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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)
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CLASS IX & X
ENGLISH GRAMMAR
PART II
LESSON 15
WORD FORMATION

NOTES

In linguistics, **Word Formation** is the creation of a new word. Word-formation is carried out in different ways in English. Sometimes two or more words are joined together to form new words. In Some cases, affixes are attached to some words to form new words. Some of the different types of Word Formation processes are Compounding, Inflexion, Derivation and Affixation. Below some cases are given:

Formation of Verbs from Nouns

Nouns	Verbs
Act	enact
Character	Characterize
Furniture	Furnish
President	Preside
Signature	Sign

Formation of Nouns from Verbs

Verbs	Nouns
Abolish	Abolition
Bear	Birth
Compel	Compulsion
Exist	Existence
Remember	Remembrance

Formation of words by adding Prefixes

a. The Prefix 'il-' is added to words beginning with 'l'.

Example: il- + legal= illegal

   il- + literate = illiterate

b. The Prefix 'ir-' is added to words beginning with 'r'.

Example: ir- + resolute   = irresolute

   ir- + responsible = irresponsible

c. The Prefix 'im-' is added to words beginning with 'b', 'm' and 'p'.

Example: im- + balance = imbalance

   im- + mature = immature

   im- + pure   = impure

d. The Prefix 'un-' is added to normally to adjectives and participles.

Example: un- + happy = unhappy

   un- + told   = untold

e. The Prefix 'non-' is added to nouns, adjectives etc.

Example: non- + vegetarian = non-vegetarian

   non- + refundable = non-refundable

f. The Prefix 'in -' is added normally to Adjectives and occasionally to Abstract Nouns.

Example: in- + active   = inactive

   in- + equality = inequality

Formation of Words by adding Suffixes

a. Formation of Abstract Nouns by adding suffixes.

Example: -age: baggage,

   -hood: childhood

   -ship: dictatorship

b. Formation of Common Nouns by adding suffixes.

Example: -ard: drunkard

                -ee: absentee

                -ist: dentist

c. Formation of Verbs by adding suffixes

Example: -en: broaden

                -fy: beautify

Formation of Words by joining two or more words together which is called Compounding.

Example: air + way = airway

                black + board = blackboard

(Note: Not all prefixes and suffixes follow a regular pattern. Also after adding them, we may find changes in the spelling.)

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