**zusammengesetzte Substantive /** German compound nouns

Two of the most famous: Donaudampfschifffahrtsgesellschaftkapitän

oder Rindfleischetikettierungsüberwachungsaufgabenübertragungsgesetz

***Wortpaare*** Compound nouns are very common in German – you probably already know some.

What words can you combine from each half to produce real words? What gender will they be?

die Ferien

das Haus

der Tag

der Krieg

das Fach

die Sendung

der Plan

der Spüler

das Spiel

das Haus

der Kuchen

die Schule

das Geschirr

der Computer

die Stunde

der Rat

die Kranken

der Sommer

der Käse

die Welt

die Geburt

das Fernsehen

+ =

***Echte zusammengesetzte Substantive*** (*real compound nouns)*

A) Break down these real German words into component parts, using any words you can recognize as individual words, and starting at the beginning with a dictionary for the rest.

What do they mean?

Sonnenuntergang Schornsteinfeger

Schulanwesenheitspflicht Niederschlagwahrscheinlichkeit  
Fußballweltmeisterschaft Höchstgeschwindigkeitsanzeigetafel  
Nasennebenhöhlenentzündung Personenkraftwagen

***Echt oder erfunden?***

Are these words Germans really use, or made-up words from the book *Schottenfreude*?

(Some words and definitions ©2013 by Ben Schott, Penguin/Blue Rider Press)

1. **Gewissensbissen** (*conscience bites)*: small stabs of guilt when you know you’re doing something wrong

2. **Eigennamenhass** (*own-name-hatred)*: being embarrassed by, bored with, or otherwise disliking your name

3. **Mahlneid** *(meal envy)*: coveting thy neighbor’s restaurant order

4. **Flughafenbegrüßungsfreude** *(airport greeting joy)*: childish delight at being greeted at the airport

5. **Wollmilchsau** (*wool-milk-sow):*  describes a perfect, cure-all idea, solution, etc. with no downside

6. **Figernageltafelquitschen** *(fingernail-blackboard-squeal)*: the visceral hatred of certain noises

7. **Geistesabwesenheit** *(mental absence)*: the state of temporarily zoning out, e.g., during a boring class

8. **Sozialpflichterfüllungsstolz** *(social duty completion pride)*: the satisfaction you feel after performing minor acts of altruistic civic duty

9. **Schweinehund** *(pig dog):* animal representing the worst qualities in everyone (greed, cruelty, etc.)

10. **Eisenbahnscheinbewegung** *(railway-illusion-motion):* the false sensation of movement when, looking out from a stationary train, you see another train depart

11. **Kopfkino** *(head cinema):* when your imagination runs away with you, especially about worst-case-scenarios

12. **Gaumenfreude** *(gums joy):* a tasty morsel that makes your mouth parts sing with happiness

13. **Fremdschämen** *(other-person shame):* cringing as you watch something awkward or embarrassing happen to someone else, especially when it’s self-inflicted

***Substantiverfindung***

Now, make up your own original long German compound noun for a word you think should exist!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

gender noun

Brief description of what your noun means (English or German):