

Processes of Word Formation

(part 1)

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How words are formed in the English language? Where do they come from?

Words are formed by a number of processes, below are some of them:

- Borrowing
- Compounding
- Derivation
- Invention(coinage)
- Clipping
- Acronymy



1- Borrowing

- Some words come to English from other languages by invasion, trade or emigration. Some examples of borrowing:
- The process is called **borrowing**, the words are called **borrowed words**.
- Chauffeur from French
- Campus from Latin
- Guru from Hindi
- Sheik from Arabic
- Alcohol from Arabic
- See other examples on page 121 (required)



2- Compounding:

Compounding means joining two or more free forms to form a new word. Compound words are, open, closed or hyphenated.

- Breakfast
- Downpour
- Devil-may-care
- Blue-eyed
- Put on
- cornflakes



3- Derivation

- **Derivation is defined as** forming new words by combining **derivational** affixes to bases (free or bound bases). **(Most complex words result from the process of derivation)**
- Act.....react, action, active, activate
- Fame.....famous
- Person.....personal, personality
- -clude.....Include, exclude,.....

