

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

3RD STAGE

RAITH ZEHER ABID

CHAPTER 9: WORDS

- A **word** is a unit of language that carries meaning and can be used to communicate thoughts, ideas, or feelings. Words are the basic building blocks of language, and they can be combined to create phrases, sentences, and entire texts. Words can be spoken or written and can take many different forms, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, and conjunctions.
- A word can be a single unit, like "cat" or "run", or it can be made up of multiple units, like "unbelievable" or "nonetheless". Words can be categorized based on their function in a sentence, their part of speech, their meaning, or their origin.

CHAPTER 9: WORDS

- **Simple Words:** Simple words are the most basic type of words and consist of a single morpheme. They cannot be broken down into smaller meaningful units. For example, "dog", "cat", "book", "sun", and "run" are all simple words.
- **Complex Words:** Complex words are made up of multiple morphemes, which are the smallest units of meaning in language. They can be formed by two bound forms (ex. Televised and excluded) or a bound form and free form (ex. Telephone and eraser).
- **Compound Words:** Compound words are formed by combining two or more words to create a new word with a new meaning. The words can be joined together with or without a hyphen. Examples of compound words include "bookshelf", "raincoat", and "toothpaste".

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

- Word formation process refers to the ways in which new words are created in a language.
- Language is constantly evolving, and new words are added to it through various word formation processes.
- In this unit we are going to explain the most common word formation processes in the language as well as plenty of examples to ease understanding.

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

- 1) **Compounding** is the process of combining two or more words to create a new word with a new meaning. Obvious English examples would be bookcase, fingerprint, sunburn, wallpaper, doorknob, textbook, wastebasket and waterbed.
- 2) **Derivation:** Derivation is the process of creating a new word by adding a prefix or suffix to an existing word. For example, "happy" can be turned into "unhappy" by adding the prefix "un-", and "happy" can be turned into "happiness" by adding the suffix "-ness".

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

- 3) **Invention:** one of the least common processes of word-formation in English is coinage, that is, the invention of totally new terms. The most typical sources are invented trade names for one company's product which became general terms (without initial capital letters) for any version of that product. Older examples are aspirin, nylon and zipper, more recent examples are Kleenex, teflon and xerox.

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

- 4) **Echoism:** Echoism is a type of word formation process that involves creating words that imitate or resemble sounds or noises. This can include words that describe specific sounds, such as "buzz" or "hiss," or words that mimic the sounds of an entire scene or environment, such as "chirping" or "rustling."
- Echoic words can be created in a variety of ways, including through onomatopoeia, which involves using words that imitate specific sounds, such as "splash" or "moo." They can also be created through sound symbolism, which involves using words that have a similar sound or rhythm to the thing being described, such as "flicker" or "flutter."

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

- 5) **Clipping:** This occurs when a word of more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form often in casual speech.
- The term gasoline is still in use, but occurs much less frequently than gas, the clipped form. Common examples are ad ('advertisement'), cab ('cabriolet'), condo ('condominium'), fan ('fanatic'), flu, perm, phone, pram, pub and sitcom ('situation comedy'). English speakers also like to clip each other's names, as in Al, Ed, Liz, Mike, Ron, Sam, Sue and Tom.

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

6) Acronymy: acronyms are words formed from the first letters of a phrase.

For example:

- a) NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
- b) AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)
- c) NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
- d) FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)
- e) UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- f) AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)
- g) LASER (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation)

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

- 7) **Blending:** Blending is the process of combining parts of two or more words to create a new word. For example, "smog" is a blend of "smoke" and "fog". Some other commonly used examples of blending are bit (binary/digit), brunch (breakfast/lunch), motel (motor/hotel), telecast (television/broadcast) and the Chunnel (channel/tunnel), connecting England and France.

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

8) Back-formation: Backformation is the process of creating a new word by removing a suffix from an existing word. Examples:-

- **Edit:** The noun "editor" was back-formed from the verb "edit". The suffix "-or" was removed to create a new word that refers to a person who edits.
- **Donate:** The verb "donate" was back-formed from the noun "donation". The suffix "-ion" was removed to create a new verb that means to give or contribute something.
- **Orient:** The verb "orient" was back-formed from the noun "orientation". The suffix "-ion" was removed to create a new verb that means to familiarize oneself with a new situation or environment.

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

9. **Folk etymology:** is a process by which a word's origin or meaning is changed or distorted based on popular (but incorrect) beliefs or misconceptions about the word's history or components.
- For example, the English word "cockroach" comes from the Spanish word "cucaracha." The word "cucaracha" actually means "little bug," but over time, English speakers began to misinterpret the word as "cockroach," possibly because the Spanish word "cucaracha" contains the sounds "cock" and "roach." This is an example of folk etymology, where the incorrect belief about the origin of the word has been widely accepted and used over time.

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

- 10. Antonomasia:** Antonomasia is a figure of speech in which a proper noun or personal name is replaced by a descriptive phrase or epithet that becomes synonymous with the original name or title. This descriptive phrase or epithet is often used to refer to a person, place, or thing in a way that emphasizes a particular quality or characteristic.
- For example, the term "the Bard" is often used as antonomasia for William Shakespeare, emphasizing his status as a masterful writer of plays and sonnets. Similarly, "the Iron Lady" is a commonly used antonomasia for former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, emphasizing her strong leadership and political convictions.

CHAPTER 10: PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION

- 11. Reduplication:** Reduplication is a linguistic process in which a word or part of a word is repeated to form a new word with a different meaning. Reduplication is found in many languages and can serve various functions, such as indicating plurality, intensity, or duration.
- In English, reduplication is used to create words such as "flip-flop," "ping-pong," "mish-mash," and "chit-chat." These words are created by repeating a word or a part of a word to create a new word with a different meaning.