

## **Clipping**

Clipping means cutting off the beginning or the end, or both, leaving a part to stand for the whole. The resultant form is called a clipped word.

Consider the following examples:

lab: laboratory

exam: examination

flu: influenza

plane: airplane, aeroplane

phone: telephone

## **Exercise**

Give the original words from which these clipped words were formed:

1. psych
2. dorm
3. prof
4. gym
5. math
6. mike
7. taxi
8. vibes
9. Joe
10. Fred
11. Tom
12. Phil
13. hype
14. bus
15. memo
16. van

17. chute

18. Beth

**Note:** Clipped words are formed not only from individual words but from grammatical units, such as modifier plus noun. *Paratrooper* for example, is a clipped form of *parachutist trooper*. In cases like this it is often the first part that is shortened while the second part remains intact.

**Exercise:** Give the originals of these clipped words:

1. Amerindian: American Indian
2. agribusiness.....
3. moped.....
4. comsat.....
5. taxicab.....

### **Backformation**

A very specialized type of reduction process is known as backformation one. Typically, a word of type (usually a noun) is reduced to form a word of another type (usually a verb). A good example of backformation is the process whereby the noun *television* first came into use and then the verb *televise* was created from it.

### **Exercise**

These verbs are backformations. Write the words from which they are back-formed:

1. housekeep.....
2. typewrite.....
3. baby-sit
4. emote
5. reluct

6. laze
7. escalate
8. hang glide
9. burgle
10. opt

### **Conversion**

Conversion is the derivational process whereby an item changes its word-class without the addition of an affix. For example, the verb *release* (*They released him*) corresponds to a noun *release* (*They ordered his release*).

#### **Verb → noun**

doubt, love

#### **Adjective → noun**

daily, comic, (young) marrieds

#### **Noun → verb**

bottle, coat, peel, skin

#### **Adjective → verb**

dirty, empty

### **Minor categories of conversion**

1. *must* as a noun
2. *under-the -weather* as an adjective
3. *ism* as a noun

### **Acronymy**

Acronymy is the process whereby a word is formed from the initials or beginning segments of a succession of words.

Examples: MP/empi:/: military police or Member of Parliament  
NATO /neitou/ : North Atlantic Treaty Organization

### Exercise

Pronounce these acronyms and give their originals:

1. radar/ /.....
2. SCUBA/ /.....
3. CD / /.....
4. OK/ /.....
5. OPEC / /.....
6. VAT / /.....
7. PC / /.....
8. laser / /.....
9. UPS / /.....
10. MP/ /.....

### Reduplication

Reduplication is the process of forming a new word by doubling a morpheme, usually with a change of vowel or initial consonant, as in pooh-pooh, tiptop, and hanky-panky.

### Exercise

Identify the class of twin-word by one of these numbers:

1. Repetition without change
2. Repetition with change of initial consonant
3. Repetition with change of vowel
  - a. knick-knack
  - b. ding-dong
  - c. wishy-washy
  - d. quack-quack

- e. fuddy-duddy
- f. roly-poly
- g. hocus-pocus
- h. razzle-dazzle
- i. tick-tock
- j. nitty-gritty