Compound Noun in Hindi: Study Notes

A compound noun (संयुक्त / यौगिक संज्ञा) is formed when two or more words work together to name one person, place, thing or concept.

Written Forms

Closed: notebook (नोटबुक), toothbrush (दाँत साफ़ करने का ब्रश), raincoat (बरसाती).

Open: bus stop (बस स्टॉप), post office (डाकघर), dining table (खाने की मेज़).

Hyphenated: mother-in-law (सास), editor-in-chief (प्रधान संपादक), passer-by (राहगीर).

Essential Rules

1. Compound nouns function as a single noun even when written as several words.

2. Plurals normally mark the head noun: toothbrushes, bus stops, mothers-in-law, editors-in-chief.

3. Use context to determine spelling; some compounds have alternative accepted forms or historical changes.

4. In a sentence, a compound noun may be a subject, object or complement.

5. English compound nouns differ from compound sentences, which contain at least two independent clauses.

Hindi Grammar Note

Hindi समास examines relationships between elements: द्वंद्व (माता-पिता), तत्पुरुष (राजपुत्र), कर्मधारय (नीलकमल), बहुव्रीहि (दशानन). These semantic categories are not identical to English closed/open/hyphenated spelling.

Practice

Classify: notebook, bus stop, sister-in-law, classroom, post office, editor-in-chief.

Answer: Closed: notebook, classroom. Open: bus stop, post office. Hyphenated: sister-in-law, editor-in-chief.

Compound Sentence Contrast

Compound noun: The **bus stop** is near my home.

Compound sentence: I waited for the bus, but it arrived late.