

He bought a five ___ suit.

- A. Hundred - Dollars
- B. Hundred-Dollar
- C. Hundreds-Dollar
- D. Hundreds-Dollars

Show Answer...

Correct Answer: B (Hundred-Dollar)

Explanation:

The correct phrase to complete the sentence is “hundred-dollar”. In English, when a number and a noun are combined to form a compound adjective that precedes a noun, a hyphen is used to connect them. Therefore, “five-hundred-dollar” is the correct choice to describe the price of the suit.

Understanding Hyphenated Compound Words in English

The Role of Hyphens in English

Hyphens play a critical role in English grammar. They help avoid ambiguity and make the written text more transparent. Hyphens are often used in compound words and phrases, where two or more words come together to function as a single concept. They are particularly used when compound words function as adjectives before modifying nouns.

Understanding Compound Words

Compound words are formed when two or more words are joined to make a new word that has its own unique meaning. For example, in the phrase “five-hundred-dollar suit,” “hundred-dollar” is a compound adjective describing the price of the suit.

Common Misconceptions About Hyphenated Compound Words

One common misconception is that hyphens combine any two words together. This is not the case; hyphens are primarily used in compound words that function as a single idea or concept, especially when that compound word is an adjective that comes before the noun it modifies.

Learning to Use Hyphenated Compound Words

Understanding and using hyphenated compound words correctly can make your writing more clear and precise. When you understand the rules of using hyphens, you can better express complex concepts and ideas in your writing. So next time when you come across a sentence like “He bought a five-hundred-dollar suit,” you’ll know exactly why “hundred-dollar” is hyphenated!

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