The Concept of Word Formation
Word formation

• **Word formation** process is basically how new words are created and become part of the language. In **linguistics**, **word formation** is the creation of a new **word**. In other words, it refers to the ways in which new words are made on the basis of other words or morphemes.
Types of Word Formation

**Derivation:** In linguistics, derivation is the process of forming a new word on the basis of an existing word. For e.g. the word **happiness and unhappy** are derived from the word **happy**. Similarly, the word **determination** has been derived from **determine**. Derivation is the process of forming a new word by means of **affixation** (prefix, infix, and suffix).
Types of Word Formation

Compounding: A compound is a lexeme (a word) that consists of more than one other lexeme (word). It is categorized in two ways:

An endocentric compound consists of a head and modifier. For e.g. the English compound doghouse, where house is the head and dog is the modifier, which shows that house is intended for a dog.

Exocentric compounds do not have a head and their meaning often cannot be transparently guessed from its constituent parts. For e.g. the English compound white-collar is neither a kind of collar not a white thing.
Types of Word Formation

Examples of Compounding
• One word is added to another word to form compound words.
  • Atom bomb
  • Waiting list
  • Home work
  • Low paid
  • Dining room
  • Fire place
  • Cup cake
  • Email
Types of Word Formation

**Blending:** A blend is a word formed by joining parts of two words after clipping.

**For e.g.**
When parts of two separate words are combined to form a new word, it is Blending.

Motel – motor+hotel
Telecast – television+broadcast
Brunch – breakfast+lunch
Smog – smoke+fog
Chunnel – channel+tunnel
Biopic - biography+picture
Types of Word Formation

**Acronym**: An acronym is a word made up from the first letter of the words that make up the name of something.

For e.g.

NASA (is a name whose full form is)- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Acronym)

RADAR- Radio Detection and Ranging
Types of Word Formation

**Calque/ Borrowing:** Borrowing is just taking a word from another language. The borrowed words are called *loan words or calque*. A loan word is a word directly taken into one language from another language with little or no translation. English has many loan words.

**For e.g.**

- Biology, boxer, ozone- Taken from German language
- Jacket, yoghurt, Kiosh- Taken from Turkish language
- Pistol, robot- Taken from Czech language
Types of Word Formation

Neologism/ Coinage: It is the invention of totally new words either deliberately or accidentally. This is a very rare and uncommon method to create new words, but in the media, people try to outdo each other with more and better words to name their products.

For e.g.
• Xerox, Kodak, google, nylon, band-aid
Types of Word Formation

In other words, Coinage are words that somebody creates and people start using it. One category of neologism is Eponym. These are words that are based on the name of a person or a place.

• For e.g.
• Watt- this word has been taken from the name of a discoverer
• Jeans- this word has been taken from Italian city Jenewa
• Sandwich- this word has been taken from a person who makes his meal between two slices of bread.
Types of Word Formation

**Back-Formation:** It refers to the process of creating a new lexeme (word) by removing actual or supposed affixes. In other words, back-formations are shortened words created from longer words.

**For e.g.**
The word *resurrection* was borrowed from Latin, the word *resurrect* was then back formed hundreds of years later from it by removing –ion suffix.
Types of Word Formation

**Reduplication:** It is the process of forming new words either by doubling an entire word or part of a word. English makes use of reduplication very rarely.

For e.g.

- Humpty- dumpty
- Hustle- bustle
- Hotch- potch
Types of Word Formation

**Clipping**: It is a word formation process which consists of reduction of a word. Clippings are also known as shortenings. It has four types:

- Back clipping
- Fore- clipping
- Middle- clipping
- Complex- clipping
Types of Word Formation

Back clipping or apocopeation is the most common type in which the beginning of the word is retained.

For e.g.

• Ad- advertisement
• Doc- doctor
• Memo- memorandum
Types of Word Formation

Fore- clipping or aphaeresis retains the final part.

For e.g.

- Phone- telephone
- Varsity- university
Types of Word Formation

Middle-clipping or syncope retains the middle part.

For e.g.

• Flu- influenza
Types of Word Formation

Complex- clipping: In this clipped forms are used in compounds. One part of the original compound most often remains intact.

For e.g.

• Cablegram- cabletelegram
• Op art- optical art
• Org man- organization man