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## **UNIT 4 DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY OF ENGLISH**

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### **Structure**

#### 4.0 Objectives

#### 4.1 Introduction

#### 4.2 Derivational Affixes

#### 4.3 Derivational Prefixes

4.3.1 Negative, Reversative, Pejorative Prefixes

4.3.2 Prefixes of Number, Time and Order

4.3.3 Prefixes Showing Location and Attitude

4.3.4 Prefixes of Degree, Rank, Size and Order

4.3.5 Prefixes which Change the Part of Speech of the Word

#### 4.4 Derivational Suffixes

4.4.1 Suffixes which do not Change the Part of Speech of the Word

4.4.2 Suffixes which Change the Part of Speech of the Word

#### 4.5 Conversion

4.5.1 Types of Conversion

4.5.2 Conversion and Stress

#### 4.6 Word Compounding

4.6.1 Noun Compounds

4.6.2 Adjective Compounds

4.6.3 Verb Compounds

#### 4.7 Let Us Sum Up

#### 4.8 Key Words

#### 4.9 Answers

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### **4.0 OBJECTIVES**

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At the end of this unit, you should be able to :

- describe the general characteristics of derivational affixes as a class,
- explain why derivational prefixes are classified on the basis of meaning while derivational suffixes are classified on the basis of grammar,
- recognize the different types of derivational prefixes classified according to the kind of meaning they contribute,
- identify the major derivational suffixes of English and classify them according to the scheme of classification,
- recognize conversion and compounding as a process of word formation.

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### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

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In Unit 1 we looked at ways in which words are patterned in the some Indian languages (especially Hindi) and English so that they can be clearly seen to be

related. These patterns emerge in languages as a result of the need for new words, which are formed from existing words to meet the communicational needs of the speakers of those languages. In Unit 1 we also looked at the different ways in which words grow and are used in languages with special reference to English. The study of word formation in different languages is known as morphology. In Unit 2 we distinguished derivational morphology from inflectional morphology in that we saw that the main distinction between these was based on the nature of the affixes attached to the base word. We saw that affixes which are attached to words in accordance with some rule of grammar are called inflectional affixes. The study of the rules according to which they are attached to words is called inflectional morphology of English.

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## 4.2 DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

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Derivational morphology as we said earlier is the study of derivational affixes which are attached to base words in order to create ‘new’ words. This enables the speakers of a language to have a larger store of words from which they can choose to express their ideas and thus communicate effectively. All these words are listed separately in dictionaries. These affixes occur both as prefixes and suffixes. In the previous two units we saw that unlike derivations, inflections occur only as suffixes at the right most edge of the word. Derivations also differ from inflections in that they often change the part of speech of the words to which they are attached. The number of derivational affixes, which express shades of meaning can be large, whereas inflectional affixes which have grammatical functions to perform are comparatively fewer in number. This difference in the function of derivational and inflectional affixes necessitates a difference in the classification as well. We studied inflectional affixes on the basis of the part of speech of the words to which they are attached. For example, the suffix **-s** for plural number and the suffix **'s** for the possessive case are the only suffixes attached to nouns.

Derivational affixes, however, cannot be studied with reference to the parts of speech of the words to which they are attached because not all derivational suffixes are restricted to one part of speech. For example, the prefix **dis-** can be attached to nouns (**dis+order**), to adjectives (**dis+honest**) or verbs (**dis+obey**). Secondly, derivative affixes, unlike inflectional affixes cannot be attached freely to all the words belonging to a part of speech. For example, the suffix **-er** which is generally attached to **verbs**, e.g. **dancer, writer, player, runner** cannot be attached to some other verbs e.g. **cheater, arranger, hoper, expresser**.

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## 4.3 DERIVATIONAL PREFIXES

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We have already distinguished between prefixes and suffixes. Prefixes, as we said earlier, are attached to the beginning of a word and suffixes are attached to the end of a word. Prefixes when attached to the beginning of words modify their meaning. We shall study the kind of modification they make in the meaning of words when attached to them.

### 4.3.1 Negative, Reversative, Pejorative Prefixes

- a) **Negative Prefixes** are those that lend the meanings ‘not’ or ‘opposite of’ ‘lacking in’. These prefixes can be attached to nouns, adjectives, verbs or adverbs. The most common negative prefixes are

- un-** e.g. uncommon, unpopular, unable, uncertain
- in-** e.g. inanimate, inconvenient, injustice
- dis-** e.g. disadvantage, disagree, discontent, dishonest
- non-** e.g. non-violent, non-cooperation, non-existent, non-smoker, non-resident

Other prefixes which are negative are

- il-** e.g. illegal, illegible
- ir-** e.g. irregular, irrelevant, irreverent
- im-** e.g. impossible, imbalance, immovable

**b) Reversible or privative prefixes** contribute the meaning ‘reverse the action’ denoted by the base word. These are

- un-** This combines only with verbs to convey the meaning ‘reverse the action’ e.g. undo, untie, unpack, unlock
- de-** This prefix combines with verbs and with nouns derived from verbs to convey the above meaning e.g. decode, decontrol, denationalize, defrost
- dis-** This prefix combines with verbs to mean ‘reversing the action’ e.g. disconnect, disinfect, disown, disqualify, dissatisfy

It has the meaning ‘remove, deprive of, rid of’ when added to what is denoted by some nouns e.g., disfigure, dishonor, discourage

**c) Pejorative Prefixes** are those which convey the meanings ‘wrong’, ‘wrongly’, ‘bad’, ‘badly’, ‘false’, ‘imitation’

The main pejorative prefixes in English are

- mis-** This prefix when added to verbs conveys the meaning ‘wrongly’ ‘badly’ etc. e.g. mislead, mishandle, misbehave, mismanage.
- mal-** This prefix combines mostly with verbs to convey the meaning ‘badly’ e.g. maltreat, maladjust. It is combined with nouns as in malpractice, malnutrition, malfunction, with adjectives as in malodorous, and with participles as in malformed, malnourished and maladjusted.

**Pseudo-** combines with nouns and adjectives to convey the meaning ‘false, imitation’ e.g. pseudo-intellectual, pseudo-scientific.

### 4.3.2 Prefixes of Number, Time and Order

**a) Prefixes of Number** are those that are generally attached to nouns and adjectives and express a meaning denoting number. The following prefixes denote number.

**uni/mono-** meaning one e.g. unidirectional, unilateral, monorail, monolingual

**bi, di-** meaning two e.g. bilingual, bifocal, bimonthly, dioxide

**tri-** meaning three e.g. tricycle, tripod, tripartite

**poly-** meaning more than two e.g. polysyllabic, polytechnic

b) **Prefixes of time and order** are attached to nouns, verbs and adjectives.

**ex-** which conveys the meaning 'former' as in Ex-Prime Minister. This prefix is generally used with nouns.

**fore-** this gives the meaning 'before in time' e.g. foretell, forethought. It is mostly used with nouns.

**post-** this prefix when attached to either nouns or adjectives conveys the sense of something taking place after a particular date or event e.g. postwar, post-independence, post-colonial.

**pre-** this prefix forms words (nouns or adjectives) which describe something as taking place before a particular date or event e.g. pre-war, pre-independence.

**re-** conveys the meaning 'again' and is added to verbs and nouns to refer to the repetition of an action, e.g. rebuild, re-use, re-evaluate; or it refers to the opposite of an action that has already taken place e.g. regain, reappear.

### 4.3.3 Prefixes Showing Location and Attitude

a) **Prefixes of Location** are generally attached to nouns, verbs or adjectives to convey the meaning 'situated'. For example,

**sub-** occurs with nouns, adjectives, verbs, to convey the meaning 'beneath', 'below' or 'under' e.g. subway, subnormal, submerge.

**inter-** occurs with verbs, nouns, adjectives to convey the meaning 'between' or 'among'. For example, intermarry, interaction, inter-college, inter-national

**trans-** occurs with adjectives and verbs and conveys the meaning 'across' from one place to another e.g. transatlantic, transplant.

b) A few prefixes when attached to nouns, adjectives and verbs produce words which reflect attitude or position with respect to something. For example,

**co-** is attached to verbs or nouns and conveys the meaning 'with', 'joint'. For example, cooperate, co-pilot.

**counter-** is added to abstract nouns and verbs and produces the meaning 'against' or 'in opposition to' e.g. counterattack, counter-clockwise.

**anti-** is added to nouns, adjectives and adverbs and conveys the meaning 'against' as in anti-missile, anti-social, anti-clockwise. It also has the meanings 'the opposite of' and 'preventing' e.g. anticlimax, anti-hero, anti-convulsant, anti-freeze

**pro-** is added to nouns and adjectives and contributes the meaning 'on the side of' e.g. pro-student, pro-America, pro-communist

#### 4.3.4 Prefixes of Degree, Rank, Size and Order

The following prefixes are attached to nouns, verbs or adjectives to convey meanings which have to do with rank, size or order.

- arch-** has the meaning 'highest or worst' and is attached mainly to nouns (human) e.g. arch-duke, arch-enemy.
- super-** occurs with nouns and adjectives and conveys the meaning 'above, more than, better' e.g. superman, super-market, superpower, supernatural, superhuman
- out-** is attached to some verbs to form other verbs which mean 'do something faster, longer, better than another person, thing,' e.g. outrun, outnumber, outlive, outgrow.
- sur-** has the meaning 'over and above' and is attached mainly to nouns e.g. surcharge, surtax.
- sub-** has the meaning 'lower than, less than' and is added to adjectives and nouns e.g. subhuman, substandard.
- over-** is added to verbs or adjectives to indicate that a quality exists or an action is done which is exaggerated e.g. overeat, overripe, overconfident.
- under-** is added to nouns and produces the meaning 'lower in rank', e.g. undersecretary. It is added to verbs and participles to convey the meaning that the action is done or the quality exists to an insufficient extent, e.g. undercook, underestimate, underprivileged, undernourished.
- hyper-** is added to adjectives and conveys the meaning 'extremely' e.g. hypersensitive, hypercritical.
- ultra-** is added to adjectives and nouns and contributes the meaning 'mega' or 'even more' ultra-modern, ultrasonic, ultra-sound
- mini-** is added to nouns and conveys the meaning 'small' e.g. miniskirt, mini-break, mini-bus, mini-disc
- micro-** is added to nouns which refer to 'very small' versions of certain things, e.g. micro-computer, micro-organism, micro-survey.

#### 4.3.5 Prefixes which Change the Part of Speech of the Word

We have already seen that prefixes do not normally affect words they are attached to grammatically. In a few cases, however, prefixes do affect the part of speech of the word they are attached to. The function of such prefixes is mainly grammatical and they do not carry any special meaning. The number of these prefixes is small and so is the number of words in which they occur. Such prefixes are also called **Conversion Prefixes**.

- be-** this prefix is added to nouns and adjectives to form verbs, e.g. befriend, belittle, becalm.

**en/em-** this is added to nouns to form verbs, e.g. enslave, endanger, empower, embitter.

**a-** this prefix forms adjectives from verbs e.g. ablaze, asleep, aglow

**Check Your Progress 1**

- 1) Look at each of the words given below, identify the type of prefix attached to each word and write it down in the first column under ‘Type of Prefix’. Then think of another word with the same prefix and the same meaning, and write it down in the second column under ‘your example’.

Word	type of prefix	your example
i) discomfort		
ii) post-meridian		
iii) unmask		
iv) unkind		
v) ex-chief minister		
vi) bi-centenary		
vii) irresponsible		
viii) disprove		
ix) disqualify		
x) monosyllabic		
xi) microbiology		
xii) multinational		
xiii) pseudonym		
xiv) unimaginative		
xv) rewind		
xvi) overestimate		
xvii) besiege		
xviii) forenoon		
xix) deconstruct		
xx) anti-gravity		
xxi) hyperactive		
xxii) entrust		
xxiii) avowed		
xxiv) undergraduate		
xxv) embalm		

- 2) Choose the correct prefix from the prefixes given in brackets to express the kind of meaning indicated for each of the words given below.

i) Contented (mal-, dis-, un-) negative

- ii) Represent (non-, mal, mis-) ‘wrongly’
  - iii) Inform (mal-, mis-, dis-) ‘incorrectly’
  - iv) Warn (post-, re-, fore-) ‘before in time’
  - v) Advertise (pre-, re-, de-) ‘again’
  - vi) Oceanic (trans-, inter-) ‘across’
  - vii) Colonial (pre-, post-, ex-) ‘after’
  - viii) Author (co-, pro-, bi-) ‘joint’
  - ix) Active (ultra-, over-, hyper-) ‘extremely’
  - x) Comfortable (un-, dis-, non-) negative
- 3) Use the correct prefix to convert each of the words in brackets into verbs or adjectives as required by the context. You may have to change the form of the verb.
- i) The Indian bustard is an \_\_\_\_\_ species. (danger)
  - ii) They \_\_\_\_\_ paying so much money for second-rate equipment. (grudge)
  - iii) Cars and buses were set \_\_\_\_\_ during the riot. (blaze)
  - iv) In her speech she gave examples that \_\_\_\_\_ the crowd. (rage)
  - v) He knew that without a life belt he could not stay \_\_\_\_\_. (float)
  - vi) She lived in the style \_\_\_\_\_ the first lady of classical music. (fit)

## **4.4 DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES**

In this section we shall look at derivational suffixes in English and the rules for their attachment to words. First we shall describe those suffixes that do not bring about a change in the part of speech of the word they are attached to.

### **4.4.1 Suffixes which do not Change the Part of Speech of the Word**

Derivational suffixes may or may not bring about a change in the part of speech of the word they are attached to. Let us look at the following derivational suffixes.

- A) i) –age e.g. bag – baggage, bond – bondage, post – postage.
- ii) –dom e.g. king – kingdom, star – stardom, serf – serfdom
- iii) –ery e.g. jewel – jewellery, weapon – weaponry, slave – slavery
- iv) –hood e.g. state – statehood, boy – boyhood, widow – widowhood
- v) –ing e.g. farm – farming, shirt – shirting
- vi) –ism e.g. hero – heroism, fanatic – fanaticism, Hindu – Hinduism
- vii) –ship e.g. member – membership, fellow – fellowship, professor – professorship

Notice that the words to which each of these suffixes is attached are all nouns. Is there any change in the part of speech of the words after the suffixes are attached?





- v) -th e.g. wide+th – width  
long+th – length

B) Some suffixes are attached to verbs to form nouns (abstract and concrete).  
These are:

- i) -age e.g. break+age – breakage  
cover+age – coverage  
waste+age – wastage
- ii) -al e.g. arrive+al – arrival  
refuse+al – refusal  
survive+al – survival
- iii) -ation e.g. examine+ation – examination  
alter+ation – alteration  
mediate + ation – mediation

(This suffix affects stress e.g. e'xamine – exami'nation, 'alter – alte'ration)

- iv) -ment e.g. appoint+ment – appointment  
argue+ment – argument  
develop+ment – development  
establish+ment – establishment

- v) -ure e.g. fail+ure – failure  
close+ure – closure  
expose + ure – exposure

- vi) -ant e.g. contest (v.) +ant – contestant  
defend + ant – defendant  
participate+ant – participant

- vii) -ee e.g. employ+ee – employee  
pay+ee – payee  
train+ee – trainee

- viii) -er/-or e.g. write+er – writer  
play (v)+er – player  
dance+er – dancer  
accelerate+or – accelerator

C) Some derivational suffixes form adjectives.

1) Of these there are those that form adjectives from nouns.

Let's look at some suffixes which when added to nouns, form adjectives.

- i) -al e.g. accident+al – accidental  
incident+al – incidental  
education+al – educational  
culture+al – cultural

Word Formation Strategies

- ii) -ial e.g. 'editor+ial – edi'torial  
pro'fessor+ial – profes'sorial  
'territory+ial – terri'torial
- iii) -ic e.g. 'atom+ic – a'tomic  
'hero+ic – he'roic  
'poet+ic – po'etic
- iv) -ical e.g. phi'losophy+ical – philo'sophical  
ge'oography+ical – geo'graphical

(Notice that the suffixes -ial, -ic, -ical affect word stress. The stress is marked and clearly shows a shift to the right when the suffix is added.)

- v) -ful e.g. beaut(y)+ful – beautiful  
care+ful – careful  
truth+ful – truthful

- vi) -ish e.g. child+ish – childish  
fool+ish – foolish

- vii) -less e.g. child+less – childless  
pain+less – painless  
tooth+less – toothless

- viii) -ly e.g. mother+ly – motherly  
woman+ly – womanly

- ix) -y e.g. filth+y – filthy  
health+y – healthy  
sleep+y – sleepy

2) The following suffixes form adjectives when added to verbs

- i) -able e.g. bear+able – bearable  
read+able – readable  
suit+able – suitable
- ii) -ant e.g. please+ant – pleasant  
-ent e.g. differ+ent – different
- iii) -atory e.g. exclaim+atory – exclamatory  
prepare+atory – preparatory  
inflamm+atory – inflammatory
- iv) -ful e.g. forget+ful – forgetful  
mourn+ful – mournful  
resent+ful – resentful

- v)   ive           e.g.   attract+ive – attractive  
                       collect+ive – collective  
                       create+ive – creative

The following suffixes when attached to nouns or adjectives, produce words which are again nouns or adjectives.

- i)   -ese           e.g.   China+ese – Chinese  
                       Japan+ese – Japanese  
                       Singhala+ese – Singhalese
- ii)  -ian, -an e.g.   Australia+(ia)n – Australian  
                       India+(ia)n – Indian  
                       Africa+(ia)n – African  
                       America+(a)n – American
- iii) -ist           e.g.   violin+ist – violinist  
                       piano+ist – pianist  
                       loyal+ist – loyalist  
                       left+ist – leftist  
                       social+ist – socialist

3)   a)   Some of these suffixes form verbs when added to nouns

- i)   -ify           e.g.   beaut(y)+fy – beautify  
                       code+ify – codify  
                       identi(ty) +fy – identify  
                       electri(city) + fy – electrify
- ii)  -ize           e.g.   crystal+ise – crystalise  
                       hospital+ise – hospitalize

b)   Some suffixes form verbs when added to adjectives. For example,

- i)   -en           e.g.   bright+en – brighten  
                       short+en – shorten  
                       wide+en – widen
- ii)  -ify           e.g.   simple+ify – simplify  
                       false+ify – falsify  
                       clear+ify – clarify
- iii) -ize           e.g.   equal+ize – equalize  
                       modern+ize – modernize

4)   Some derivational suffixes form adverbs when added to nouns or adjectives



- 2) The meaning of each word and the part of speech to which it belongs is given below. Find a single word with the appropriate suffix (and prefix where necessary) for the meaning given in each case.

Example: the cost of having goods carried from one place to another in a cart or any other vehicle. (noun)

Answer: Cartage

- i) the act of changing by replacing old methods or equipment with new ones. (verb)
- ii) the act of refusing (noun)
- iii) to make one feel happy or glad (verb)
- iv) to change into a solid (verb)
- v) that which is bearable (adjective)
- vi) the quality of being well-liked (noun)
- vii) one who absents himself from the place where he is required to be. (noun)
- viii) in a quiet manner (adverb)
- ix) usual, done as a matter of habit (adverb)
- x) the quality of being healthy in mind (noun)
- xi) marked by, or done according to ceremony (adjective)
- xii) concerned with or connected with the way the mind works (adjective)
- xiii) suffering or death for lack of food (noun)
- xiv) the quality of being on time (noun)
- xv) liking to talk a lot (adjective)

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## 4.5 CONVERSION

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An important fact we need to remember when we discuss conversion is that it is a process of derivation though it does not involve the addition of any derivational affixes. As we saw in the first unit, conversion like derivation, creates new words. When a word is converted from one part of speech to another, its meaning also undergoes some change. For example, the word **cheat** when it functions as a noun means **one who cheats**. The same word when converted to a verb means **the act of cheating**. Thus conversion changes the part of speech of the word without the addition of either a suffix or a prefix.

### 4.5.1 Types of Conversion

There are three major types of conversion

- I) Conversion to noun
  - II) Conversion to verb
  - III) Conversion to adjective
- I) Let's first look at some words that are converted to nouns from verbs.

- i) (to) cheat (v.) – He is a **cheat** (noun)
- ii) (to) bend (v.) – There’s a hairpin **bend** on the road only a hundred metres from here. (noun)
- iii) (to) catch (v.) – Did you **catch** any fish?  
Well, our total **catch** (n.) was one large fish.
- iv) (to) find (v.) – The carved statue they unearthed was a real **find** (noun)

Some other common verbs that are converted to nouns are **attach, attempt, collapse, cry, fall, hit, laugh, look, murder, search, desire, dislike, doubt, love, need, taste, dump, retreat.**

Some other words are converted to nouns from adjectives. For example, **criminal, intellectual, noble, progressive.**

We might ask ourselves the question ‘How do we decide which one of the two parts of speech of a word is the base, we generally try to identify the main or primary meaning of a word. This is not easy. If we can identify the primary meaning of a word, that can be established as the base.

**II) A. Conversion to verbs**

Let’s look at a few words that are converted to verbs from nouns

These are:

campaign	echo	mail
motion	coin	ship
orbit	bottle	bicycle
parade	can	motor
butter	catalogue	land
grease	floor	list
mask	ground	pocket
plaster	tunnel	table
powder	cripple	
salt	group	
watch	dust	
bud	milk	
flower	skim	

B) There are other words that are converted to verbs from adjectives. For example:

bald	narrow	dirty	free
dry	slim	smooth	still
empty	sour	humble	

### III) Conversion to Adjectives

The number of converted adjectives from nouns is rather small. This may be due to the fact that nouns can often be used in the position of an adjective while still remaining nouns, that is, they are often placed before nouns in a modifying function. For example, **a gold chain, a brick house**. Some nouns can also occur after verbs like adjectives, e.g. **It's a beauty** instead of **It's beautiful**, **He's a fool** instead of **He's foolish**.

However, there are very few nouns that can occur both before a noun and after a verb. For example, we can say **a paper plate**, but not **This plate is paper**. Similarly, we can say **the boy's a fool** but not **fool boy**. If we do come across a noun which can occur in both these positions we regard it as an adjective derived from a noun. For example,

**A brick house – The house is made of brick**

**The head teacher – The teacher is the head**

**A concrete floor – The floor is concrete**

#### 4.5.2 Conversion and Stress

As we saw in the Unit on Word Stress, the conversion of words that function as nouns or adjectives to verbs affects the stress on these words in speech. Words, when they function as nouns or adjectives receive the stress on the first syllable, but when they function as verbs the stress shifts on the second syllable. However, this shift in stress applies to **some two-syllable words only**.

For example,

'conduct (n)	con'duct (vb)
'import (n)	im'port (vb)
'present (n/adj.)	pre'sent (vb)
'object (n)	ob'ject (vb)
'convict (n)	con'vict (vb)
'subject (n)	sub'ject (vb)
'absent (adj.)	ab'sent (vb)
'transfer (n)	trans'fer (vb)
'protest (n)	pro'test (vb)
'frequent (adj.)	fre'quent (vb)
'permit (n)	per'mit (vb)

Thus conversion in words such as these is indicated in speech by a shift in stress from the first to the second syllable.

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## 4.6 WORD COMPOUNDING

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Word compounding is as we have seen in the first unit, also a process of word formation. Compounds are made up of two or more parts or elements which can also occur independently as words. These separate words are combined to form

other new words which are listed separately in the dictionary and have separate meanings. They also take inflectional and derivational affixes.

Let's look at the following compound words, for example:

blackboard

flowerpot

armchair

Each of these words comprises two words that have their own meaning. The compound word **blackboard** is a **large board with a smooth black surface that teachers write on with a piece of chalk**. Similarly, the two nouns **flower** and **pot** in **flowerpot** become a single new unit. This new unit is a noun which has a plural form like other nouns and takes an adjective. Thus the plural form in **flowerpots** is applicable to the whole compound, and the addition of an adjective, for example, **red** flowerpot refers to a flowerpot that is red in colour, rather than to the colour of 'flower'.

Some compound words have meaning that is in no way derived from the meaning of their parts. Notice that while the meaning of compounds like **flowerpot**, **armchair**, **schoolboy**, **raincoat** does not lie totally outside the compounds, a word like **highbrow** for instance does not mean 'a type of brow' but it means an intellectual. Similarly, a **blockhead** is **not a kind of head** but a person who is stupid, and **butterfingers** is **not a kind of fingers** but someone **who lets things fall or slip through his/her fingers**. Compounds such as these have in other words, an **idiomatic meaning**.

#### 4.6.1 Noun Compounds

Noun compounds are those compounds that have the function of nouns irrespective of whether the constituent parts are both nouns. Noun compounds can have the following possible combinations of elements that have these parts of speech.

- 1) Noun + noun e.g. icecream, ladybird, walking stick
- 2) Verb + noun e.g. breakfast, pickpocket
- 3) Noun + verb e.g. sunshine, birthcontrol
- 4) Adjective + noun e.g. greenhouse, darkroom
- 5) Verb + particle e.g. dropout, fallout
- 6) Particle + verb e.g. income, outcast
- 7) Particle + noun e.g. afterthought, overdose

#### 4.6.2 Adjective Compounds

Adjective compounds are those compounds that have the function of adjectives. Adjective compounds can have the following different combinations of elements that have these parts of speech.

- 1) Noun + verb e.g. tax-free, fat-free, man-made, gut-wrenching
- 2) Adjective + adjective e.g. icy-cold, deaf-mute
- 3) Noun + adjective e.g. waterproof, horn-rimmed



- 4) Adverb + adjective e.g. long-awaited
- 5) Adjective + noun e.g. white collar, green-fingered.

### 4.6.3 Verb Compounds

The third type of compounds are those that function as verbs. Verb compounds have the following combinations.

- 1) Noun + verb e.g. to brainwash, bottle-fed
- 2) Adjective + noun e.g. to blacklist, to cold-shoulder
- 3) Particle + verb e.g. to overflow, underestimate
- 4) Adjective + verb e.g. dryclean

#### Check Your Progress 3

- 1) To which part of speech does the *italicized* word in each of the following sentences belong? What is the base from which it has been converted?
  - i) Police *checks* on the highway have been on the increase since last week.
  - ii) There's no harm in giving it another *try*.
  - iii) You cannot *encash* your cheque today because it is a bank holiday.
  - iv) After you have helped yourself to the sauce please *cork* the bottle.
  - v) She goes for a two-kilometre *run* every morning.
  - vi) People *lined* the streets to welcome the foreign dignitary.
  - vii) Biro's were the earliest ball point pens to be *marketed*.
  - viii) No sooner had she finished cleaning the room than her son *dirtied* it again.
  - ix) She's beginning to *weary* of explaining the same thing over and over again.
  - x) Nobody knows what has *soured* their relationship.
- 2) Identify the type of compound to which each of the following compounds belongs in terms of the type discussed in sections 4.6.1. to 4.6.3.
 

i) brainstorm	ii) downpour	iii) drawback	iv) earthquake
v) farfetched	vi) heartfelt	vii) longlost	viii) overpower
ix) outgrow	x) sleeping bag	xi) large hearted	
xii) staircase	xiii) underpin	xiv) water-borne	

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## 4.7 LET US SUM UP

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In this unit we have learnt that

- i) Derivational affixes modify the meaning of the words to which they are attached. These are large compared to the number of inflectional affixes.
- ii) Derivational affixes are either prefixes or suffixes unlike inflectional affixes which are only suffixes.

- iii) Prefixes can be classified on the basis of the meaning they contribute to the resulting words.
- iv) There are eight group of prefixes – negatives, reversatives, pejoratives, number, degree, size, rank, time and order, location, attitude and orientation.
- v) There are a few prefixes which change the part of speech of the word they are added to.
- vi) Some derivational suffixes change the part of speech of the word to which they are attached.
- vii) The majority of derivational suffixes bring about a change in the meaning of the word to which they are attached.
- viii) Suffixes are grouped according to the part of speech of the word which results from the suffix that is attached to it. (e.g. noun suffixes, verb suffixes, adjective suffixes etc.)
- ix) Conversion is another form of word formation. Words can be converted to nouns from verbs, or to verbs from nouns, or to verbs from adjectives without the addition of suffixes.
- x) Conversion affects places of stress on some two-syllable words.
- xi) In compounding two or more independently occurring words are combined to form a single ‘new’ word. the new word functions as a single word and not as a combination of two words.
- xii) The meaning of some compound words may be idiomatic, i.e. they cannot be logically derived from the meaning of their parts.
- xiii) Three kinds of compounds are found in English: noun compounds, adjective compounds and verb compounds

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## 4.8 KEY WORDS

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<b>Attitude prefix:</b>	A prefix that helps to identify something by describing its attitude or orientation towards something else.
<b>Base:</b>	the word which undergoes conversion
<b>Compounds:</b>	A word made up wholly of two or more parts each of which can occur independently as a word
<b>Conversion:</b>	A process of derivation by which ‘new’ words are formed without the addition of an affix.
<b>Degree, rank</b>	A prefix that contributes the idea of one thing being higher or lower than.
<b>Size prefix:</b>	equal to something else in degree, rank or size.
<b>Derivational suffix:</b>	A derivational is attached to the end of a word.

<b>Location prefix:</b>	A prefix that helps to identify a thing by describing it as being located: at, in front of, below, above, etc., or between two or more other things.
<b>Negative prefix:</b>	A prefix that contributes the meaning ‘not’, ‘opposite of’, ‘lacking in’, ‘irrelevant to’ etc.
<b>Number prefix:</b>	A prefix that contributes the idea of number (one, two, many, half, etc.) to the meaning of the base word.
<b>Pejorative prefix:</b>	A prefix that adds the meaning ‘bad’, ‘badly’, ‘wrongly’, ‘false’, ‘imitation’, etc. to the meaning of the base word.
<b>Privative prefix:</b>	A prefix that contributes the meaning ‘deprive’ or rid (someone of something)
<b>Reversative prefix:</b>	A prefix that contributes the meaning ‘reverse the action’ or ‘undo the action’ denoted by the stem.
<b>Suffixation:</b>	The process by which a bound morpheme is attached to the end of a word.
<b>Time and order prefix:</b>	A prefix that helps to identify a thing, action, etc., by relating it to some event in terms of time (e.g. before or after) or order (e.g. following or preceding)

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## 4.9 ANSWERS

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### Check Your Progress 1

- 1) The solution below gives only the type of meaning contributed by the prefix. To confirm whether the word you write also contains the same prefix with the same meaning or not, consult the following books.

*Collins COBUILD English Language Dictionary* (1987). London; Collins  
*Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (7 edition – 2005 or 8th ed. 2010)

Quirk R and Greenbaum S (1973) *A University Grammar of English*. London: Longman

- i) Negative
- ii) Time or order
- iii) Privative or Reversative
- iv) Negative
- v) Order
- vi) Number
- vii) Negative
- viii) Reversative
- ix) Reversative
- x) Number



- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| vii) absentee    | viii) quietly      |
| ix) habitually   | x) sanity          |
| xi) ceremonial   | xii) psychological |
| xiii) starvation | xiv) punctuality   |
| xv) talkative    |                    |

### Check Your Progress 3

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) i) Noun from verb base    | ii) Noun from verb base        |
| iii) Verb from noun base     | iv) Verb from noun base        |
| v) Noun from verb base       | vi) Verb from noun base        |
| vii) Verb from noun base     | viii) Verb from adjective base |
| ix) Verb from adjective base | x) Verb from adjective base    |
| 2) i) Verb compound          | Noun + Verb                    |
| ii) Noun compound            | Particle + Verb                |
| iii) Noun compound           | Verb + Particle                |
| iv) Noun compound            | Noun + Verb                    |
| v) Adjective compound        | Adverb + Verb                  |
| vi) Adjective compound       | Noun + Verb                    |
| vii) Adjective compound      | Adverb + Adjective             |
| viii) Verb compound          | Particle + Noun                |
| ix) Verb compound            | Particle + Verb                |
| x) Noun compound             | Noun + Noun                    |
| xi) Adjective compound       | Adjective + Noun               |
| xii) Noun compound           | Noun + Noun                    |
| xiii) Verb compound          | Particle + Verb                |
| xiv) Adjective compound      | Noun + Adjective               |