

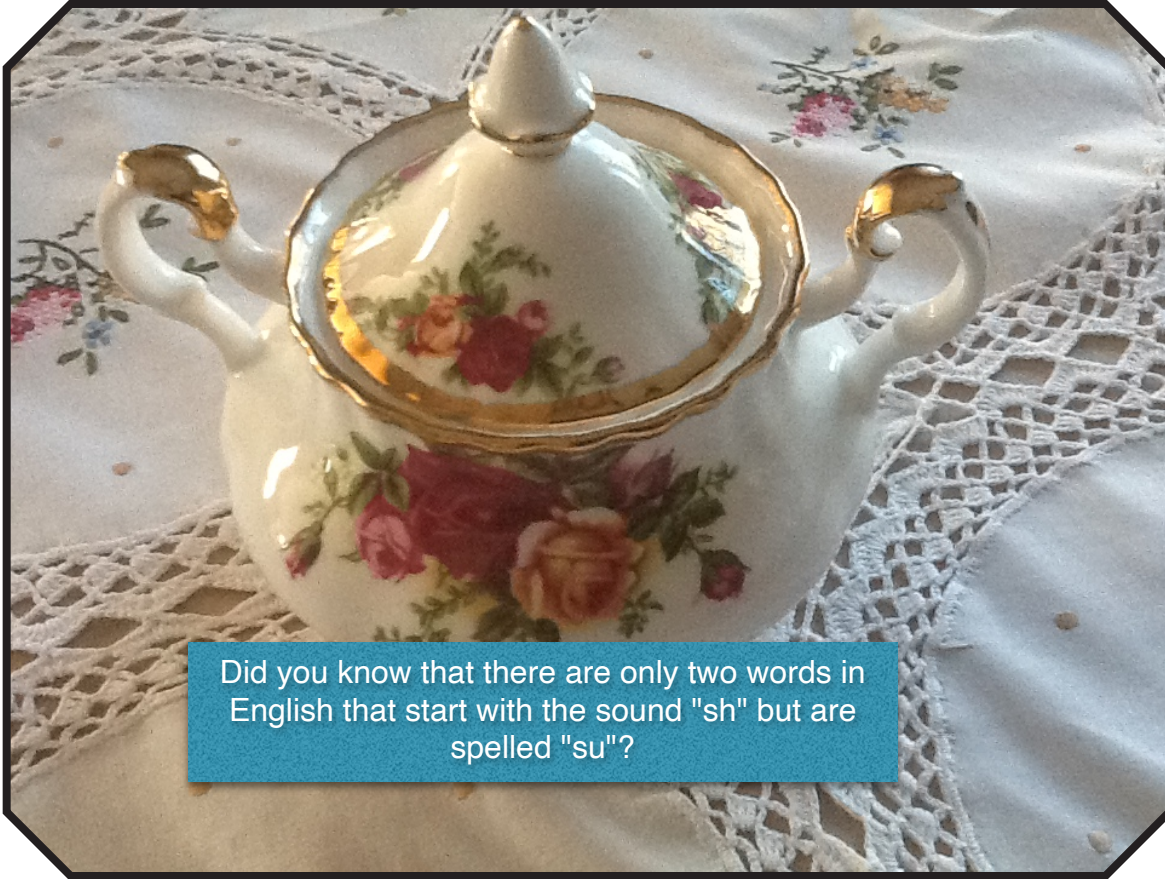
# When Spelling Matters

Spelling memes and  
word play for the  
classroom

**Doreen Scott-Dunne**



1



Did you know that there are only two words in English that start with the sound "sh" but are spelled "su"?

2



Did you know that "an apron" started out as "a napron", but so many people got it wrong, they changed the word to "apron"?

3



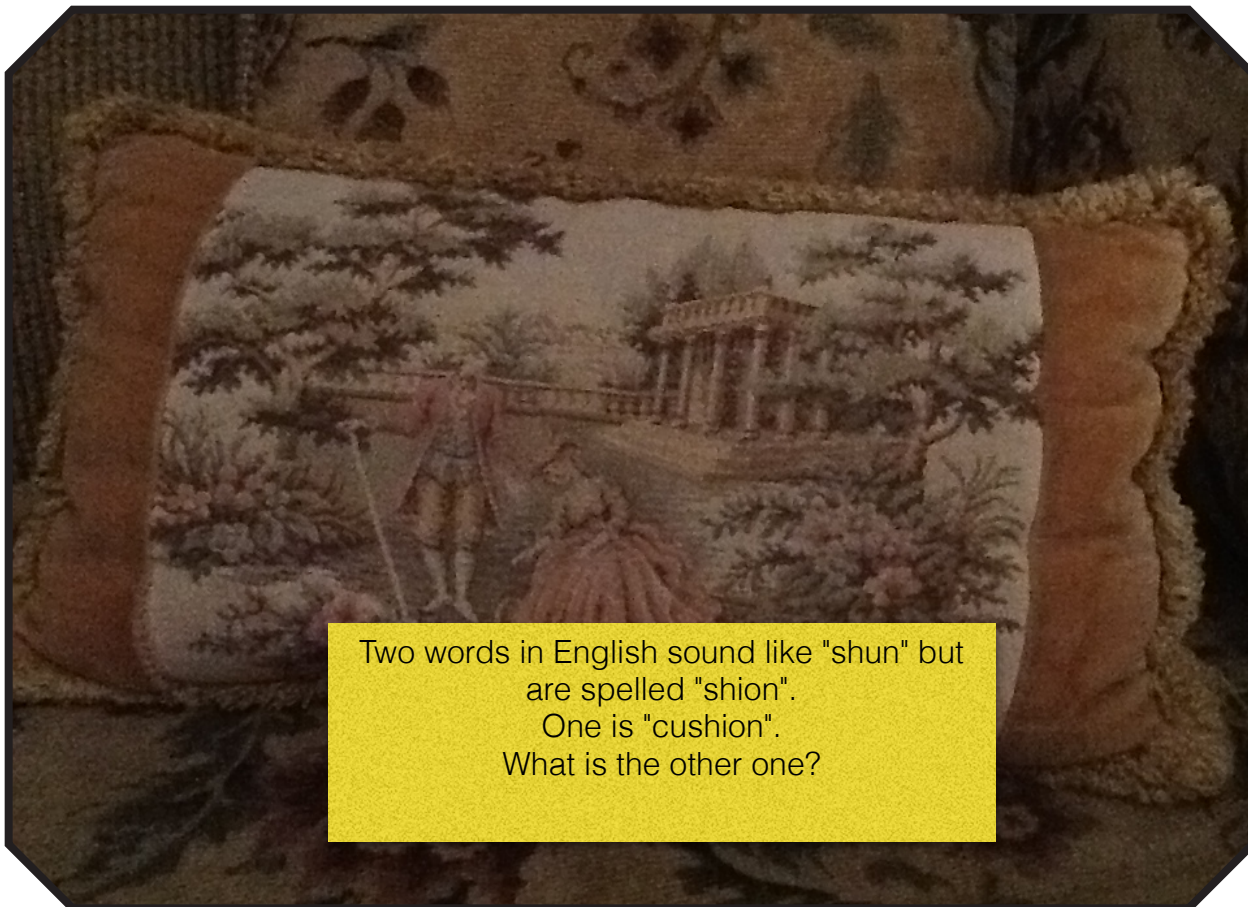
Bluebell is a compound word that can be split into 2 words. Can you find 8 more compound words starting with blue?

4



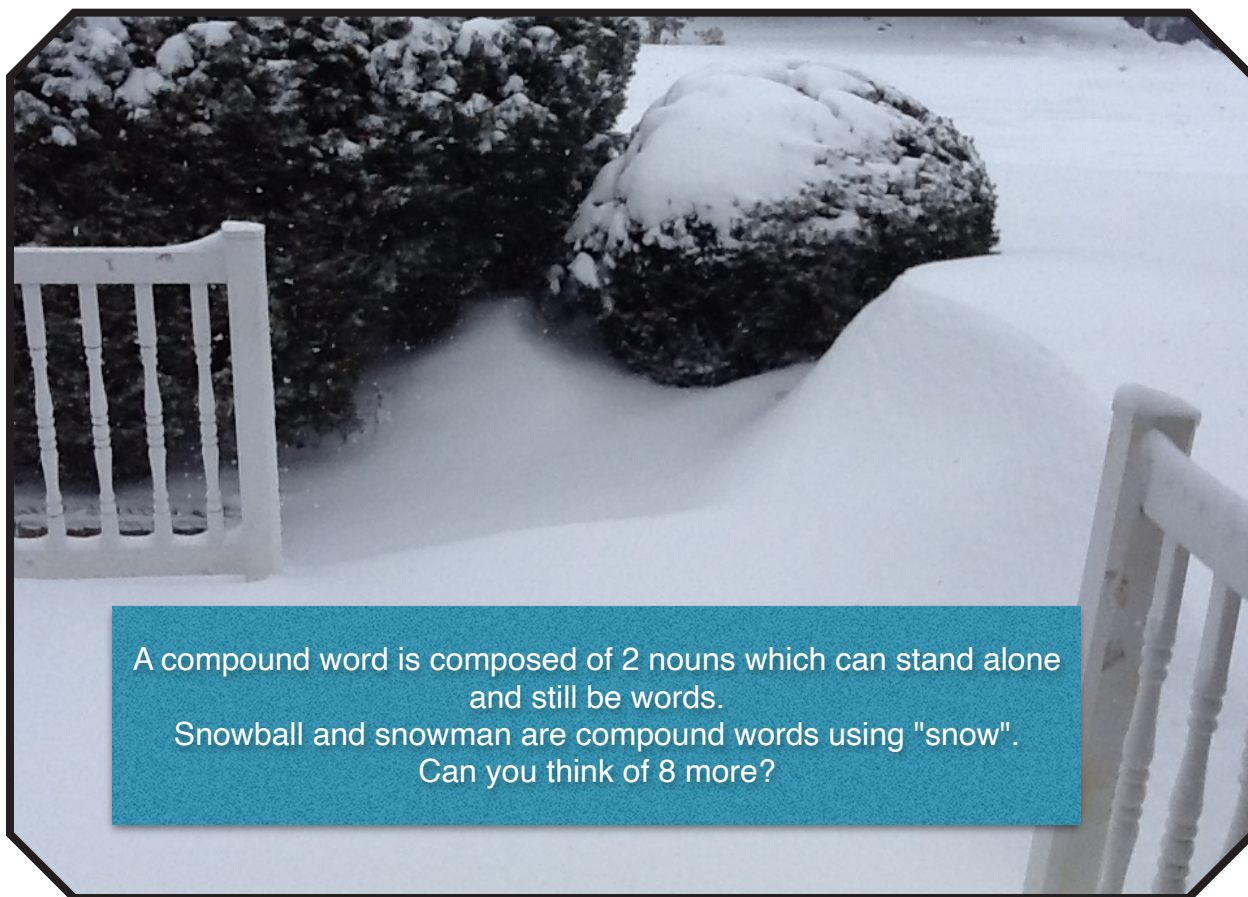
Mainland and marshland are compound words that end with "land". Can you find 10 more?

5

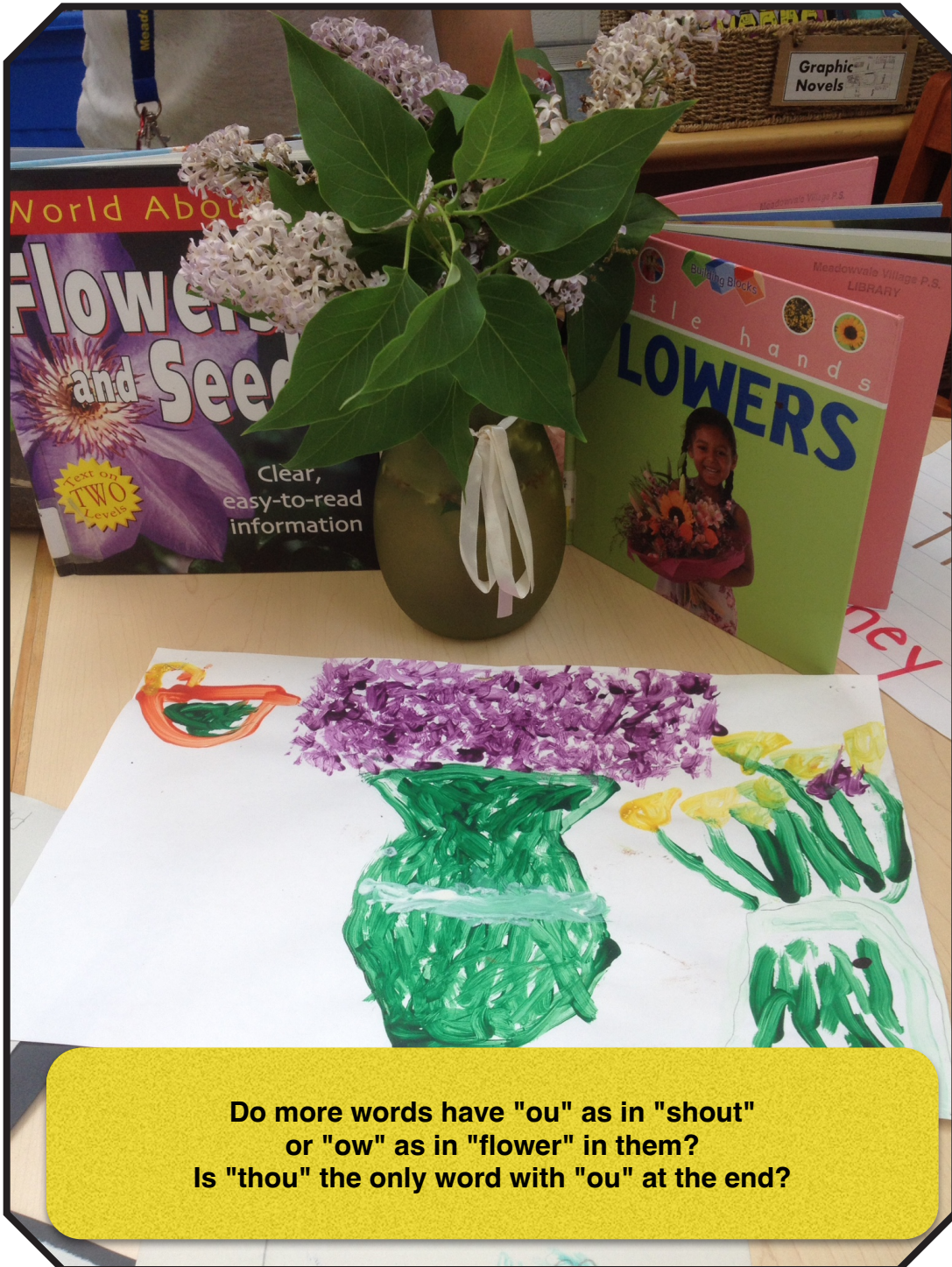


Two words in English sound like "shun" but are spelled "shion".  
One is "cushion".  
What is the other one?

6



A compound word is composed of 2 nouns which can stand alone and still be words.  
Snowball and snowman are compound words using "snow".  
Can you think of 8 more?



Did you know. . .  
If you look at Antique Cars, it is not difficult to work out the origin of the word "trunk". A trunk was carried strapped to the back of the car, often containing compartments for various picnic items.



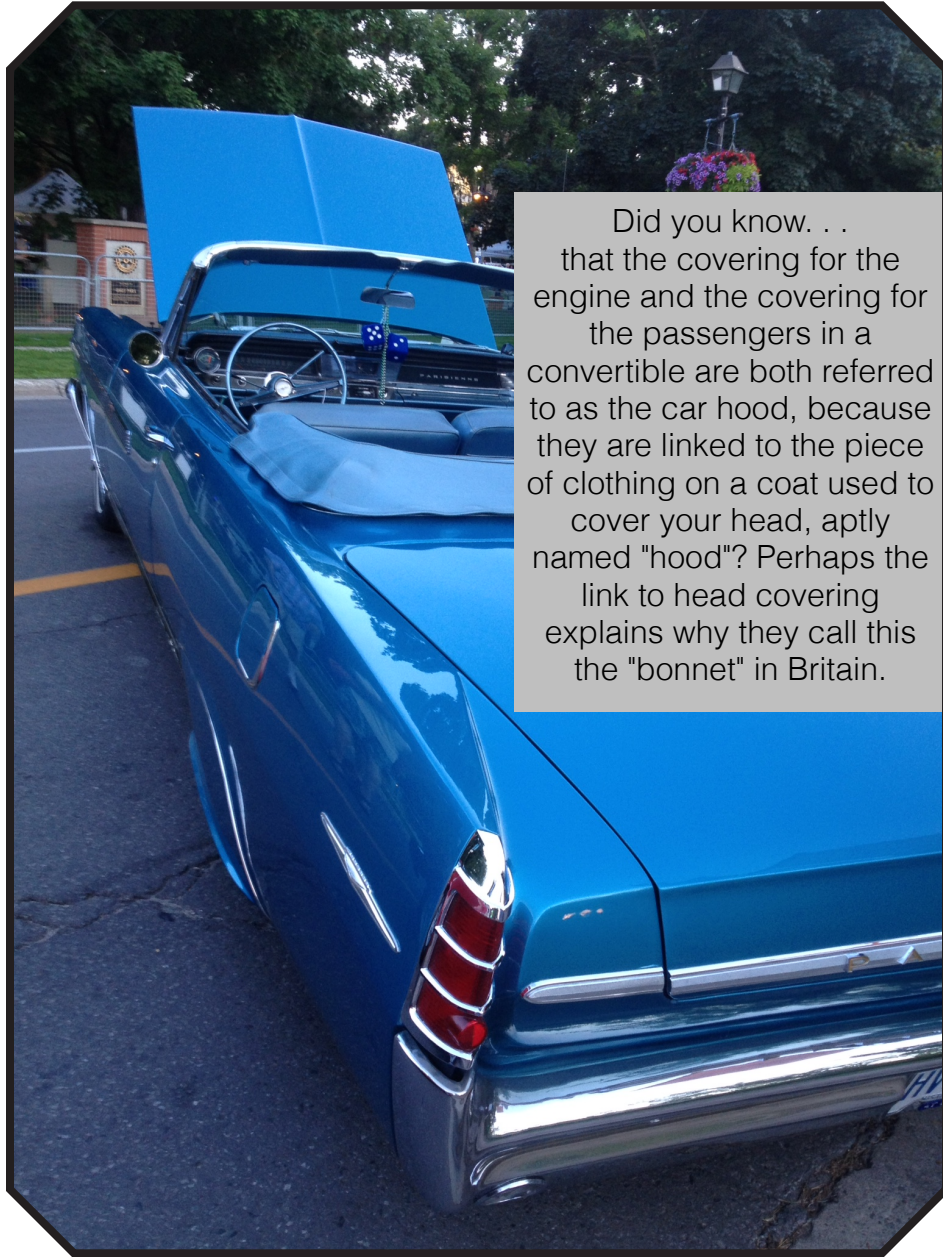
9



Can you find out if there are more words  
with "ai" as in "daisy" or  
with "ay" as in "play"?



10

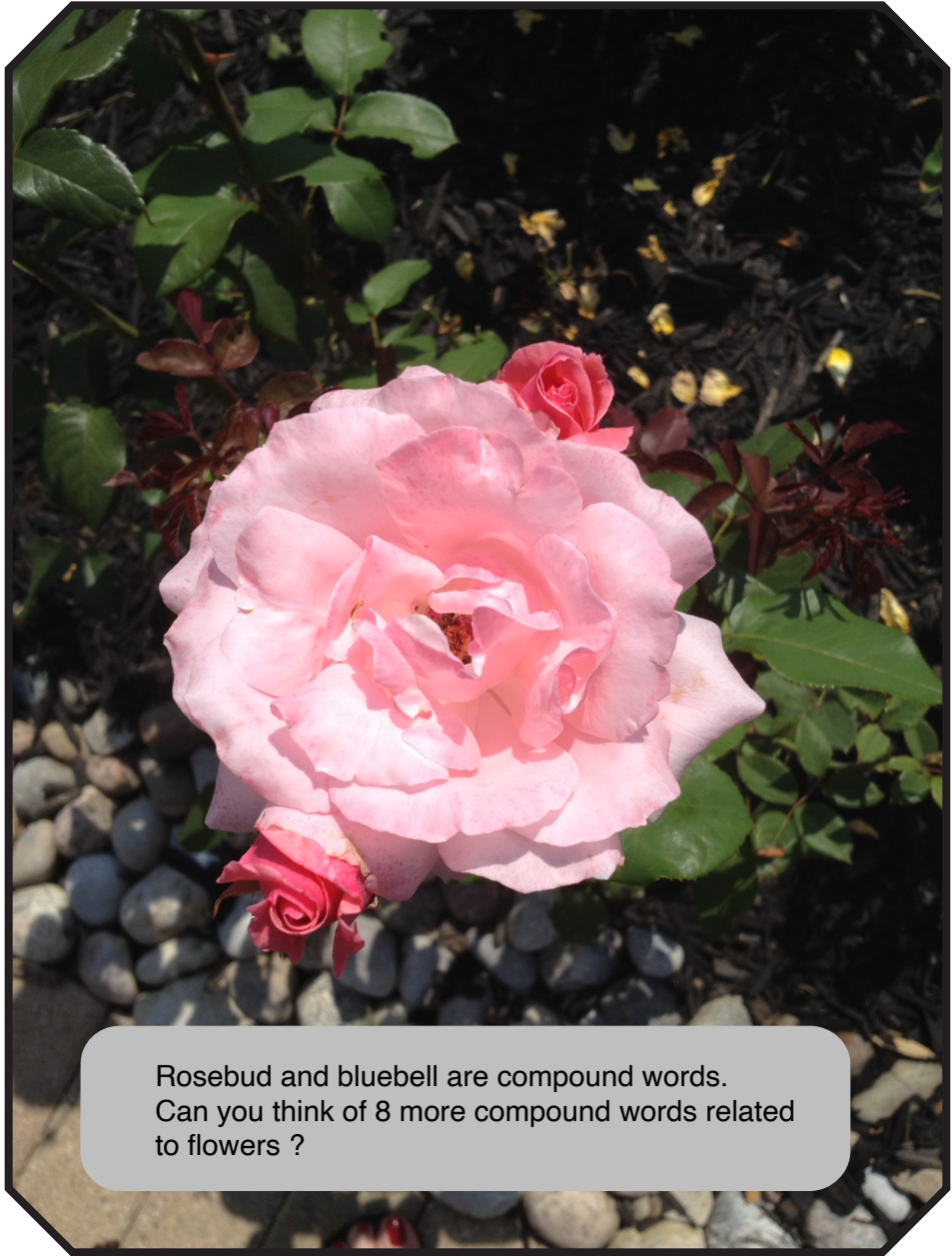


Did you know. . . that the covering for the engine and the covering for the passengers in a convertible are both referred to as the car hood, because they are linked to the piece of clothing on a coat used to cover your head, aptly named "hood"? Perhaps the link to head covering explains why they call this the "bonnet" in Britain.



Lavender ends in "er". Think about words you know ending in "er". Make a list. Then investigate which list is longest - people with jobs ending in "er" like teacher, or people with jobs ending in "or" like doctor? What did you notice or wonder about?

12



Rosebud and bluebell are compound words.  
Can you think of 8 more compound words related to flowers ?

# When Spelling Matters

## Spelling Memes & Word Play for the Classroom

### Answers

1. Did you know that there are only two words in English that start with the sound “sh” but are spelled “su”?

**Sugar** and **Sure**. (*Sumac is sometimes pronounced that way, but also “soo”mac!*)

3. Bluebell is a compound word; it can be split into 2 separate words. Can you find 8 more compound words starting with blue?

#### **Possible Words**

bluebell      bluejay      blueberry      bluebird  
bluebottle    bluefin      bluefish      bluegrass  
bluejacket    bluejeans    blueprint      Bluebeard  
Bluenose

4. Mainland and marshland are compound words that end with “land”. Can you find 10 more?

#### **Possible Words**

coastland      dockland      dreamland      fairyland  
fantasyland    flatland      forestland      grassland  
headland      highland      homeland      lowland  
meadowland    moorland      overland      parkland  
pastureland    swampland    timberland      upland  
wasteland      wetland      wonderland      woodland

5. Two words in English sound like “shun” but are spelled “shion”. One is “cushion”. What is the other one?

**Fashion**.

6. A compound word is composed of 2 nouns which can stand alone and still be words. “**Snowball**” and “**snowman**” are compound words using “snow”. Can you think of 8 more?

#### **Possible Words**

snowboard      snowflake      snowplough      snowstorm  
snowshoes      snowmobile    snowbank      snowbird  
snowfall

7. Do more words have “ou” as in “shout” or “ow” as in “flower” in them? Is “thou” the only word with “ou” at the end?

**Possible “OU” Words**

out	ouch	our	loud	proud	round	sound	couch
pouch	crouch	slouch	foul	noun	flour	sour	count
mount	mouth	south	shout	spout	scout	sprout	bound
found	ground	hound	mound	pound	house	grouse	spouse
blouse	mouse	ounce	bounce	pounce	lounge	scrounge	hour
trounce	aloud	around	background	bounty	cloudy	compound	drought
devout	founder	grouch	joust	account	amount	blackout	bounty
bountiful	confound	counters	counterpart	discount	dumbfound	foundling	impound
foundry	lousy	dismount	counterpoint	council	cloud	countess	

**Possible “OW” Words**

cow	owl	bow	how	now	prow
sow	brow	fowl	growl	howl	prowl
scowl	brown	clown	crown	down	drown
frown	gown	town	crowd	power	powder
wow					

**Thou** and **miaou** are the only two words with “ou” at the end. (*The sound a cat makes is also spelled “miaow”.*)

9. Can you find out if there are more words with “ai” as in “daisy” or with “ay” as in “play”?

There are well over 2000 words with “ai” in them, sounding like “ai” in “daisy”! Here are 80 of the shorter words:

aim	air	aid	ail	aims	airs	aids	ails
airy	bail	bait	wait	fair	hair	pair	fail
hail	jail	mail	nail	pail	rail	tail	wail
laid	maid	paid	raid	main	gain	pain	rain
bails	waits	fairs	pairs	jails	mails	nails	claim
plain	snail	stain	chain	claim	strain	paint	faint
waist	claims	snails	stains	chains	claims	strains	paints
faints	affair	against	airport	airbus	airbrush	airplane	aircraft
airfield	airflow	airfreight	airlift	airhead	airstrip	airspeed	airwaves
airway	airworthy	appraise	appraisal	airports	airbuses	airways	appraises

There are fewer words with “ay” as in “play”, but someone has listed nearly 1000! Here are some (*this list is harder*):

bay	day	gay	hay	jay	lay	May	nay
pay	ray	say	way	bray	clay	slay	stay
stray	delay	always	anyway	archway	array	away	ashtray
play	ballplayer	betray	bluejay	birthday	castaway		

**Airway** has both “ai” and “ay”.

11. Lavender ends in “er”. Think about words you know ending in “er”; Make a list. Then, investigate which list is longest—people with jobs ending in “er” (like ‘teacher’) or people with jobs ending in “or” (like ‘doctor’)? What did you notice or wonder about?

***Teach“er”***

writer	lawyer	police officer	reporter
photographer	manager	singer	wedding planner
dancer	banker	hockey/soccer player	fire fighter
taxi driver	waiter	jeweler	treasurer
mariner	soldier	golfer	

***Doct“or”***

author	editor	sailor	surveyor
prosecutor	professor		

12. *Rosebud* and *bluebell* are compound words. Can you think of 8 more compound words related to flowers?

***Possible Words***

bellflower	bluebonnet	buttercup	cornflower	cowslip	dogwood
floxglove	hollyhock	larkspur	mayflower	snapdragon	snowdrop
sunflower	wallflower				
<b>Also:</b>	flowerbed	flowerpot	rosebush	goldenrod	