

1. Ambiguous Words:

- Words that have more than 1 meaning.
- This means they have more than 1 tree diagram and we have to draw all of its tree diagrams, unless otherwise specified.
- E.g. Unlockable, Unfoldable
- In our course, all ambiguous words will start with the prefix “un” and the suffix “able.”
- Note: Not all words with “un” and “able” are ambiguous. Unbelievable is not ambiguous because unbelieve is not a word.

2. Word Formation Processes:

- Derivation
- Compounding
- Internal Change
- Suppletion
- Reduplication
- Zero Derivation/Conversion
- Clipping
- Blending
- Backformation
- Acronyms
- Initialism/Abbreviations
- Coinage
- Eponymy

3. Derivation:

- Adding derivational affix(es) to an existing word to create a new word.
- **Suffixation** adds a suffix to an existing word to create a new word.
- **Prefixation** adds a prefix to an existing word to create a new word.
- **Complex derivations** occur when derivations apply more than once. I.e. there are several derivational affixes. Because of this, it is possible to create word structures (trees) with multiple levels. However, not all tree diagrams are correct.

4. Compounding:

- Takes 2 or more existing roots, words or free morphemes and forms a new word by combining them in their entirety. The new word is usually a noun, verb or adj.
- The **head** is the element/word that determines the lexical category of a compound word. In English, the head is usually the second element/word.
- E.g. In blackboard, board is the head. Since board is a noun, blackboard is also a noun.
- In compound words the stress falls on the first element/word.
- In non-compound words the stress usually falls on the second element/word.
- **Endocentric Compounds** are compound words that get its meaning from the head. In this case, the meaning of the compound is predictable.
- E.g. train ticket, blackboard, earthworm.
- **Exocentric Compounds** are compound words that do not get their meaning from the head of the compound. In this case, the meaning of the compound is less predictable.

- E.g. redhead, boldface, bluebell

5. Internal Change (Type of inflection):

- One non-morphemic element is substituted for another to mark grammatical changes.
- **Ablaut** is when the vowel of the verb is replaced by another vowel to express some grammatical information. (Examples are below.)

Internal change in English	
s <u>i</u> ng (present)	s <u>a</u> ng (past)
s <u>i</u> nk (present)	s <u>a</u> nk (past)
dr <u>i</u> ve (present)	dr <u>o</u> ve (past)

6. Suppletion (Type of inflection):

- One morpheme is replaced by a completely unrelated morpheme. You cannot make a connection between the 2 forms.
- E.g. Go → Went

7. Reduplication (Type of derivation):

- **Partial reduplication** is when you repeat a part of the morphological base. This can be either a sound or a syllable.
- **Full reduplication** is when you copy the entire morphological base to change meaning. The entire word is repeated.

8. Zero Derivation/Conversion (Type of derivation):

- Assigns a new lexical category to an already existing word, without changing the word's form.
- E.g. parent; to parent (N → V)

9. Clipping:

- Makes a new word by omitting syllables from an already existing multisyllabic word.
- E.g. Mathematics → Math

10. Blending:

- Creates new words by combining parts of several existing words.
- The difference between blending and compounding is that compounding takes 2 words and makes a new word using both words in their entirety while blending removes a part of at least 1 of the words.
- E.g. Brunch (Breakfast + Lunch)

11. Backformation:

- Creates new words by removing an affix (real or supposed) from an already existing word.
- E.g. Writer → Write

12. Acronyms and Initialisms:

- **Acronyms** are created by taking the first letters of the words in a phrase and pronouncing them as a new word from that.
- E.g. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

- **Initialisms/Abbreviations** are created by taking the first letters of the words in a phrase and pronouncing each letter.
- E.g. CD (Compact Disk)

13. Coinage:

- A process that produces new words from scratch.
- Coinage is responsible for creating product names and/or company names.
- E.g. Kleenex

14. Eponymy:

- A process that produces new words from the names of people.
- E.g. Sandwich came from Earl of Sandwich