



Mākslu izglītības kompetences centrs

“Rīgas Dizaina un mākslas vidusskola”

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**Mācību līdzeklis**  
**Vārdu veidošana angļu valodā**  
***Word Formation Processes in***  
***English***

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angļu valodas skolotāja

## **Izdales materiāla mērķis**

Sniegt izglītojamajiem informāciju par vārdu veidošanas pamatprincipiem angļu valodā.

## **Apraksts**

Mācību materiāls sniedz informāciju par to, kā veidot vārdus angļu valodā, izmantojot dažādus priedēkļus, galotnes, pārnesot vārdus no vienas vārdšķiras citā un veidojot salikteņus. Papildus teorijai materiālā ir iekļauti arī uzdevumi, ko izglītojamie var pildīt, lai pārbaudītu jauniegūtās zināšanas.

## **Rezultāts**

Izglītojamie iemācīsies pareizi veidot vārdus angļu valodā kā arī zinās, kā pielietot tos teikumos, kā rezultātā tiks attīstīts un pilnveidots izglītojamo vārdu krājums.

## Word Formation Processes in English

In English, there are four main methods of forming new words: prefixation (addition of prefixes), suffixation (addition of suffixes), conversion from one word class to another, and formation of compounds.

### Prefixation

Prefixation is a process where a prefix is attached to the front of the root word/stem, thus, creating a new meaning.

Below are some of the commonly used prefixes, their meanings, and examples:

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
<i>a-, an-</i>	not, lack of, without	amoral, anarchy
<i>anti -</i>	against, opposite of	anti-climax, antibody, antifreeze
<i>de -</i>	down, off, away from, opposite of	defrost, degrade, deactivate
<i>dis -</i>	not, apart, away	disagree, disappear, disintegrate
<i>en-, em-</i>	put into, cover	enclose, enslave, embrace,
<i>ex-</i>	former, out of, from	exhale, extract, ex-wife
<i>extra-</i>	beyond, outside, more than	extracurricular, extravagant
<i>il, -im, - in-, -ir*</i>	not, without	illogical, immoral, impatient, indecisive, irregular
<i>in-</i>	in, into	incision, infiltrate
<i>inter-</i>	among, between	interstellar, interact
<i>mono-</i>	one, single	monocycle, monologue,
<i>non-</i>	not without	nonsensical, nonlinear, nontoxic
<i>post-</i>	after	post-production, postmodernism
<i>pre-</i>	before	prefix, predict, precede
<i>un-</i>	not, lacking, opposite of	undecided, unfinished, undone
<i>uni-</i>	one, single	unicycle, unicorn
<i>up-</i>	higher/better	upgrade, upcycle, upload

\* - NB! the prefix *in-* changes its form according to the first letter of the root word; *il-* before an *l*; to *im-* before *b*, *m* or *p*; and to *ir-* before *r*.

## Suffixation

During suffixation, a suffix (an ending) is attached to the end of the root word/stem and each word class (e.g., nouns, adjectives, etc.) has different suffixes.

Often the base word to which the suffix is added needs to be changed as well. For example:

1. beauty + -ful → beautiful, dutiful (-y changes to *i*)
2. ready + ness → readiness (-y changes to *i*)
3. possible + ity → possibility (-le changes to *il*)
4. permit + ion → permission (-t changes to *ss*)

Below are some of the commonly used suffixes, their meanings, and examples.

### Adjective suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
<i>-able, -ible</i>	capable of being/doing	doable, credible
<i>-al, -ic</i>	perpetrating/relating to	emotional, practical, domestic, mystic
<i>-esque</i>	reminding of	picturesque, statuesque
<i>-ful</i>	full of, characterized by	beautiful, spoonful, trustful
<i>-ious, -ous</i>	characterized by	nutritious, studious, religious
<i>-ish</i>	having the quality of	brutish, childish, prudish
<i>-ive</i>	having the nature of	active, argumentative, creative,
<i>-less</i>	without	childless, fearless, spineless
<i>-y</i>	characterised by	greasy, lucky, trendy,

### Adverb suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
<i>-ly</i>	in a manner	luckily, quickly, sparingly
<i>-ward</i>	shows direction	forward, onward,
<i>-ways</i>	shows direction	always, sideways
<i>-wise</i>	in a manner of	clockwise, crabwise

### Noun suffixes:

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
<i>-acy</i>	state or quality	delicacy, literacy, privacy
<i>-al</i>	act or process of	approval, arrival, refusal
<i>-ance, -ence</i>	state or quality of	maintenance, reluctance, affluence
<i>-dom</i>	place or state of being	boredom, freedom, kingdom
<i>-er, -or</i>	one who does something	trainer, writer, actor
<i>-ism</i>	doctrine or belief	Communism, narcissism, Judaism
<i>-ist</i>	one who does something	loyalist, narcissist, tourist
<i>-ity, -ty</i>	quality of	brutality, clarity, serenity
<i>-ment</i>	condition of	management, punishment
<i>-ness</i>	state of being	kindness, pureness, redness
<i>-ship</i>	position	kingship, ownership, relationship
<i>-sion, -tion</i>	state of being	decision, transition, precision

### Verb suffixes:

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
<i>-ate</i>	cause to become	activate, eradicate, regulate
<i>-en</i>	cause change or become	awaken, enlighten, strengthen
<i>-ify, -fy</i>	make or become	intensify, terrify, satisfy
<i>-ize, -ise*</i>	become	socialize, paralyze, commercialize

\* - NB In British English verbs end with *-ize*, whereas in American English the ending changes to *-ise*.

### **Conversion from One Word Class to Another**

Conversion is a word formation process during which a word is assigned to a new word class or part of speech without changing its original structure. It is also sometimes referred to as *zero derivation* or *null derivation*, where derivation means altering a word in some way and *null* and *zero* indicate that no such changes should be made.

Furthermore, conversion is also sometimes referred to as a *functional shift*, meaning that the change occurs in the function of the word and not the meaning. For example, such words as *a ring* (noun) and *to ring* (verb) are not related by conversion, as their meanings are different.

#### Examples of conversion:

1. To arrest (verb) – to seize someone and take them into custody;  
An arrest (noun) – the act of seizing someone and taking them.
2. To host (verb) – to receive and entertain guests;  
A host (noun) – a person who received and entertains guests.

### **Formation of compounds**

During the formation of compounds two or more words are combined to form a word or phrase that functions as one individual word. Because compounds are treated as individual words, when conjugating (e.g., changing tenses or person) or pluralizing them the changes are only made once. For example, plural form of the noun *rib cage* is *rib cages* (not *ribs cages*).

There are three types of compound words: open compounds, which have spaces between the words (e.g., *high school*, *hot dog*), closed compounds, which have no spaces between the words (e.g., *airport*, *cannot*), and hyphenated compounds, which have hyphens between the words (e.g., *long term*, *merry-go-round*).

#### Open compounds:

Open compound words are usually nouns and always appear together and have the same set order. When forming the plural forms of open compound nouns, only the last word is pluralized (e.g., *hot dog* → *hot dogs*). Open compounds which are verbs are called phrasal verbs (e.g., *hang out*, *break up*).

Examples of common open compound words: high school, ice cream, living room, mountain bike, no one, post office.

#### Closed compounds:

Closed compound words have two words that have been joined together without any spaces in between. Closed compounds can be found in almost all of the parts of the speech. For example, adverbs such as *sometimes*, *thereafter*, prepositions such as *outside*, *without*, and even the verb *cannot* are all closed compounds. Closed

compound words are sometimes easier to remember because they appear and are treated like individual words.

Examples of common closed compound words: airport, breakfast, bedroom, forever, grandmother, laptop, smartphone.

Hyphenated compounds:

In hyphenated compound words a hyphen (-) is added between the words.

Remembering whether a compound is an open compound or a hyphenated one can be a bit complicated, therefore, when in doubt it is best to consult a dictionary. When forming plural forms of hyphenated compound nouns it is important to pluralize to the appropriate word, as, contrary to open compound words, the final word in a group is not usually pluralized. For example, *editor-in-chief* → *editors-in-chief*.

Examples of common hyphenated compound words: far-fetched, father-in-law, mother-in-law, life-sized, long-distance, min-blowing, up-to-date, well-being.

## Practice Tasks

**Task 1 - Complete the sentences using the words in brackets and the below prefixes:**

**INTER- MIS- PRE- OUT- RE- SEMI- TRANS-**

- 1 Currently, her only chance of survival is a heart \_\_\_\_\_plant
- 2 Many people believed that these \_\_\_\_\_historic animals were mythical creatures.
- 3 Social \_\_\_\_\_action between students is encouraged.
- 4 Our team beat the rivals and entered the \_\_\_\_\_finals.
- 5 A \_\_\_\_\_continental railroad is planned to span across all of Europe.
- 6 Sorry! I realize that I've completely \_\_\_\_\_judged you.
- 7 This month we will focus on female \_\_\_\_\_presentation in American cinema.
- 8 We had to surrender as we were \_\_\_\_\_numbered.
- 9 It's a common \_\_\_\_\_conception that we should drink 2 litres of water a day.
- 10 We met on a \_\_\_\_\_national flight.

Answers: transplant, prehistoric, interaction, semi-finals, transcontinental, misjudged, representation, outnumbered, misconception, international.

**Task 2 – Use the prefixes below to form words with opposite meaning:**

MIS- UN- DIS- IR- IL- IN- IM-

Avoidable	Obey
Understand	Pronounce
Logical	Regular
Fasten	Active
Patient	Certain
Competent	Personal
Adequate	Responsible
Lock	Behave

Answers: unavoidable, disobey, misunderstand, mispronounce, illogical, irregular, unfasten, inactive, impatient, uncertain, incompetent, impersonal, inadequate, irresponsible, unlock, misbehave.



### Task 3 – Suffixes

Use the endings below to form adjectives from the given nouns:

**-ABLE -ICAL -ANT -ENT -IVE -EN -OUS -FUL -IBLE**

Fashion	Favour
Terror	Reputation
Creation	Identity
Obedience	Distance
Perception	Excellence
Peace	Gold
Pleasure	Reflection
Beauty	Disaster
Attention	Sense
Nerves	Adventure

Answers: fashionable, favourable, terrible, reputable, creative, identical, obedient, distant, perceptive, excellent, peaceful, golden, pleasurable, reflective, beautiful, disastrous, attentive, sensible, nervous, adventurous.

### Task 4 – Use the word in brackets to form a new word that fits into the blank A new show is ditching the scans and honouring the dead as it sees fit.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20230320-the-great-debate-about-mummies-should-we-unwrap-them>

Mummies, like werewolves, vampires and witches, are the stuff of legend in the popular \_\_\_\_\_ (IMAGINE). The idea of bodies from an ancient civilisation, \_\_\_\_\_ (MYSTERY) preserved for thousands of years, discovered in glittering tombs, has always held an allure: from the Victorians holding mummy "unwrapping" parties through to "Tutmania" in the 1920s following the - \_\_\_\_\_ (DISCOVER) of Tutankhamun's tomb, to a wealth of movies from Hammer Horror flicks to Indiana Jones.

Given all this, it's no wonder that myths and misconceptions about them abound. But a British \_\_\_\_\_ (EXHIBIT) aims to shed new light on this ancient practice – and maybe even shift our perspective.

Manchester Museum in the north of England \_\_\_\_\_ (OPEN) last month after a £15m redevelopment project – and their free \_\_\_\_\_ (OPEN) exhibition, Golden Mummies of Egypt, showcases their \_\_\_\_\_ (CREDIBLE) Egyptology \_\_\_\_\_ (COLLECT). It includes eight mummies

\_\_\_\_\_ (DATE) from the Graeco-Roman period (300BC to 300AD), brought to Britain by archaeologist Flinders Petrie, following his 1888–90 and 1911 excavations of a huge necropolis at Hawara, in the Faiyum region south of Cairo.

The show has arrived home in Manchester after \_\_\_\_\_ (TOUR) North America and China while the museum was shut for refurbishment. And now Campbell Price, the \_\_\_\_\_ (CURATE), is on something of a mission: to change how we think and talk about mummies.

Answers: imagination, mysteriously, discovery, exhibition, reopened, opening, incredible, collection, dating, touring, curator.

### Task 5 - Match the words from column 1 with the words in column 2

#### Open compound nouns

Column 1	Column 2	Compound noun
heart	page	
washing	phone	
full	aid	
dining	moon	
prime	estate	
first	control	
cell	attack	
real	machine	
remote	minister	
web	room	

Answers: heart attack, washing machine, full moon, dining room, prime minister, first aid, cell phone, real estate, remote control, web page.

#### Closed compound nouns

Column 1	Column 2	Compound noun
finger	man	
gentle	end	
milk	board	
grape	fall	
water	bow	
rain	quarters	
week	stick	
head	shake	
key	fruit	
lip	print	

Answers: fingerprint, gentleman, milkshake, grapefruit, waterfall, rainbow, weekend, headquarters, keyboard, lipstick.

Hyphenated compound adjectives

Column 1	Column 2	Compound noun
high	free	
sugar	taking	
ice	tempered	
cold	rise	
short	blooded	
well	speed	
high	depth	
in	cold	
breath	off	

Answers: high-rise, sugar-free, ice-cold, cold-blooded, short-tempered, well-off, high-speed, in-depth, breath-taking.