

ALL ABOUT WORDS**WHAT ARE WORDS MADE OF?**

The study of structure of words is called MORPHOLOGY. Look at this sentence:

“The plogs glorped bliply”

MORPHEMES: a **morpheme** is the smallest linguistic unit that has semantic meaning.

One morpheme: dog, elephant, child

- Two morphemes: dog s, elephant s, child ish.
- Three morphemes: child ish ness
- Six morphemes: anti-dis-establish-ment-arian-ism

Free Morpheme: This can stand alone. E.g. dog, elephant, child, etc.

Bound Morpheme: This can't stand alone. E.g. s, ish, ness, ism, etc

HOW WORDS ARE FORMED?

Word forms

Portmanteau words

Prefixes

Suffixes

Compounding

WORDS FORMS:

WORD FORMS: noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. E.g. decide

- We must come to a **decision** soon.
- We beat them **decisively**.
- He can never make up his mind. He is **indecisive**.

Some more examples:

- Beauty = beautiful, beautician, beautify
- Pay = payment, payable, payee
- Receive = receptionist, receipt, receptive
- Hero = heroism, heroically, heroin
- Describe = descriptive, description, indescribable
- Sense = sensation, insensitive, senseless,
- Explain = explanatory, inexplicable
- Prophecy = prophet, prophecy
- Famous = fame, infamous, infamy
- Enthusiasm = Enthusiastically, Enthusiast, enthuse

PORTMANTEAU: Portmanteau is one derived by combining portions of two or more separate words. They are blend of two words. So there are two meanings packed into one

- Oxbridge = Oxford + Cambridge
- Because = by + cause
- Brunch = Breakfast + lunch
- Camcorder = camera + recorder
- Email = electronic + mail
- Fortnight = fourteen + nights
- Hassle = haggle + tussle
- Intercom = internal + communication

PREFIXES: A prefix is placed at the beginning of a word to modify or change its meaning. This is a list of the most common prefixes in English, together with their basic meaning and some examples. You can find more detail or precision for each prefix in any good dictionary. The origins of words are extremely complicated. You should use this list as a guide only, to help you understand possible meanings. But be very careful, because often what appears to be a prefix is not a prefix at all. Note also that this list does not include elements like "auto-" or "bio-", because these are "combining forms", not prefixes.

Prefix		Meaning	Examples
a-	<i>also</i> an-	not, without	atheist, anaemic
a-		to, towards	aside, aback
		in the process of, in a particular state	a-hunting, aglow
a-		of	anew
		completely	abashed
ab-	<i>also</i> abs-	away, from	abdicate, abstract
ad-	<i>also</i> a-, ac-, af-, ag- al-, an-, ap-, at- as-, at-	movement to, change into, addition or increase	advance, adulterate, adjunct, ascend, affiliate, affirm, aggravate, alleviate, annotate, apprehend, arrive, assemble, attend
ante-		before, preceding	antecedent, ante-room
anti-	<i>also</i> ant-	opposing, against, the opposite	anti-aircraft, antibiotic, anticlimax, Antarctic
be-		all over, all around	bespatter, beset
		completely	bewitch, bemuse
		having, covered with	bejewelled

		affect with (added to nouns)	befog
		cause to be (added to adjectives)	becalm
com-	<i>also</i> co-, col-, con-, cor-	with, jointly, completely	combat, codriver, collude, confide, corrode
contra-		against, opposite	contraceptive
counter-		opposition, opposite direction	counter-attack, counteract
de-		down, away	descend, despair, depend, deduct
		completely	denude, denigrate
		removal, reversal	de-ice, decamp
dia-	<i>also</i> di-	through, across	diagonal
dis-	<i>also</i> di-	negation, removal, expulsion	disadvantage, dismount, disbud, disbar
en-	<i>also</i> em-	put into or on	engulf, enmesh
		bring into the condition of	enlighten, embitter
		intensification	entangle, enrage
ex-	<i>also</i> e-, ef-	out	exit, exclude, expand
		upward	exalt, extol
		completely	excruciate, exasperate
		previous	ex-wife
extra-		outside, beyond	extracurricular
hemi-		half	hemisphere
hyper-		beyond, more than, more than normal	hypersonic, hyperactive
hypo-		under	hypodermic, hypothermia
in-	<i>also</i> il-, im-	not, without	infertile, inappropriate, impossible
	<i>also</i> il-, im-, ir-	in, into, towards, inside	influence, influx, imbibe
infra-		below	infrared, infrastructure

inter-		between, among	interact, interchange
intra-		inside, within	intramural, intravenous
non-		absence, negation	non-smoker, non-alcoholic
ob-	<i>also</i> oc-, of-, op-	blocking, against, concealing	obstruct, occult, offend, oppose
out-		surpassing, exceeding	outperform
		external, away from	outbuilding, outboard
over-		excessively, completely	overconfident, overburdened, overjoyed
		upper, outer, over, above	overcoat, overcast
peri-		round, about	perimeter
post-		after in time or order	postpone
pre-		before in time, place, order or importance	pre-adolescent, prelude, precondition
pro-		favouring, in support of	pro-African
		acting for	proconsul
		motion forwards or away	propulsion
		before in time, place or order	prologue
re-		again	repaint, reappraise, reawake
semi-		half, partly	semicircle, semi-conscious
sub-	<i>also</i> suc-, suf-, sug-, sup-, sur-, sus-	at a lower position	submarine, subsoil
		lower in rank	sub-lieutenant
		nearly, approximately	sub-tropical
syn-	<i>also</i> sym-	in union, acting together	synchronize, symmetry
trans-		across, beyond	transnational, transatlantic

	into a different state	translate
ultra-	beyond	ultraviolet, ultrasonic
	extreme	ultramicroscopic
un-	not	unacceptable, unreal, unhappy, unmanned
	reversal cancellation action or state	or of unplug, unmask
under-	beneath, below	underarm, undercarriage
	lower in rank	undersecretary
	not enough	underdeveloped

SUFFIXES

Noun Suffixes: These are common endings for nouns. If you see these endings on a word, then you know it must be a noun.

-dom wisdom(n) kingdom(n)	at the end of a word means: - state or condition - domain, position, rank - a group with position, office, or rank wise+dom means the state of understanding what is good, right and lasting king+dom means the domain or area belonging to a king.
-ity capability(n) flexibility(n)	at the end of a word means condition or quality of _____. capable+ity means the condition of being capable. flexible+ity means the quality of being flexible.
-ment contentment(n)	at the end of a word means act of _____.; state of _____.; result of _____. content+ment means the state of being satisfied (content).
-sion, -tion celebration (n)	at the end of a word means act of _____.; state of _____. celebrate+tion means the act of celebrating
-ness toughness (n)	at the end of a word means state of _____. tough+ness means the state of being tough.
-ance, -ence assistance (n)	at the end of a word means act of _____.; state of _____.; quality of _____. assist+ance means act of giving help.
-er, -or fighter (n) actor (n)	at the end of a word means one who _____.; that which _____. fight+er means one who fights act+or means one who acts.
-ist violinist (n)	at the end of a word also means one who _____.; that which _____. violin+ist means one who plays the violin.

Adjective Suffixes: These are common word endings for adjectives. If you see these ending at the end of a word, you can be certain it is an adjective.

-ive extensive(adj) selective(adj)	at the end of a word means doing or tending toward doing some action extend+ive means doing something large in range or amount select+ive means tending to select.
-en wooden (adj)	at the end of a word means made of _____. wood+en means made of wood. Note: When the word is an adjective, the -en means made of _____. We have seen -en at the end of a verb. There it means to make _____.
-ic heroic (adj) poetic (adj)	at the end of a word means characteristic of _____; like _____. hero+ic means characteristic of a hero. poet+ic means characteristic of (or like) poets or poetry.
-al financial (adj) manual (adj)	sometimes makes an adjective; when it makes an adjective it means relating to _____. finance+al means relating to finance. (Finance means money.) manu+al means relating to the hand. (Manus means hand in Latin.)
-able portable (adj) pleasurable (adj)	at the end of a word means able _____.; can _____.; or giving _____. port+able means can be carried; able to be carried. pleasure+able means giving pleasure.
-y hairy (adj) rainy (adj)	at the end of a word means having _____. hair+y means having hair (a lot of hair). rain+y means having rain.
-ous mysterious (adj)	at the end of a word means full of _____.; having _____. mystery+ous means full of mystery.
-ful hopeful (adj) beautiful (adj)	at the end of a word means full of _____.; having _____. hope+ful means full of hope. beauty+ful means full of beauty. Note: The suffix -ful is always spelled with one l; the word full has two.
-less powerless (adj) homeless(adj)	at the end of a word means without _____. power+less means without power. home+less means without a home.

Verb Suffixes: These are common endings for verbs. If you see these endings on a word, then the word is most likely a verb.

-en brighten (v) soften (v)	at the end of a word means to make _____. bright+en means to make bright. soft+en means to make soft.
-ize publicize (v)	at the end of a word means to make _____. public+ize means to make public or to make the public aware of.
-ate activate(v) differentiate(v)	at then end of a word means to have or be characterized by _____. active+ate means to make active. different+ate means to make or show a difference.
-ify or -fy simplify(v)	at the end of a word means to cause to become or to make. simple+ify means to make simple or simpler.

Adverb Suffixes: This is the most common ending for an adverb. If you see this ending on a word, you can be fairly certain that it is an adverb. However, keep in mind that not all adverbs end this way.

-ly	at the end of a word almost always makes an adverb; occasionally it will make an adjective.
quickly (adv)	quick+ly.

COMPOUNDING:

- News + stand + paper + clip = newsstand, newspaper, news clip
- Flower + petal + bud + pot = flower Patel, flower bud, flower pot

- Lady + bug + finger + purse = ladybug, ladyfinger, lady purse
- Eye + color + brow + lid = eye color, eyebrow, eyelid
- Hand + bag + shake + glove = Handbag, handshake + hand glove

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE:

LITERAL AND FIGURATIVE

- The robber struck me on the arm with a piece of wood. (literal)
- Suddenly a clever idea struck me. (figurative)

1. Sharp knife and sharp tongue.
2. Tea is sweet and sweet baby.
3. Yacht sailed gracefully and he sailed through his exams.
4. Brush your hair and brush up your English.
5. Swollen jaw and swollen head.
6. Combed his hair and combed the jungle.
7. Fish in coastal water and only fish in the sea.
8. Diamonds are expensive and he is a rough diamond.
9. Boat sank and heart sank.
10. Drop an idea. (abandon)
11. A glaring error. (obvious)
12. I ploughed my way through the Mathematics problems.

COLLOCATIONS:

Collocation is the relationship between two words or groups of words that often go together and form a common expression. If the expression is heard often, the words become 'glued' together in our minds. '*Crystal clear*', '*middle management*' '*nuclear family*' and '*cosmetic surgery*' are examples of collocated pairs of words. Some words are often found together because they make up a compound noun, for example '*riding boots*' or '*motor cyclist*'.

Examples of phrases: a person can be '*locked in mortal combat*', meaning involved in a serious fight, or '*bright eyed and bushy tailed*', meaning fresh and ready to go; '*red in the face*', meaning 'embarrassed', or '*blue in the face*' meaning 'angry'. It is not a common expression for someone to be 'yellow in the face' or 'green in the face' however. Therefore 'red' and 'blue' collocate with 'in the face', but 'yellow in the face' or 'green in the face' are probably mistakes.

English has many of these collocated expressions and some linguists (e.g. Khellmer 1991) argue that our mental lexicon is made up of many collocated words and phrases as well as individual items. Some words have different collocations which reflect their different meanings, e.g. '**bank**' collocates with '**river**' and '**investment**'.

COLLOCATIONS: TYPES:

1. **Verb + noun** throw a party / accept responsibility
2. **Adjective + noun** square meal / grim determination
3. **Verb + adjective + noun** take vigorous exercise / make steady progress
4. **Adverb + verb** strongly suggest / barely see
5. **Adverb + adjective** utterly amazed / completely useless
6. **Adverb + adjective + noun** totally unacceptable behavior
7. **Adjective + preposition** guilty of / blamed for / happy about
8. **Noun + noun** pay packet / window frame

DENOTATIONS AND CONNOTATIONS:

- **Denotation:** a literal meaning of the word
- **Connotation:** an association (emotional or otherwise) which the word evokes

For example: For some people, the word PIG might have connotations of dirty and smelly; others will think of inquisitive or cheeky. Moreover, some might see TERRORISTS where others see FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

Another example:

Negative There are over 2,000 **vagrants** in the city.
Neutral There are over 2,000 **people with no fixed address** in the city.
Positive There are over 2,000 **homeless** in the city.

More examples:

	Favorable	Neutral	Unfavorable
1.	relaxed	inactive	lazy
2.	prudent	timid	cowardly
3.	modest	shy	mousy
4.	time-tested	old	out-of-date
5.	dignified	reserved	stiff-necked
6.	persevering	persistent	stubborn
7.	up-to-date	new	newfangled
8.	thrifty	conservative	miserly
9.	self-confident	proud	conceited
10.	inquisitive	curious	nosy