

Words and Word-formation Processes

by the teacher

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INTRODUCTION

■ We quickly understand new words in our language and accept the use of new forms of that new word.

■ There is a lot of regularities in the word-formation processes in our language.

■ In this chapter, we explore some of the processes of creating new words in a language.

Etymology

The study of the origin and history of a word is known as **& etymology.**

We should view the constant evolution of the words as a **& reassuring sign of vitality of the language.**

Coinage

words: &

1. Trade names of commercial products that become general terms.
e.g. aspirin, kleenex, teflon, xerox.

2. New words based on the name of a person or a place.
e.g. hoover, jeans, sandwich.

Borrowing

Borrowing is taking over words from other languages. &

English borrows from other languages. &

e.g. *sofa, lilac, croissant*

Many languages borrow from English &

e.g. Japanese

supaamaaketto

Acronyms

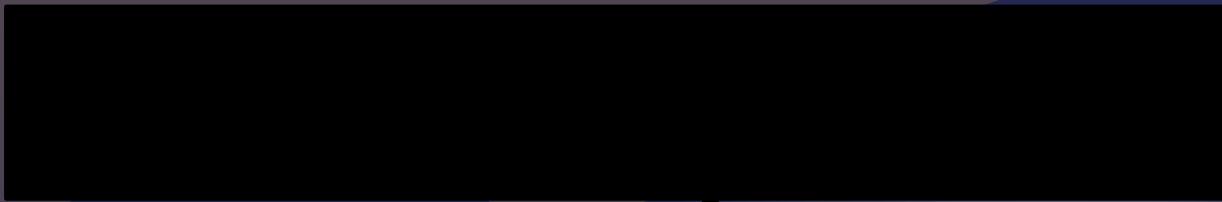
...ner words.

e.g. CD (compact disk) &
VCR (video cassette recorder)

laser

MADD

ATM



	ASAP	1 . personal identification number .	⌘
AWOL		2 . Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages .	⌘
	Laser	3 . radio detection and ranging .	⌘
	NASA	4 . as soon as possible .	⌘
	NASDAQ	5 . absent without leave .	⌘
PIN		6 . light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation .	⌘
radar		7. National Aeronautics and Space Administration .	⌘
scuba		8. National Association of Securities Dealer Automated Quotations .	⌘
	TESOL	9. White Anglo- Saxon Protestant .	⌘
WASP		10. self-contained underwater breathing apparatus .	⌘

Answers

ssible . &

AWOL – absent without leave . &

laser – light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation . &

NASA–National Aeronautics and Space Administration . &

NASDAQ – National Association of Securities Dealers Automated
Quotations .

PIN – personal identification number . &

Radar – radio detection and ranging . &

scuba – self-contained underwater breathing apparatus . &

TESOL– Teachers of English to Speakers of Others Languages . &

WASP – White Anglo-Saxon Protestant . &

Compoundin

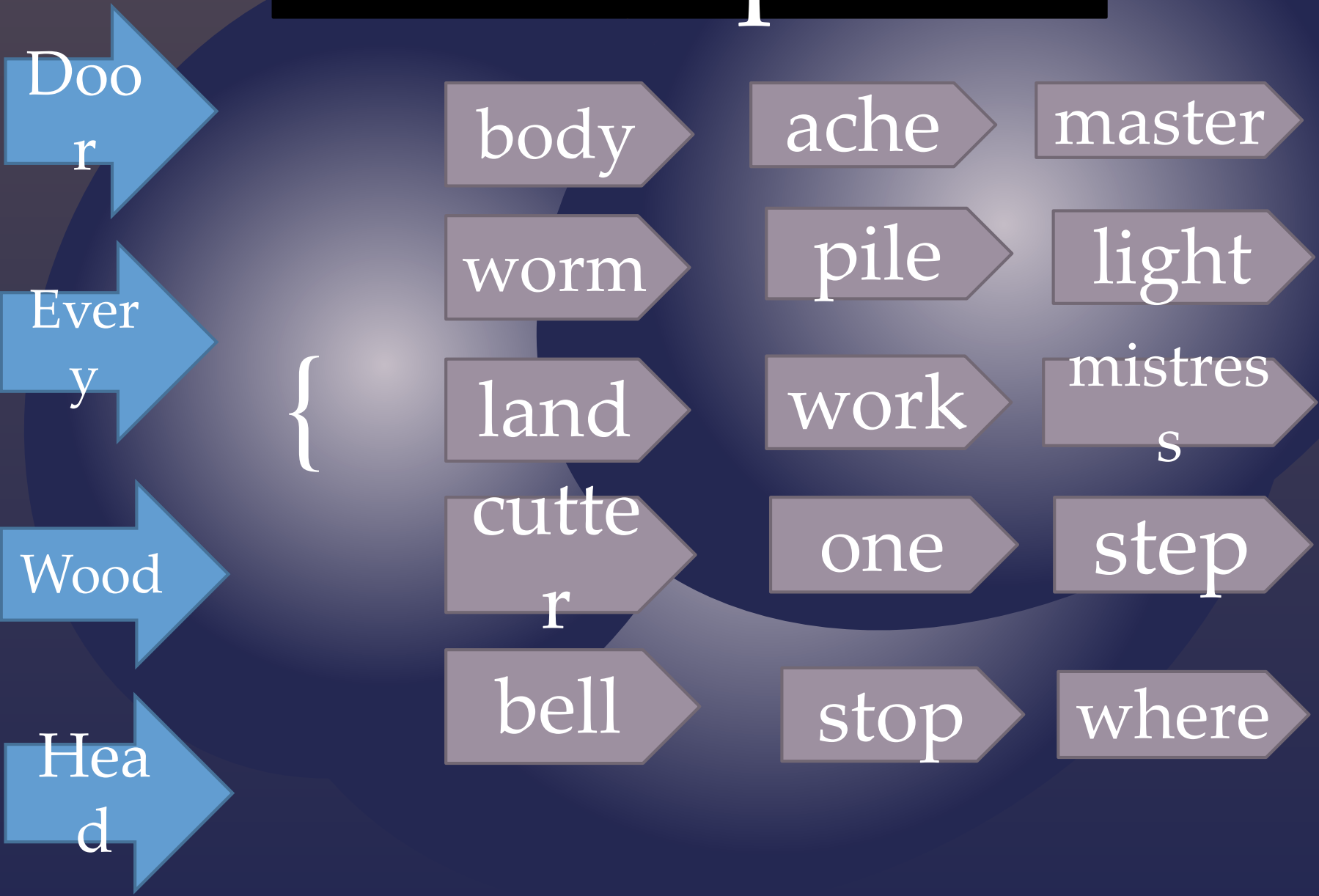
g were to produce a single form.

Compounding is very common in English and German.

E.g. **Compound nouns:** Bookcase, doorknob, sunburn

Compound adjectives: low-paid, good-looking

Examples



ANSWERS

Door

step, stop, bell

Every

body, one, where

Wood

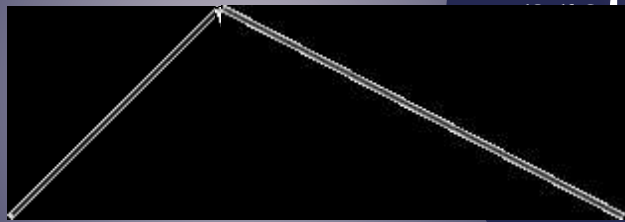
cutter, work, worm, pile

Head

ache, master, light,
mistress

Derivation

Affixes



a word

prefixes

added to the
beginning of

infixes

added to the
middle of in standard

suffixes

added to the
end of the
word

English

-ful or -less
un- or dis-

Prefixes

Appropriat
e

Logical

Paymen
t

Balance
d

Cover

I
n

i
m

non

il

di
s

u
n

ir

mi
s



Miss/inappropriate



illogical



Nonpayment



Imbalanced



Uncover

Suffixes

Quiet

Violin

Capital

Music

Cheer

Fit

Nutrition

Lion

ly

ism

ness

ician

ess

ous

ful

ist



Quietly

Violonist

Capitalism

Musician

Cheerful

Fitness

Nutritious

Lioness

Clipping

Clipping:

Clipping is the word formation process in which a word is reduced or shortened without changing the meaning of the word. Clipping differs from back-formation in that the new word retains the meaning of the original word. For example:

advertisement – ad

examination – exam

gasoline – gas

gymnasium – gym

influenza – flu

laboratory – lab

mathematics – math

memorandum – memo

photograph – photo