WORD FORMATION

Outline

- Introduction
- Constituents of Words: Syllables or Morphemes
- Common Methods of Word Formation
  - translingual borrowing
  - alphabetism
  - acronymy
  - affixation
  - compounding

Word Constituents

When people speak of a language, they might be thinking of words and their meanings".

This sentence consists of two clauses:

1. **When people speak of a language**
2. **they might be thinking of words and their meanings**

The second clause can be broken up into phrases as follows:

a.)they b.)might be thinking c.) of words and their meanings.

The last phrase can also be broken down into its constituents

i.)words ii.)and iii.)their iv.)meanings.

Words and their Constituents 1

Example 1

	I	II	III
a.	teach	teacher	teachable
b.	magnet	magnetize	demagnetization
c.	liquid	liquefy	liquefied
d.	cool	cooling	coolant

Words and their Constituents 2

- Morphemes are the building blocks of words.
- Morphemes are units of meaning; for a part of a word to be identified as a morpheme, it must be meaningful.
- **Boy** (young male human) is a morpheme because it cannot be broken down further into meaningful units.
- **Boys** contains the meaning of young male human and more than one: it has 2 morphemes: *boy* and *-s*.
- **Flexible** also has 2 morphemes: **flex** meaning bend and **–ible** meaning able to

Words and their Constituents 3

Are morphemes the same as syllables? Task 1 below should make it clear

Break the words listed below into syllables:

magnet = mag/net

demagnetization=

liquid=

liquefy=

liquefied=

liquefaction=

understand=

Syllable &Morpheme: how many

how many syllables	how many morphemes
magnet = mag/net =2	magnet = 1
demagnetization	demagnetization=4
liquid	liquid=1
liquefy	liquefy=2
liquefied	liquefied=3
liquefaction	liquefaction=4
understand	understand=1

Common Methods of Word Formation

- translingual borrowing
- alphabetism
- acronymy
- affixation
- compounding

Translingual borrowing

- Speakers of a language may adopt words from another to identify a concept which they have borrowed from the speakers of that language. New words have been created in English by adopting or adapting a word from other languages like French, Latin and some languages of Scandinavia during different periods of its development on account of contact between native speakers of English and people from other lands. In recent times, English has borrowed from the languages of Asia and Africa.
- The Yoruba words in Column I have been adopted from other languages as shown below:

borrowed word	source word/langauge	meaning in Yoruba
àrá	ar-ra'd (Arabic)	thunder
ṣálá́ńgá	salga (Hausa)	latrine
ṣimí	chemise (French)	type of underwear
eépìnì	halfpenny (English)	old unit of money
títì	street (English)	tarred road
úgú	ugwu (Igbo)	type of vegetable

Translingual borrowing ctd.

With the aid of a good dictionary, find out the meanings of the English words which have been borrowed from languages in the table below:

Word	Source	Meaning
Alchemy	al-kimia (Arabic)	
Alkali	al-qalīy (Arabic)	
Tsunami	Tsunami (Japanese)	
Bamboo	Bambu (Hindi /Sanskrit)	
Cheetah	Chītā (Hindi)	

Task

In your notebook, write twenty examples of English words which have come from other languages. Be sure to include words of Latin, Greek and French origin.

Alphabetism

- This is a method of word building where the initial letters of commonly used phrases come to stand for or represent the whole phrase and signifies or means what the whole phrase means.
- However, in pronouncing the new word, the letters are spelt out individually, as if reciting the alphabet.
- The new word could be written in small letters,
  - e.g. http (hypertext transfer protocol)
- in capitals,
  - e.g. IT (Information Technology)
- written together
  - e.g. SOS (Save our souls)
- separated by periods
  - e.g. a.m.u (atomic mass unit), r.p.m (revolutions per minute), A.h (Ampere-hour)

Task on Alphabetism

- In your notebook, write the following alphabetisms in full:

- AD, SD, COD, DC, AC, VHF, PVC, FM, GSM, OCR, HTML, SIM,

- sg d.f. cc, www, a.k.a

Acronymy

- An acronym is also formed from the initials letters of commonly used phrases but the resulting string is pronounced as a word.
- Examples includes UNESCO /ju`neskəʊ/(United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization), FUTA /`fu:ta/(The Federal University of Technology, Akure), radar /`reidə/(radio detection and ranging), GIGO /`gaigəʊ /(Garbage In, Garbage Out) and ABLE /`eibl/(Activity Balance Line Evaluation).
- Note that acronymy and alphabetism can be jointly referred to as initialism, since their components are initial letters.

Task: (i): In your notebook, write the following acronyms in full:

BASIC, COBOL, ASCII, CAD, SQUID, WORM, laser.

(ii): Find **10 examples each** of words formed through alphabetism and acronymy in your subject area and record them in your notebook. (You may need to consult a good dictionary).

Clipping and Blending

- In this method of word formation, some syllables of a word are cut off, that is, clipped, and the rest are joined together to form a new word. It is of course possible for clipping to take place without any blending. The clip is then called a short form or an abbreviation.
- Examples
  - thermistor from **therm**al res**istor**
  - bit from **b**inary dig**it**
  - Blogging from We**b** **logging**
  - e-mail from **e**lectronic **mail**
  - simulcast from **simul**taneous broad**cast**
  - Fortran from **for**mula **tran**slator
  - Transistor from **tran**smitter re**sistor**
  - Hi-fi from **hi**gh **fi**delity

Affixation

- Affixation is a method of word formation where bound morphemes are added to free morphemes or already existing words. These bounds morphemes are called **AFFIXES**.
- Affixes can be classified by their position in the word or by their grammatical function (i.e. whether they change only the grammatical form of a word or its meaning)
- **Prefixes** are placed before the base morpheme while **suffixes** are placed after.
- Affixes are classified by grammatical function may be **inflectional** or **derivational**.
- Inflectional affixes are usually suffixes and do not change the meaning or grammatical class of the word to which they are added. Rather, they serve to indicate tense or number in verbs, number, or possession in nouns and degree in adjective and adverbs.
  - **Verb:** compute, computes, computed, computing
  - **Noun:** book, books, book's
  - **Pronoun:** they, them, theirs
  - **Adjective:** soft softer softest

Affixation

- Derivational affixes usually affect the grammatical class of the words they are attached to or change their meanings. They can be prefixes and suffixes.

- The most common prefixes used to form new nouns in academic English are: co- and sub- , and the most common suffixes are: -tion, -ity, -er, -ness, -ism, -ment, -ant, -ship, -age, -ery.

Some noun forming prefixes

prefix	meaning	Examples
ante	before	Antenatal, antediluvian
anti-	against	Anticlimax, antidote, antithesis
auto-	self	Autobiography, automobile
bi-	two	Bilingualism, biculturalism, bi-metalism
co-	joint	Co-founder, co-worker, co-descendant
dis-	the converse of	Discomfort, dislike
ex-	former	Ex-chairman, ex-hunter
hyper-	extreme	Hyperinflation, hypersurface
in-	the converse of	Inattention, incoherence, incompatibility
in-	inside	In-patient
infra	below	Infrared, infrastructure

Some noun forming suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
Noun forming suffix added to a verb (V) to form a noun		
-tion/-sion	Action/instance of V –ing	Alteration, demonstration, expansion, inclusion, admission
-er	Person who V-s something used for V-ing	Advertiser, driver , Computer, silencer
-ment	Action/instance of V-ing	Development, punishment, unemployment
-ant/ent	Person who V-s	Assistant, consultant, student
-age	Action/result of V	Breakage, wastage, package
Noun forming suffix added to a noun(N) to form a noun		
-er	Person concerned with N	Astronomer, geographer
-ism	Doctrine of N	Marxism, Maoism, Thatcherism
-ship	State of being N	Friendship, citizenship, leadership
-age	Collection of N	Baggage, plumage
Noun forming suffix added to an adjective (A) to form a noun		
-ity	State or quality of being A	Ability, similarity, responsibility, curiosity
-ness	State or quality of being A	Darkness, preparedness, consciousness
-cy	State or quality of being A	Urgency, efficiency, frequency

Verb forming affixes

- New verbs can be formed from existing verbs in academic English by adding certain affixes.
- The most common prefixes used to form new verbs are: re-, dis-, over-, un-, mis-, out-.
- The most common suffixes are: -ise/-ize, -en, -ate, -fy/-ify.
- By far the most common affix in academic English is -ise/-ize

Some verb forming prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
re-	again or back	Restructure, revisit, reappear, rebuild, refinance
dis-	reverses the meaning of the verb	Disappear, disallow, disarm, disconnect, discontinue
un-	reverses the meaning of the verb	Unbend, uncouple, unfasten
Mis-	Badly or wrongly	Mislead, misinform, misidentify
Out-	More or better than others	Outperform, outbid
Be-	make or cause	befriend, belittle
Co-	together	Co-exist, co-operate, co-own
de-	Do the opposite of	Devalue, deselect
fore-	Earlier, before	Foreclose, foresee
Inter-	Between	Interact, intermix, interface

Verb forming suffixes

- Suffixes can be added to a noun or an adjective to form verbs with the general meaning ‘cause to be’ or ‘make’. For example, stabilise means ‘cause to be stable’ and ‘classify’ means ‘make into a class’

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-ise	cause to be V	Stabilize, characterize, symbolize, visualize, specialise
-ate	cause to be V	Differentiate, liquidate, pollinate, duplicate, fabricate
-fy	cause to be V	Classify, exemplify, simplify, justify
-en	cause to be V	Awaken, fasten, shorten, moisten

Some Adjective-forming suffixes

Suffix	Examples
-al	Central, political, optional, professional
-ent/-ant	Different, dependent, excellent, effervescent, resistant, luxuriant, radiant, incandescent,
-ic	nitric, historic,
-ar	Ocular, molecular
-ly, -y	hourly, rascally, milky, leafy
-ive	Attractive, effective, imaginative, repetitive
-ous	Continuous, dangerous, famous
-ful	Beautiful, peaceful, careful
-atory, -ory	respiratory, congratulatory
-less	Endless, homeless, careless, thoughtless
-able, -ible	Drinkable, countable, avoidable, flexible, audible
-ing	Ccooling, flowering
-ed	Charged, laminated

Adjective-forming prefixes

- New adjectives can alsobe formed by adding a negative prefix to an adjective to derive another adjective

Prefix	Examples
in-	Inconvenient, inoffensive, insensitive
im-	Immature, impatient, immobile
il-	illegal, illicit, illogical
ir-	Irrational, irregular, irreplaceable,
un-	Unfortunate, uncomfortable, unjust
non-	Non-fiction, non-political, non-neutral
dis-	Disloyal, dissimilar, dishonest

Some Adverb-forming suffixes

Prefix	Examples
-ly	softly, quickly, briefly, monthly
-ally	specifically, spasmodically
-wards	earthwards, northwards
-wise	crosswise, lengthwise

Compounding

- Compounding is the joining of two or more free morphemes to form one word. The morphemes may be separated by space e.g. carbon (iv) oxide, joined by a hyphen e.g. stage-manage, or written together e.g. airlift. Many combinations of parts of speech are possible: noun + noun, noun + adjective, verb + preposition etc.

Final Review Task

- Download the passage on ‘Sewage Disposal’ and:
- Underline
  - in red all prefixes
  - in blue all derivational affixes and
  - in black all words formed through compounding.
- Analyse twenty words formed by affixation into their constituent parts.

Introduction

Definitions of language reveal our assumptions about the nature of language. Some define language as a system of signals which conform to the rules which constitute the grammar of that language. This is a **formalist** view as it reveals a focus on form. Another view is that language is a set of culturally transmitted behaviour patterns shared by a group of individuals. While the first view focuses on language as a pure code or communication system, the other, the **sociolinguistic** view locates language in its context as part of culture. These definitions are not mutually exclusive. Formalists know that language is culturally transmitted; they are just not interested in that aspect in their language description. Sociolinguists are also interested in rules, especially those dealing not only with grammatical correctness but also with situational relevance. In this course, our focus is on language use in academic contexts, or English for Academic Purposes (EAP).

When people speak about a language, they might be thinking of words and their meanings. We know that one language is different from another because they use different words to refer to certain objects. While a **library** in English is a place where books are kept for reading, **librairie** in French means a place where books are sold. Because words and their meanings are so important in language, this chapter will take us through how words are formed in English.

Structures and constituents

In earlier studies of grammar, we may have become familiar with terms like sentence, clause, phrase and word. There is a relationship between them that can be illustrated by the first sentence of second paragraph of this chapter: "When people speak of a language, they might be thinking of words and their meanings". This sentence consists of two clauses:

1. **When people speak of a language**
2. **they might be thinking of words and their meanings**

The second clause can be broken up into phrases as follows:

a.)they b.)might be thinking c.) of words and their meanings.

The last phrase can also be broken down into its constituent parts as

i.)words ii.)and iii.)their iv.)meanings.

From the above, we can deduce that a sentence consists of clauses, a clause consists of phrases and a phrase consists of words. But we also know that some of these words can be broken down into smaller bits. The example below will make this clearer.

Example 1

	I	II	III
a.	teach	teacher	teachable
b.	magnet	magnetize	demagnetization
c.	liquid	liquefy	liquefied
d.	cool	cooling	coolant

We would have found that the words on the same horizontal lines are related. In some cases, (e.g. a-c) we can say the meaning of the word in column I is included in the words in columns

II and III. The words in column I cannot be broken down further into smaller units which are meaningful. They are called **morphemes,** the smallest units of meaning in a language. A word may contain one or more morphemes. Try to break these words down into their constituent morphemes: i.) words ii.) and iii.) their iv.) meanings. We can now revise our statement on structures and their constituents: a sentence consists of clauses, a clause consists of phrases, a phrase consists of words and a word consists of morphemes.

Task: Sort the words in the box below into groups based on their having the same morphemes.

automate	toolbox	automation	capsule	cover
encapsulate	two	section	crankshaft	
engine	adhere	decade	decametre	tool
adhesive	engineer	bisect	monocotyledon	
crank	decahedron	monochrome	adhesion	
twenty	automaton	discovery	between	

A morpheme is different from a syllable in that the syllable is a unit of sound while the morpheme has to do with meaning. Also, a morpheme may consist of one or more syllables. Look again at these examples.

Example 2

WORD	**NUMBER OF SYLLABLES**		**NUMBER OF MORPHEMES**	
magnet	mag/net	= 2	magnet	= 1
demagnetization	de/mag/ne/ti/za/tion	= 6	de/magnet/iz/ation	= 4
liquid	li/quid	=2	liquid	=1
liquefy	li/que/fy	= 3	lique/fy	=2
liquefied	li/que/fied	=3	lique/fi/ed	=3
liquefaction	li/que/fac/tion	=4	lique/f/action	=3
understand	un/der/stand	= 3	understand	=1

Example 2 above demonstrates that morphemes and syllables are not the same. It also shows that some morphemes can stand on their own as words e.g. magnet, teach and understand. Others, like – ize and –action cannot stand alone as words.

The structure of the word can be represented by the formula **(p)b(s)**, where $\overrightarrow{\text{p}}$ is the prefix, b is the base and s is the suffix. p and s are put in brackets to shown that they are optional; a word may have neither a prefix or a suffix but every word must have the obligatory element, the base. The forward arrow on top shows the order in which these elements occur in a word. Prefixes by definition come before the base; suffixes come after the base.

By now, it should be clear that words are built or constructed from smaller units and knowledge of how words are constructed can help to read better and later write well. We will

now go on look at methods of word building used in the English language, and in EAP in particular.

Sense neologisms

New words are sometimes formed from an existing word without changing the form of the word. Two methods are discussed here.

1. **Extension of register.** This involves a giving a new meaning to an established term by metaphoric analogy. A word that refers to a concept in a certain register is used to refer to another concept in another register based on a perceived or proposed similarity between the two concepts. Three examples are given in the table below. Complete the table with examples from your field of study.

Word	**Older Referent**	**Register**	**Newer Referent**	**Register**
Backbone	spinal column	biology/ medicine	core of electronic network	GSM telephony
Virus	sub-microscopic parasite	medicine	contagious computer programme	computer security
Worm	long cylindrical invertebrate	biology/ medicine	invasive computer programme	computer security
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

2. Eponymy. This refers to the widening of the use of a proper name as a common noun. Names of people or places come to be used as names of objects. Many units of measurement in the physical sciences come from the names of inventors and researchers. Some examples are given in the table below. Complete the table with by giving more examples from your field of study.

Word	Source	register
Coulomb	Charles-Augustin de Coulomb, French researcher	physical sciences
farad; faraday	Michael Faraday, English physical scientist	physical sciences
Watt	James Watt, Scottish inventor	physical sciences
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Form neologisms

Form neologisms are new lexical items which have new shapes and new meanings, and they are created through a variety of processes.

1. Translingual borrowing:

New words have been created in English by adopting or adapting a word from another language. These words were borrowed from French, Latin and some languages of Scandinavia into the language during different periods of its development on account of contact between native speakers of English and people from other lands. In recent times, English has borrowed from the languages of Asia and Africa.

Word	Source Term/Language	Meaning
Alchemy	al-kimia (Arabic)	
Alkali	al-qalīy (Arabic)	
Tsunami	Tsunami (Japanese)	

Bamboo	Bamboo (Hindi /Sanskrit)	
Cheetah	Chītā (Hindi)	/
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

2. Alphabetism

This is a method of word building where the initial letters of commonly used phrases come to stand for or represent the whole phrase and signifies or means what the whole phrase means. However, in pronouncing the new word, the letters are spelt out individually. The new word could be written as small letters, e.g. http for hypertext transfer protocol, in capitals, e.g. IT for Information Technology, written together as in the two examples already given, or separated by periods e.g. a.m.u for atomic mass unit and r.p.m for revolutions per minute.

Task: in your notebook, write the following alphabetisms in full:
AD, SD, COD, DC, AC, VHF, PVC, FM, GSM, OCR, HTML
sg d.f. cc, www, SIM

3. Acronymy

An acronym is also formed from the initials letters of commonly used phrases but the resulting string is pronounced as a word. Examples includes UNICEF, FUTA, radar (radio detecting and ranging), GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out) and ABLE (Activity Balance Line Evaluation). Note that acronymy and alphabetism can be jointly refered to as initialism, since their components are initial letters.

Task: In your notebook, write the following acronyms in full:
BASIC, COBOL, ASCII, CAD, SQUID, laser (from Physics/ Engineering)

Note that some words are formed using both methods. In HIV-AIDS and CD-ROM for example, the first part of each ‘compound’ is an alphabetism while the second is an acronym.

Style Note

There is a risk of including redundant words when using initialisms (alphabetism and acronyms). According to Microsoft Encarta (2008), relatively new and conceivably puzzling acronyms, for example, ATM, GPS, and PIN, tempt the user to orient the listener or reader with a redundant additional word such as *machine, system,* or *number*. However, ATM ***machine*** is equivalent to "automated teller machine ***machine***" and PIN ***number*** means "personal identification number ***number***." Whenever it seems likely the acronym alone will not be understood, it may be accompanied by the full form: ATM (automated teller machine) or the full form may be used alone instead.

Task: Find **10 examples each** of words formed through alphabetism and acronymy in your subject area and record them in your notebook. You may need to consult a good dictionary.

4. Clipping and Blending

In this method of word formation, some syllables of a word are cut off, that is, clipped, and the rest are joined together to form a new word. It is of course possible for clipping to take place without any blending. The clip is then called a short form or an abbreviation.

Examples of clips/ blends are:

thermistor	–	**THERM**al	res**ISTOR**
bit	–	**B**inary	dig**IT**
blog	-	We**B**	**LOG**
e-mail	-	**E**lectronic	**MAIL**
simulcast	-	**SIMUL**taneous	broad**CAST**
Fortran	-	**FOR**mula	**TRAN**slator
Transistor	-	**TRAN**smitter	re**SISTOR**
Hi-fi	-	**HI**gh	**FI**delity

Students also use many clips and abbreviations like **exam**, **lab**, **fan** and **phone** in their informal interactions. You should however learn the ones that form part of the technical language of your discipline.

Some abbreviations are not clips, but rule-governed selections of particular letters in the word. Adkins & McKean (1983) classify them into classes A, B, C and D. These will be discussed under note-taking.

5. Affixation

Affixation is a method of word formation where bound morphemes are added to free morphemes or already existing words. These bounds morphemes are called **AFFIXES**. Affixes may be inflectional or derivational. Inflectional affixes are usually suffixes and do not change the meaning or grammatical class of the word they are added to. Rather, they

serve to indicate tense or number in verbs, number, or possession in nouns and degree in adjective and adverbs.
See the examples below

Verb:	compute,	computes,	computed,	computing
Noun:	book,	books,	book's	
Pronoun:	they,	them,	theirs	
Adjective:	soft	softer	softest	

Derivational affixes usually affect the grammatical class of the words they are attached to or change their meanings. They can be further classified according to their position in a word into prefixes and suffixes. Prefixes will be listed by their meaning, and suffixes by the part of speech formed with them.

Noun forming affixes

The most common prefixes used to form new nouns in academic English are: co- and sub- , and the most common suffixes are: -tion, -ity, -er, -ness, -ism, -ment, -ant, -ship, -age, -ery. By far the most common noun affix in academic English is –tion.

Noun forming prefixes, added to a noun to form a noun

Prefix	**Meaning**	**Examples**
Ante	Before	Antenatal, antediluvian
anti-	Against	Anticlimax, antidote, antithesis
auto-	Self	Autobiography, automobile
bi-	Two	Bilingualism, biculturalism, bi-metalism
co-	Joint	Co-founder, co-worker, co-descendant
dis-	The converse of	Discomfort, dislike
ex-	Former	Ex-chairman, ex-hunter
hyper-	Extreme	Hyperinflation, hypersurface
in-	The converse of	Inattention, incoherence, incompatibility
in-	Inside	In-patient
Infra	Below	Infrared, infrastructure
inter-	Between	Interaction, interchange, interference
Intra	Within	intravenous, intramural
kilo-	Thousand	Kilobyte
mal-	Bad	Malfunction, maltreatment, malnutriction
mega-	Million	Megabyte
mis-	Wrong	Misconduct, misdeed, mismanagement
mini-	Small	Mini-publication, mini-theory
mono-	One	Monosyllable, monograph, monogamy
neo-	New	Neo-colonialism, neo-impressionism
out-	Separate	Outbuilding
poly-	Many	Polysyllable
Post	After	postpone, postmodern
pseudo-	False	Pseudo-expert
re-	Again	Re-organization, reassessment, re-examination

semi-	Half	Semicircle, semi-darkness
sub-	Below	Subset, subdivision, subatomic, subcutaneous
super-	More than, above	Superset, superimposition, superpowers
sur-	Over and above	Surtax
tele-	Distant	Telecommunications
Trans	Across	Transpose, transnational
tri-	Three	Tripartism, trioxocarbonate
ultra-	Beyond	Ultrasound

Other (number indicating) prefixes include milli – (one thousandth), centi – (one hundredth) deci – (one tenth), deca – (x 10) kilo, (10^3), giga (10^8).

Noun forming suffixes

1. Noun forming suffix added to a verb (V) to form a noun

Suffix	**Meaning**	**Examples**
-tion -sion	Action/instance of V –inf	Alteration, demonstration, expansion, inclusion, admission
-er	Person who V-s something used for V-ing	Advertiser, driver Computer, silencer
-ment	Action/instance of V-ing	Development, punishment, unemployment
-ant -ent	Person who V-s	Assistant, consultant, student
-age	Action/result of V	Breakage, wastage, package
-al	Action/result of V	Denial, proposal, refusal, dismissal
-ence -ance	Action/result of V	Preference, dependence, interference, attendance, acceptance, endurance
-ery/-ry	Action/instance of V-ing Place of V-ing	Bribery, robbery, misery, refining, bakery

2. Noun forming suffix added to a noun(N) to form a noun

Suffix	**Meaning**	**Examples**
-er	Person concerned with N	Astronomer, geographer
-ism	Doctrine of N	Marxism, Maoism, Thatcherism
-ship	State of being N	Friendship, citizenship, leadership
-age	Collection of N	Baggage, plumage

3. Noun forming suffix added to an adjective (A) to form a noun

Suffix	**Meaning**	**Examples**
-ity	State or quality of being A	Ability, similarity, responsibility, curiosity
-ness	State or quality of being A	Darkness, preparedness, consciousness
-cy	State or quality of being A	Urgency, efficiency, frequency

4. Noun forming suffix added to a noun to form a noun

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-ene	Indicating particular chemical processes	alkene, benzene
-ane	”	alkane, methane
-ide	”	sulphide, oxide
-ate	”	carbonate, permanganeate
-in	”	Formalin

5. Noun forming suffix added to a noun to form a noun

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-ole	Indicating diminution	bronchiole, arteriole
-ling	”	fingerlings, gosling
-let	”	booklet, leaflet

Verb forming affixes

New verbs can be formed from existing verbs in academic English by adding certain affixes. The most common prefixes used to form new verbs are: re-, dis-, over-, un-, mis-, out-. The most common suffixes are: -ise, -en, -ate, -(i)fy. By far the most common affix in academic English is –ise.

Adding a prefix to a verb to form a new verb

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
re-	again or back	Restructure, revisit, reappear, rebuild, refinance
dis-	reverses the meaning of the verb	Disappear, disallow, disarm, disconnect, discontinue
un-	reverses the meaning of the verb	Unbend, uncouple, unfasten
Mis-	Badly or wrongly	Mislead, misinform, misidentify
Out-	More or better than others	Outperform, outbid
Be-	make or cause	befriend, belittle
Co-	together	Co-exist, co-operate, co-own
de-	Do the opposite of	Devalue, deselect
fore-	Earlier, before	Foreclose, foresee
Inter-	Between	Interact, intermix, interface
Pre-	Before	Pre-expose, prejudge, pretest
Sub-	Under/below	Subcontract, subdivide
Trans-	Across, over	Transform, transcribe, transplant

Adding a suffix to a noun or an adjective to form verbs with the meaning 'cause to be ...'

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ise	cause to be V	Stabilize, characterize, symbolize, visualize, specialise
-ate	cause to be V	Differentiate, liquidate, pollinate, duplicate, fabricate
-fy	cause to be V	Classify, exemplify, simplify, justify
-en	cause to be V	Awaken, fasten, shorten, moisten

Adjective forming affixes

The most common suffixes –al, -ent, -ive., -ous, -ful, -less, etc. are added to verbs or nouns to form adjectives as shown below.

Suffix	Examples
-al	Central, political, optional, professional
-ent/-ant	Different, dependent, excellent, effervescent, resistant
-ic	nitric, historic,
-ern	Southern
-ant, -ent	Luxuriant, radiant, incandescent,
-ar	Ocular, molecular
-ly, -y	hourly, rascally, milky, leafy
-ve	Attractive, effective, imaginative, repetitive
-ous	Continuous, dangerous, famous
-ful	Beautiful, peaceful, careful
-atory, -ory	respiratory, congratulatory
-less	Endless, homeless, careless, thoughtless
-able, -ible	Drinkable, countable, avoidable, flexible
-ing	Ccooling, flowering
-ed	Charged, laminated

New adjectives can alsobe formed by adding a negative prefix to an adjective to derive another adjective.

Prefix	Examples
Un-	Unfortunate, uncomfortable, unjust
Im-/in-/ir-/il-	Immature, impatient, improbable, inconvenient, irreplaceable, illegal
Non-	Non-fiction, non-political, non-neutral
Dis-	Disloyal, dissimilar, dishonest

Adverb forming suffixes

Prefix	Examples
-ly	softly, quickly
-ally	specifically, spasmodically
-wards	earthwards, northwards
-wise	crosswise, lengthwise

6. COMPOUNDS AND COMBINING FORMS

Compounding is the joining of two or more free morphemes to form one word. The morphemes may be separated by space e.g. carbon (iv) oxide, joined by a hyphen e.g. stage manage, or written together e.g. airlift. Many combinations of parts of speech are possible: noun + noun, noun + adjective, verb + preposition etc.

Compound nouns

Noun – noun combination: e.g. airport, sodium chloride, classroom, workstation, tapeworm, crankshaft, textbook.
Verb – noun combination: e.g. typewriter, carrycot, pickpocket
Preposition – noun combination: e.g. overview, oversight, undergraduate under-development,

Compound adjectives

Noun – verb combination: e.g. water borne, value-added, rocket –propelled.
Noun – adjective combination: e.g. water-repellent, air – tight, bulletproof
Preposition – noun combinations: e.g. off-the-record, over- the-counter
Preposition – adjective combination: e.g. off-white
Adjective – noun combination: e.g. full-time, long–term.

Compound adverbs include moreover, however, nonetheless, furthermore, meanwhile. as well as **determiner-noun combinations** or wh-forms:. anyhow, somewhere, nowhere, sometimes and anytime.

Compound verbs

Prepositions -verb combination: e.g. outvote, overreact,. oversleep, overwork , undersell, undervalue
Noun- verb combination: e.g. airlift, sunbathe
Adjective-verb combination: e.g. shortlist, proofread

Combining forms

A combining form is defined by the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English as a form of a word that has a meaning but cannot be used alone. The idea seems to to be that some words have forms that occur only in combination with other words. They can occur at the beginning, middle or end of words.

1. **At word initial position**

Combining form	Meaning	Examples
Hydro	of water, hydrogen	hydroelectric, hydrostatic
Agro	Agriculture	agro-allied, agro business
Eco	Ecology, (Environment)	Ecotourism, Eco-friendly
Electro	of electricity, electrons	electroplated, , electromagnetism
Anglo	English	Anglo-Nigerian, Anglo-saxon

2. At word median position

Oxo of oxygen compounds trioxocarbonate, tetraoxosulphate

3. At word final position

Combining form	Meaning	Examples
Meter, metry	Measurement	thermometer, optometry
Scope	Instrument	Oscilloscope
Gram, graph	Writing	telegram, photograph

FINAL REVIEW TASK

Read the passage below and

1. Underline in red all prefixes and in blue all derivational affixes and in black all words formed through compounding.
2. Analyse twenty words formed by affixation into their constituent parts.

Sewage disposal

Methods of waste disposal date from ancient times, and sanitary sewers have been found in the ruins of the prehistoric cities of Crete and the ancient Assyrian cities. Storm-water sewers built by the Romans are still in service today. Although the primary function of these was drainage, the Roman practice of dumping refuse in the streets caused significant quantities of organic matter to be carried along with the rainwater runoff. Toward the end of the Middle Ages, below-ground privy vaults and, later, cesspools were developed. When these containers became full, sanitation workers removed the deposit at the owner's expense. The wastes were used as fertilizer at nearby farms or were dumped into watercourses or onto vacant land.

A few centuries later, there was renewed construction of storm sewers, mostly in the form of open channels or street gutters. At first, disposing of any waste in these sewers was forbidden, but by the 19th century it was recognized that community health could be improved by discharging human waste into the storm sewers for rapid removal. Development of municipal water-supply systems and household plumbing brought about flush toilets and the beginning of modern sewer systems. Despite reservations that sanitary sewer systems wasted resources, posed health hazards, and were expensive, many cities built them; by 1910 there were about 25,000 miles of sewer lines in the United States.

At the beginning of the 20th century, a few cities and industries began to recognize that the discharge of sewage directly into the streams caused health problems, and this led to the construction of sewage-treatment facilities. At about the same time, the septic tank was introduced as a means of treating domestic sewage from individual households both in suburban and rural areas. Because of the abundance of diluting water and the presence of sizable social and economic problems during the first half of the 20th century, few municipalities and industries provided wastewater treatment.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the U.S. government encouraged the prevention of pollution by providing funds for the construction of municipal waste-treatment plants, water-pollution research, and technical training and assistance. New processes were developed to treat sewage, analyze wastewater, and evaluate the effects of pollution on the environment. In spite of these efforts, however, expanding population and industrial and economic growth caused the pollution and health difficulties to increase.