

# A Study on the Linking Function of Hyphen in *Asian Business Review*

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## Introduction

In magazines hyphens have been freely used for the most part and now one can see new and various compound words formed by the linking function of hyphens. This verifies that the English hyphen is useful. In reality, judging even from the following two points: (i) a hyphen enables one to manipulate compound words consisting of more than two words like one word and (ii) it enables one to omit conjunctions and prepositions in some occasions, that is clear. Therefore, the hyphen which was originally important enough seems to be getting even more important because of its versatility.

The significance of the hyphen should be acknowledged, but to our regret, we have no complete study on hyphens extant. As a result, I'd like to detail a study of the use of hyphens in *Asian Business Review* (August, 1995). <sup>(1)</sup> The following are involved in the process:

- (i) putting compound words formed by the linking function of hyphens into the categories of parts of speech;
- (ii) explaining the functions of compound words within the context of how they are used;
- (iii) clarifying the parts of speech of two words forming each compound word;
- (iv) indicating how many compound words are classified in each item (e.g., 1.1.1.) and revealing the total number of compound words in *Asian Business Review*;
- (v) alluding to the numerical characteristics of compound words.

## I Compound Noun

## 1.1. subject

- 1.1.1. Optional day-use of the room until 6 pm the next day is available for A\$25 per adult (p.89) <sup>(2)</sup> (noun+noun)
- 1.1.2. A free shop-over in Hong-Kong featuring one night's accommodation and transfers is the latest offer (p.89) (noun+preposition)
- 1.1.3. An embarrassing side-effect of the yen's recent strengthening is that Tokyo's 1995 municipal budget of 6.9 trillion yen exceeds the Chinese Central Government's budget of 569 billion renminbi. (p.9)  
(adjective+noun)
- 1.1.4. So there will be some fine-tuning of the reforms already in place (p.41) (adjective+gerund)
- 1.1.5. The think-tank has also received the endorsement of Terry Heng, Motorola vice president and director of external technology planning (p.82) (verb+noun)
- 1.1.6. Banking analysts say a A\$30 billion bail-out of the bankrupt network of mortgage companies must begin within months. (p.9) (verb+adverb)
- 1.1.7. This is where community education and co-operation plays a crucial role. (p.69) (prefix+noun)
- 1.1.8. "[The credit co-ops] hold 10 per cent of the loan market (p.56)  
(prefix+abbreviation)
- 1.1.9. in the case of three words  
Hand-in-hand with better access abroad for the country's primary produce runs a growing tourist boom (p.29)
- 1.2. in the case of compound noun having appositional relation to subject
  - 1.2.1. Cathay Pacific's sixth freighter, the airline's second B747-400F, will be delivered in July 1995. (p.55) (noun+noun)
  - 1.2.2. I hope one day soon we'll have the US on board again," said Renato Ruggiero, the World Trade Organisation director-general.  
(p.14) (noun+adjective)
  - 1.2.3. Alf Chown, managing director of Executive Leasing in Hong Kong and vice-chairman of the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, agreed. (p.66) (prefix+noun)
- 1.3. in the case of compound word composing a part of subject
  - 1.3.1. Professor Lee Dal-Gon of Seoul National University tests a theory as to why one of the city's department stores collapsed without

warning. (p.13)

1.3.2. The Shenzhen Urban Co-operative Commercial Bank was founded in June  
(p.56) (prefix+noun)

1.4. object of preposition

1.4.1. Like all the big car-makers, Hyundai is positioning itself as a  
producer of non-polluting vehicles (p.21) (noun+noun)

1.4.2. Singapore also has about 20 single national business groups which  
act like mini-chambers (p.66) (adjective+noun)

1.4.3. The conference will also focus on discounting claims of  
over-packing (p.49) (adverb+gerund)

1.4.4. According to US car makers, the Japanese car market is relatively  
mature and not worth the cost of penetration with the money that  
needs to be spent on dealership set-ups (p.23) (verb+adverb)

1.4.5. One of the losses was the Seoul mayoralty, regarded as the unofficial  
South Korean vice-presidency. (p.10) (prefix+noun)

1.4.6. in the case of more than three words

We also have all kinds arrangements from BOT, BTO, BO, BOM or  
build-operate-maintain (p.37)

1.5. in the case of compound word having appositional relation to object

1.5.1. A total of US\$560 million will be invested in the first  
phase (1995-2000) (p.89) (noun+noun)

1.5.2. Foreign-funded enterprises in China will soon be able to access the  
country's inter-bank foreign exchange market, according to Chen  
Yuan, the vice-governor of the central bank. (p.58) (prefix+noun)

1.6. in the case of compound word composing a part of compound word having  
appositional relation to object

1.6.1. "For fund managers it's great," said John Ford, general manager  
of the only foreign fund manager in Kuala Lumpur,  
Seacorp-Schroder Capital Management. (p.57)

1.7. in the case of compound word composing a part of object

1.7.1. The Chinese healthcare market is led by Heibei Hua-Bei  
Pharmaceuticals (p.85)

1.8. in the case of compound word composing a part of object and moreover  
functioning as object in itself

1.8.1. but when the paperwork returned from the State Committee for

Co-operation and Investment (the SCCI, the country's central foreign investment agency) (p.16) (prefix+noun)

1.9. object of verb

1.9.1. CNBC Asia broadcasts 24-hours of in-depth business news (p.20)  
(noun+noun)

1.9.2. A diplomatic source endorses Thailand's Prime Minister-elect, Banharn Silapa-Archa. (p.13) (noun+adjective)

1.9.3. Transfield provides project development, integration and delivery, ship-building and construction (p.40) (noun+gerund)

1.9.4. which is concerned that concerted unilateralism would enable "free-loaders" to benefit. (p.8) (adjective+noun)

1.9.5. The new bank incorporates 16 urban co-operatives in the southern economic zone (p.56) (prefix+noun)

1.9.6. Those in the four-star group include the Century Park Sheraton, the Shangri-La Traders Hotel(formerly the Holiday Inn), the new Holiday Inn, the Inter-Continental (p.91) (prefix+adjective)

1.9.7. The plan to merge the co-ops will bring them more firmly under central bank supervision and control. (p.56) (prefix+abbreviation)

1.9.8. "Vietnam is like 73 million Rip van Winkles all trying to play catch-up." (p.13) (verb+adverb)

1.9.9. The agency uses video, audio-graphics and tele-conferencing in operating its distance learning programs. (p.35) (tele+gerund)

1.10 in the case of compound word composing a part of object

1.10.1 Those in the four-star group include the Century Park Sheraton, the Shangri-La Traders Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn) (p.91)

1.11. in the case of compound word composing a part of compound word having appositional relation to object

1.11.1. A diplomatic source endorses Thailand's Prime Minister-elect, Banharn Silapa-Archa. (p.13)

1.12. object of present participle

1.12.1. Foreign investment is also being stymied by a decree forcing state-enterprises to pay rental for state-owned land  
(p.11) (noun+noun)

1.12.2. The scenario or forecast planning think-tank will be part of the educational program (p.82) (verb+noun)

- 1.12.3. Yamato Transport, is also transferring business know-how in China to the distribution bureau of Wuxi (p.51) (verb+adverb)
- 1.13.object of gerund
- 1.13.1.They involve:offering new banking licences to domestic and foreign entrants; allowing non-banks to participate in foreign exchange and capital markets (p.11) (prefix+noun)
- 1.14.possessive case
- 1.14.1. the Shenzhen Co-operative Commercial Bank will inherit the co-operative's bad debts. (p.56) (prefix+noun)
- 1.15.in the case of compound word composing a part of possessive case
- 1.15.1 Although the result is not viewed as a judgement on President Kim Young-Sam's first two-and-a-half years in office (p.10)

## II Compound Adjective

- 2.1. on the 147-seat Seoul Metropolitan Council it won 122 seats.  
(p.10) (noun+noun)
- 2.2. Reducing basic postage will keep the letter as a cost-effective method of communication (p.32) (noun+adjective)
- 2.3. it still does not attract herds of camera-wielding tourists  
(p.90) (noun+present participle)
- 2.4. the Perth-based company signed the contract with Pertamina as part of its plans (p.26) (noun+past participle)
- 2.5. The airline's route network, including freighter-only destinations, covers 75 cities in 41 countries. (p.55) (noun+adverb)
- 2.6. At present, both traditional remedies and western-style pharmaceuticals are equally important to the people of China (p.85) (adjective+noun)
- 2.7. when the American-Spanish war of 1898 spilled over into the country.  
(p.90) (adjective+adjective)
- 2.8. which removed a previous quota system and may have released a pent-up demand from some countries. (p.81) (adjective+adverb)
- 2.9. as the chances of lower US interest rates lured money back into high-yielding markets like Indonesia. (p.24)(adjective+present participle)
- 2.10 when the Thais refused to give preferential treatment to a Malaysian-led consortium bidding for a power project in Satun province.  
(p.8) (adjective+past participle)

- 2.11. Newly-elected Tokyo Governor Mr Aoshima fulfilled his popular campaign promise (p.9) (adverb+past participle)
- 2.12. The ever-modest US Trade Representative, Mickey Kantor, during the recent car wars trade war negotiations between the US and Japan.  
(p.13) (adverb+adjective)
- 2.13. "We have to prepare for the various post-GATT scenarios  
(p.82) (prefix+noun)
- 2.14. Courier services, on the other hand, targeted the non-dutiable document and small package market (p.50) (prefix+adjective)
- 2.15. The industrial park will cater to non-polluting light industries.  
(p.39) (prefix+present participle)
- 2.16. US\$126 million in taxes was collected from state-run businesses, joint ventures, self-employed people and private companies.  
(p.62) (prefix+past participle)
- 2.17. CNBC Asia broadcasts 24-hours of in-depth business news including 14 hours of reporting daily from NBC Asia's news bureau  
(p.20) (preposition+noun)
- 2.18. unless they were given a long phase-in period to open their markets.  
(p.14) (verb+adverb)
- 2.19. the joint venture was a good example of small to medium-sized mining companies (p.16) (adjective+noun+ed)
- 2.20. The terminal is also equipped with an extensive closed-circuit television system to monitor operations (p.55) (past participle+noun)
- 2.21. As for the hoped-for jolt of competition the foreign banks will provide to Philippine banks (p.43) (past participle+preposition)
- 2.22. he had already organised laid-off base workers into volunteer teams to maintain security (p.38) (past participle+adverb)
- 2.23. in the case of compound adjective having the form of superlative degree  
The cover of a recent issue of *Fortune* magazine, whose readers recently voted Hong Kong the world's most business-friendly city (p.10)  
(noun+adjective)
- 2.24. An earlier war that threatened in the 1980s saw America place punitive tariffs on Japanese electro-pneumatic hammers.  
(p.22) (electro+adjective)
- 2.25. The development will have 3500 houses, and accomodate an estimated

27,700 in-situ residents (p.27) (in+situ)

2.26. in the case of more than three words

which is aimed at eradicating cataract blindness in the country through introducing state-of-the-art surgery and lens implants. (p.17)

2.27. in the case of compound word composing a part of compound adjective

When the latest Jean-Claude Van Damme shoot-em-up, *Hard Target*, screened in Australia late last year (p.98)

### III Compound Verb

3.1. A company controlled by Singapore Technologies built and part-owns Burma's first international-class business hotel (p.19) (adverb+verb)

3.2. Catchment management committees promote and co-ordinate TCM policies and programs (p.70) (prefix+noun)

3.3. As a result, the store re-addressed its image and interior  
(p.46) (prefix+verb)

### IV Compound Adverb

4.1. which runs in a straight line north-south from near the Bonifacio Monument to Baclaran near the domestic airport. (p.91) (noun+noun)

4.2. "It is well supported by an advanced cargo community system which is linked to 16 major exporting countries world-wide.  
(p.55) (noun+adjective)

4.3. The Kowloon Bay cargo centre is linked on-line to UPS central computers in the US (P.51) (preposition+noun)

4.4. MBA programs generally follow a curriculum which includes a mixture of the so-called "hard" subjects (p.75) (adverb+past participle)

4.5. in the case of three words

*A User's Guide To Qualitative Research* cites an example of where qualitative research and quantitative research work hand-in-glove.

(p.46)

### V Other Compound Words

5.1. in the case of compound word functioning as complement

5.1.1. If freight companies can guarantee the goods will arrive on time, higher transportation charges become cost-effective.

(p.50) (noun+adjective)

5.1.2. The extent to which the MBA is pragmatic or organisation-focused or more theoretical is another issue. (p.75) (noun+past participle)

5.1.3. TCM is long-term and low-cost and much of the work involved is in changing people's behaviour. (p.69) (adjective+noun)

5.1.4. An independent back translation should be routine in all cases, but is sometimes short-circuited due to lack of time.

(p.48) (adjective+noun+ed)

5.1.5. but will have a sharp business focus because our operations have to be self-funding" . (p.82) (prefix+present participle)

5.1.6. The development will be self-contained, providing almost every need for its community. (p.27) (prefix+past participle)

5.2 in the case of compound word functioning as complement and consisting of three words

5.2.1. Disneyland was a gift-with-purchase when we bought Columbia, RCA and Rockefeller Centre. (p.13)

5.3. in the case of compound word composing a part of complement

5.3.1. The city's five-star hotels are the Manila, the Peninsula and the EDSA Shangri-La. (p.91)

5.4. in the case of compound word composing a part of infinitive with "to"

5.4.1. A meeting held in Bangkok recently to jump-start the floundering Northern Growth Triangle (p.8) (verb+verb)

5.4.2. The Open Polytechnic has established an international arm—the Open Learning Agency of New Zealand—to co-ordinate and facilitate its international activities. (p.35) (prefix+noun)

5.5. in the case of compound word composing infinitive without "to"

5.5.1. If you don't buy them we'll make you re-write your history books (p.13) (prefix+verb)

5.6. in the case of compound word composing a part of progressive form

5.6.1. The ones that are of high interest we are pre-paying, that is, repaying ahead of the expiration of the loan terms.

(p.37) (prefix+present participle)

5.7. in the case of compound word composing a part of passive voice

5.7.1. and the potential for letter-mail growth in this context should not be under-estimated. " (p.32) (adverb+past participle)

5.7.2. DHL International was co-founded by Hong Kong businessman Chung Po-yang (p.50) (prefix+past participle)

5.8. in the case of compound word composing a part of participial construction

5.8.1. Projects being fast-tracked in the Freeport—because of increasing commercial and tourist activity—are road works, a commercial and finance centre

(p.39) (adverb+past participle)

## VI Indication of Quantity

item	quantity	item	quantity	item	quantity	item	quantity
1.1.1.	4	1.1.2.	2	1.1.3.	4	1.1.4.	2
1.1.5.	1	1.1.6.	3	1.1.7.	8	1.1.8.	1
1.1.9.	4	1.2.1.	1	1.2.2.	1	1.2.3.	1
1.3.1.	5	1.3.2.	2	1.4.1.	14	1.4.2.	4
1.4.3.	2	1.4.4.	2	1.4.5.	14	1.4.6.	4
1.5.1.	3	1.5.2.	1	1.6.1.	2	1.7.1.	3
1.8.1.	1	1.9.1.	3	1.9.2.	2	1.9.3.	1
1.9.4.	2	1.9.5.	4	1.9.6.	1	1.9.7.	1
1.9.8.	3	1.9.9.	1	1.10.1.	1	1.11.1.	1
1.12.1.	1	1.12.2.	2	1.12.3.	1	1.13.1.	1
1.14.1.	1	1.15.1.	1	2.1.	66	2.2.	6
2.3.	6	2.4.	39	2.5.	2	2.6.	42
2.7.	4	2.8.	1	2.9.	1	2.10.	9
2.11.	9	2.12.	2	2.13.	29	2.14.	24
2.15.	8	2.16.	2	2.17.	6	2.18.	6
2.19.	2	2.20.	2	2.21.	1	2.22.	3
2.23.	1	2.24.	1	2.25.	1	2.26.	45
2.27.	3	3.1.	1	3.2.	1	3.3.	1
4.1.	1	4.2.	1	4.3.	1	4.4.	1
4.5.	1	5.1.1.	1	5.1.2.	1	5.1.3.	3
5.1.4.	1	5.1.5.	1	5.1.6.	1	5.2.1.	5
5.3.1.	2	5.4.1.	1	5.4.2.	1	5.5.1.	1
5.6.1.	1	5.7.1.	1	5.7.2.	2	5.8.1.	1

(The total number is 468.)

## Conclusion

- a. *Asian Business Review* (August, 1995) consists of 98 pages and has 468 examples of compound words, as mentioned above. As for the total number of compound words in this magazine, it is a little greater, judging from the number of pages.
- b. As for the compound adjectives, the number of them—321—is much larger than that of other compound words and is equivalent to no less than 69% of the total number of compound words. But one doesn't need to be surprised at this high percentage, because compound adjectives account for more than 50% of all compound words in other magazines as well. <sup>(3)</sup>
- c. As for the compound nouns, the number of them is 116 and is equivalent to 25% of the total number of compound words. Comparing this number with that of compound adjectives, one can see that there exists a great numerical difference, but since this is typical, one doesn't need to pay much attention to it.
- d. As usual, the number of other compound words is small except for compound adjectives and compound nouns. They account for less than 10% of all compound words.

## Notes

- (1) But the compound words cited in this paper don't include all of those found in *Asian Business Review*. I didn't count the compound words in the headlines, advertisements or photo captions.
- (2) Each item has one representative compound word and the sentence containing it. But as for the sentences cited, there are times when they are abbreviated for the purpose of eliminating unnecessary parts.
- (3) In the case of *Time* (September 27, 1993) the compound adjectives account for 79% of all compound words, and in the case of *The Bulletin* (May 3, 1994) they account for 59% of all compound words.

## References

- R. Quirk, *et al*, *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (Longman, 1991).  
G. Leech, *et al*, *English Grammar for Today* (Macmillan, 1994).  
J. R. Bernard, *A Short Guide to Traditional Grammar* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1993).