**Word formation** is the creation of a new word and refers to the ways in which new words are made from the processes of derivation and composition of longer, more complex words from shorter, simpler words.

It comprises of **affixation** which is the process of adding a morpheme—or affix—to a word to create either a different form of that word or a new word with a different meaning. An **affix** is a word used to alter the meaning or form of a word and comes in the form of either a prefix or a suffix.

1. **Prefixes** are a syllable, or group of syllables, added to the beginning of a word to alter its meaning. For ex - *mono*- means ‘one’ (***mono****lingual)*, *multi*- means ‘many’ (***multi****purpose)*, *post*- means ‘after’ (***post****graduate)* etc.

**1.1 Prefixes of Negation** - These are prefixes that when added to a word, they negate the meanings of such word. As in:

* ‘**un**’ – unhappy, untie, unconscious, unreasonable, etc.
* ‘**mis**’ – misuse, misdirect, misguided, misunderstand, misspelled, etc.
* ‘**non**’ – nonentity, nonsense, non-academic, nonreactive, non-teaching, etc.
  1. **Prefixes of Number –** These are prefixes that when added to a word, **they inform about the numbers present. As in:**
* ‘**uni**’ – unidirectional, unilateral, unisexual, unicellular, etc.
* ‘**bi**’ – bi-annual, bi-weekly, bilateral, bicameral, bicycle, bilabial, bifocal, etc.
* ‘**tri**’ – tricycle, triangle, trisect, etc.
* ‘**quad**’ – quadruplet, quadrangle, quadrilateral, etc.
  1. **Prefixes Emphasizing Degree -** These are prefixes that when added to a word, emphasizes the degree of the word, as in:
* ‘**super**’ – supermarket, superman, supernatural, supernormal, superstar, etc.
* ‘**mini**’ –miniskirt, minibus, minivan, etc.
* ‘**hyper**’ – hyperactive, hyperventilate, hypersensitive, hypermarket, etc.

1. **Suffixes** are a letter or group of letters added to the ending of words to change their meaning or function.

**2.1 Noun Suffixes -**

* **-eer** - Meaning: engaged in something, associated with something  
  Examples: auctioneer, volunteer, engineer, profiteer
* **-ion** - Meaning: the action or process of  
  Examples: celebration, opinion, decision, revision
* **-ity** - Meaning: the state or condition of  
  Examples: probability, equality, abnormality, civility
* **-ment** - Meaning: the action or result of  
  Examples: movement, retirement, abandonment,
* **-th** - Meaning: state or quality  
  Examples: strength, labyrinth, depth, warmth

**2.2 Adjective Suffixes -**

* **-able, -ible** - Meaning: capable of being  
  Examples: preventable, adaptable, predictable, credible
* **-al** - Meaning: pertaining to  
  Examples: theatrical, natural, criminal, seasonal
* **-ant** - Meaning: inclined to or tending to  
  Examples: vigilant, defiant, brilliant, reliant
* **-ary** - Meaning: of or relating to  
  Examples: budgetary, planetary, military, honorary
* **-ful** - Meaning: full of or notable of  
  Examples: grateful, beautiful, wonderful, fanciful

**2.3 Verb Suffixes -**

* **-ed** - Meaning: past-tense version of a verb  
  Examples: laughed, climbed, called, missed
* Examples: faster, bigger, fuller, longer
* **-ing** - Meaning: verb form/present participle of an action  
  Examples: laughing, swimming, driving, writing
* **-ize, -ise** - Meaning: to cause or to become  
  Examples: memorialize, authorize, commercialize, advertise

**2.4 Adverb Suffixes**

* **-ly** - Meaning: in what manner something is being done  
  Examples: bravely, simply, honestly, gladly
* **-wise** - Meaning: in relation to  
  Examples: clockwise, edgewise, lengthwise, otherwise

1. **Conversion**

Conversion involves the change of a word from one word class to another. For example, the verbs *to email* and *to microwave* are formed from the nouns *email* and *microwave*:

*Can you****text****her?* (Verb from noun *text*, meaning *to send a text-message*)

*If you’re not careful, some****downloads****can damage your computer.* (Noun from verb *download*)

*You can* ***google*** *this answer anytime you want.* (Verb from noun)

1. **Compounding**

When we use compounding, we link together two or more bases to create a new word. For example, the two bases *back* and *ache* can combine to form the compound noun *backache*, and the two bases *post* and *card* combine to form the compound noun *postcard*. Other examples of compound nouns are: *wristwatch, waterbottle, notebook*

Adjectives: *heartbreaking, sugar-free, airsick, bittersweet*

Adjective-noun compound: *blueberry*

Verbs: *oven-bake, baby-sit, chain-smoke, stirfry*

Adverbs: *good-naturedly, nevertheless*

Preposition*: into, upto,* *before, beyond*

Verb-noun compound: *workroom, pickpocket*

Noun-verb compound: *breastfeed, haircut, rainfall*

Adjective-verb compound: *highlight, whitewash*

Preposition-verb compound: *outrun, overthrow*

1. **Reduplication** is the formation of a new word by doubling a word, either with change of initial consonants.

For ex- **teenie-weenie, walkie-talkie**, **super-duper, boogie-woogie**

With change of vowel - **chit-chat, zig-zag**, **pitter-patter, flip-flop**

Or without change - **bye-bye, so-so and win-win**

1. **Initialism -** An unpronounceable abbreviation comprising the initial letters of a term and commonly used in place of that term. Each letter of an initialism is pronounced independently. Both Acronyms and abbreviations are types of initialization

**For ex – CBI, FBI, HTML, DVD**

1. **Acronyms** is a type of abbreviation, which are new words formed from the initial letters of a set of words. They are pronounced as new single words.

Examples:

**NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization)**

**UNICEF (The United Nations Children's Fund), RSVP (**Répondez s'il vous plaît" – please respond), **PM/AM** (post meridiem"- after noon, ante meridiem -before noon, **AD/BC** – (Anno Domini, Before Christ)

1. **Abbreviation -** are shortened forms of words or lengthy phrases.

**For ex – acc – according to, admin -** administration, administrative, **arch** - archive(s)/architecture, **Brit** – British, **Capt**. – Captain, **cent** – century , **col.** – colonel, **dept.** – deputy, **dept** – department**, E.d/ed**. - edition

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**Name of months – Jan, Dec, Apr etc.**

1. **Coinage/ Eponyms** are the invention of a totally new term named after anything famous. The most typical sources are invented trade names for commercial products that become general terms.

For ex – **Xerox (for photocopy), Google (for search engines), Fevicol (for glue), Jacuzzi** **(for hot tub), Popsicle (for ice cream on sticks), Ping Pong (Table tennis)**

1. **Conversion** refers to the process of changing or converting the class of a word without changing its form. Example :

Noun to verb: **bottle** – This product was made in China but **bottled** in the US. **Butter** – Don’t **butter** the bread so much.

Verb to noun – **Cheat** – He was caught using **cheats** in the exam hall. Alert – An **alert** was announced for the cyclone.

Preposition to noun - **up, down** – Do not be troubled by the **ups and downs** of life.

1. **Backformation** is the process of shortening a long word by cutting off an affix to form a new word. The new word has a different part of speech from the original word.

**For ex -** *auto-destruct* from *auto-destruction*

*Air-condition* from *air conditioning,*

*Choreograph* from *choreography*

*Fine-tune* from *fine tuning*

*Kidnap* from *kidnapper*

*Paramedic* from *paramedical*

1. **Blending** is typically accomplished by combining the initial part of one word and the last part of another word.

Examples:

**Brunch = (breakfast + lunch),**

**Emoticon = (emotion + icon)**

**Frenemy =( friend+enemy)**

**Sitcom = (situation+comedy)**

**Smog = (Fog+ smoke)**

**Blog = (web + log)**

**Cyborg = (cybernetic + organism)**

1. **Clipping** is the word formation process which consists in the reduction of a word to one of its parts.

For ex - **ad**= advertisement, ***Fridge*** – refrigerator

**Gym**- gymnastics, gymnasium, **Flu** – influenza

**Sci-fi** - sci*ence* fi*ction,* **Disco** – discotheque

***Vet*** *–* veterinarian, **Lab** – laboratory