

## TYPES OF WORD FORMATION

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**Abstract:** *The English language is praised for the beautiful way that words and sentences are constructed and utilised. There are numerous ways to create new words from an existing root word, but the usual approach involves adding a syllable or another word.*

**Key words:** *formation, prefixes, suffixes, conversion, compound words.*

Based on how the process of word development is carried out, there are four different categories for word formation. As follows:

1. By adding prefixes
2. By adding suffixes
3. Converting from one word class to another
4. Forming compound words

Let's examine each sort of word construction in further depth.

### **Adding Prefixes**

When one or more alphabets are added to a word's stem, usually to make it negative, this is referred to as a "prefix." The most frequently used prefixes are "in-," "un-," "dis-," "im-," and "ir-," among others. To better understand how prefixes are used to create new words, take a look at the examples presented below.

#### **Examples of Word Formation by the Addition of Prefixes**

|     |                                |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| il  | illogical, illegal, illiterate |
| re  | recast, refund, reclaim        |
| em  | empower, embody, embark        |
| en  | encourage, enrich, enlist      |
| de  | deform, defame, demoralise     |
| mis | misunderstand                  |
| ir  | • irresponsible                |
| in  | • indiscipline                 |

### **Adding Suffixes**

A suffix is a brief syllable that is added to the end of a base word. Suffixes typically alter the word's word class. The most frequent suffixes include '-ment', '-ness', '-'

ity', '-ous', '-tion', '-sion', '-al', '-able', '-ible', '-ive', '-ly', '-ate', '-er', '-or', etc. To see how suffixes are added, look at the examples below.

**Examples of Word Formation by the Addition of Suffixes**

| words                     | suffix       | new words                     |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>forget, use</i>        | <i>-ful</i>  | <i>forgetful, useful</i>      |
| <i>state, govern</i>      | <i>-ment</i> | <i>statement, government</i>  |
| <i>complicate, create</i> | <i>-ion</i>  | <i>complication, creation</i> |

Other examples:

- Brave (adjective) – bravery (noun)
- Profit (noun) – profitable (adjective)
- Quick (adjective) – quickly (adverb)
- Happy (adjective) – happily (adverb)
- Sad (adjective) – sadness (noun)

**CONVERSION**

The conversion process is primarily concerned with changing the word class of a certain word. You may have seen how some nouns are employed to perform the role of a verb or an adjective serving as a noun simply by adding another word or slightly modifying the spelling of the real word.

**Examples of Word Formation by Conversion**

- The rich should help the poor.

Adjectives such as ‘rich’ and ‘poor’ are used as nouns by using them with the article ‘the’.

- Everyone is talented.

‘Talented’ – a past participle is used as an adjective in the above sentence. The word is formed by adding the suffix ‘ed’ to the end of the noun ‘talent’.

- There will definitely be a lot of ups and downs in life.

Prepositions ‘up’ and ‘down’ are used as nouns by adding ‘s’ to the end of it.

- He texted me about the meeting only at the last minute.

The noun ‘text’ used to refer to a text message sent on a phone is used as a verb in the sentence by adding an ‘ed’ to the end of the word.

- The financial aid had to be approved before we could make a decision.

The noun ‘finance’ is used as an adjective by adding ‘ial’ to the end of it and the verb ‘decide’ is used as a noun by removing ‘de’ and adding ‘sion’ to the word.

**Forming Compound Words**

Compound words are created by combining two parts of speech to create a new word class. Compound words can be generated in a variety of ways. Compound verbs are formed by combining verbs and adjectives, compound nouns are formed by combining a present participle with a noun, two nouns are combined to form a compound noun, an adjective and a noun are combined to form a compound noun, an adverb is combined with a noun to form a compound noun, an adjective is combined with a past participle to form a compound adjective, and so on. Look at the examples below and read the articles on compound nouns, compound words, and compound adjectives to learn more about how they work.

**Examples of Word Formation by Compounding**

- Over (adverb) + load (noun) – Overload
- White (adjective) + wash (verb) – Whitewash
- Black (adjective) + board (noun) – Blackboard
- Cup (noun) + board (noun) – Cupboard
- Short (adjective) + hand (noun) – Shorthand
- Swimming (present participle) + pool (noun) – Swimming pool
- Three (adjective) + legged (past participle) – Three-legged
- Break (verb) + Down (preposition) – Breakdown
- Up (preposition) + town (noun) – Uptown
- Copy (verb) + writer (noun) – Copywriter
- Sun (noun) + rise (verb) – Sunrise
- Count (verb) + down (preposition) – Countdown
- Flash (verb) + mob (noun) – Flash mob
- Master (noun) + piece (noun) – Masterpiece
- Round (adjective) + table (noun) – Round-table

**Rules of word formation**

The process of creating new words can be really intriguing, but you need to be extremely careful when you add inflections or affixes. When you are generating words, there are a few factors to keep in mind. See what they are by reading the following points. Before making any change to the stem of the word, try to analyse what is the kind of meaning you want the word to convey and what role the word will have to play in the sentence.

1. Typically, the root word's beginning doesn't change. A syllable is only added to the beginning of a word when prefixes are introduced. Note that the word is still used as such in this instance.

2. When suffixes are added, you frequently have to remove the final one or more alphabets of the word before adding the suffix. However, in some terms, such as "movement," the suffix is only appended without altering the spelling of the root word. Here is one way to easily know which suffix has to be added to form a particular word class – most often, nouns end in ‘er’, ‘or’, ‘ist’, ‘ian’, ‘ion’, ‘ment’, ‘ness’, and ‘ity’;

verbs end in 'ise', 'ate' and 'en'; adjectives end in 'able', 'ible', 'ive', 'ic', 'ed', 'ing' and 'al'; and adverbs normally end in 'ly'.

- When words are created by conversion, use extreme caution. Make sure you are translating them correctly and utilizing them in the phrase as intended.

- • When creating compound words, be sure to utilize the proper combination of words—do not merely mix and match any word—and to hyphenate them if necessary.

- • Given that the word is inflected to denote the twelve different tenses in the English language, shifting from one tense to another can also be viewed as a type of word creation.

- Degrees of comparison can also be classified as word construction. The comparative and superlative degrees are generated in this example by appending 'er' and 'est' to the end of the adjective. The comparative and superlative degrees of polysyllabic words are generated by combining 'more' and 'most' with the adjective.

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