

Advanced English C1-C2

44 Hyphenated Compound verbs in English

with definitions and example sentences

bad-mouth , blow-dry, bottle-feed,
booby-trap , cold-shoulder, cross-
examine , cross-refer , double-book ,
double-check , double-click , double-
cross , dry-clean , fact-check , fast-track
, fast-forward , flash-freeze , force-feed ,
freeze-dry , gift-wrap , hand-wash ,
hard-boil , hot-wire, and many more

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Cambridge English
C1-C2
110
COMMON MISTAKES
IN WRITING

- ✗ Have difficulty to do sth
- ✓ Have difficulty (in) doing sth
- ✗ In and on itself
- ✓ In and of itself
- ✗ All of the sudden
- ✓ All of a sudden
- ✗ Dangling Participles
- ✗ Squinting Modifiers and many more...

Vol. 1


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Good morning/afternoon. My name is _____ and this is my
classmate _____.
What are your names?
Can I have your mark sheets please?
Here you are.
Thank you very much.
That's all. We'd like to know something about you.
Where are you from? (Candidate A)?
I'm from _____ (Candidate B)?

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44 Hyphenated Compound verbs in English

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Are you looking for material
to prepare for your
Cambridge English Exam?



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Cross-examine

to ask detailed questions of someone, especially a witness in a trial, in order to discover if they have been telling the truth

- The witness was cross-examined for over two hours.

Cross-refer

to tell a reader to look somewhere else in a book for more information about something:

- The main entry also cross-refers you to the appendix on page 158.
- The two parts of the article cross-refer at a number of points.

Double-book

to promise the same room, seat, ticket, etc. to more than one person or group:

- The room was double-booked so they had to give us a different one.

Double-check

If you double-check something, you make certain it is correct or safe, usually by examining it again.

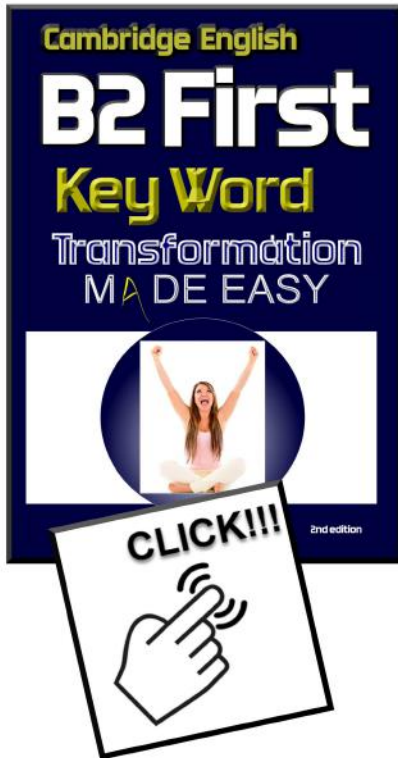
- I always double-check to make sure I locked the door.

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Force-feed

to force a person or animal to eat and drink, often putting food into the stomach through a pipe in the mouth:

- Eventually, the hunger strikers were force-fed.

(figurative)

- Those teaching our kids should not be force-feeding them political ideas.
- The whole nation was force-fed government propaganda about how well the country was doing.

Freeze-dry

to preserve something, especially food, by freezing and then drying it:

- When herbs are freeze-dried, the oils in them are kept intact.
- The seeds were freeze-dried and then weighed.

Gift-wrap

to cover something intended as a present with attractive paper

- The watch was beautifully gift-wrapped by the shop person, at no extra charge.

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Job-hunt

to try to find a job:

- She spent a year job-hunting before being hired by a local legal firm.

Jump-start

to start a car engine by pushing the car or by using jump leads

- I jump-started my wife's car when it wouldn't start in the parking lot.

Lip-read

to understand what someone is saying by watching the movements of their mouth

- Although many deaf children use lip-reading to support spoken communication, not all speech can be lip-read.

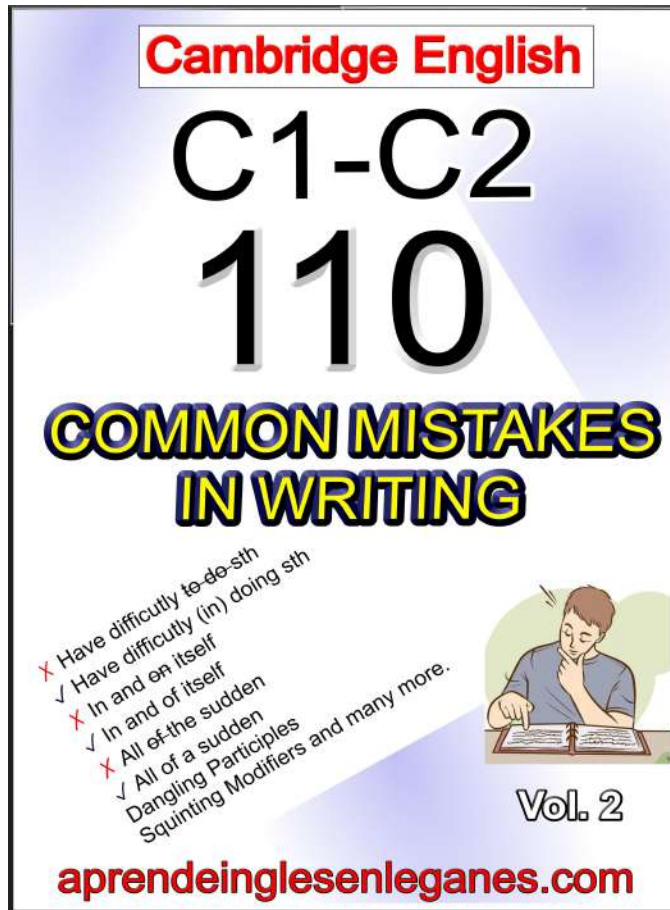
Lip-sync (also lip-synch)

Performers who lip-sync songs pretend to be singing them when in fact they are just moving their lips:

- In 1989, Milli Vanilli were caught lip-synching their hits.
- They could lip-sync as well as the video stars of the 1980s.

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Spoon-feed

to give someone so much help or information that that person does not need to try himself or herself:

- By giving out printed sheets of facts and theories, the teachers spoon-fed us with what we needed for the exam.

Spot-check

to quickly examine a few members of a group instead of the whole group:

- At park exits vehicles are spot-checked by an armed ranger.

Spring-clean

to clean all of a place, especially your house, very well, including parts you do not often clean:

- They seem to have spring-cleaned the whole house.
- I've been spring-cleaning all day.

Sugar-coat

to do something that makes an unpleasant situation seem less unpleasant

- There's no way of sugar-coating it—the report predicts a grim future for the industry.
- It is not our job to sugar-coat the rise of hate crimes. The statistics are real.

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Sweet-talk

to try to persuade somebody to do something by praising them and telling them things they like to hear

- I can't believe you let him sweet-talk you into working for him!
- The salesman tried to sweet-talk me into buying a bigger car.
- He sweet-talked his way back into her affections.

Test-drive

to drive a car that you are considering buying, in order to see if you like it:

- Always ask if you can test-drive the car first.
- Visit our car show rooms and test-drive any new car.

Two-time

to deceive someone you are having a relationship with by having a secret sexual relationship with someone else at the same time:

- I ended the relationship when I found out he was two-timing me.
- Are you sure she's not two-timing you?

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Hyphenated compound verbs can also be formed by using some prefixes such as “re-”, “co-”, “pre-”.

The prefix re- means “back” or “again”:

re-elect : to elect somebody again

- She was re-elected to parliament.

re-emerge : to appear again or return after a period of time.

- Inflation has re-emerged as an economic threat around the world.

The prefix co- means “together” :

co-own :to own something such as a business together with one or more other people:

- He co-owns a cooking school with his sister.

co-author : to write a book, article, report, etc. together with another person or other people:

- John and his son have co-authored a diet book specifically written for young men.

The prefix pre- means “before” :

pre-book :to arrange to have something such as a room, table, seat, or ticket in advance

- You are advised to pre-book.

pre-order : to order (= request to buy) a product before it has become available:

- To pre-order the album, visit our website.

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