

## Types of Word Formation

1. Coinage
  2. Borrowing
  3. Compounding
  4. Blending
  5. Clipping
  6. Backformation
  7. Conversion
  8. Acronyms
  9. Derivation
1. Coinage

Invention of totally new words

Extension of a name of a product from a specific reference to a more general one e.g. Kleenex, Xerox, and Kodak

Eponyms: words based on a name of a person or a place. E.g. sandwich, jeans, watt

### 2. Borrowing

Taking over of words from another language

English borrowed a lot of Latin and French words Leak (Dutch) Barbecue (Spanish) Piano (Italian) Sofa (Arabic) Croissant (French) Yogurt (Turkish)

Arabic also borrowed a lot of words from English, e.g. television, radio, supermarket Loan-translation or calque

A phrase that is introduced into a language through translation

### 3. Compounding

Two or more words joined together to form a new word. Examples: Home + work homework (N) Pick + pocket pickpocket (N) Low + paid low-paid (Adj)

Note: The meaning of a compound is not always the sum of the meanings of its parts. Baby oil Coconut oil oil made from coconuts. Olive oil oil made from olives. NOT oil made from babies

4. Blending -Similar to compounds, but in blending only parts of the words are combined.

Examples: Motor + hotel- Motel Breakfast + lunch -Brunch Smoke + fog- smog Teleprinter + exchange -telex

5. Clipping -Shortening a word by deleting one or more syllables

Examples: Facsimile- fax Hamburger- burger Gasoline- gas Advertisement -ad Professor-prof Doctor-doc

6. Backformation

Creative reduction due to incorrect morphological analysis.

Examples: editor edit television televise babysitter babysit

Note: backformation always involve reduction (changing the form of the word)

7. Conversion

Assigning an already existing word to a new syntactic category.

Examples: butter (N) V to butter the bread permit (V) N an entry permit empty (A) V to empty the litter-bin must (V) N doing the homework is a must Microwave (N) V

8. Acronyms

Words derived from the initials of several words

Examples: National Aeronautics and Space Agency NASA

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund UNICEF

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization UNESCO

Compact Disc CD

Other examples of Acronyms: a) Radar b) FYI c) TGIF d) a.k.a e) Html f) www g) btw h) ATM i) FAQ a) Radio detecting and ranging b) For Your Information c) Thanks God It's Friday d) also known as e) Hypertext mark-up language f) World wide web g) By the way h) Automatic Teller Machine i) Frequently asked questions

9. Derivation

The most common word formation process.

affixes Examples: Happy- unhappy, happiness Arrange -rearrange

Prefixes vs. suffixes

Infixes inside the word Tell them I've gone to Singabloodypore!

### **Activity 1- Multiple Processes**

The creation of a particular word involves more than one process.

Example: Problems with the project have snowballed Snow + ball compound Snowball (N) (V)  
conversion

Multiple Processes Identify the processes involved in the creation of the following forms.

I just got a new car-phone

James wants peace propos

### **Activity 2**

Complete the process and Identify the type of word formation: 1. automatic 2. information, entertainment 3. modulator, demodulator 4. love, seat 5. International, police 6. A comb 7. delicatessen 8. Capt. Charles Cunningham Boycott Auto Infotainment Modem Loveseat Interpol To comb Deli Boycott clipping blends blends compounding blends conversion clipping eponym

