

Morphological Processes

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Morphological Processes

- ▶ **The human language capacity is enormously creative, and that creativity extends to ways other than affixation in which words may be altered and created.**

Backformation

- ▶ **Backformation is the process of creating a new lexeme usually by removing actual or supposed affixes.**

Examples

- ▶ *act / action*
- ▶ *exempt / exemption*
- ▶ *revise / revision*
- ▶ hawk / hawker
- ▶ Stoke / stoker
- ▶ Swindle / swindler
- ▶ project / projection
- ▶ insert / insertion

Compounding

- ▶ **Compounding** is defined as combining two or more stems to form a new word that is stored as a single entry in the lexicon.

Compounding Examples

- ▶ Blackbird
- ▶ three-year-old
- ▶ Housefly
- ▶ extra-terrestrial
- ▶ out-of-pocket
- ▶ kill joy

Compounding

- ▶ noun- noun: 'horseshoe'
- noun- verb such: 'trouble-shoot'
- adjective -verb: 'high-jump'
- adjective-adjective: 'bittersweet'
- adjective-noun: 'jumping bean'
- verb-noun: 'spelling bee'
- verb-preposition: 'push-up'
- preposition-verb: 'out-cast'

Compounding

- ▶ ‘bird’ in ‘blackbird’ is a noun thus the compound is also a noun.
- ▶ The head of ‘freeze-dry’ is a verb thus the compound is a verb.
- ▶ However, when a preposition is found in the rightmost position, the left element will be the head. This is due to the fact that prepositions are function words that are closed to adding new words. Thus in the compound ‘push-up’ the head is ‘push’.

Pullet Surprises

- ▶ Our knowledge of the morphemes and morphological rules of our language is often revealed by the “errors” we make.
- ▶ We may guess the meaning of a word we do not know. Sometimes we guess wrong, but our wrong guesses are nevertheless “intelligent.”
- ▶ These are called “pullet surprises”.

Pullet Surprises

Word

- ▶ deciduous
- ▶ longevity
- ▶ fortuitous

Student's Definition

- ‘able to make up one’s mind’
- ‘being very tall’
- ‘well protected’

Questions

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Question #1

The morpheme “-ment” is added to the root “invest” and a new word occurs.

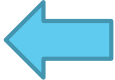
What is the process called in the word “investment”?

- a. Clipping
- b. Blending
- c. Derivation ←
- d. Loan translation
- e. Backformation

Question #2

Many words are composed of a stem and one or more derivational morphemes. These words are called _____.


Choose the alternative that best completes the paragraph above.

- a. Complex words 
- b. Closed class words
- c. Compound
- d. Blending
- e. clipping

Question #3

The word “selpak” is a brand name in Turkey. This brand produces disposable tissues etc. however, mostly because they were the first successful firm to produce these disposal products, today, people buy “selpaks” of different brands. Namely, “selpak” is used to mean disposable tissue in Turkish. This use is called _____.

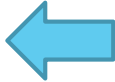
Choose the alternative that best completes the paragraph above.

- a. Blending
- b. Acronym
- c. Abbreviation
- d. Coinage 
- e. compounding

Question #4

The meaning of compounds is not dependent on a rule. That is, the meaning relationship between the words that make up a compound is not fixed.


In which of the following words is the meaning relationship between the words making the compound word different from the others?

- a. Baby oil 
- b. Olive oil
- c. Corn oil
- d. Soy oil
- e. Nut oil

Question #5

Some Turkish linguists are strongly against the use of the phrase “kendine iyi bak” as they find the phrase meaningless and it is a direct translation from the English phrase “take care”. This saying, which sounded absurd a decade ago, is in the language now.

Which process of word formation is described above?

- a. Backformation
- b. Calque 
- c. Derivation
- d. Blending
- e. Borrowing

That's all.

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