

Word Formation



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- English is a common language in many specialised areas such as science, technology and the Internet, and as these areas grow so does the vocabulary needed to express new ideas and objects.
- English has many points of contact with other languages. Here words can cross over.
- There are many ways in which new words come into existence.



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- Many words in English seem to have a Latin quality to them - this is because some of them have developed from French vocabulary learnt during the Norman occupancy many years ago. However, words have been borrowed from many languages, not just French - some of them are now extinct or almost never used



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- English owes a lot of words from Persian language
- This is so because there has been a greater influence of Mughals all over the globe prior to British rule
- Subsequently words from various other languages like Hindi have been adopted in English



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Some Examples

- English words Persian word
- Father Pidar
- Daughter Dikhtar
- Diabetese Ziabats
- Jungle same in Hindi
- Lassi same in Hindi
- Jhuggi same in Hindi



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Popular words

- Some of the words that are coined by people and once these are used by most people around the globe, these become a part of the vocabulary
- For example ‘SELFIE’, the most commonly used word of the day has been included just around 5 years ago



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Some more examples are

- '**Hobbit**' was based on rabbit –(small human like creatures)
- or change from a brand or product to common usage - **Kleenex** (*meant for cleaning*) and **Hoover** (*the process of cleaning a carpet*) .
- They can also of course have no roots in anything, such as the scientific terms '**googol**' (*that means ten raised to the power hundred, obviously very vast*) and '**quark**' , or slang terms such as '**hug**' a drink.

Onomatopoeia and reduplicatives

- Words can be invented to describe sounds and the things that make sounds, such as '**cuckoo**', '**splash**', '**plop**' and '**whoop**'. They can also be invented by duplicating a sound, e.g '**honky-tonk**', '**wishy-washy**', '**mish-mash**' and '**ping-pong**' . More recent new words of this kind include '**analysisparalysis**' and '**chick-flick**' .



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- '*wishy-washy*' means weak
- '*honky-tonk* means country music or places of cheap entertainment or it may refer to a night club
- '*plop*' to fall with a sound
- *mish-mash* a patch work
- '*ping-pong*'. A verbal exchange between two
- '*chick-flic* A movie that appeals to women



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Acronyms

- Phrases that are reduced to acronyms often enough become words in their own right and the original phrase is often forgotten. Some are still written as acronyms such as AIDS and VDU, but others are not, radar, yuppy and scuba, for example. Some acronyms become familiar very quickly, such as SARS and WMDs.



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- Yuppie – a well paid graduate working in a large city
- Scuba – an apparatus carrying compressed gas
- VDU – visual display unit
- AIDS – a life threatening disease of human immune system
- SARS – a severe respiratory illness
- WMD – weapons of mass destruction*



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Clipping

- This is the shortening of a longer word, often reducing it to one syllable.
Examination becomes exam, laboratory lab. Many examples are very informal or slang, like 'bro' from brother, 'dis' from disrespect, 'maxing', from maximising.



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Blending

- This is another interesting area to explore with learners. Blends are words created by combining elements from two words - normally beginning and end - and so combining their meaning to create a new one.



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