.* 黑板

blackguard *n.* 流氓

blackout *n.* 断电, 停电

blackhead *n.* 黑头粉刺

**down** 下, 向下

downfall *n.* 衰败, 垮台

downpour *n.* 倾盆大雨

downturn *n.* 下降, 衰退

downland *n.* 丘陵地, 低地

downpipe *n.* 从屋顶通往地面的落水管

downside *n.* 下降趋势, 负面

**Exercise 5-04** Translate the following sentences into Chinese. Watch how the bold-faced words are used in the contexts.

- 1) She was drenched by the sudden **downpour**.
- 2) Thinking about the **downtrend** of the stock market, he lay in bed desperately.
- 3) His lack of experience led to his **downfall**.
- 4) In recent weeks, the risks to inflation have shifted to the **downside**.

### free 自由

freeman *n.* 自由民

free kick (足球) 罚任意球

freehold *n.* 自由保有, 不动产

freeloader *n.* 揩油的人, 不速之客

freethinker *n.* 自由思想家

freeware *n.* 免费软件

freeway *n.* 高速公路

freestyle *n.* (游泳) 自由式

### head 头, 源头

headpiece *n.* 头盔, 帽子

headquarters *n.* 司令部, 总部

headship *n.* 领导者的地位, 能力

headgear *n.* 头饰

headwork *n.* 脑力劳动

headbanger *n.* 随着音乐猛烈摇头的人

headboard *n.* 床头板

headcount *n.* 点人头数, 职员总数

headlight *n.* (汽车的) 前灯

headword *n.* 标题字, 中心词

**Exercise 5-05** Translate the following sentences into Chinese. Watch how the bold-faced words are used in the contexts.

- 1) In the nightclub, you can see hundreds of **headbangers** shaking their muscles in the ear-splitting music.
- 2) The bride, covered with a red **headsquare**, was ushered into the bride chamber.
- 3) A lot of changes have taken place during his **headship**.
- 4) The meeting started after a **headcount**.

### house 房, 屋

houseboat *n.* 形如房子的船

housefly *n.* 家蝇

household *n.* 一家人, 家庭

housecarl *n.* 侍卫



housemate *n.* 住在同一房屋的人    houseboy *n.* 男仆  
housecoat *n.* 家常服    housetop *n.* 屋顶

**line 线**

airline *n.* 航线    hotline *n.* 热线  
bloodline *n.* 血统, 血族    borderline *n.* 边界线  
bottom line *n.* 底线    outline *n.* 大纲, 要点, 概要  
coastline *n.* 海岸线    pipeline *n.* 管道  
deadline *n.* 最后期限    toll-free line *n.* 为顾客设的免费电话

**Exercise 5-06** Complete the following sentences by choosing one from the given words. Change the form if necessary.

**Given Words:** *deadline, outline, border line, toll-free line, airline*

- 1) The 50-year-old \_\_\_\_\_ company is facing bankruptcy.
- 2) Do you know the \_\_\_\_\_ between affection and love?
- 3) For customer services, please call our \_\_\_\_\_ 20-4556-6778.
- 4) Now our technical writers are drafting the proposal against the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Use the \_\_\_\_\_ to guide your book writing.

**night 夜**

nightcap *n.* 睡帽    nightmare *n.* 梦魇, 噩梦  
nightfall *n.* 黄昏    nighttime *n.* 夜间  
nightlife *n.* 夜生活    nightwatchman *n.* 守夜人

**rail 铁路**

railroad *n.* [美] 铁路    railway *n.* [英] 铁道, 铁路  
railcar *n.* 铁路车, 有轨车    railwayman *n.* 铁路员工  
monorail *n.* 单轨铁路    railhead *n.* 铁路末端, 铁路终点站

**rain 雨**

rainbird *n.* 报雨鸟, 雨信鸟    rainproof *n.* 雨衣  
raincoat *n.* 雨衣    rainstorm *n.* 暴风雨  
rainfall *n.* 降雨, 降雨量    rainforest *n.* 雨林

rainwater *n.* 雨水, 软水rainmaker *n.* 唤雨巫师, 人工雨实验者

**Exercise 5-07** Translate the following sentences into Chinese. Watch how the bold-faced words are used in the contexts.

- 1) The rapid extinction of **rainforests** may cause a critical eco-catastrophe.
- 2) The little girl bought a **rainbow** ice-cream bar.
- 3) The **rainstorm** devastated the entire village.
- 4) Increased **rainfall** in the city led to more sewage spills.

**river** 河, 河流riverside *n.* 河岸, 河畔riverboat *n.* 内河船riverhead *n.* 河源, 水源riverbed *n.* 河床riverbank *n.* 河堤, 河岸riverscape *n.* 河景**time** 时间daytime *n.* 白天, 日间downtime *n.* (机器或设备的) 停工期lifetime *n.* 一生, 终生time clock *n.* 上下班记时钟,  
考勤钟time-limit *n.* 时限, 期限timescale *n.* 时间量程timesheet *n.* 工作时间统计表timetable *n.* 时间表pastime *n.* 消遣, 娱乐timecard *n.* 工作时间记录卡,  
考勤卡timekeeper *n.* 计时员, 计时器

**Exercise 5-08** Translate the following sentences into Chinese. Watch how the bold-faced words are used in the contexts.

- 1) Using a **time clock** allows businesses to monitor employee time and attendance.
- 2) All employees are required to punch in and punch out their **timecards**. Your bi-weekly payment will be calculated according to your **time sheet**.
- 3) Parking is difficult to find in the **daytime** when downtown is busy.
- 4) He achieved a lot in his short **lifetime**.
- 5) On the production line, **downtime** has been reduced from 50% to 10%.



**water 水**

watercress *n.* 水田芥  
 waterfowl *n.* 水鸟, 水禽  
 waterspout *n.* 海上龙卷风  
 waterline *n.* (船的) 吃水线, 水线  
 watershed *n.* 分水岭

waterskiing *n.* 滑水  
 waterfront *n.* 水边土地  
 waterworks *n.* 自来水厂  
 watermill *n.* 水磨  
 waterside *n.* 水边, 河畔

**way 路**

airway *n.* 航线, 通风孔  
 expressway *n.* 高速公路  
 highway *n.* 公路, 大路  
 parkway *n.* 公园道路  
 motorway *n.* 汽车高速公路

skyway *n.* 航线  
 subway *n.* 地道, 地铁  
 thruway *n.* 高速公路, 快速公路  
 waterway *n.* 水路, 航道  
 railway *n.* 铁道, 铁路

**work 工作**

classwork *n.* 在教室做的功课  
 knotwork *n.* 编结工艺品  
 schoolwork *n.* 课堂作业, 学校作业  
 teamwork *n.* 联合作业, 协力  
 workfare *n.* 工作福利制  
 workforce *n.* 劳动力  
 workman *n.* 工人, 工匠  
 workmate *n.* 同事, 工友  
 workstation *n.* 工作站  
 worktop *n.* (厨房柜橱上的) 操作面

homework *n.* 家庭作业  
 overwork *n.* 操劳过度, 工作过度  
 silverwork *n.* 银制工艺品  
 workbag *n.* 针线袋  
 workflow *n.* 工作流程  
 workload *n.* 工作量  
 workmanship *n.* 手艺, 技艺  
 worksheet *n.* 工作表  
 workstock *n.* 农畜  
 workwoman *n.* 女工

**Exercise 5-09** Guess the meaning of the following words.

- |                   |                     |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1) workday _____  | 2) workplace _____  | 3) workbook _____   |
| 4) workshop _____ | 5) workbench _____  | 6) workbox _____    |
| 7) worksite _____ | 8) workbasket _____ | 9) workpeople _____ |



## 5.6 Compound Adjectives 复合形容词

Apart from compound nouns, compound adjectives are also common in English. Here are some groups of examples.

### ever 永远, 永恒

evergrowing *adj.* 不断成长的

everlasting *adj.* 永恒的

everchanging *adj.* 变化无常的

evershifting *adj.* 不断移动的

evergreen *adj.* 常绿的, 常青的

everliving *adj.* 永生的

evermoving *adj.* 不断运动的

everfresh *adj.* 长期保鲜的

everyoung *adj.* 永远年轻的

everblooming *adj.* 四季开花的

**Exercise 5-10** Refer to the above word list and translate the following phrases into English.

- 1) 青春永驻的电影明星 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) 四季开花的热带植物 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) 永恒的爱情 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) 变化无常的气候 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) 不断移动的陆地 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) 常绿的山谷 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) 永生的精神 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) 不断运动的地球 \_\_\_\_\_

**ill** 不健康的、不正常的、有误的、贫乏的、不好的、不良的、不恰当的。

Words formed with *ill* are often hyphenated so as to differ from words formed with the prefix *il-*.

ill-advised *adj.* 不理智的, 不明智的

ill-fitting *adj.* 不合适的

ill-gotten *adj.* 非法获得的

ill-judged *adj.* 判断失误的

ill-famed *adj.* 声名狼藉的

ill-formed *adj.* 不良形成的

ill-humored *adj.* 坏脾气的

ill-mannered *adj.* 举止粗鲁的



110 新编英语词汇学教程

ill-minded *adj.* 心思不正的  
 ill-nurtured *adj.* 没有教养的  
 ill-proportioned *adj.* 不成比例的  
 ill-boding *adj.* 不吉利的  
 ill-equipped *adj.* 装备不良的  
 ill-timed *adj.* 不合时宜的

ill-natured *adj.* 本性恶毒的  
 ill-omened *adj.* 不吉祥的  
 ill-shaped *adj.* 形状怪异的  
 ill-bred *adj.* 没有教养的  
 ill-tempered *adj.* 脾气很糟的  
 ill-treated *adj.* 被虐待的

**Exercise 5-11** Translate the following sentences into Chinese based on your understanding of the element *ill*.

- 1) an ill-advised act \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) an ill-famed writer \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) an ill-fated sailor \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) an ill-gotten fortune \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) an ill-timed speech \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) an ill-natured salesman \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) an ill-equipped army \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) an ill-minded leader \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) an ill-tempered boss \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) an ill-nurtured kid \_\_\_\_\_

**NOUN + VERB-ing**

Some compounds contain present participles of verbs to make adjectives. These compounds are usually made of a noun and the -ing form of a verb.

backbreaking <i>adj.</i> 极为累人的	breathtaking <i>adj.</i> 惊人的, 惊险的
earsplitting <i>adj.</i> 震耳欲聋的	heartbreaking <i>adj.</i> 令人心碎的
ice-breaking <i>adj.</i> 破冰的, 打破僵局的	law-abiding <i>adj.</i> 守法的
nerve-racking <i>adj.</i> 伤脑筋的	peace-loving <i>adj.</i> 热爱和平的
promise-keeping <i>adj.</i> 遵守信义的	record-breaking <i>adj.</i> 破纪录的
fortune-seeking <i>adj.</i> 寻宝的	treasure-hunting <i>adj.</i> 寻宝的



**Exercise 5-12** Refer to the above word list and translate the following phrases into English.

- 1) 一场惊险的杂技表演 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) 一种震耳欲聋的滚石音乐 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) 一个令人心碎的爱情故事 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) 一场破了纪录的比赛 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) 一位守法的出租车司机 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) 一位遵守信义的商业合伙人 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) 一个爱好和平的少数民族 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) 一种折磨神经的迪斯科音乐 \_\_\_\_\_

**形容词 + looking 形容容貌或外表**

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| good-looking <i>adj.</i> 好看的     | lovely-looking <i>adj.</i> 容貌上可爱的    |
| ugly-looking <i>adj.</i> 看上去丑的   | nice-looking <i>adj.</i> 看上去美的       |
| weird-looking <i>adj.</i> 看上去怪的  | wealthy-looking <i>adj.</i> 看上去富有的   |
| smart-looking <i>adj.</i> 看上去聪明的 | funny-looking <i>adj.</i> 看上去滑稽的     |
| kind-looking <i>adj.</i> 看上去慈祥的  | helpful-looking <i>adj.</i> 看上去乐意助人的 |

**made 制造**

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| homemade <i>adj.</i> 家庭自制的     | handmade <i>adj.</i> 手工的, 手制的    |
| machine-made <i>adj.</i> 机器制造的 | custom-made <i>adj.</i> 特制的, 定制的 |
| China-made <i>adj.</i> 中国制造的   | ready-made <i>adj.</i> 现成的, 做好的  |

**proof 防、抗**

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| acid-proof <i>adj.</i> 防酸的   | assault-proof <i>adj.</i> 防攻击的   |
| bombproof <i>adj.</i> 防弹的    | corrosion-proof <i>adj.</i> 防腐蚀的 |
| damp-proof <i>adj.</i> 防湿的   | dog-proof <i>adj.</i> 防狗的        |
| flameproof <i>adj.</i> 防火的   | insect-proof <i>adj.</i> 防昆虫的    |
| noise-proof <i>adj.</i> 防噪音的 | radiation-proof 防辐射的             |
| shatterproof <i>adj.</i> 防碎的 | soundproof <i>adj.</i> 隔音的       |



**Exercise 5-13** Match the following phrases with their meanings based on your understanding of the element *proof*.

- |                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1) rustproof doorknobs        | a. 防晒油    |
| 2) shatterproof dishes        | b. 防雨制服   |
| 3) rainproof uniforms         | c. 防锈门把手  |
| 4) sunburn-proof cream        | d. 防破碎的碟子 |
| 5) virusproof software        | e. 防水设备   |
| 6) waterproof facilities      | f. 防辐射保护  |
| 7) oilproof boots             | g. 防油靴子   |
| 8) radiation-proof protection | h. 防病毒软件  |

**sick (ill)** 晕、渴望

airsick *adj.* 晕机的

brainsick *adj.* 有脑病的

homesick *adj.* 想家的

carsick *adj.* 晕车的

seasick *adj.* 晕船的

lovesick *adj.* 害相思病的

**well** 好, 与 *ill*- 相反, 后面常加过去分词, 构成形容词。

well-bred *adj.* 教养好的

well-composed *adj.* 写得好的

well-developed *adj.* 充分发展的

well-earned *adj.* 应得的, 正当得来的

well-groomed *adj.* 衣着入时的

well-paid *adj.* 报酬优厚的

well-proportioned *adj.* 比例很合适的

well-timed *adj.* 时机合适的

well-built *adj.* 很健壮的

well-connected *adj.* 有好亲戚的

well-done *adj.* 做得很好的

well-educated *adj.* 受过良好教育的

well-grounded *adj.* 有充分根据的

well-prepared *adj.* 准备充分的

well-skilled *adj.* 技术熟练的

well-trained *adj.* 训练有素的

**Exercise 5-14** Refer to the above word list and translate the following phrases into Chinese.

- 1) a well-planned bank burglary \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) a well-preserved jungle \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) a well-knit handkerchief \_\_\_\_\_



- 4) a well-educated manager \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) a well-earned fortune \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) a well-balanced design \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) a well-done project \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) a well-supported proposal \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) a well-chosen candidate \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) a well-groomed applicant \_\_\_\_\_

**wide 在……范围内**citywide *adj.* 全市的, 全市性的companywide *adj.* 全公司范围内的countywide *adj.* 全县性的nationwide *adj.* 全国性的statewide *adj.* 全州范围的communitywide *adj.* 全社区性的countrywide *adj.* 全国的industry-wide *adj.* 全行业内的school-wide *adj.* 全校性的store-wide *adj.* 全商店范围的**5.7 Phrasal Compounds 短语复合词**

Compounds can also be formed of phrases or word clusters of various kinds. In fact, most compounds formed in this way are very popular in contemporary English and are often used as compound adjectives. The Chinese ESL/EFL students would feel very comfortable with these compounds because they make the English syntax order very close to the syntax in Chinese. Look at the following examples:

- 1) On the way to the airport, they fell in a **two-mile-long** traffic jam.

在去机场的路上, 他们陷入了**两英里长的**交通堵塞。

- 2) At the age of 26, she fell in love with a **62-year-old** professor.

她在 26 岁时爱上了一位 **62 岁的**教授。

The following compounds consist of miscellaneous phrases and word clusters. A large variety of compounds like these can be found in today's news media. Keep in mind that these kinds of compounds are mostly used as adjectives followed by nouns.

<u>COMPOUND</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
under-the-table	under-the-table money	行贿用的钱
at-risk	at-risk children	危险期儿童
cutting-edge	cutting-edge technology	尖端技术
once-in-a-life-time	once-in-a-life-time fortune	终生难得的财富
face-to-face	a face-to-face conversation	一场面对面的谈话
shoulder-to-shoulder	a shoulder-to-shoulder support	肩并肩的支援
head-to-head	a head-to-head confrontation	头对头的对抗
hand-in-hand	a hand-in-hand friendship	手拉手的友谊

**Exercise 5-15** Rewrite the following sentences by replacing the underlined part with a compound from the given words.

**Given Words:** *newly-built, trustworthy, download, outsmart, high-accomplished, poverty-stricken, underdeveloped, overworked, teamwork, countrywide, overcooked*

Example: The mayor inspected the shopping mall that was built not long ago.

*The mayor inspected the newly-built shopping mall.*

- 1) The hamburger was cooked too much.
- 2) Each summer, thousands of Chinese students take the competitive college entrance exams that are offered in the whole country.
- 3) The supervisor is a man who deserves everyone's trust.
- 4) Working and collaborating closely is a critical factor of the company's success.
- 5) You can copy and save the webpage from the Internet to your computer.
- 6) To use the computer, you have to be smarter than the machine.
- 7) Many people who live in poverty in the poor countries work more than 12 hours a day.
- 8) Students prepared a farewell party for the professor who was highly accomplished.

## 5.8 Questions for Further Study 学习思考题

1. What are the major differences between a combining form and a compound? Could you illustrate the differences with examples?



Chapter 5 WORD FORMATION VIA COMPOUNDING 115

2. What are the three forms of compound words in English? What are the major differences among them?
3. What are the major functions of compounds in sentences? Could you list these functions with examples?
4. What are the major characteristics of compounds, or rules for using compounds?
5. Could you collect from your outside reading three compounds for Compound Nouns, three for Compound Adjectives, and three for Phrasal Compounds?
6. Collect examples of compounds from newspaper headlines, examine the use and effect of using compounds.

