Word formation refers to the ways by which new lexical items enter a language. Although affixation (prefixes, suffixes, infixes, etc.) is one of the most common processes, today we focus only on non-affixal methods, which are equally productive and important in understanding how vocabulary grow.

2A. **Compounding**

Two or more free morphemes combine to create a new word.

Types & Examples

Noun + Noun: sunflower, toothpaste, football

Adjective + Noun: blackboard, greenhouse

Verb + Noun: pickpocket, watchdog

Noun + Verb: housekeep

Verb + Verb: stir-fry

Adverb + Verb: overthrow

2B. Reduplication

Repetition of whole or partial elements to form new words.

Types

1. Full reduplication:

Examples : bye-bye, hush-hush, chit-chat

2. Partial reduplication:

Examples: teeny-weeny, super-duper, zig-zag

2C. Clipping

A longer word is shortened without changing its word category / part of speech.

Types & Examples

Back clipping: examination → exam, advertisement → ad

Fore clipping: telephone → phone, refrigerator → fridge

Middle clipping: influenza → flu

Complex clipping: sci-fi (science fiction), sitcom (situational comedy)

2D. Blending

Parts of two words merge into one.

Examples

breakfast + lunch → brunch

smoke + fog → smog

global + English → Globish

Hindi + English → Hinglish

emotion + icon → Emoticon (emoji)

2E. Acronyms & Initialisms

Forming new words from the initial letters of a phrase.

1. Acronyms (pronounced as words):

NATO, UNICEF, radar (radio detecting and ranging)

2. Initialisms (pronounced letter by letter):

FBI, BBC, ATM, SBI, IIT

2F. Conversion (Zero-Derivation)

A word shifts to a new grammatical category without changing its form.

Examples

Noun → Verb: to Google, to water (plants), to bottle

Verb → Noun: a run, a laugh, a call

Adjective → Noun: the poor, a native

Noun → Adjective: chocolate cake, stone wall

2G. Coinage / Neologism

Brand-new words created, often from brand names or inventions.

Examples

Kodak, Xerox, Google, Teflon, Bluetooth

selfie, meme, podcast

2H. Borrowing (Loanwords)

Words taken from other languages and integrated into English.

Examples

From Hindi: bungalow, shampoo, juggernaut

From French: entrepreneur, café, ballet

From German: kindergarten, angst

From Japanese: Tsunami, Sushi

Note: Borrowings often retain some phonological or cultural flavour of the source language.

2I. Back-Formation

A new word is created by removing an imagined element from an existing word (NOT a true affix).

Examples

editor → edit

donation → donate

burglar → burgle

babysitter → babysit