

Types of Words in English

Course Instructor: Ethar N. Jameel
University of Basra
College of Education for H. Scs.
English Department

Words are classified on the basis of the kinds and the combinations of the morphemes of which they are composed into three types:

simple

complex

compound



Simple words

- ▶ They consist of single free morphemes.
- ▶ EX: Play, great, spy, art, too, sand, write, space, lion, clear, deny, between, glad,...etc



Complex words

▶ They consist of bound morphemes **only** **or** a free and one or more bound morphemes.

▶ Examples:

include , suicide, project, comprehended (bound morphemes only)

greatness, suggestions, unclear, feet , wrote, rewrite (free and bound morpheme(s))



Compound words

▶ These words are composed of two or more free forms.

▶ EX:

Greenhouse, overheat, afternoon, make up,
mother-in -law, devil-may- care, sunflower, take off,...etc



Types of compound words

1- Closed compounds - **no space between the parts of a compound word**

flowerpot, keyboard, notebook, bookstore,...

2- Open compounds - **there is a space between the parts of a compound word**

School bus, living room, take off, start over, white house,...

3- Hyphenated compounds - **a hyphen is used between the parts of a compound word**

mother-in-law, merry-go-round -, happy-go-lucky, well-built,...

