

VOCABULARY

The concept of Word Formation

In linguistics, word formation is the creation of a new word. Word formation is sometimes contrasted with semantic change. Semantic change means a change in a single word's meaning. The boundary between word formation and semantic change can be difficult to define: a new use of an old word can be seen as a new word derived from an old one and identical to it in form.

There are a number of methods of word formation.

1. Derivation
2. Compounding
3. Blending
4. Acronym
5. Loaned words
6. Neologism

1. Derivation

Derivation in general means the formation of a word from another word or base and the relation of a word to its base or root.

2. Compounding

In linguistics, a compound is a lexeme (less precisely, a word) that consists of more than one stem. Compounding occurs when two or more words are joined to make one longer word. The component stems of a compound may be of the same part of speech—as in the case of the English word *footpath*, composed of the two nouns *foot* and *path*. They may belong to different parts of speech, as in the case of the English word *blackbird*, composed of the adjective *black* and the noun *bird*.

3. Blending

In linguistics, a blend word is one formed from parts of two or more other words. These parts are called morphemes (the smallest grammatical unit in a language).

cat + -s = the two morpheme units.

Formation

Most blends are formed by one of the following methods:

The end of one word is appended to the beginning of the other

smoke (1) + fog (1) → smog (1)

The beginnings of two words are combined. For example, cyborg is a blend of cybernetic and organism.

Two words are blended around a common sequence of sounds, also known as blends with overlapping.

The word motel is a blend of motor and hotel.

4. Acronym

An acronym is a word or name formed as an abbreviation from the initial components in a phrase or a word, usually individual letters (as in NATO or laser) and sometimes syllables.

Acronyms are pronounced as a word, containing only initial letters

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Scuba: self-contained underwater breathing apparatus

Laser: light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation

GIF: Graphics Interchange Format

5. Loaned words

In linguistics, loan translation is a word or phrase borrowed from another language by literal, word-for-word or root-for-root translation. means to borrow a word or phrase from another language. "Calque" itself is a loanword from the French noun calque which means to copy, or to imitate.

List of loanwords From French:

Adam's Apple

By heart

Governor

Stair-case

Marriage of Convenience

Point of view

Pineapple (Dutch)

Antibody (German)

Scapegoat (Hebrew)

Killer whale - ballena asesina(Spanish)

Muscle - musculus (Latin)

Rest in Peace - requiescat in pace (Latin)

6. Neologism

This word is derived from the greek words neo means new, and logos means speech. A word derived from neologism is a relatively recent or isolated term, word, or phrase that may be in the process of entering common use.

Neologisms can become popular by way of mass media, the Internet, and word of mouth. The title of a book may become a neologism, for instance, Catch-22 (from the title of Joseph Heller's novel).

Culture and technology use are major drivers in neologism development. The use and over-use of brand names is another example of neologism creation. The terms "coke" or "cola" may be used in reference to any Coca-Cola like beverage regardless of brand.

Root words from foreign languages and their use in English

Root Words

A root is the basic unit of a word. It is the form of a word after all affixes are removed. It's what's left after you remove all the affixes — the prefixes like "un-" or "anti-" and suffixes such as "-able" and "-tion." There are many root words that can be used on their own or as parts of other common words in the English language. These are also referred to as base words.

Act - means to move or do. Acting

Ego - mean "I". Egotist

Legal - means related to the law. Illegal

Normal - means typical. Normality

Phobia - means to fear. Claustrophobia

Sent - to feel, send. Consent

Root Words from foreign languages

Here are some more examples of roots, their meanings and other words that are formed by adding prefixes and/or suffixes to these language building blocks:

1. Ambul - means move or walk. Amble, ambulant, ambulate

2. Auto - means self or same. Autocrat, automatic

3. Bene - means good. Benefactor, benevolent

4. Cardio - means heart. Cardiovascular, cardiology

5. Cede - means go, yield. Intercede, recede, concede

6. Counter - means against or opposite. Counteract, counterpoint, counterargument

7. Dem - means people. Democracy, democrat, demographic

8. Derm - means skin. Dermatology, epidermis

9. Equi - means equal. Equity, equilateral, equidistant

10. Hypno - means sleep. Hypnosis, hypnotic
11. Intra - means within or into. Intrapersonal, intramural, intravenous
12. Ject - means to throw. Reject, eject, inject
13. Mal - means bad. Malignant, malfunction, malice
14. Magni - means big or great. Magnificent, magnify
15. Multi - means many. Multiple, multifaceted, multilingual
16. Omni - means all. Omnipotent, omnipresent, omnivore
17. Poly - means many. Polygamous, polychrome, polytheist
18. Script - means write. Manuscript, postscript
19. Sect - means cut. Intersect, dissect, section
20. Vis, vid - means see. Envision, evident

Root words can be helpful in improving our vocabulary. When we know root words, we can recognize the basis of any word and use that knowledge to help us define a word.

Linguists, scientists who study language, refer to the root as the base or foundation of a word.

—port|| is a root word. It appears as a part of many words. However, anytime it appears in a word, —port|| means —to carry|| or —to move.|| It gives the meaning of —to carry|| or —to move|| to any word it's a part of. So when you see words that include —port,|| like transport, portable, teleportation, deport or export, you know these words have something to do with —carrying|| or —moving.||

Acquaintance with prefixes and suffixes from foreign languages in English to form derivatives

Prefixes in English to form Derivatives:

It is the process of forming a new word from an existing word, often by adding a prefix o

Acquaintance with prefixes in English to form derivatives

Definitions of Root Words:

1. Alter meaning: Other – alternate
2. Ami or amic meaning: Love - amicable
3. Amphi meaning: All side or both ends - amphibian
4. Anthrop meaning: Human or man - Anthropology
5. Aqua or Aque meaning: Water - aquarium
6. Aud meaning: Sound - audio
7. Bio meaning: Life - Biography
8. Cap meaning: To take or seize control of - capsize

9. Carn meaning: Meat - carnivorous
10. Chron meaning: Time - chronicle
11. Cogn meaning: Know - cognitive
12. Cred meaning: Believe - credibility
13. Dei meaning: god - deity
14. Demo meaning: People - democracy
15. Dent meaning: Tooth - dental
16. Derm meaning: Skin - dermatology
17. Duo meaning: Two - dual, duet
18. Dynam meaning: Power - dynamo
19. Ego meaning: Self - egoist
20. Equ meaning: Equal or equivalent

Suffixes from foreign languages in English to form derivatives:

Suffix, such as -ness or un-. For example, happiness and unhappy derive from the root word happy.

1. adjective-to-noun: -ness (slow → eg: slowness)
2. adjective-to-verb: -ise (modern → eg: modernise in British English)
3. or -ize (final → finalize) in American English and Oxford spelling
4. adjective-to-adjective: -ish (red → eg: reddish)
5. adjective-to-adverb: -ly (personal → eg: personally)
6. noun-to-adjective: -al (recreation → eg: recreational)
7. noun-to-verb: -fy (glory → eg: glorify)
8. verb-to-adjective: -able (drink → eg: potable)
9. verb-to-noun (abstract): -ance (deliver → eg: deliverance)
10. verb-to-noun (agent): -er (write → eg: writer)

Synonyms, Antonyms

Synonyms are words that have the same or a similar meaning. Synonyms can provide us with variety in speech or writing. There are endless examples of synonyms, making it easy for us to avoid overusing the same word and sounding repetitive. Some examples of synonyms include the following:

1. Amazing, astounding, surprising, stunning

2. Annihilation, destruction, carnage, extinction
3. Benefit, profit, revenue, yield
4. Brave, courageous, valiant, heroic
5. Center, middle, inside, midpoint
6. Cunning, keen, sharp, slick
7. Destitute, poor, bankrupt, impoverished
8. Deterioration, pollution, defilement, adulteration
9. Enormous, huge, gigantic, massive
10. Evil, bad, wicked, vile, malicious
11. Fertile, fruitful, abundant, productive
12. House, dwelling, abode, domicile
13. Hungry, ravenous, empty
14. Injured, damaged, wounded, harmed
15. Intelligent, clever, brilliant, knowledgeable
16. Look, glance, see, gaze, stare
17. Loyal, faithful, ardent, devoted
18. Old, elderly, aged, senior
19. Organization, institution, management
20. Partner, associate, colleague, companion
21. Polite, courteous, cordial, gracious
22. Quick, fast, swift, speedy, rapid
23. Risky, dangerous, perilous, treacherous
24. Sleepy, drowsy, listless, sluggish
25. True, correct, right, accurate, exact
26. Under, below, beneath, lower
27. Vacant, empty, deserted, uninhabited
28. Woman, lady, female, girl
29. Wet, damp, moist, soaked, soggy

Antonyms

An antonym is the opposite of another word. Antonyms show contrast between two things or give clues to exactly what is meant. Below are some examples of antonyms:

1. Achieve – Fail
2. Idle – Active
3. Afraid – Confident
4. Ancient – Modern
5. Arrive – Depart
6. Arrogant – Humble
7. Ascend – Descend
8. Attack – Defend
9. Blunt – Sharp
10. Brave – Cowardly
11. Cautious – Careless
12. Complex – Simple
13. Compliment – Insult
14. Crazy – Sane
15. Crooked – Straight
16. Decrease – Increase
17. Demand – Supply
18. Destroy – Create
19. Divide – Unite
20. Drunk – Sober
21. Expand – Contract
22. Freeze – Boil
23. Full – Empty
24. Generous – Stingy
25. Giant – Dwarf
26. Gloomy – Cheerful
27. Guilty – Innocent
28. Hire – Fire
29. Include – Exclude

30. Individual – Group
31. Innocent – Guilty
32. Knowledge – Ignorance
33. Liquid – Solid
34. Major – Minor
35. Marvelous – Terrible
36. Mature – Immature
37. Maximum - Minimum
38. Noisy – Quiet
39. Optimist - Pessimist
40. Ordinary – Extraordinary
41. Partial – Complete
42. Passive – Active
43. Permanent – Unstable
44. Plentiful – Sparse
45. Positive – Negative
46. Powerful – Weak
47. Praise – Criticism
48. Private – Public
49. Problem – Solution
50. Professional – Amateur

Standard Abbreviations

Abbreviations are short forms of lengthy expressions. Abbreviations are in use in almost every discipline and area of life.

Written and verbal communication often includes these abbreviations:

1. R.S.V.P. – This acronym means "Répondez s'il vous plait," French for "respond, if you please." It is often used on invitations to parties and special events, and is intended (as it says) to be responded to with a "yes, we will attend," or "no, we will not."
2. P.S. – Means "post script." At the end of a letter, people will often include a P.S. to include an extra thought that was intended to be included in the letter, but forgotten. Using a P.S. was

more common in typewritten letters, when you couldn't go back and add a sentence in the body of a letter.

3. A.S.A.P. – "As soon as possible," used when encouraging someone to respond to a request without delay.

4. E.T.A. – This acronym means "estimated time of arrival," and is used as a guess for when one expects to arrive while traveling.

5. D.I.Y. – This acronym stands for "do it yourself," which means creating something on your own. It is often used for crafts and home repairs.

6. U.N.O - the world famous organisation that strives to establish global peace

7. W.H.O - World Health Organisation

8. B.B.C- British Broadcasting Corporation

9. A.I.R - All India Radio

10. F.I.R - First Information Report

Idioms and Phrases

English idioms, proverbs, and expressions are an important part of everyday English. They come up all the time in both written and spoken English. Because idioms don't always make sense literally, you'll need to familiarize yourself with the meaning and usage of each idiom. Idioms are expressions peculiar to the language.

Definition: An idiom is a phrase where the words together have a meaning that is different from the dictionary definitions of the individual words. English has thousands of idioms. Most of English idioms are informal. Idioms are a group of words used for more effective use of language. These words are not interpreted by their literal meaning but by their indicative meaning. Their effective use brings the command over the language. For example, if someone says to you —I'm pulling your leg!, you might think it is strange because you would definitely be able to feel if someone was holding your leg and pulling it! This idiom actually means that they are teasing you or playing a joke on you. As the meanings are usually completely different to the meanings of the actual words, it can be very difficult to learn them – you need to learn them in the same way you learn new vocabulary. Nouns and Verbs in English combination with Prepositions, Adverbs and other parts of speech, constantly make idioms. The more it is increasingly used the better will be one's command over the language.

A bitter pill

A situation or information that is unpleasant but must be accepted.

A hot potato

A controversial issue or situation that is awkward or unpleasant to deal with.

Achilles' heel

A metaphor for a fatal weakness in spite of overall strength.

- At the drop of a hat

Without any hesitation; instantly.

- Ball is in your court

It is up to you to make the next decision or step.

- Call it a day

To retire

- Cheap as chips

Inexpensive or of good value

- Couch potato

A lazy person

- Don't count your chicken before they hatch

Don't make plan for something that may not happen

- Fit as a fiddle

In good physical health

- Fly in the ointment

That one tiny drawback

- Grass is always greener on the other side

A phrase implying that a person is never satisfied with their current situation; they think others have it better.

- Heard it through the grapevine

You learned something through means of a rumor.

□ Ignorance is bliss

Life is good when you're naive to the hardships happening all around

□ It takes two to tango

It takes more than one person to start a fight

Here are 15 common English idioms and phrases that will enrich your English vocabulary and make you sound like a native speaker in no time.

1. The best of both worlds – means you can enjoy two different opportunities at the same time.

—By working part-time and looking after her kids two days a week she managed to get the best of both worlds.∥

2. Speak of the devil – this means that the person you're just talking about actually turns up at that moment.

—Hi Tom, speak of the devil, I was just telling Sara about your new car.∥

3. See eye to eye – this means agreeing with someone.

—They finally saw eye to eye on the business deal.∥

4. Once in a blue moon – an event that happens infrequently.

—I only go to the cinema once in a blue moon.∥

52

5. When pigs fly – something that will never happen.

—When pigs fly she'll tidy up her room.∥

6. To cost an arm and a leg – something is very expensive.

—Fuel these days costs an arm and a leg.∥

7. A piece of cake – something is very easy.

—The English test was a piece of cake.∥

8. Let the cat out of the bag – to accidentally reveal a secret.

—I let the cat out of the bag about their wedding plans.∥

9. To feel under the weather – to not feel well.

—I'm really feeling under the weather today; I have a terrible cold.∥

10. To kill two birds with one stone – to solve two problems at once.

—By taking my dad on holiday, I killed two birds with one stone. I got to go away but also spend time with him.‖

11. To cut corners – to do something badly or cheaply.

—They really cut corners when they built this bathroom; the shower is leaking.‖

12. To add insult to injury – to make a situation worse.

—To add insult to injury the car drove off without stopping after knocking me off my bike.‖

13. You can't judge a book by its cover – to not judge someone or something based solely on appearance.

—I thought this no-brand bread would be horrible; turns out you can't judge a book by its cover.‖

14. Break a leg – means good luck (often said to actors before they go on stage).

—Break a leg Sam, I'm sure your performance will be great.‖

15. To hit the nail on the head – to describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.

—He hit the nail on the head when he said this company needs more HR support.‖

Phrases:

Definition:

Phrase means a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit.

Examples:

1. blow up - explode - The terrorists tried to blow up the railroad station.

2. call off -cancel - They called off this afternoon's meeting

3. find out - discover - My sister found out that her husband had been planning a surprise party for her.

4. give away -give something to someone else for free - The filling station was giving away free gas.

5. make out - hear, understand - He was so far away, we really couldn't make out what he was saying.

6. take down - make a written note - These are your instructions. Write them down before you forget.

7. use up - exhaust, use completely - The gang members used up all the money and went out to rob some more banks.

One word substitutes

One word substitution is a process in which people use one word to replace a wordy phrase, to make the sentence structure more clear. This also makes work more succinct, instead of

convoluted. For example, if you have a sentence that states 'He drives me in a vehicle around town.' instead you can use 'He chauffeurs me around town.' The meaning is identical, yet the sentence is shorter. This adds a complexity to writing, while still making sure the writing is concise.

Most used One Word Substitution

1. To fall apart over time - Disintegrate
2. A copy of something that is identical - Facsimile
3. Old age that results in odd and unique behaviors - Senility
4. A smart and educated individual - Intellectual
5. Someone who is driven by passion to do crazy things - Zealot
6. Things to be done throughout the day - Schedule
7. To leave somewhere that is treacherous - Escape
8. A person who pushes an idea or belief system they do not believe - Hypocrite
9. Someone who sees everything negatively - Cynic
10. Something that is not understandable - Incomprehensible
11. A person who is talented in many different facets of life - Versatile
12. A movie or play held during the daytime - Matinee
13. Timeframe between kids hitting puberty and being an adult - Adolescence
14. A person that is unknown - Anonymous
15. Someone that you work with – Colleague