

Chapter Six: Word Formation Processes

English employs many different processes for the creation of new words. These new words are called *neologism*.

Blending → combination of two separate forms, e.g. *SMOG*

Clipping → a word of more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form, e.g. *PHONE*

Back-clipping, fore-clipping, medial-clipping, complex clipping

- **Hypocorism:** ‘-y’ or ‘-ie’ is added to the end, e.g. *MOVIE* and *TELLY*.

Abbreviation → abbreviated forms replace the long written forms, e.g. *Bld*

Acronym

- **Spelling Acronym** is read as a sequence of letters, e.g. *CD*
- **Word acronym** is pronounced as an ordinary word, e.g. *RAM*
- **Two-level word acronym**, e.g. *NOW*

Wrong cutting → a word is mis-analyzed, e.g. *APRON*

Backformation → a word of one type is reduced to another type, e.g. *ENTHUSE*

Coinage → creation of new lexical items, e.g. *ASPIRIN*

- **Eponym:** words derived from names of people or places, e.g. *VOLT*

Extension → meaning of a word becomes boarder, e.g. *HOLIDAY*

- ☞ Eponym involves broadening

Narrowing → a word loses part of its original meaning, e.g. *HOUND*

Reduplication → repetition of part or all of a word, e.g., *MANAO* (he wishes) → *MANANAO* (they wish).

Borrowing → a word from one language into another, e.g. *RESTAURANT*

- **Calque (or Loan-translation)**, e.g. *SUPERMAN*

Derivation → creation of new words by the use of derivational affixes, e.g. *ENERGY* → *ENERGIZE*

Conversion → using a word as another part of speech, without change of form, e.g. *BUTTER* as a verb

Compounding → joining separate forms, e.g. *DRYCLEAN*

Elevation → yield a more pleasant meaning, e.g. *PRIZE*

Pejoration → shift of meaning toward a more unpleasant meaning, e.g. *MEAN*

Lateral shift → extension plus narrowing, e.g. *HARVEST*

Bifurcation, e.g. *FISH* and *FISHES*

Analogy → form words similar to existing words, e.g. *YUPPIE*

multiple-processes, e.g. *LASE*

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