

**II B.A. English**

**Word Power**

**17UENS31**

**Unit –I**

**Word Formation**

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# Suffix

- An affix placed at the end of the root word

## Noun Suffixes

- -er – writer, painter
- -or – actor, donor
- -ee – employee, payee
- -tion / -sion – pollution, admission
- -ism – Buddhism, Marxism
- -ist – Buddhist, Marxist
- -ness – goodness, happiness

# Suffix (Contd.)

## Adjective Suffixes

- -able – drinkable, washable
- -ible – edible, flexible

## Verb Suffixes

- -ise/ -ize – modernise, computerise

## Other Suffixes

- -ment – excitement, replacement
- -ity – flexibility, scarcity

# Suffix (Contd.)

- -hood – childhood, motherhood
- -ship – friendship, membership
- -ive – productive,
- -al – brutal, legal
- -ous – delicious, furious
- -ful – hopeful, useful
- -less – useless, harmless
- -ify – beautify, purify

# Prefix

- an affix placed before the root word
- Often used to give adjectives negative or opposite meanings
  - anti – anti-war, antisocial
  - auto - autograph, auto-pilot
  - bi – bicycle, biannual
  - ex – ex-wife, exhale
  - micro – microbiology, microwave
  - mis – misunderstand, mislead
  - mono – monolingual, monogamous

# Prefix (Contd.)

- multi – multinational, multimedia
- over – overdo, overtired
- post – post-war, postgraduate
- pre – pre-war, preconceived
- pro – pro-government, pro-revolution
- pseudo – pseudo-scientific, pseudo-intellectual
- re – rewrite, regain
- semi – semi-circular, semi-final
- sub – subway, submarine
- under – underused, undercooked

# Roots

➤ English words formed from Latin roots

Verbs based on Latin words

- DUC, DUCT (lead) – eg. conduct, induce
- PONE, POSE (place, put) – eg. postpone, compose
- PORT (carry, take) – transport, support
- PRESS (press, push) – impress, express
- SPECT (see, look) – respect, prospect
- VERT (turn) – revert, convert

# Abstract Nouns

- represent an idea, experience or quality  
eg. advice, happiness

## Suffixes in abstract nouns

- ✓ -ment – achievement
- ✓ -ion – affection
- ✓ -ness – kindness
- ✓ -ity – curiosity
- ✓ -ship – friendship
- ✓ -dom – freedom
- ✓ -th – depth
- ✓ -hood - childhood



# Compound Adjective

- has two parts
- usually written with a hyphen  
eg. well-dressed, never-ending

Personal appearance

eg. curly-haired, blue-eyed, left-handed

Personality and character

eg. absent-minded, easy-going, good-tempered

Prepositions and particles

eg. all-out, built-up, well-off

Collocations (noun-collocations)

eg. air-conditioned, bullet-proof, cut-price, duty-free

# Compound Nouns (noun+noun)

- fixed expression
- written in two words
- functions as a noun
  - eg. human being, science fiction
- main stress on the first part of the compound
  - eg. **alarm** clock, **credit** card

# Compound Nouns (Contd.)

- can be countable, uncountable  
eg. bus stop (countable), birth control (uncountable)
- compound nouns used only in the singular  
eg. arms race, death penalty
- Compound nouns used only in the plural  
eg. grass roots, traffic lights

# Compound Nouns (verb+preposition)

- based on phrasal verb  
eg. takeover
- used in journalism, economy, aspects of modern and general circumstances  
eg. walkout, breakout, breakthrough

# Binomials

- two words joined by a conjunction  
eg. odds and ends, give and take
- pairs of near synonyms  
eg. pick and choose, leaps and bounds
- grammar words combine to form binomials  
eg. here and there, on and off
- binomials linked by words other than 'and'  
eg. back to front, sink or swim, slowly but surely

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

- ✓ Abbreviations produced as individual letters
  - BBC - British Broadcasting Company
  - FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation
- ✓ Abbreviations pronounced as words
  - NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
  - AWOL – absent without leave
- ✓ Clippings
  - kilo – kilogram
  - gig – gigabyte
- ✓ Written abbreviations
  - PTO – Please turn over
  - RIP – Rest in peace

# Multi-word Expressions

## ➤ Idioms

eg. to fall under the weather – has seen better days

## ➤ Organising multi-word expression

### ▪ Grouping by grammar

eg. be over the moon, be in the red

### ▪ Grouping by meaning

eg. as daft as a brush, as good as gold

### ▪ Grouping by a verb or key word

eg. expressions with 'make' - make a meal out of,  
make a move

## ➤ Grammar of multi-word expression

eg. barking up the wrong tree

# Words commonly mispronounced

## Silent letters

p – **p**sychic; b – comb**b**; l – cou**l**d; h –  
**h**onour;

t – whist**t**le; k – **k**nee; r – card**r**d

## Changing stress

noun – first syllable stressed

verb – second syllable stressed



# Onomatopoeic words

- Words which sound like their meaning
- Verbs for the noises which animals make  
eg. cows moo, lions roar
- Letters, sounds and their associations  
eg. gr – groaning, grumbling  
cl – click, clang; sp – splash, spurt  
wh – whistled, whizzed  
-ash – smash, crash

# Homophones and Homographs

## Homophones

- Words with same pronunciation but different meaning and spelling  
eg. meat – meet, grate – great

## Homographs

- Words with same spelling but different meanings and pronunciations  
eg. row (argument) – row (line of seats)

# Queries and Discussion