

Technical Vocabulary

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1. Technical Vocabulary:

Using words in contexts – use of suffixes to form nouns from verbs and adjectives,

1.1 What is Technical Vocabulary?

Technical Vocabulary is the specialized vocabulary of any field which evolves due to the need for experts in a field to communicate with clarity, precision, relevance and brevity. Prior to developing your technical vocabulary, to improve your general vocabulary in English is very essential. The thirst to learn new words, should be a continuous process; whenever you learn new words, try your best to use them while you communicate so that the words register in your mind.

There are different strategies you can adopt to learn the words. Learn by knowing their origin. A dictionary is an invaluable tool to build your vocabulary. Sometimes you infer the meaning of a word from the context; but the meaning may not be exact. Only the dictionary would provide with the exact meaning.



Once you have learnt to use the dictionary, you can improve your vocabulary in various ways. The most important one is word formation. Some of the methods of word formation are blending, compounding, coinage, borrowing clipping, etc.

It is only in the process of derivation, the form of the word changes. This derivation takes place with the help of affixes. Small bits of the English language are affixed to root words. Some of the affixes are **un, mis, pre, ful, less**, etc. Affixes can be divided into two categories:

Prefixes

Suffixes.

1.1.1 Word Formation:

How words are formed?

Words are formed from existing ones by adding smaller units either at the beginning (*prefix*) or at the end (*suffix*) of an existing word.

1.1.2 Principles of word formation:

- Affixation – Adding a unit/smaller word at the beginning (prefix) or end (suffix) of an existing word.

- Conversion

- Compounding

In this lesson we shall learn about Suffixes.

1.2 SUFFIX

Suffixation is adding a new unit/word at the end of an existing word.

Suffix often alters the word class of the base word.

We shall now learn some important aspects of suffixation. Suffixes can alter the word-

class of the base ;

For e.g. “KIND” (root word – adjective) becomes “KINDNESS”(abstract noun) on adding „ - *ness*“ as a suffix.

Let us now see some examples of suffixes that change the word-class

Common suffixes that alter word class –

1.3 NOUN to NOUN

☐ ster – gang/gangster

☐ er- teenage/teenager

☐ eer – profiteer (profit)

☐ ette – kitchenette/ kitchen

1.4 VERBS TO NOUNS

☐er – work – worker

☐ing – drive – driving

☐age – cover – coverage

1.5 NOUN TO VERBS

☐en – length – lengthen

☐fy – beauty – beautify

☐ze – apology – apologize

1.6 NOUN TO ADJECTIVE

□-ful – cheer – cheerful

□-less – care – careless

□-ish – child – childish

1.7 ADJECTIVES TO NOUNS

□-ness – bitter- bitterness

□-th – deep – depth

□-ce – distant – distance

1.8 VERBS TO ADJECTIVES

□-ent – obey – obedient

□-ant – please – pleasant

□-tive – attend – attentive

1.9 LESS COMMON SUFFIXES

Less common suffixes associated with abstract nouns include

□-ship – own – ownership

□-dom – free – freedom

□-th – deep – depth

hood – adult – adulthood

1.10 COMPOUND ADJECTIVES:

Adjectives made up of two parts, usually written with a hyphen.

Examples – „well-dressed“, „never-ending

Its meaning is clear from the word it combines.

The second part of the word is usually a present or past participle.

A large number of compound adjectives are used to describe personal appearances and characters. (blue-eyed, curly-haired, easy-going, good-natured)

In some compound adjectives, the second word is often a preposition. For e.g.

an all-out strike

a broken-down bus

a well-off gentleman

Animation



TECHNICAL ENGLISH

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The interface consists of a vertical column of nine blue, rounded rectangular buttons on the left. To the right is a large green rounded rectangle with a red border. Inside the green area, the text "Formation of words" is at the top, and "Click any one button" is centered. A play button icon is located at the bottom left of the button column.

Formation of words

Click any one button

Animation by,
C.Bharathy, Assisnant Professor, SASTRA University

Fig 1.1 Formation of Words

Click any one button

Note : Can be viewed only on Acrobat Reader 9.0 and above

1.11 ASSIGNMENT

Write two sentences using the words given below to bring out their difference in meaning when they are used as noun and as verb.

Conduct

Record

Produce

Project

Delight

1.11.1 ANSWERS

Seetha is known for her good **conduct**(**noun**)

The entrance exam was **conducted** in an efficient manner.(**verb**)

The champion broke his own **record** (**noun**)

I **recorded** my teacher's speech.(**verb**)

The **producer** was thrilled at his movie's success.(**noun**)

The village school has **produced** some of the best scholars in their district.(**verb**)

The Engineering students generally submit excellent **projects**.(**noun**)

The iron rods were **projecting** on both sides of an incomplete building.(**verb**)

Watching cartoons seems to be a great **delight** even to some old people(**noun**)

I was **delighted** to hear that I won the first prize in the painting competition.(**verb**)