

(iv) other 'of' relations

exami/nation re/sults      railway / station      colour / bar      work / study  
road / haulage      di/vorce / law      crime / wave      drainage / expert

B. 'pseudo-' compounds: tonic accent on last word

(i) location (in, near, from, etc.)

garden / shed      fireside / chair      sea / breeze      village / green

(ii) material

paper / bag      stone / wall      lace / curtain      sheepskin / coat      apple / pie

(iii) other descriptive classifiers

prime / minister      full length / skirt      public / school      pork / chop  
crazy / paving      major / general      white / light      spin / drier

(iv) proper names

persons: Arthur / Brown      Sir / Laurence O/livier      Queen E/lizabeth  
places: Clapham / Junction      Trent / Bridge      Oxford / Road  
institutions: London Uni/versity      Grand Ho/tel      Canterbury Ca/thedral  
initialisms: U S / A      B O A / C      A R / I B / A

Initialisms are not in fact compounds at all; grammatically, they behave like single words, but they are brought in here to complete the picture. All other 'pseudo-' compounds consist of classifier plus noun; note that even where the first element is an adjective it is functioning as a classifier and not as an epithet (*crazy paving, white light, etc.*). (In *major general*, likewise, *major* is a classifier; this is now a kind of general, and not, as originally, a kind of major.)

The rule for street names is that those with *Street* (and, in the north of England, with *Gate*) are true compounds; hence / Oxford / Street /. Those with *Road* and other designations, of which there are some thirty in common use, like *Avenue, Grove, Lane, Row*, are pseudo-compounds, with one exception (see below): hence / Oxford / Road /. The reason for this is that originally the street name was a compound common noun of the 'of' or 'for' type, such as / Market / Street /, / North / Street /; the road, on the other hand, was the road to somewhere, hence designated by a locational classifier. (The exception is / High / Road /, which is non-locational and was accented like / High / Street /.) All others that subsequently came into use, including those with *Road* and some other kind of classifier, were modelled on the / Oxford / Road / pattern; this was no doubt reinforced by the feeling that they were clearly proper names, and perhaps that other terms such as *Avenue* were in contrast with the 'neutral' term *Street*.

Note that in the true compounds there is not necessarily any salient syllable in the second word; we may have / paving stone /, / fire escape /, / sun worshipper /, and so on throughout. This has an important consequence. When the noun compound is not carrying tonic prominence (because it occurs in the pretonic, or in the tonic segment after the tonic syllable), there may not be any difference between the two types; but

because in the true compounds the word accent in the second word is optional, a one-way distinction can be made. For example

type A: // Oxford / Street was / very / busy // or  
          // Oxford Street was / very / busy //

but

type B: // Oxford / Road was / very / busy //

(// Oxford Road was . . . // is impossible). Compare

type A: //<sup>^</sup> the / paper / bag got / torn // or  
          //<sup>^</sup> the / paper bag got / torn //

type B: //<sup>^</sup> the / paper / bag got / torn // (only)

where / paper / bag / is ambiguous as between type A / paper / bag / 'bag for putting paper in' and type B / paper / bag / 'bag made of paper'; but / paper bag / could only mean 'bag for putting paper in'.

As always, there may be 'good reason' for putting the tonic on the word that does not have the tonic accent, for purposes of contrast. For example, in the context of 'I want a (bag made of paper) not a polythene one' the pattern would be

// I / want a / paper / bag //

even though *paper bag* in this sense is type B. (Type B could not however, even for purposes of contrast, become / paper bag /; since the tonic accent is on *bag* the word *bag* must still remain salient.) Similarly //<sup>^</sup> I / wanted / Oxford / Road // 'not Otley Road' (but never // . . . / Oxford Road //). Likewise, true compounds may have the tonic on the last word for contrastive purposes:

//<sup>^</sup> it's the / watch / strap that's / broken // 'not the watch'

**5.4 Some special instances of tonic prominence.** Finally, there are some instances where the placing of the tonic may be said to have a special meaning. In fact, as was the case with the special uses of the tones, the special meaning is clearly derivable from the general meaning of tonic prominence; but it cannot always be readily deduced.

We could, for example, predict the meaning of tonic prominence in yes/no questions: it shows the domain of the question. Thus

//<sup>2</sup><sub>^</sub> does / Daphne go / shopping in / London //

is a question about Daphne, whereas

//<sup>2</sup><sub>^</sub> does / Daphne go / shopping in / London //

is a question about her activities. The first might be answered 'no, but Jane does', the second 'no, she goes to the cinema'. And there may be more than one domain, as in

//<sup>2</sup><sub>^</sub> does / Daphne go //<sup>2</sup> shopping in / London //