# DICTIONARY BuzzWord



#### **TEACHER'S NOTES**

#### swine flu

www.macmillandictionary.com



**Overview:** Suggestions for using the Macmillan Dictionary *BuzzWord* article on *swine flu* and the associated worksheets.

Total time for worksheet activities: 30 minutes

Suggested level: Intermediate and above

- If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the BuzzWord article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheets and the BuzzWord article for each student.
- 2. If the members of your class all have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they go to the *Buzzword* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student, but to check the answers as a class.
- 3. Ask students to read through the whole *BuzzWord* article carefully.
- 4. Encourage students to read through the Find the information questions. Ask them to work in pairs to find the answers to these questions. Check the answers as a class. Point out that swine flu is an example of a new compound. Forming compounds is one of the most common ways to create new words.
- 5. When the students have completed Exercises 2 and 3, discuss the fact that many compounds have a meaning that you can predict from their parts (ice cream, walking bus) but some do not (soap opera, senior moment). Language experts sometimes use the word compositional to describe compounds whose meaning have a straightforward link to the words they're made up of. These compounds usually refer to concrete concepts. Other kinds of compounds are often associated with creative use of language, metaphor, etc. They often refer to abstract concepts.

- 6. Complete Exercise 4 as a class activity. Explain that the first noun in a noun+noun compound is usually in singular form (e.g. address book, film star, car park, toothpaste). However noun+s+noun is often used when the first noun is the 'user' of the second noun (visitors' book, girls' school) or when the second noun is 'produced' by the first noun (spider's web, goat's cheese). Plurals of compounds are usually formed by adding an s at the end (film stars) but there are exceptions which must be learnt (sisters-in-law, passers-by).
- 7. Before completing Exercise 5, explore the fact that in English, some compounds are 'closed' (written as one word), some are 'open' (written as two words) and sometimes they are hyphenated. Ask students for / explore some simple examples (football, car park, brother-in-law).







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Go to the Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord article at:

http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/swine-flu.html

# Find the information

Read the BuzzWord article on swine flu and answer these questions.

- 1. What two respiratory illnesses came before swine flu?
- 2. What is the technical label for swine flu?
- 3. Write down two symptoms of swine flu.
- 4. Look at the third paragraph. What is a pandemic alert?
- 5. Say whether the following statement is true or false: 'The swine flu virus became more serious as it spread to other countries.'
- 6. Look at the final paragraph. What other suggested names for swine flu does the author mention?

# 2 Find the compound

Look at the clues below and then use the words in the box to write a compound for each clue. There are two words you don't need.

(	soap	cream	house	post	board
	home	ic	е	show	green
	room	opera	card	black	work

١.	a television series	about a group of	n people	

2. a frozen sweet food \_\_\_\_\_

exercises that a teacher gives to a student \_\_\_\_\_\_

a building used for growing plants \_\_\_\_\_\_

5. a large surface fixed to a classroom wall

6. a short letter that you send from your holiday \_\_\_\_\_

What compound do the leftover two words make and what does it mean?





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3	What	do	they	mean?
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Below are some new compounds which have been added to the Macmillan Dictionary. Can you match them with the correct dictionary definitions?

	walking bus	senior moment	Chelsea tractor	speed dating	stealth tax
1.	an occasion when	someone forgets someth	ning		
2.		single people looking for who among those they ha	•		ersations with each
3.	a name for a large four-wheel drive vehicle that people drive around towns and cities although it is more suitable for roads in the country				ough it is more
4.	a hidden and uner or an increase in a	xpected way of making pe a particular tax	eople pay more money to	the government as th	e result of a new tax
5.	a system of gettin parents	g children to school in wh	ich all the children from a	n area walk together	with a group of

## S or no S?

Circle the correct compound to complete the sentences.

- 1. Her phone number is in my addresses book / address book.
- 2. Please sign your name in the *visitor book / visitors' book*.
- 3. George Clooney is one of my favourite film stars / films stars.
- 4. I have two sister-in-laws / sisters-in-law Anya and Eva.
- 5. The staff car park / cars park is situated at the back of the building.
- 6. Please could I use your teethpaste / toothpaste?
- 7. The old painting was covered in dust and spider webs / spider's webs.





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# Open or closed?

Make compounds by matching the words on the left with the words on the right. Then put them in the correct place in the table below.

arm _	machine
book	room
bath	phone
living	shelf
mobile	room
tooth	chair
washing	brush

written as two words (open)	
	written as two words (open)





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## **KEY**

#### 1 Find the information

- 1. SARS, bird flu
- 2. H1N1
- 3. fever, cough, sore throat, aching muscles, runny nose
- 4. the possibility of a disease affecting almost everyone across a very wide area
- 5. the statement is false: 'the virus weakens as it travels' (paragraph 3)
- 6. Mexican flu, novel flu virus

## 2 Find the compound

- 1. soap opera
- 2. ice cream
- 3. homework
- 4. greenhouse
- 5. blackboard
- 6. postcard
- The leftover two words make the compound *showroom*, a large room where you can look at cars or other big things that are for sale.

#### 3 What do they mean?

- 1. senior moment
- 2. speed dating
- 3. Chelsea tractor
- 4. stealth tax
- 5. walking bus

#### 4 S or no S?

- 1. address book
- 2. visitors' book
- 3. film stars
- 4. sisters-in-law
- 5. car park
- 6. toothpaste
- 7. spider's webs

## 5 Open or closed?

written as one word (closed)	written as two words (open)
armchair	living room
bookshelf	mobile phone
bathroom	washing machine
toothbrush	