

## Word Formation

English is a living language. It evolves over time. The English spoken a thousand years ago or even five hundred years ago, were very different from the English that is spoken today. One of the reasons for this is that the set of words in any living language - its vocabulary - changes over time. The English language has a very rich vocabulary and it is always expanding because many new words are added to the language as time goes by. The process of inventing new words for a language is known as "Word formation".

There are many different methods of word formation:-

- ① Creating a word by taking the key part of a word, its root from another language - Root words.
- ② Affixation: adding a prefix or a suffix to an existing word to create a new one - affix may be borrowed from other languages.
- ③ Compounding: invented by combining two existing words. land + lord = Sun + stone.
- ④ Conversion: use of an existing word in a different grammatical role - A verb may be used as a noun -  
eg: alert meaning warning or a signal was originally used only as a verb (to warn).
- ⑤ Blending: - involve mixing parts of different words to indicate a concept that involves the idea behind both words.  
eg: smoke + fog = smog. brunch (breakfast + lunch)
- ⑥ Acronyms: - are words formed by taking the first letters. eg. Radar (radio detection and ranging)

## ROOT WORDS

In English grammar, a root is a word or portion of a word from which other words grow, usually through the addition of prefixes and suffixes. By learning root words, you can decipher (convert, decode) unfamiliar words, expand your vocabulary and become a better English speaker.

Most words in English language are based on words from ancient Greek and Latin. The root of the word "Vocabulary" for example is Voc, a Latin root meaning "word" or "name". This root also appears in such words as "advocacy" (support for), "Convocation" (a large formal assembly of people in particular), "evocative" (bringing strong images or feelings to mind), "Vocal" (relating to the human voice) and "Vowel" (speech sound). ~~By dissecting words such as these,~~

A root ~~word~~ is a simple form of a word or a part of a word, without any prefix or suffix. It is a good idea to learn the meaning of common roots, as this could help to deduce the meaning of new and unfamiliar words.

Greek Root	Meaning	Example
auto	Self	autograph, automatic
anti	against	antibacterial, antidote,
ast	Star	asteroid, astronomy
aqu	water	aquarium, aquatic
biblio	book	bibliography, bibliophile
bio	life	biography, biology

## Affixes

One method of understanding the meaning of new words is to analyze the different parts of the word and the meaning of those parts. Many new words are formed by adding an affix to the beginning or end of a Latin or Greek root or root word.

A prefix is a letter or a group of letters added to the beginning of roots or root words. It is quite important to understand what different prefixes mean as they can help to understand the meaning of any new vocabulary that you learn.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
anti	against	antichrist, antibiotic
de	opposite off, down, away from	<del>deforest</del> <sup>rust</sup> , derail
dis	not; opposite of	discover, disagree, disapprove
en-, em-	Cause to	enact, empower
fore-	before front of	forecast, foreword, forehead
in- im-	into	income, impulse
in- im-, il-, ir-	not	indecent, immoral, illiterate, irrelevant
inter-	between	interval, interrupt

ex-	former	-	ex-president.
extra	beyond, more than	-	extracurricular, extra ordinary
hyper	above	-	hyperactive;
infra	beneath, below	-	infrared, infra sonic.
inter-			
macro	large	-	macromolecule, macroeconomics.
micro	small	-	microscope, microbiology.
mis	wrongly	-	mispell, misunderstand.
non	not	-	nonviolent.
pre	before	-	prefix, prehear
re	again	-	rewrite, review.
un	not	-	uncover, unknown.
Semi	half	-	Semicircle, Semifinal.
sub	under	-	submerge, submarine.
super	above	-	superstar, supernatural.
therm	heat	-	thermometer, thermostat.
trans	across, beyond	-	transport, transnational.
uni	one	-	unilateral, unanimous.

① Languages sometimes resort to borrowing necessary and/or useful words from other languages - and English has done this a lot. The words ~~from~~ dacoit, jungle, loot and pyjama have been borrowed from Indian languages.

Banana, dengue, jumbo, and zebra have been taken from African languages.

From French: it has lifted words such as gourmet, duplex, massage and perfume,

Vanilla, macho, hurricane have been stolen from Spanish.

Arabic has given English words such as algebra, harem, sofa and Sultan

German has provided it with -Kindergarten, hamburger, Wandsch

nym	name	
morph	shape / form	antonym, synonym
phobia	fear	morphology; morphology
pseudo	false	claustrophobia, phobia
psycho	soul / spirit	pseudonym, pseudoscience psychology, psychic

Chromo	color	monochromatic, phytochrome.
Chrono	time	Chronic, synchronize.
Doc	teach	document, doctrinal.
dem	people	democracy, demography.
dyna	power	dynasty, dynamic.
electro	amber (magnetic properties)	electricity, electromagnet.
geo	earth	geography, geology, geometry.
Graph	write	autograph, graph.
hetero	different	heteronym / heterogenous.
hydr	water	dehydrate, hydro power.
homo	same	homonym / homogenous.
Kinesis	movement	Kinetic, photokinesis.
hypo	below / beneath	hypothermia / hypothetical.
logos	word / study of	astrology, theologian.
meter	measure	thermometer, perimeter.
marc	Sleep	narcotic, narcolepsy.
micro	Small	microbe, microscope.
Path	Feel	empathy, pathetic.
mis	hate	misanthrope / misogyny.
phil	love	philosophy, philanthropy.
Phon	Sound	microphone, telephone.
Photo	light	photograph, photocopy.
Syn	together with	Synthetic, photosynthesis.
tele	Far	telescope, television.
tropos	turning	heliotrope, tropical.

A Suffix is a letter or a group of letters that is usually attached to the end of a root word to form a new word, as well as alter the way it functions grammatically.

The Verb Read can be altered to become the noun reader by adding the suffix -er. The same Verb can also be turned into the adjective readable by adding the suffix -able.

- acy - democracy, accuracy,
- al - denial, tuminal, remedial,
- ance - ence - ambience, tolerance.
- dom - freedom, stardom.
- er, - or - reader, creator.
- ism - escapism, Judaism.
- ist - Geologist, Communist
- ity, - ty - ~~good~~ enormity, extremity
- ment - argument, enchantment
- ness - heaviness, sickness.
- ship - hardship, friendship
- tion - position, promotion.
- V<sub>2</sub>b  
- ate - mediate, collaborate.

- en = Sharpen, strengthen
- fy, -fy = Justify, satisfy.
- ise, -ize = Synthesize, hypnotize
- able, -ible = audible, edible, ~~eat~~.affordable
- al = thermal, herbal
- ful = not handfull, hopeful
- ic, -ical = psychological, hypocritical.
- ious, -ous = jealous, religious
- ish = childish.
- ive = informative, attentive.
- less = meaningless, hopeless.
- y = beauty, jealousy.
- ly = slowly, softly.



Word roots		
Greek root	Meaning	Examples
auto	self	autograph, automatic
bio	life	biology, biography
chrono	time	chronology, synchronise
dem	people	democracy, demographic
electro	amber *	electricity, electromagnet
geo	earth	geography, geology
graph	write	autograph, graphic
mega	large	megawatt, megabyte
metre	measure	thermometer, kilometre
pan	all, entire	pandemic, pantheon
phil	love	philosophy, bibliophile
photo	light	photograph, photosynthesis
psych	mind, soul	psychiatry, psychology
tele	far away	television, telescope
theo	god	theology, atheist
Latin root	Meaning	Examples
audi	hear	audio, audience
bene	good	benefit, benign
cred	believe, trust	credential, incredible
dict	speak	dictate, verdict
doct	teach	document, doctor
fact	make	factory, manufacture
fin	end, limit	final, confine
gen	birth	gene, generation
mis / mit	send	transmit, missile
nov / nou	new	novice, renovate
omni	all	omnivorous, omnipotent
port	carry	transport, portable
scrib / script	write	scribble, script
sens / sent	feel	sentiment, sensation
vid / vis	see	visible, video

\* amber has magnetic properties

Suffixes		
Greek suffix	Meaning	Examples
ac / iac	pertaining to	cardiac, maniac
cracy	government	aristocracy, democracy
genic	suitable	carcinogenic, photogenic
gram	record	telegram, electrocardiogram
iatry	healing	podiatry, psychiatry
ic	pertaining to, one who	dogmatic, aristocratic
ical	pertaining to, made of	political, biological
ise / ize	to make to give	criticise, sanitise
ism	belief in, profession of	terrorism, feminism
logy	science or study of	biology, geology
oid	resembling, like, shaped	cuboid, android
phobia	fear of	claustrophobia, xenophobia
scope	observe, watch	telescope, microscope
sis	act, state of	crisis, metamorphosis
therapy	to nurse, care for	hydrotherapy, aromatherapy
Latin suffix	Meaning	Examples
able, ably	able to, capable of being	transferable, identifiably
age	belonging to, related to	postage, marriage
en	to become, cause to be	darken, weaken
ery / ry	place for, occupation of	winery, dentistry
fy	to make, cause to be	clarify, horrify
hood	state, quality	childhood, priesthood
ish	of, belonging to	boyish, foolish
ist	person who does	philanthropist, artist
less	without, lacking	pitiless, tireless
like	characteristic of	childlike, godlike
ment	result, means of an act	movement, moment
ness	state, quality of being	greatness, sadness
some	like, tending to be	tiresome, lonesome
tion	state of something	elation, depression
wise	direction, manner	clockwise, lengthwise

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# Determiners

A determiner is used to modify a noun. It indicates reference to something specific or something of a particular type. This function is usually performed by articles, demonstratives, possessive determiners or quantifiers. They always come before the noun and any modifiers or adjectives.

## Type of Determiners

### ① Articles

Do you want this piece of chicken?  
eg: These black raspberries are sour.

② Demonstratives: There are four demonstrative determiners in English and they are: this, that, these and those. Demonstratives are used in a situation in which speaker can point to the item they mean making them even more specific than a definite article. Demonstrative determiners can also be used as demonstrative pronouns. When they are used as determiners they are followed by the nouns they modify.

This is my camera (Demonstrative used as pronoun)

This camera is mine. (Demonstrative used as a determiner modifying the noun camera).

③ Possessive determiners: I, my, your, his, her, its, our, yours, their - modify the noun following it in order to show possession.

Possessive pronouns are different from possessive determiners. mine, his, her, yours, our, their.

Possessive pronouns can stand alone and are not followed by nouns.

Possessive determiners, on the other hand are followed by nouns.

Eg- This is my house. (my is a possessive determiner  
is followed by the noun house which it modifies)

Is that car yours? (yours is a possessive pronoun. It is  
not followed by a noun.)

Quantifiers:- They indicate how much ~~or~~ how little of a noun is being  
discussed.  
are followed by nouns which they modify.

Examples of quantifiers include:

Some, any, few, little, more, much, many, each, every, both, all,  
enough, half, little, whole, less, etc.

He knows more people than his wife.

Little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

Exclamatory Demonstratives:- This and these refer to items nearby; that  
and those refer to items far away. This and that are singular.  
These and those are plural.

Possessives:- It refers to a noun that belongs to someone or something.

## Exercise

1. Could you bring me \_\_\_\_\_ books I left in the garden? (those)
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ sunrises from the east (the)
  3. There aren't \_\_\_\_\_ students in the library. (many)
  4. I haven't got \_\_\_\_\_ pictures in my bedroom (any)
  5. She gave a cookie to \_\_\_\_\_ child (each).
  6. I've got to solve \_\_\_\_\_ math problems before I go to sleep. (some)
  7. My mother doesn't drink \_\_\_\_\_ coffee (much)
  8. I always keep \_\_\_\_\_ money in my wallet for emergencies (some)
  9. \_\_\_\_\_ people can afford a home these days. (few)
  10. I like many of her songs, but not \_\_\_\_\_ of them are good. (all)
- ① They were bored because there was \_\_\_\_\_ to do.  
(little, a little).
- ② \_\_\_\_\_ of the cakes had been baked the day before.  
(most, every)
- ③ Sally didn't take \_\_\_\_\_ photos when she went on a holiday. (many, many of)