

# Word and Word- Formation Processes in English



# 1. Word-Formation Processes:

- All the processes by which new words are created.



## 2. More Common Processes in English:

- Borrowing.
- Compounding.
- Backformation.
- Conversion.
- Derivation.



## 2.1. Borrowing:

- The process of taking words from other languages.
- English has adopted a vast number of words from other languages.

e.g.: *croissant* from French

*pajamas* from Hindi

*pizza/piano* from Italian



# English Words Borrowed from Arabic:

*admiral/ algebra/ algorithm/ alcohol/ amber*

*apricot/artichock/ aubergine*

*coffee/ cotton*

*lemon*

*monsoon /mummy /muslin*

*orange*

*sofa/ sugar*

*zero*



## 2.2. Compounding:

- The process of combining two words to form a new word.
- Compounds may be written as:
  - a-one word  
*bathroom, bookcase, breakfast, textbook, sunburn, wallpaper, waterbed, wastebasket*
  - b- two words:  
*high school , bank account*
  - c- hyphenated word:  
*good-looking, low-paid*

## 2.3. Backformation:

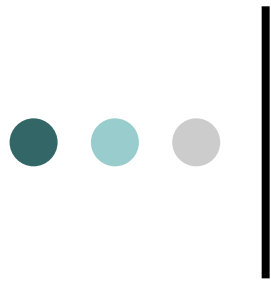
- The process whereby a word of one type, which is usually a noun, is reduced and used as a verb.
- E.g. N → V
  - televisionon televise
  - donation donate
  - babysitter babysit
  - worker work
  - editor edit
  - writer write



## 2.4. Conversion:

- The process of changing the function of the word, as a noun to a verb, without reduction.
- It is known as ‘*category change*’ or ‘*functional shift*’.
- Conversion process may result in shift in meaning.
- What is the difference between backformation and conversion?





- The conversion involves:
  - a- nouns becoming verbs:  
*to butter* ‘I’ve buttered the bread’., *to bottle*
  - b- verbs becoming nouns:  
*a guess* ‘It was a lucky guess’.,  
*a must* ‘Reading the chapter is a must’.
  - c- verbs becoming adjectives:  
*see-through* material
  - d- adjectives becoming verbs:  
*to dirty* ‘You must not dirty the floor’, *to empty*



## 2.5. Derivation:

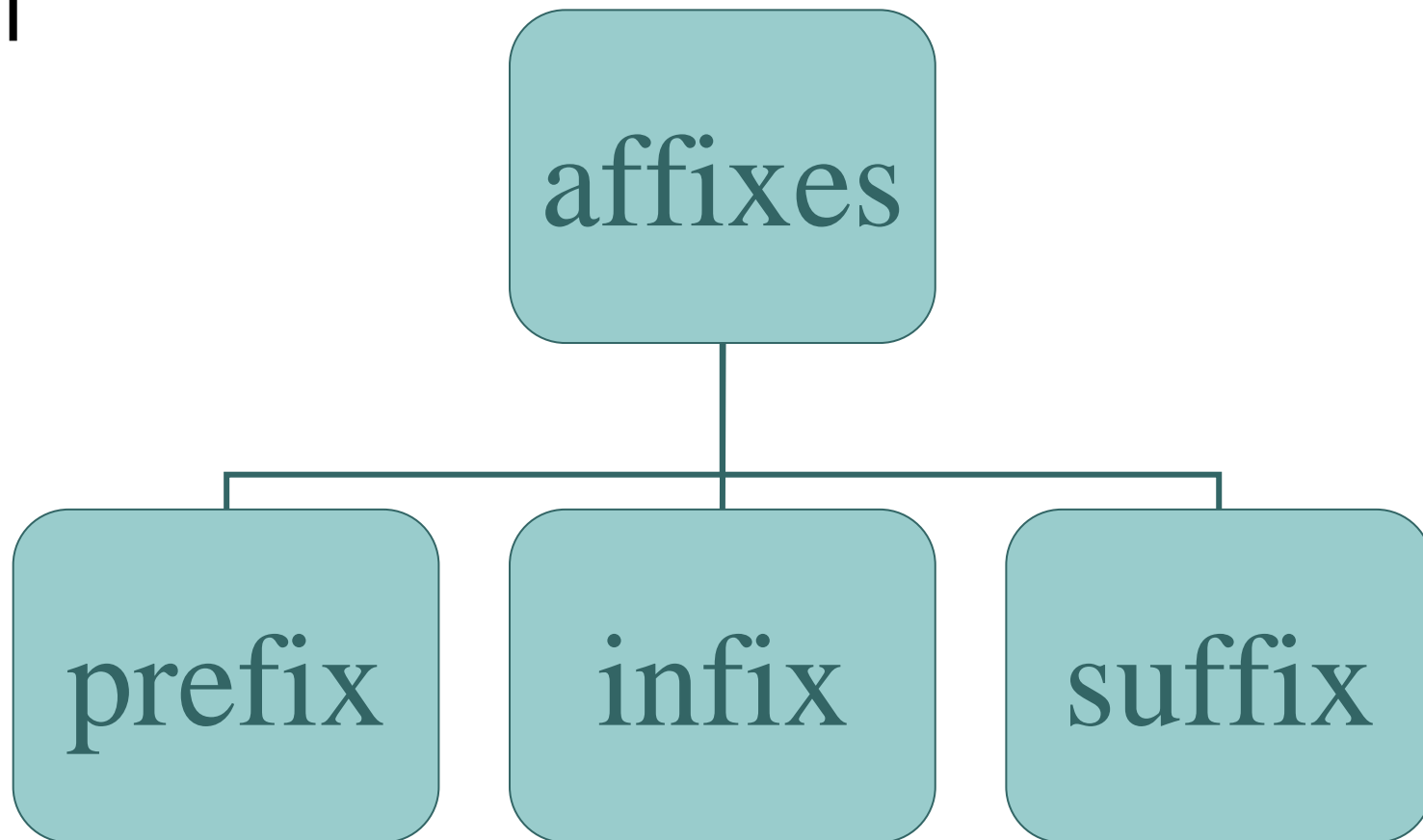
- The process of forming new words by adding affixes.

- E.g.

*unhappy, misrepresent, prejudge  
joyful, careless, boyish, sadness, terrorism  
disrespectful, foolishness*



## 2.5. Derivation:





## Define and provide examples of the following terms:

- Word-formation processes.
- Common formation processes.
- Borrowing.
- Compounding.
- Backformation.
- Conversion.
- Derivation.



## 3. Less Common Processes in English

- Coinage & Eponyms.
- Blending.
- Clipping.
- Acronym.



## 3.1. Coinage & Eponyms:

- Coinage: the invention of totally new words.
- The most typical examples are invented trade names for commercial products that become general terms of any version of that product.
- For instance, Vaseline, Aspirin, Panadol, Kleenex, Fine, Tide, Fairy, Clorex, Luxe.
- All of these are invented words, but after their first coinage, they tend to become everyday words in language.



## 3.1. Coinage & Eponyms:

- *Eponym*: a new word derived from the name of a person or a place.
- e.g.:
  - a- Place:  
*jeans*
  - b- Person  
*sandwich, volt, fahrenheit, watt*



## 3.2. Blending:

- The process of combining the beginning of one word and the end of another word to form a new word.
- E.g. smog  $\longrightarrow$  smoke + fog  
brunch  $\longrightarrow$  breakfast + lunch
- What is the difference between compounding and blending?





## 3.3. Clipping:

- The process of reducing a word of more than one syllable to a shorter form.
- E.g. fax                      *facsimile*  
ad                              *advertisement*  
flu                             *influenza*  
phone                        *telephone*  
plane                         *airplane*
- What do these words stand for?  
Chem, exam, math, prof
- What is the difference between blending and clipping?



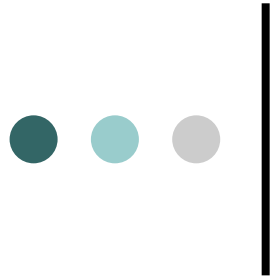
## 3.4. Acronym:

- A new word formed from the initial letters of other words.
- E.g.:  
CD, VCR, ID, ATM, PIN  
NATO, NASA, UNESCO  
laser, radar
- Some acronyms come into general use so quickly that many speakers do not think of their component meaning.



## Define and provide examples of the following terms:

- Less common formation processes.
- Coinage & Eponyms
- Blending
- Clipping
- Acronyms



Next Week

Read

Ch. 7

Morphology