



Word Formation

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Word formation is the way words are used in English and how root words are altered to change the part of speech.

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- 1) Prefixes
- 2) Suffixes
- 3) Conversion
- 4) Compound words
- 5) Blending
- 6) Abbreviation
- 7) Back-formation
- 8) Loan words
- 9) New words

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Prefixes

Prefixes are extra letters
before the root word.

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Prefixes

Comfortable
Uncomfortable

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Prefixes

Friendly
Unfriendly

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Prefixes

Do
Undo

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Prefixes

⇒ A/an	⇒ En	⇒ Ir	⇒ Pro	
⇒ Ante	⇒ Ex	⇒ Macro	⇒ Re	
⇒ Anti	⇒ Extra	⇒ Mega	⇒ Semi	
⇒ Auto	⇒ Hetero	⇒ Micro	⇒ Sub	⇒ Uni
⇒ Circum	⇒ Homo	⇒ Mid	⇒ Super	⇒ Up
⇒ Co	⇒ Homeo	⇒ Mis	⇒ Sym	
⇒ Com	⇒ Hyper	⇒ Mono	⇒ Syn	
⇒ Con	⇒ Il	⇒ Non	⇒ Tele	
⇒ Contra	⇒ Im	⇒ Omni	⇒ Trans	
⇒ Contro	⇒ In	⇒ Out	⇒ Tri	
⇒ De	⇒ Inter	⇒ Over	⇒ Ultra	
⇒ Dis	⇒ Intra	⇒ Post	⇒ Un	
⇒ Down	⇒ Intro	⇒ Pre	⇒ Under	

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Suffixes

Suffixes are extra letters after
the root word.

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Suffixes

Act
Actor

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Suffixes

Inform
Information

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Suffixes

Inform
Informative

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Suffixes

Nouns		Adjectives	
⇒ Acy	⇒ Or	⇒ Able	⇒ Ous
⇒ Age	⇒ Ry	⇒ Al	⇒ Y
⇒ Al	⇒ Ship	⇒ En	
⇒ Ance	⇒ Sion	⇒ Ese	
⇒ Dom	⇒ Tion	⇒ Esque	
⇒ Ee	⇒ Ty	⇒ Ful	
⇒ Ence	⇒ Xion	⇒ I	
⇒ Er		⇒ Ible	
⇒ Hood		⇒ Ic	
⇒ Ism		⇒ Ish	
⇒ Ist		⇒ Ive	
⇒ Ity		⇒ lan	
⇒ Ment		⇒ Less	
⇒ Ness		⇒ Ly	

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Suffixes

Adverbs	Verbs
⇒ Ly	⇒ Ate
⇒ Ward(s)	⇒ En
⇒ Wise	⇒ Ify
	⇒ Ise
	⇒ Ize
	⇒ Fy

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Back-formation

Back formation is when a word is reduced, typically by removing a common prefix/suffix.

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Back-formation

teacher
teach

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Conversion

Conversion is when the word
remains the same but the
function changes.

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Conversion

I sent her a text
Can you text her?

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Conversion

Homonyms

I've lost my **key**.
This information is **key**.

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Compound

Compound words are where
two words are combined to
create a new one.

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Compound

- Compound noun
- Compound adjective
- Compound verb

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Compound

Compound noun

- ⇒ Noun + noun
- ⇒ Noun + verb
- ⇒ Noun + present participle
- ⇒ Present participle + noun
- ⇒ Noun + preposition + noun
- ⇒ Noun + prepositional phrase
- ⇒ Preposition + verb
- ⇒ Verb + preposition
- ⇒ Preposition + noun
- ⇒ Adjective + noun
- ⇒ Adjective + verb
- ⇒ Noun + adverb

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Compound

Compound adjectives

- ⇒ Noun + noun
- ⇒ Noun + adjective
- ⇒ Noun + present participle
- ⇒ Noun + past participle
- ⇒ Adjective + noun
- ⇒ Adjective + past participle
- ⇒ Adverb + past participle
- ⇒ Number + noun

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Blending

Blended words are those where two individual words are mixed together to create one new word.

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Blending

Breakfast + lunch
Brunch

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Abbreviation

Abbreviations are short versions of words.

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Abbreviation

centimeter
cm

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Loan words

Loan words are words not originally from the English language but “borrowed” from another.

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Loan words

Café
Kindergarten
Patio

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New words

To tweet
Cryptocurrency
Photobomb

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