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## Lezione 2

</en/de/home/en/de/courses/1/learning-german-with-pirandello/lessons/2/word-compounding>

### Word Compounding

#### Compound nouns

Compound nouns are very common in German.

They are the combination of two or more words (or parts of words) to form a single semantic unit. There are no fixed rules for determining when to use a linking element between the parts of a compound noun. The best way to learn how to combine words is through examples. All the examples below, like those in the previous lesson, are taken from the first part of our excerpt.

All the dreams chosen for the Traumleser project are between 200 and 600 words long. The extract from Pirandello's text has exactly 600 words. Since 600 can be divided by three, the text is divided into three sections of exactly 200 words each. Examples of the first 200 words:

noun + noun (N+ N)

mountain → Berg Berg (mountain)

village → Dorf Dorf (village)

Bergdorf

Bergdorf (mountain village)

noun + -es- + noun (N+ es + N)

sea → Meer Meer (sea)

beach → Strand Strand (beach)

Meeresstrand

Meeresstrand (beach)

noun + -s- + noun (N+ s + N)

angel → Engel Engel (angel)

face → Gesicht Gesicht (face)

Engelsgesicht

Engelsgesicht (angel face)

noun + -n- + noun (N+ n + N)

big man → Riese Riese (giant)

ugly man → Kerl Kerl (very ugly man)

Riesenkerl

Riesenkerl (big and ugly)

adjective + noun + noun

six foot → zwei Meter zwei Meter (six foot)

man → Mann Mann (man)

Zweimetermann

Zweimetermann (six-foot giant)

In compounds nouns like *Engelsgesicht* the first noun acts as a modifier for the second noun. The element *Engel* specifies the type of face (*Gesicht*). Some nouns, such as *Engel* require a -s to act as a modifier for another noun. For example: *Engelslächeln* → angel's smile.

Engelslächeln (angel's smile)

Good to know!

There are two exercises following this lesson.

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