

For updated version, please click this link
<http://ocw.ump.edu.my>

UHE3092 ENGLISH MECHANICS

WORD FORMATION

by

Siti Norzaimalina bt Abd Majid
Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences
norzaimalina@ump.edu.my



INTRODUCTION

- Words can be formed through several processes like coinage, borrowing, blending, adding affixes and many more.
- For this course, I will focus on 3 processes: **compounding, derivational affixation and conversion.**
- These processes are responsible to create new entries not only into English vocabulary but also other languages.



1. COMPOUNDING

Compounding is **joining together two words** to create an entirely new word with new meaning. The meaning is not always the sum of its part.

For example:



egg

+



plant

=

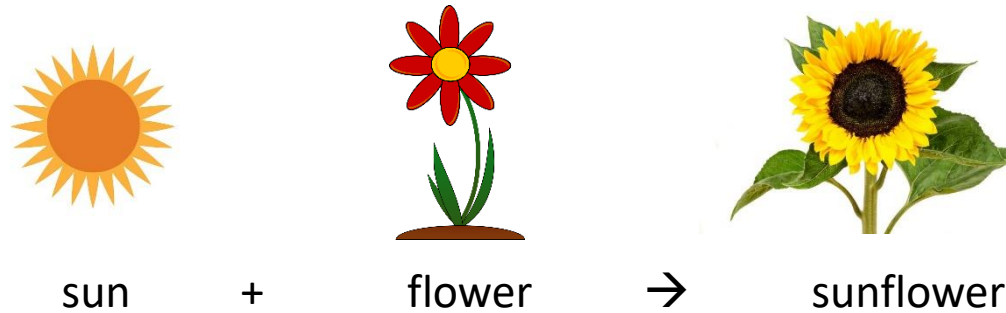


eggplant

Types of compound words

There are 3 types of compound words:

CLOSED : no space, no hyphen between words



OPEN : space between words



HYPHENATED : hyphen (symbol -) between words



merry-go-round



two-face



Some compounding patterns are:

Pattern	Example
noun + noun	firewall, rainbow, olive oil
noun + verb	waterfall, haircut, sunrise
noun + verb-er	footballer, can opener, screwdriver
adj + noun	blackboard, full moon, wildlife
prep + noun	underdog, underworld, underground
prep + verb	overslept, input, underestimate
verb + noun	swimming pool, driveway, playroom



2. Derivational Affixation

- Derivational affixation is a process where affixes (prefixes/suffixes) attach to the root word to form a new word. This is slightly different from inflectional affixation which indicates grammatical form of the word.
- This process often changes the meaning or part of speech. It is possible for a word to have more than one prefix or suffix.
- For example:

Change the part of speech from adj to noun

- Happy (adj) - is the root word
- **Un** + happy (adj) → Unhappy - **un** means **opposite of, not**
- Happy + **ness** → Happiness (noun) **ness** means **the state of original adjective**
- **Un** + happy + **ness** → Unhappiness means **the state of not feeling happy**

Change to the opposite meaning



3. Conversion

- Conversion is a process when one part of speech is transformed into another word category without any derivational affixes.
- Some of the types of conversion:

Pattern	Example	
noun to verb	water	to water
verb to noun	to plan	plan
adjective to verb	empty	to empty
verb to adjective	See through	See-through



Examples

Pattern	Sentence	
Noun to verb	Amina poured <i>water</i> on the potted plants.	Amina <i>watered</i> the potted plants.
verb to noun	Ilya <i>planned</i> to go to the gym.	The <i>plan</i> was to go to the gym.
verb to adjective	I can <i>see through</i> the kitchen wall.	The kitchen wall is <i>see-through</i> .
adjective to verb	Adie stored the <i>empty</i> box under the bed.	Adie <i>emptied</i> the box before storing under the bed.

