



# Word Formation

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Why study word-formation processes?

# Questions

- 1)What do you know about segmentation of words into morphemes? What is the principle of the analysis into immediate constituents suggested by L. Bloomfield?
- 2)What are the principles of classification of suffixes?

## QUESTIONS

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- 3) What is the difference between frequency and productivity of affixes?)
- 4) What is the most productive way of word formation in English, Kazakh, Russian? Are they different?



# The structure of English words and its specific features

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- Word formation: affixation, conversion, composition, abbreviation and other types of word- formation.
- Major types of word building in English: affixation, conversion, composition, abbreviation. Various types of abbreviated words. Other types of word-building: sound imitation, reduplication, back-formation.



# Word-formation processes

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- Constituent morphemes.
- Various devices which are used in English to build up new words from existing ones.

# Affixation

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- Adding affixes to an existing word is a common way of creating new words. The agentive suffix *-er* (nouns *upper* and *downer*, which were invented in connection with drugs but have extended their meaning to anything that lifts or dampens one's spirits). More commonly, *-er* is suffixed to verbs (V): *runner*, *campaigner*, and *designer*.

## COMPUTE + ...

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- *Computerite*, and *computernik*, along with *computerize*, *computerizable*, *computerization*, are all derived by affixation from *computer* and its derivatives.
- *Computer* is derived by affixing the agentive suffix *-er* to the verb *compute*.

# Prefixes

- Prefixes like *un-*, *pre-*, and *dis-* serve to change the meaning of words, though not usually their part of speech.
- *un-* added to an adjective (opposite meaning), *unpopular*, *unsuccessful*, *untrue*, and *unfavorable*.
- *dis-* added to a verb derives a verb with the opposite meaning: *disobey*, *disappear*, *dishonor*, and *displace*.
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# Prefixes

- *Pre-* serves as a prefix to several classes of words. It can be prefixed to verbs, as in *preaffirm*, *preplan*, *prewash*. It can also be prefixed to adjectives (*precollegete*, *precultural*, *presurgical*) and to nouns (*preantiquity*, *preaffirmation*, *preplacement*).

# suffixes

- Suffixes in English usually operate differently from prefixes. They often change the part of speech of a word. (*-ment*, *displacement*, *arrangement*, *agreement*).
- *-ation* : *resignation*, *implementation*, *observation*, and *reformation*.
- Suffixes are widely exploited in the other languages of the world as well as in English. The Indonesian suffix *-kan* changes a noun to a verb ('to cause to become X): *budakkan* 'to enslave' from *budak* 'slave'+ *-kan*, or *rajukan* 'to crown'
- *penjarakan* 'imprison' from *penjara* 'prison' + *-kan*).

# CONVERSION

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- Conversion is also called **affixless derivation** or **zero-suffixation**. The *term conversion* - Henry Sweet *New English Grammar* in 1891. Prof. A.I. Smirnitsky treats conversion as *a morphological way of* forming words when one part of speech is formed from another part of speech by changing its paradigm: *to dial* from the noun *dial*; *to jump* – *a jump*

# Morphological-syntactical word-building

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- A. Marchand. *The Categories and Types of Present-day*. (not only the change of the paradigm, but also the change of the syntactic function) e.g. *I need some good paper for my room.* (an object in the sentence). *I paper my room every year.* (*paper* is the predicate in the sentence).



# COMPOSITION.

## COMPOUND WORDS

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- Composition is the way of word building when a word is formed by joining two or more stems to form one word. The structural unity of a compound word depends upon:
  - a) the unity of stress
  - b) solid or hyphenated spelling,
  - c) semantic unity,
  - d) unity of morphological and syntactical functioning

# Stress

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- As a rule, English compounds have one uniting stress (usually on the first component), e.g. “*hard-cover*, *'best-seller*.”
- a double stress *'blood-,vessel*. (*main, secondary*)
- The main stress can be on the second component, e.g., *,snow-'white*, *,sky-'blue*.
- a special type of compound words - block compounds: *'air piracy*, *'cargo module*, *'coin change*, *'penguin suit* (one uniting stress but are spelt with a break)

According to the way components are joined together compounds are subdivided into:

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a) **neutral**, which are formed by joining together two stems, e.g. *ball-point*, *to windowshop* (without any joining morpheme);

○ b) **morphological**, e.g. *astro\_space*.  
*handicraft*, *sportsman*: (a linking element)

○ c) **syntactical**, e.g. *here-and-now*,  
*free-for-all*, *do-or-die* (form-word stems).

# Types

- A) **subordinative compounds** where one of the components is the semantic centre and the structural centre and the second component is subordinate; these subordinative relations can be different:
  - *honey-sweet, eggshell-thin, goldfish* (comparison); *dog-cheap* (emphatic relations) *love-sick* (cause relation); *raincoat, bathrobe, textbook* (functional relations); *she-dog, he-goat, Tom-cat* (sex relations).
- B) **Coordinative compounds:** where both components are semantically independent.
- a) e.g. *secretary-stenographer, woman-doctor* (2 functions) *Oxbridge, Anglo-Saxon* (additive).





# Shortening of words

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Minor types of word-formation

# Shortening of words is substitution of a part for a whole.

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- Shortening of various sorts is a popular means of increasing the word stock of a language. Shortening of a word is also called clipping.
- Result: a new lexical unit where either the lexical meaning (**fancy** and *fantasy*, **fence** and *defence*) or *the style* (**lab**, **exam**) is different from the full form of the word.



The general accepted classification of clipped words is based on the position of the clipped part, \_\_\_\_\_

- it may be initial clipping (*apheresis* from Gr. *aphaeresis* "taking away"): **story** (*history*), **copter** (*helicopter*), **chute** (*parachute*)
- Final clipping – cutting off (apocope Gr. "apokopto "cut off): **disco**, **intro**, **prof.**
- A combination: cutting off the beginning and final parts of a word retaining the middle part of it: **flu** (*influenza*), **van** (*avanguard*), **tec** (*detective*).



Sometimes the middle of the word is clipped, e.g. ***mart*** (*market*),

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- ***maths*** (*mathematics*); ***ma'am*** (*madam*), ***fancy*** (*fantasy*). Such abbreviations are called syncope ("syncope" Gr. a cutting up).
- Sometimes shortening influences the spelling of the word, e.g. "c" can be substituted by "k" before "e" to preserve pronunciation, e.g. ***mike*** (*microphone*), ***coke*** (*coca-cola*)

# Abbreviation

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- Besides regular shortenings there are graphical abbreviations or they may be called **acronyms** or **alphabetism**.
- **Alphabetism** – a word formed from the initial letters of successive words and pronounced as sequences of letters.
- **Acronyms** – alphabetisms pronounced as words.
- Abbreviations are formed by shortening and compounding; UNESCO, NATO. Abbreviation is achieved by omission of letters from one or more parts of the whole: bldg (building), abbr (abbreviation), B.A. Bachelor of Arts, **||** (lines), **pp** ( shows plural form),.

## Types of abbreviations

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- **A specific type of abbr.** a.m. (Lat. *Ante meridiem* – in the morning; cf. (Lat. *conferre*) – compare; e.g. (Lat. *example gratia*; ib (id) (Lat. *Ibidem*) – in the same place; i.e. ( Lat. *Id est*) – that is, loc.cit (Lat. *Locus citato*) – in the passage cited; ob ( Lat. *Obit*) – he (she) died, q.v. (Lat. *Quod vide*) – which see; p.m ( Lat. *Post meridiem*); viz (Lat. *Vide licet*) – namely.



# Types of abbreviations

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- Specifically English word pattern – with **initial abbreviations in which the first element is a letter and the second is a complete word.** A- bomb, H-test (hydrogen bomb), T-shirt. All kinds of shortening are very productive in Modern English.


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- There are also **acronyms** in which the initials of a phrase are joined together and pronounced as a word: **radar** ( from *radio detecting and ranging*); **yuppy** (*young urban professional t-y,*) **laser** stands for light amplification by stimulated emission radiation.
  - Besides shortening there are other ways of making new words such as: **blending, sound interchange, (stress interchange), sound imitation (onomatopoeia or echoism), back-formation, reduplication.**



# Blending

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- **Combination of two clipped words is another way of word-building.**
- **Blending** – creating new words by combining parts of existing words. Among the better-known blends are smog(smoke + fog), modem (modulator and demodulator), glasphalt(glass + asphalt), motel (motor and hotel).
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- **Sound interchange** – words or word forms are differentiated due to an alternation in the phonemic composition of the root: foot – feet, strong – strength.
  - **Sound imitation** – reproduction of a sound associated with it: *bubble, flush, splash, gurgle, cock-a-doodle-doo.*
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# Back-formation

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- **Back-formation** – derivation of new words by subtracting a real or supposed affix from existing words through misinterpretation of their structure (Arnold): *computer* – *compute* (a new verb meaning to use a computer), *typewrite* (*typewriter*), *baby-sit* – *babysitter*, *beg* – (*beggar*).

# Reduplication

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- **Reduplication** in the morphological process by which a morpheme is repeated, thereby creating a word with a different meaning or a different word class. There are two types of reduplication: partial reduplication, which reduplicates only part of the morpheme, and full reduplication, in which the entire morpheme is reduplicated ***ping-pong, bye-bye, walkie-talkie, riff-raff*** (низкие слои общества).