Word + Word = Compound word

Look at these words:

football  = foot + ball
keyhole    = key + hole

A word that is made by joining two words is called a compound word.

The following exercises may help you to understand how new words are formed in English from two separate words, and to remember some unusual spellings where a letter is lost in pronouncing the word. For example, cupboard (originally a board on which cups were placed) is now pronounced more like cubbord.

Note: When a new compound is created in English, it is frequently hyphenated (e.g. pop-star) until it has become so accepted that it becomes a compound word - popstar.

Answers to the Exercises are on the last page.
Exercise 1

Join each word on list A to a word on List B to make a compound word. Write out the new words.

Example No.1: under + ground = underground

Need a few clues to start you off? Among the new words, there is
- A vegetable,
- a fruit,
- something you would find on a car,
- something you would find on a bike,
- an item of jewellery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. under</td>
<td>room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. straw</td>
<td>ordinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. mush</td>
<td>screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. handle</td>
<td>ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. ear</td>
<td>less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. mid</td>
<td>berries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. every</td>
<td>ring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. bus</td>
<td>down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. extra</td>
<td>bars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. run</td>
<td>fare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. care</td>
<td>body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. wind</td>
<td>night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers on last page
Exercise 2: A Sneaky Puzzle

Match one word from each of the two columns to make a new word. This puzzle is sneaky because the one of the letters in the original words seems to disappear in pronouncing the new word.

**Note:** two words end in board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. chest  board
2. hand   fast
3. card   nut
4. fore   some
5. bar    board
6. cup    gain
7. break  head

**Having trouble? Here are clues to the new words but not in the same order as above:**

- a meal
- a press to store things in
- something you hope to find in the Sales
- they make boxes from this
- a woman may be described as pretty but a man is -----
- a part of the head
- a tree
Exercise 3 Compound Words - Guess the word

Find one word, which will go in front of, or after, these words to make new words.  Write out the new words.

Example:  ---- look, ----coat, ----board, ----sight.  
Answer is OVER - overlook, overcoat, overboard, oversight

1.  ---- give, ---- ever, ---- get,
2.  ---- flow, ---- time, ---- take, ---- work
3.  ---- work, ---- made, ---- coming
4.  ---- mail, ---- board, ---- bird
5.  surf ----, chess ----, card ----
6.  ---- less, ---- broken, ---- beat, ---- burn, ---- throb
7.  ---- dresser, ---- brush, ---- do, ---- style
8.  ---- piece, ---- wash, ---- watering

Remember!  Answers on last page
Answers

Exercise 1:

1. underground  2. strawberries  3. mushroom  4. handlebars
5. earring  6. midnight  7. everybody  8. busfare
9. extraordinary  10. rundown  11. careless  12. windscreen

Exercise 2:

1. chestnut  2. handsome  3. cardboard
4. forehead  5. bargain  6. cupboard
7. breakfast

Exercise 3:

1. FOR, forgive, forever, forget
2. OVER, overflow, overtime, overtake, overwork
3. HOME, homework, homemade, homecoming
4. BLACK, blackmail, blackboard, blackbird
5. BOARD, surfboard, chessboard, cardboard
6. HEART, heartless, hearbroken, heartbeat, heartburn, heartthrob
7. HAIR, hairdresser, hairbrush, hairdo, hairstyle
8. MOUTH, mouthpiece, mouthwash, mouthwatering.