

## Lesson 21

# Compound Words



**L.2.4d:** Use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words (e.g., *birdhouse*, *lighthouse*, *housefly*; *bookshelf*, *notebook*, *bookmark*).

**Introduction** A word that is made up of two smaller words is called a **compound word**.

Often you can figure out what a compound word means by thinking about the meanings of the two smaller words.



house



fly

+

= housefly

A **housefly** is a fly that gets into your house.



## Guided Practice

Put the two words together to make a compound word. Write the new word on the line. Then circle the correct meaning.

**HINT** Sometimes the second word in the compound word is a big clue to the word's meaning. For example, a "dog**house**" is a house for a dog, not a dog that looks like a house.

**1** black + bird = \_\_\_\_\_

a bird with black feathers

a black feather shaped like a bird

**2** sword + fish = \_\_\_\_\_

a sword shaped like a fish

a fish with a jaw like a sword

**3** rattle + snake = \_\_\_\_\_

a rattle shaped like a snake

a snake with a tail like a rattle

**Independent Practice**

Read the compound word in each sentence. Then choose the correct meaning for the word.

- 1** A catfish uses its whiskers to find food in the sea.
- A** a fish that eats bugs
  - B** a cat that looks like a bird
  - C** a fish with whiskers like a cat
  - D** a cat that likes boats
- 2** A sheepdog helps keep farm animals safe.
- A** a sheep used for its wool
  - B** a dog that takes care of sheep
  - C** a sheep that plays with birds
  - D** a dog that looks like a goat
- 3** A seahorse has fins and swims in the ocean.
- A** an ocean shaped like a horse
  - B** a sea animal that looks like a snake
  - C** a horse that lives in a barn
  - D** a sea animal whose head looks like a horse's

Choose one word from the box to complete the second sentence. Write the correct word on the line.

earthquake earthworm wormhole

- 4** The worm digs deep into the soil. This \_\_\_\_\_ crawls up out of the ground when it rains.