

## Types of Coined Words

Compound words - These are words made up of whole words or morphemes. *Doghouse* is a compound word. *Telephone* and *television* are also a type of compound words.

Blended words - These are words that are made by combining one part of a word with another part of another word. *Smog* is a blended word made by combining *smoke* and *fog*. *Motel* is another blended word (*motor* plus *hotel*). Do you know how we got brunch? Here is a new blended word -- *slangui*. Can you tell what this word means?

Clipped words - These words are created when the beginning or end of a word is cut, or "clipped." *Gym* is a word that is clipped from *gymnasium*. *Exam* was clipped from *examination* and *phone* was clipped from *telephone*. A new clipped word is *blog*. This word was clipped from *weblog*, a type of journal that is published on the World Wide Web. *Weblog* is itself a new compound word. Do you what word led to the clipped form *celeb*?

Backformation - Usually in English, we add suffixes to words to create new words. But when words are made from backformation, the opposite happens. A new word is created when we remove a suffix. For example, we could create a new verb by removing the suffix from backformation. Our new word would be *backform*. Then we could say we just backformed a word. The word *burgle*, which means "to rob," was created this way from the word *burglar*. Sometimes backformation happens when people just think there is a suffix. The word *pea* was created when people started dropping the last part of the word *pease* because it sounded like a plural. They thought there was one pea and several peas. They were wrong. It was one pease.

Acronyms - These are words made from the initials of words. NASA is an acronym that stands for "National Aeronautics and Space Administration." Did you know *radar* was originally an acronym? It stood for "radio detecting and ranging." CD-ROM is also an acronym. It means "compact disk - read only memory."

Transfer of Names - These are words that come from the name of a person or place. When we call someone a *scrooge*, we are using a word that comes from the very stingy Charles Dickens' character, Ebenezer Scrooge from *A Christmas Carol*. Did you know *sandwich* also came from a name? The Earl of Sandwich often played cards for hours at a time, not even stopping to eat. He had his servants bring him meat and cheese served on bread between two slices of bread.

## Coining Words

Many words are borrowed from other languages. However, other words are "coined." That means that someone made the word up.

Shakespeare made up around 2000 words. Many of these words are still used in English today. Sometimes the words seem to come from nowhere, like *byte*, a computer term. Other times, new words are made from existing morphemes (word parts). For example, the word *telephone* did not exist before Alexander Graham Bell discovered a way to transmit sounds through a wire from one location to another. The word *telephone* was made up of the two morphemes *tele* (distance) and *phone* (sound).

Here are some modern coined terms. See if you can tell what they mean.

askable parent

blamestorming

deskfast

eatertainment

frankenfood

Falloween

frienemy

informavore

mathlete

yestertech

How many of these words will we still be using in 20 years? We'll have to wait and see!

## Answers to Coined Words

askable parent A parent who is willing to answer their child's questions and who encourages their child to ask questions

blamestorming A discussion (which may be at the group, community, or society level) in which members attempt to assign blame for a particular misdeed.

deskfast Breakfast eaten at a desk

eatertainment A restaurant that also offers entertainment such as wall-mounted memorabilia, video displays, or live music.

frankenfood Food derived from genetically modified (GM) plants and animals.

Falloween An extended celebration or observance of Halloween, often beginning several weeks before the day; the retail season that extends from the beginning of fall through Halloween and Thanksgiving in the U.S.

frienemy A friend who acts like an enemy; a fair-weather or untrustworthy friend.

informavore A person who consumes information.

mathlete A person who competes in a mathematics competition.

yestertech Older technologies that had fewer bells and whistles, and so weren't as complex, as the technologies of today.