



# Lecture 3-4. The Morphological Structure of English Words and Word-building in English (Part II)

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## Plan

1. **Conversion**
2. **Composition**
3. **Shortening (clipping)**
4. **Back-formation**
5. **Blending**
6. **Less productive and non-productive ways of word building**



# What do you remember from the previous part?

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- Morphemes:
  - *Roots, affixes:* prefixes, suffixes, infixes.
- Affixation:
  1. Prefixation
  2. Suffixation



# 1. Conversion (zero derivation)

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- is making a new word by changing the part of speech characteristics of the word without changing its morphemic shape.
- The most productive pattern of conversion (конверсионная модель) is N→V: *honeymoon*→*to honeymoon*.
- Less productive is the pattern Adj→N: *slow*→*to slow* (us. *to slow down* – сбавлять скорость).
- The pattern V→N is much less frequent than the pattern N→V: *to fall* – *a fall*.



# Conversion

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- **Noun-verb conversion**
  - He **elbowed** his way through the crowd.
  - Problems **snowballed** by the hour.
  - The newspaper **headlined** his long record of accomplishments.
  - Kissinger got the plans and **helicoptered** to Camp David.



# Conversion

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- **Verb-noun conversion**
  - He was admitted to the university after a three-year **wait**.
  - This little restaurant is quite a **find**.
  - It is a good **buy**.
  - He took a close **look** at the machine.

# Conversion

- Verb-noun conversion
- Phrasal verb-noun conversion

Right branching		Left branching	
Break down	Breakdown	Break out	Outbreak
Pick up	Pick-up	Spill over	Overspill
Take over	Take-over	Start up	Upstart
Get together	Get-together	Put in	Input
Break through	Breakthrough	Keep up	upkeep



# Conversion

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- **Adjective-noun conversion**

- **1. Partial conversion**

- Denoting a quality or a state common to a group of person: the deaf, the blind, the poor, the wounded
- Denoting peoples of a nation (ending in -sh, -se, -ch): the English, the Chinese, the Danish, the Scotch
- Denoting a quality in the abstract: a strong dislike for the sentimental, to distinguish the false and the true, from the sublime to the ridiculous
- Denoting a single person (converted from participles): the accused, the deceased, the deserted, the condemned



# Conversion

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- **Adjective-noun conversion**
- **2. Complete conversion**
  - A **native**, two natives, a returned native
  - He is a **natural** for the job.
  - Tom is one of our **regulars**, he comes in for a drink about this time every night.
  - To them she is not a brusque **crazy**, but appropriately passionate.
  - They are the **creatives** in the advertising department.





## 2. Compounding

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### **Compounding or composition**

is a word-formation process consisting of joining two or more bases to form a new unit, **a compound word**.

It is a common device which has been productive at every period of the English language. Today **the largest number of new words are formed by compounding**.

# Compounding

- **Type of composition:**

- **Solid** (without linking elements):

bedtime, honeymoon

- **With linking vowel or consonant:**

saleswoman, handicraft

- **With linking preposition or**

**conjunction:** mother-in-law,

bread-and-butter

- **Syntactic** – by lexicalized phrase:

forget-me-not, stick-in-the-mud

- **Derivational:** teenager, blue-eyed,

town-planning

# Compounding



## Structure of the compounds:

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- 1) two simple stems: *pen-knife*, *bookcase*;
- 2) one derived stem: *chainsmoker*, *cinema-going*;
- 3) one clipped stem: *B-girl*, *H-bomb*;
- 4) one compound stem: *wastepaper-basket*.



# 3. Shortening (Clipping or Curtailment)

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- **Types of shortening or abbreviation**
  - **1) clipped words:** those created by clipping part of the word (usually a noun), leaving only a piece of the old word. The clipped form is normally regarded as informal.



# Shortening

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- **Clipped words can be of different types:**
  - ad=advertisement
  - expo=exposition
  - phone=telephone
  - pro=professional
  - memo=memorandum
    - tec=detective
  - heli or copter=helicopter
    - comfy=comfortable



# Shortening

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- **2) initialisms** (инициальная аббревиатура): a type of shortening, using the first letters of words to form a proper name, a technical term, or a phrase;
- **an initialism proper** is pronounced letter by letter.
- **acronyms**: words formed from the initial letters of words and pronounced as words. Acronyms differ from initialisms in that they are pronounced as words rather than as sequences of letters.



# Shortening

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- **examples**

- IOC=International Olympic Committee
- BBC=British Broadcasting Corporation
- ISBN=International Standard Book Number
- CAD=computer assisted design
- cm=centimeter
- TB=tuberculosis



# Shortening

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- **examples**

- Basic=Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction
- TEFL=teaching English as a foreign language
- UNESCO=the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Sars=Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome



# Shortening

Give clippings for the following words

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- gymnasium
- dormitory
- handkerchief
- gasoline
- kilogram
- influenza
- business
- parachute
- refrigerator
- taxicab
- gym
- dorm
- hanky
- Gas
- kilo
- flu
- biz
- chute
- fridge
- taxi or cab



# 4. Backformation (Обратное словообразование)



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- Back-formation is a process of word-formation by which a word is created by the deletion of *a supposed suffix*. It is also known as a reverse derivation.



# Backformation

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## ■ **Examples**

- edit from editor
- automate from automation
- enthuse from enthusiasm
- gloom from gloomy
- donate from donation
- brainwash from brainwashing
- sleep-walk from sleep-walking



## 5. Blending Контаминация

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- Blending is a process of word-formation in which a new word is formed by combining parts of two words. The result of such a process is called **a blend or telescopic word or portmanteau word**. Blending is thus a process of both **compounding and abbreviation**.



# Blending

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- **Examples**

- *newscast* (news + broadcast)
- *brunch* (breakfast + lunch)
- *smog* (smoke + fog)
- *talkathon* (talk + marathon)
- *slimnastics* (slim + gymnastics)
- *videophone* ( video + telephone)



# Blending

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■ **sci-fi**

■ science + fiction

■ **hi-fi**

■ high + fidelity

■ **workaholic**

■ work + alcoholic

■ **stagflation**

■ stagnation + inflation

■ **Unicom**

■ United + Communications

■ **sitcom**

■ situation + comedy

■ **motel**

■ motor + hotel

■ **dawk**

■ dove + hawk



## 6. Less productive and non-productive ways of word building

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- **Sound imitation (Onomatopoeia)** is a way of word-formation which consists in imitating the sounds made by animals, birds, insects, men and different objects: *bang, giggle, quack*.





# Reduplication (Repetition)

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- consists in a complete or partial repetition of the stem or of the whole word (bye-bye), often with a variation of the root vowel or consonant (ping-pong)
- These words are always colloquial or slang, among them there many nursery words.
- 1) the words in which the same stem is repeated without any changes (pretty-pretty, goody-goody, never-never (утопия);
- 2) words with a vowel variation (chit-chat (сплетни), ping-pong, tip-top);
- 3) words with pseudomorphemes (rhyme combinations) (love-dovey, walkie-talkie, willy-nilly); the parts of such words don't exist as separate words.



# Ellipsis

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- is the omission of a word or words considered essential for grammatical completeness but not for the conveyance of the intended lexical meaning: *pub*←*public house*, *daily*←*daily newspaper*, *sale*←*cutprice sale*, *taxi*←*taximotor cab* (ellipsis+apocopy in the last word).



# Non-productive ways of word-building

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- Sound interchange :
  - vowel-interchange (*to sing – song, to live – live*) and consonant-interchange (*use – to use [z], advice – to advise*). Consonant interchange may be combined with vowel interchange: *bath – to bathe*.
  - Distinctive stress is found in groups like `present – pres`ent, `conduct – con`duct, `abstract – abstr`act, etc. These words were French borrowings with the original stress on the last syllable.

