

Tutorial 2: Compound Nouns and Adjectives

Activity one

Self evaluation – entry test

■ *Replace the phrases by more concise, compound forms.*

Example: A thermometer containing mercury

*→ A **mercury thermometer***

1. Cells which are sensitive to light
→
2. A satellite which is for espionage and is geostationary
→
3. An engine which burns petrol
→
4. A crater of a meteorite which is 2 metres wide
→
5. A system of injection which is controlled by computer
→
6. A rate of unemployment which increases fast
→
7. A technician for research in the field of microbiology (who is senior)
→
8. A conference which lasts four days
→
9. A victim of a landmine with one leg
→
10. A family with three children
→

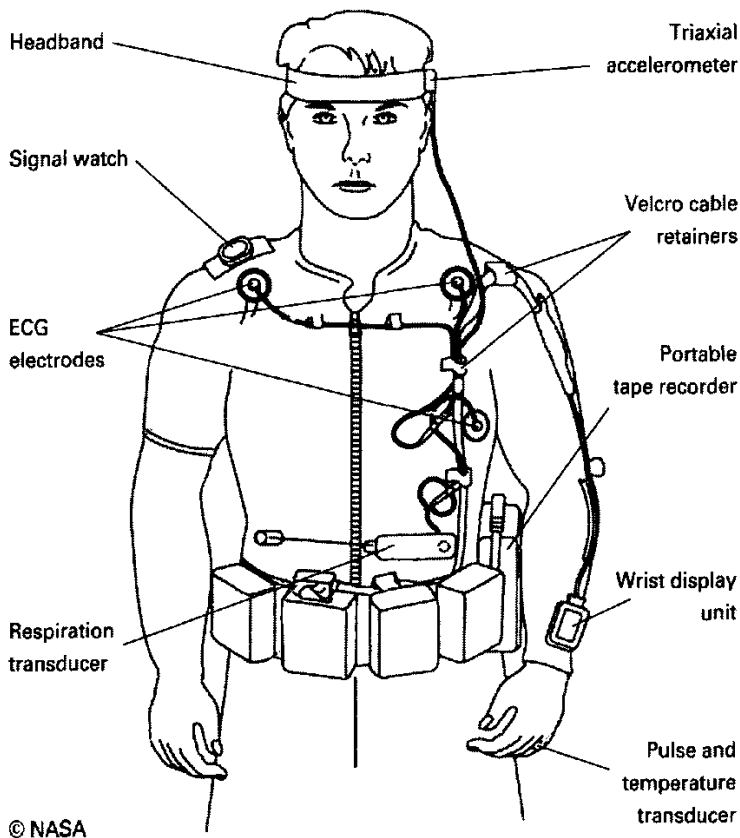
Activity two:

Examples in context

LIFE SCIENCES LABORATORY EQUIPMENT (LSLE)

Advanced technology uses compound forms (and acronyms) massively. The text below illustrates the typical jargon that is being developed in the space industry and elsewhere.

- In the figure of the AFS-2 on the left, all the words are either 2 or 3 word compound forms. Check.
- In the specifications, on the right, there is 1 compound form with 9 elements, 1 with 6 and 3 with 3 elements. Find and underline them.



AFS-2 THE AUTOGENIC FEEDBACK SYSTEM

Specifications

The AFS-2 is a light-weight, battery-operated, fully ambulatory physiological monitoring system that allows complete freedom of motion for users. It is designed to enable astronauts to monitor their own physiological data and alter their physiological responses to counteract the effects of space motion sickness.

WEIGHT: 2 kg

POWER: four 9-volt lithium thionyl chloride batteries

SENSORS:

Blood volume pulse (1-200 ± 0.5)

Skin temperature (70-99.9 ± 1°F)

Skin conductance level

(0.5-50 μMHOs ± 2%)

Respiration (40-60 breaths / min)

Electrocardiography (40-180 beats / min)

Acceleration (± 0.25 G ± 5%)

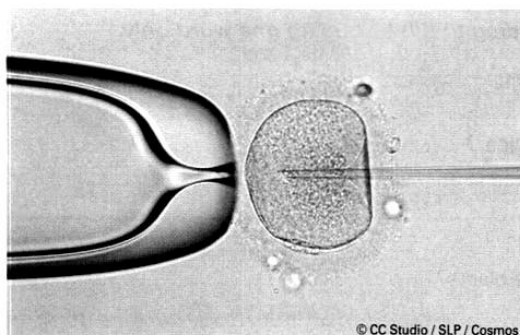
Activity Three:

Intracytoplasmic sperm injection

Research involving human embryos is, justifiably, one of the most sensitive areas of modern medical research for it poses fundamental ethical problems about scientific responsibility.

I Supply the appropriate compound nouns.

Infertility rates are far higher than is commonly appreciated, with some estimates suggesting a figure as high as 17% for European populations. Last year, in the US alone, as many as 20,000 couples sought aid from
 (technologies which concern fertilisation and which are assisted). There is a wide range of different causes for infertility. In the large majority of cases, the problem stems from a (a count of sperm which is low), i.e. less than 10-15 million sperm per ml of semen (normal range – 50 million). This affects one out of thirty males in Western Europe. The complete absence of sperm, however, is relatively rare, affecting no more than 1 per thousand. Advanced in vitro techniques have represented a major breakthrough for the treatment of severe male infertility by reducing the need for the couple of turning to
 (sperm from donors who are outside (the couple)). One example of such techniques is ICSI, Intracytoplasmic sperm injection, pioneered in 1992 by Drs. Van Steirteghem and Devroey from the Free University in Brussels, in which a single sperm is injected directly into the cytoplasm via a
 (pipette which is made of glass and is controlled by a computer). This technique offers
 (rates of success of implantation of 65%) and, as a result, is one of the
 (areas which are growing the fastest) in infertility treatment. However, recent research carried out by Sherman Silver, director of the
 (centre for infertility which is in the town of St Louis) in Missouri, has confirmed earlier worries about potential dangers of embryo manipulation.



Sperm injection by pipette

The findings of one study, concerning four boys born using ICSI, revealed that the Y chromosomes of all four subjects had a deficiency on the long arm of the chromosome, pointing to the likelihood of

 (defect of the sperm which is related genetically) being passed on to male children, thus making them infertile like their fathers.

This raises at least two separate ethical issues. On the one hand, is it acceptable to allow genetic deficiencies to be knowingly transmitted? On the other, what
 (effect in a term (period) which is long) could this have on the
 (pool of genes of humans)?