

# Chapter 5

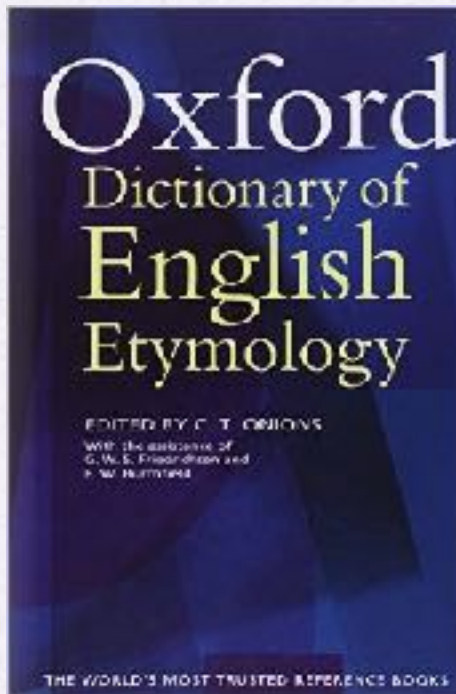
## Word Formation

**The Study of Language**  
**George Yule**

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# Etymology

- The study of the origin and history of words.



Dictionary

hip·po·pot·a·mus |ˌhɪpəˈpɒtəməs|  
noun (pl. **-mus·es** or **-mi** |ˌ-ˌmiː; -ˌniː|)

a large thick-skinned semiaquatic African mammal, with massive jaws and large tusks. • Family Hippopotamidae: the very large *Hippopotamus amphibius*, frequenting rivers and lakes, and the smaller **pygmy hippopotamus** (*Choeropsis liberiensis*), frequenting forests near fresh water in West Africa.

**ORIGIN** Middle English : via Latin from Greek *hippopotamos*, earlier *hippos ho potamios* 'river horse' (from *hippos* 'horse,' *potamos* 'river').

# Word Formation Processes

1. Borrowing
2. Compounding
  - *Blending*
3. Clipping
  - *Hypocorisms*
  - *Backformation*
4. Conversion
5. Coinage
  - *Acronyms*
6. Derivation
  - *Prefixes, suffixes, and infixes*



# Borrowing

- It is taking words from other languages.



# Borrowing

- One of the most common sources of new words.
- Examples of English borrowing from other languages:
  - Piano (Italian)
  - Yogurt (Turkish)
  - Alcohol (Arabic)
  - Croissant (French)
- From English to other languages:
  - Suupaamaaketto / sport/ klub/futbal



# Borrowing

## Loan-translation (Calque)

A direct translation of the word into the borrowing language.

Skyscraper → Gratte ciel (Fr)/ wolkenkrabber (Dutch)/ wolkenkratzer (Gr)

Lehnwort → Loan-word

# Compounding

- The joining of two separate words to form a single word.



# Blending



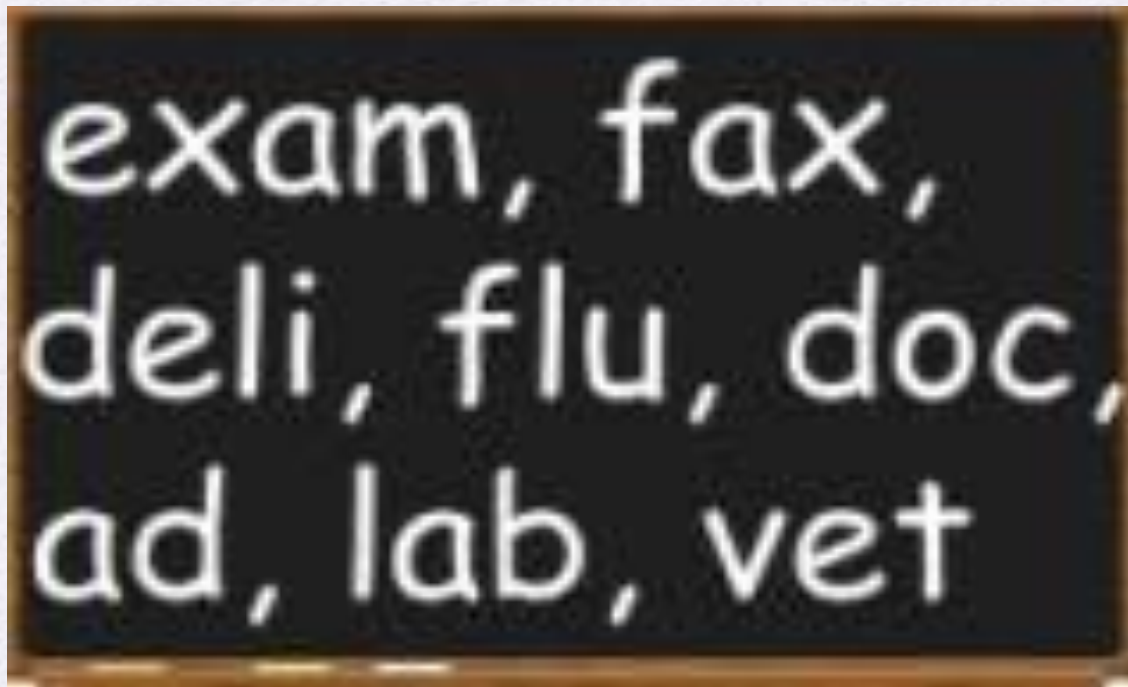


# Blending

- The combination of two separate forms to produce a single new term.
- Taking the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of another.
  - *smoke/fog* → **SMOG**
  - *Binary /digit* → **BIT**
  - *Teleprinter/exchange* → **TELEX**
  - *Information/entertainment* → **INFOTAINMENT**

# Clipping

- It occurs when a word of more than one syllable is reduced to one word.



# Clipping

## Hypocorisms

A word reduced to a single syllable, y or ie is added to the end

*telly (television)*

*movie (moving pictures)*

*bookie (book maker)*

# Clipping

## Backformation



# Clipping

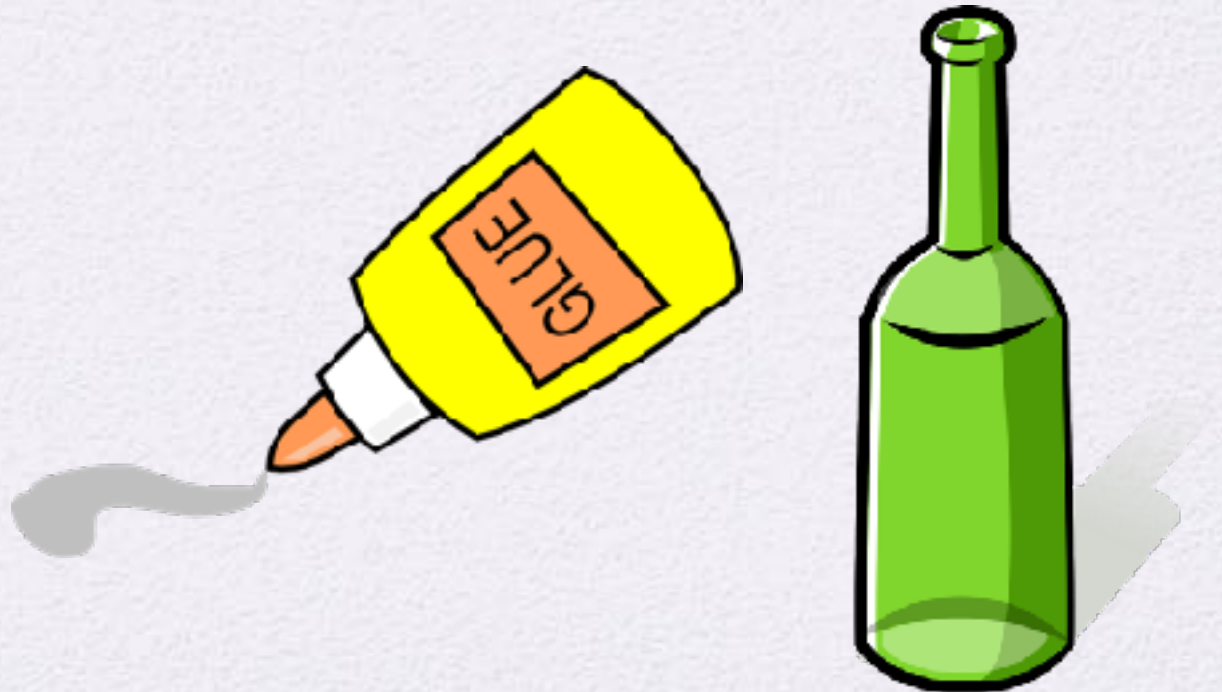
## Backformation

- A specialized type of reduction
- A word of one type (usually a **noun**) is reduced to form a word of another type (usually a **verb**)

Donation	Donate
Backformation	Backform
Babysitter	Babysit

# Conversion

- A change in the function of a word without any reduction.



# Conversion

## **Verbs as nouns:**

a must/ a guess/ a spy

Phrasal verbs as nouns:

A print out/ a take over

## **Verbs as adjectives:**

See-through material/ a stand-up comedian

## **Adjectives as verbs:**

to dirty/ to empty

## **Prepositions as verbs:**

They're going to up the price of oil./ We downed the prices.

# Coinage



Google



# Coinage

- The invention of totally new terms for commercial products that become general terms.
- Older examples: aspirin, nylon, Vaseline
- Newer examples: Kleenex, Xerox, Google

# Coinage

## Eponyms

- New words based on the names of persons or places



# Acronyms

- New words formed from the initial letters of a set of other words.

**LOL**  
LAUGHING OUT LOUD

**LMAO**  
LAUGHING MY ASS OFF

**OMG**  
OH MY GOD

**I MEAN**



# Derivation

- By adding affixes



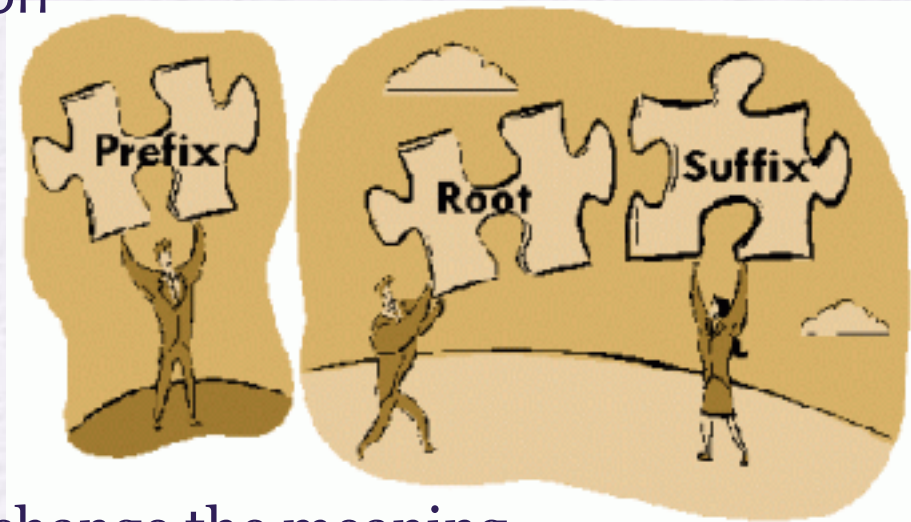
prefix root word suffix

↓ ↓ ↓

uncomfortable  
irregularly  
disorganised  
unconfidently  
disrespectfully

# Derivation

- The most common word-formation process.
- Linking affixes to words
- Affixes are prefixes & suffixes & infixes.



- **Prefixes:** beginning of words & change the meaning (**un+happy=unhappy**).
- **Suffixes:** end of words & change the word class (**happy+ly=happily**).



Thank you

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