



- **PROGRAMME: General Studies**
- **COURSE CODE: GST 111**
- **COURSE TITLE:**
Communication in English (2c)
- **LECTURER : R.O Adeniyi**
- **TOPIC: Major word formation processes**

Definition of Word Formation

- **Word formation** is the process by which new words are created in a language.
- It involves using existing words, roots, or morphemes (the smallest units of meaning) to produce new vocabulary items.
- Word formation enriches the language, allowing speakers to express new ideas, concepts, and innovations.

- **2. Major Word Formation Processes in English**
- **a) Derivation**
- **Definition:** Adding prefixes or suffixes to a base word to create a new word.
- **Examples:**
 - *Happy* → *Happiness* (suffix -ness)
 - *Unkind* → *Kind* (prefix un-)
- **Explanation:** Derivation changes the meaning or grammatical category of a word.
 - *Tooth + Brush* → *Toothbrush*

- **b) Compounding**
- **Definition:** Combining two or more words to form a single new word.
- **Examples:**
 - *Tooth + Brush → Toothbrush*
 - *Black + Board → Blackboard*
- **Explanation:** Compounds can be written as one word, hyphenated, or separate words depending on usage.

- c) Conversion (Zero Derivation)

- Definition:** Changing the grammatical category of a word without altering its form.

- Examples:**

- *Noun → Verb: Google → to Google*

- *Verb → Noun: Run → a run*

- Explanation:** The word remains the same in spelling but functions differently in sentences.

- d) Clipping

- Definition:** Shortening a longer word while retaining its meaning.

- Examples:**

- *Advertisement → Ad*

- *Telephone → Phone*

- Explanation:** Clipping is common in informal speech and modern communication.

e) Blending

- **Definition:** Merging parts of two words to form a new one.
- **Examples:**
 - *Smoke + Fog → Smog*
 - *Breakfast + Lunch → Brunch*
- **Explanation:** Blends often capture modern concepts in a catchy way.

f) Acronyms and Initialisms

- **Definition:** Forming words from the initial letters of a phrase.
- **Examples:**
 - Acronym: *NASA* (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
 - Initialism: *BBC* (British Broadcasting Corporation)
- **Explanation:** Acronyms are pronounced as words, while initialisms are pronounced letter by letter.

g) Borrowing

- **Definition:** Adopting words from other languages.
- **Examples:**
 - *Café* (French)
 - *Safari* (Swahili)
- **Explanation:** Borrowing enriches English with global cultural and linguistic influences.

h) Coinage

- **Definition:** Creating entirely new words, often from brand names or inventions.
- **Examples:**
 - *Google* (originally a company name, now a verb)
 - *Kodak* (brand name turned into a word)
- **Explanation:** Coinage reflects creativity and technological advancement.

i) Back-formation

- **Definition:** Creating a new word by removing an affix from an existing word.
- **Examples:**
 - *Editor* → *Edit*
 - *Donation* → *Donate*
- **Explanation:** Back-formation often results in verbs derived from nouns.

j) Reduplication

- **Definition:** Forming words by repeating or slightly changing a sound/word.
- **Examples:**
 - *Bye-bye*
 - *Tick-tock*
- **Explanation:** Reduplication is often used for emphasis, rhythm, or playfulness.

- **3. Role of Word Formation in Language Growth and Communication**
- **Language Enrichment:** Expands vocabulary to express new ideas, inventions, and cultural concepts.
- **Creativity:** Allows speakers to play with words and create catchy expressions.
- **Adaptability:** Helps English absorb influences from other languages and adapt to modern needs.
- **Communication Efficiency:** Shortened forms (clipping, acronyms) make communication faster and easier.
- **Cultural Identity:** Borrowed and coined words reflect cultural exchange and technological progress.

Features of Black Diasporic Literature

- **Authorship:** One feature of Black Diasporic Literature is that it is often written by African Americans and, occasionally, by non-African Americans on and about African American experiences.
- **Subject Matter/Experiences:** Black Diasporic Literature engages African American traditions, the lives of African Americans and the historical events that have shaped their lives.

- **Setting/Milieu:** Black Diasporic literature is often set in America and, sometimes, it captures the lives/experiences of African Americans in other places.
- **Style/Literary Technique:** The literature is rooted in verbal art/oral modes of literature . Notable techniques include rhythmic, vivid, evocative language, use of proverbs, aphorisms, Biblical verses/allusions and sermonic tropes that are similar to those of traditional Black Church, direct address and cultural allusions

- **4. Summary**
- Word formation is essential for the **growth, flexibility, and richness** of English.
- Processes like **derivation, compounding, blending, clipping, borrowing, coinage, acronyms, conversion, back-formation, and reduplication** ensure that English remains dynamic and responsive to changes in society.
- Appreciating word formation helps learners understand how language evolves and how communication adapts to human needs.

5. Assignment

- Identify five words in English that are formed through **blending** and explain their origins.
- Write three examples each of **compounding** and **conversion**.
- Explain the difference between **clipping** and **back-formation** with examples.
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