

Word-Formation Process In English

1- the most common process is *Affixation*.

i.e. the use of prefixes and suffixes.
this has been dealt with sufficiently
before. .

2- the second most common process is *Compounding*,

i.e. joining two words (i.e. free morphemes) to form a new word,

e.g. Hair + do = *Hairdo*,

take + away = *Takeaway*.

*Compounds can be made up of various word-classes

(or parts of speech) e.g.

noun + noun	:	<i>bookcase</i>
noun + verb	:	<i>bloodshed</i>
adjective + noun	:	<i>greenhouse</i>
adjective + verb	:	<i>widespread</i>
verb + noun	:	<i>scarecrow</i>
<i>verb</i> + adverb	:	takeaway
adverb + verb	:	downfall

3- the third process is Invention or New Coinage.

A lexical item that is a pure invention.

e.g. ***kodak , xerox, kleenex, penicillin***

4- A fourth process is **Clipping**,
i.e. cutting the beginning or the end of a word.
The deletion of a part of a word resulting in a
new and shorter word.

e.g. ***fax*** for facsimile, ***flu*** for Influenza,
exam for examination.

Personal names are often clipped in English –
Mike, Ron, etc..

5- A fifth process is **Blending**,

i.e. taking parts of two words and putting them together to form a new word,

e.g. Breakfast and lunch = ***brunch***;

smoke + fog = ***smog***;

Japanese + English = ***Japlish***.

6- A sixth process is Acronym;

i.e. A word formed from the initial letters of a sequence of words, (using the first letters of several words);

UNESCO = United Nation Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

RAM = Random Access Memory.

AIDS = Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome

WHO = World Health Organization.

* Acronyms are often written with capital letters.

7- A seventh process is **Borrowing**,
i.e.,

The incorporation of a word or other
item from one language into
another,

For example, English borrowed the
words ***government*** and ***science***
from French.

Word Classes (or parts of speech)

Words are traditionally classified into *nine* classes. These are:

- Nouns: e.g. *book, happiness, girl*
- Determiners: e.g. *a, the, this, my, some*
- Pronouns: e.g. *I, mine, myself, who, all*
- Adjectives: e.g. *cold, angry*
- Verbs: e.g. *go, do, eat*
- Adverbs: e.g. *quickly, well, however, very*
- Prepositions: e.g. *in, under, at*
- Conjunctions: e.g. *and, but, so*
- Interjections: e.g. *Good Lord!, Oh dear!*