

WORD FORMATION PROCESS

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Introduction:

How new words are being formed in the language:

- ◉ The process consists of a combination of morphemes that are rule-governed (a new word is formed).

PROCESSES WHERE NEW WORDS ARE FORMED

There are four main kinds of word formation: **prefixes, suffixes, conversion and compounds.**

AFFIXATION

- ◉ Process of forming words by adding affixes to morphemes
- ◉ English uses only prefixes and suffixes

sing + er = singer

un + real = unreal

COMPOUNDING

- ◉ Process that forms new words from two or more independent words
- ◉ Examples of words formed by the compounding process:

girl + friend = girlfriend

text + book = textbook

REDUPLICATION

- ◉ Process of forming new words either by doubling an entire word (total reduplication) or part of a word (partial reduplication)
- ◉ English makes use of reduplication very sporadically
- ◉ Total reduplication is extremely rare!

—————→ partial reduplication

Humpty - dumpty

hocus - pocus

SUPPLETION

- A relationship between forms of a word wherein one form cannot be phonologically or morphologically derived from the other (this process is rare).

am vs. was

go vs. went

MINOR WORD FORMATION PROCESSES

**(Occur less frequently in the English
language)**

ACRONYM

- ◉ Words that are formed from the initials of several words.

RAM = Random Access Memory

CD = Compact Disk

BLENDING

- ⦿ Process of creating a new word by combining the parts of two different words, usually the beginning of one word and the end of another.

motor + **hotel** = **motel**

camera + **recorder** = **camcorder**

CLIPPING

- ◉ Process of creating new words by shortening parts of a longer word.

doctor → **doc**

dormitory → **dorm**

Back-formation

- We form words with back-formation when we remove part of a word, usually something which we think is a suffix (or occasionally a prefix). We do this commonly when we form verbs from nouns.

- For example: to liaise (back-formed from the noun liaison); to intuit (back-formed from the noun intuition), to enthuse (back-formed from the noun enthusiasm):
- Can you liaise with Tim and agree a time for the meeting, please?
- She's always enthusing about her new teacher

LOAN WORDS AND NEW WORDS

- ◉ Loan words are words that are borrowed from other languages.
- ◉ Some recent loan words for food taken from other languages include: sushi, tapas, chapatti, pizza.
- ◉ When we use loan words, we do not normally change them, though we do sometimes inflect them if they are singular countable nouns (pizzas, chapattis). We also sometimes pronounce them more like English words, instead of using their original pronunciation.

NEW WORDS

- ◉ Some prefixes are commonly used to create new words. In modern English the prefix e- is used to create new words that are connected with the Internet and the use of the Internet:
- ◉ e-bank, e-cards, e-commerce, e-learning
- ◉ Almost any noun may potentially combine with any other noun to form new noun compounds (e.g. computer virus, carbon footprint, quality time).