

a	Noun and Verb compounds:	sunrise = sun + rise
		(N) (V)
b	Noun and Gerund compounds:	air + conditioning
		(N) (Gerund)
c	Gerund and Noun compounds	dancing + bird
		(Gerund) (N)
d	Noun and Noun compounds (also known as verbless compounds)	school girl=school + girl
		(N) (N)
e	Noun and Adjective compounds	duty free = duty + free
		(N) (Adj)
f	Preposition and Noun compounds	upstream = up + stream
		(Prep) (N)
g	Phrase compounds: used as adjectives	good + for + nothing
		(Adj) (Prep) (Noun)
		long + forgotten
		(Adj) + (Verb – Past perfect)
		day + to + day
		(N) (Prep) (N)

### Noun + Noun

dream-world  
 postman  
 bed-time  
 motorcycle  
 rabbit-hole  
 honeybee  
 chessmen  
 cork-screw  
 sun-dial  
 wonderland

**Noun + Adjective (participle)**

knee-deep  
homesick,  
henpecked

**Noun in Possessive case + Noun**

craftsman  
sportsman  
childsplay

**Adverb + Noun**

insight  
out-patient  
postscript

**Verbal noun in ‘-ing’ + Noun**

looking-glass  
washing machine

**Adjective + ‘-ing’ participle**

curious-looking  
good-looking  
shabby-looking easy-going

**Adjective + ‘-ed’ participle**

dreamy-eyed  
long-awaited

**Adverbial + deverbal Noun**

daydream  
boat-ride  
push-button, treadmill **Verb + Object**  
safeguard, whitewash **Adjective + Verb**  
overthrow, upset **Adverb + Verb**

telephone operator, science teacher **Object + Agential Noun with ‘er’/ ‘or’**

air-conditioning, sightseeing **Object + verbal Noun with ‘-ing’**  
blackboard, blue print **Adjective + Noun**  
lifelong, jet black **Noun + Adjective**  
pop corn, cry baby **Verb + Noun**

*Read the following sentences:*

1. I We will have **brunch** at eleven o’clock so that we can use the hour for lunch break to finish the project.
  2. The planes could not take off at the scheduled time on Saturday because of heavy **smog** in the city.
- Here ‘**brunch**’ is formed by combining ‘**breakfast**’ and ‘**lunch**’.  
Similarly ‘**smog**’ is formed by combining ‘**smoke**’ and ‘**fog**’. They are formed by a process of blending or combining two words.

*Task: Combine the words given below and form new words by blending.*

motorway + **hotel** =  
**motor** + bike =  
**television** + broadcast =  
travel + **catalogue** =  
international + **police** =  
**teleprinter** + exchange =  
**electro** + execute =  
**binary** + digit =  
motor + **pedal** cycle =  
news + **broadcast** =

(Clue: One portion of the word to be formed is highlighted.)

*(b) Look at the following sentences :*

Alisha’s grandpa was searching for his **specs**.  
He found it near the **phone**.

Be it the day before my **exam**, or even when I was down with **flu**, ....

*Look at the words in bold. How are they formed?*

They are formed by the process of ‘**clipping**’, that is, a portion of the original word is removed and the remaining part is considered to be a word by itself.

**specs** is from **spectacles** (**back clipping**)  
**phone** is from **telephone** (**front clipping**)  
**exam** is from **examination** (**back clipping**)  
**flu** is from **influenza** (**front and back clipping**)

**(i) a. Words formed by clipping**

The following words are formed by clipping a part of a larger word while retaining the meaning of the original word.

e.g: lab - lab(oratory)

ad - ad(vertisement)

Words are formed by front clipping as in:

1. (Hand) kerchief, (fountain) pen
2. Back clipping as in lab(oratory), gym(nasium)
3. Front and back clipping as in (de) marc(ate) = mark

***In the following sentences the words formed by clipping are presented in italics. Match the words with those given in the box to form the original word.***

1. She has been on the *phone* for the last one hour.
2. I need a *kilo* of sugar to make this sweet.
3. The porter carried the *cases* to the waiting *taxi*.
4. My baby sister falls asleep in the *pram* when we take her out on a walk.
5. He likes to spend Saturday nights at the *disco*.

(suit \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ gram, \_\_\_\_\_ e \_\_\_\_\_ bulator, \_\_\_\_\_ theque, tele \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ cab)

***Check the dictionary to give the unclipped form of the following words.***

1. burger
2. copter
3. Demo
4. tele
5. Mike

**b. Using / identifying words formed by blending**

Some words in English are formed by combining elements of two other words.

e.g. a) *news* + *broadcast* = *newscast*

The closing ceremony of the Olympics will feature in our *newscast* today.

e.g. b) *international* + *police* = *Interpol*

The *Interpol* are on the look-out for inter-continental smugglers.

***Form words by 'blending':***

1. travel + catalogue =
2. electro + execute =
3. helicopter + airport =
4. documentary + drama =
5. education + entertainment =

***Rewrite the following sentences replacing the word in italics with an explanatory phrase.***

e.g. We can stop at a *motel* for lunch.

We can stop for lunch at a hotel on the motorway (highway).

1. Most industrial towns are covered in *smog* in the early hours of the day.

2. Deepak is a *techno-wizard*.
3. I prefer a *vegeburger* to a sandwich.
4. The British Council runs an *infomercial* centre to help students who want to go abroad.
5. The Russian ballet dancer presented a *lecdem* at the Russian Cultural Centre.

## 2. Eponymous words

Words whose origin is traced to individuals are known as *Eponyms* and the words derived from these names are called *Eponymous* words.

*e.g.:*

1. 'Boycott' means 'to shun or refuse to have dealings with as a means of protest or to force change'. Captain Charles Boycott, a 19th Century Irish land agent was shunned by local tenants for refusing to lower their rents.
2. 'Mesmerism' means 'the process or practice of inducing a hypnotic state'. Dr. Franz Anton Mesmer (1734 – 1815) was a German Physician who popularised the practice.
3. 'Machiavellian' means 'cunning, crafty, seizing opportunities'. Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527), a Florentine statesman, in his book 'The Prince', described how a determined ruler could gain and keep political power regardless of morality.

***Given below are words derived from the name of persons. A brief account of the person is provided. Can you guess the meaning of the word from the account?***

1. Silhouette - Etienne de Silhouette, a French Author (1709(Noun) - 1767) and politician, decorated his residence with outline portraits.
2. Draconian - Draco, Chief Magistrate of Athens, (Adjective) introduced a harsh penal code in 621 BC.
3. Lynch - Captain William Lynch, an 18th century (Verb) Virginian Planter and Justice of Peace, would summarily execute the arrested persons usually by hanging without a proper trial.

## 3. a. Euphemisms

Euphemism is the use of an inoffensive word or phrase in place of a harsh or possibly offensive one.

*e.g.* This school is for the *visually challenged*. (blind)

Here are a few sentences in which euphemisms have been used:

1. The *funeral director / mortician* (undertaker) was called to carry out the preparations for the funeral.
2. You will find the *rest-room* (lavatory) at the end of the corridor.
3. My mother is a *homemaker*. (housewife)

## 3. b. Cliche

The word 'cliché' comes from the French word 'clicher'

‘Cliché’ refers to ‘a phrase or word which is used too often to the point of monotony’. A good user of English will be too careful to avoid clichés in his speech and writing.

***Look at the following sentences:***

1. Both of us have not prepared for tomorrow’s test and we are *sailing in the same boat*.
2. The class leader appealed to his classmates to maintain silence but *it fell on deaf ears*.
3. My joy *knew no bounds* when I received the first prize in the oratorical competition.

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