

Welcome to English Language

DO IT NOW:

1. Write down as many words/phrases as possible to replace the word 'drunk' e.g. 'hammered'
2. Once you have a list, note down who is likely to say which of these terms (i.e. you/parents/grandparents)
3. In what situations/contexts would they be used? To whom? (i.e. would you use the same language with friends as you would to a police officer?)

English Language – What is it all about?

- Explore real life texts – language and context
- Language Levels – lexis, grammar, phonology, pragmatics, discourse structure, graphology
- Language Change over time
- Child Language Acquisition
- Other Key Areas of Language – Gender, Occupation, Accent and Dialect, Political Correctness, World Englishes

The Course

- Mrs Sizmur
- Mrs Tovey

- 2 Years – Linear

- 2 Exams
- 1 NEA: non-examined assessment (Language Investigation)

Formality / Register

Number your list in rank order from **most formal to least formal**.

Try applying some lexical labels to them. Do you have examples for each of the following terms? If not, can you add some for the categories you don't yet have?

formal	technical	informal
colloquial	impolite	slang
taboo	dialect/regional	'posh slang'
old fashioned	older people's slang	youth slang

Extension: consider how mode (spoken/written) might also affect lexical choice. Are you more/less likely to say or write your choices?

There are eight main ways of forming new words in English. Here they are!

- **Affixation**: adding affixes (prefixes or suffixes) to an existing word.
- **Compounding**: two words are stuck together in their entirety to make a new word.
- **Blending**: two words are moulded together to form a new word, usually by sticking together the start of one word with the end of another.
- **Shortening**: chopping a bit off the end of a word.
- **Backformation** (the most complicated). This is when you follow a regular rule for the formation of a word, and assume that all words that appear to be the same follow this rule. So language users form a new word by going backwards in the rule.

It's easiest to see this from examples:

revision = revise + ion } would make you think that television = televise + ion
supervision = supervise + ion }

In fact it doesn't, and you have **backformed** the word televise.

- **Conversion**: changing a word class (eg from noun to verb, verb to noun etc).
- **Acronymisation**: taking the initial letters of words and making them into a combination pronounceable as a new word.
- **Proper names**: when the brand name of a product becomes synonymous with the product itself.

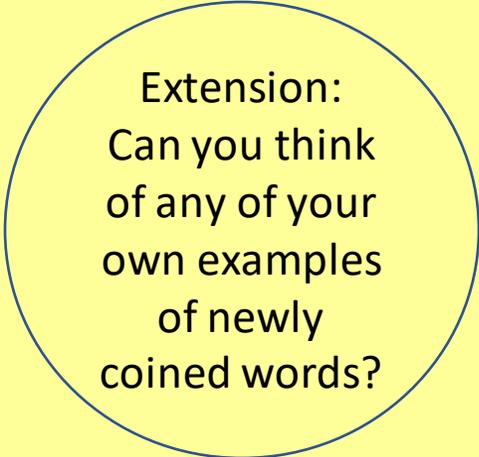
EXT: Can you think of any other examples of neologisms (new words) to add to the list?

Explain the process in which they were formed.

Here are some examples of new words or expressions that have been formed in English in recent years. Can you work out how some of them have been created?

Biro
process (verb)
NASA
fomo
Hoover
cross-trainer
taxi
scuba
skateboard
pre-cook
bro
sarcastrophe
schizo
televise

veg out
laugh (noun)
sandwich
artsy
swindle
gearhead
fro-yo
diss
mare (as in "English was a mare today")
chav
do-gooder
brainstorming
flu
brunch



Extension:
Can you think
of any of your
own examples
of newly
coined words?

Attitudes to Language

- With a pair, work through the statements and determine your feelings towards accents.

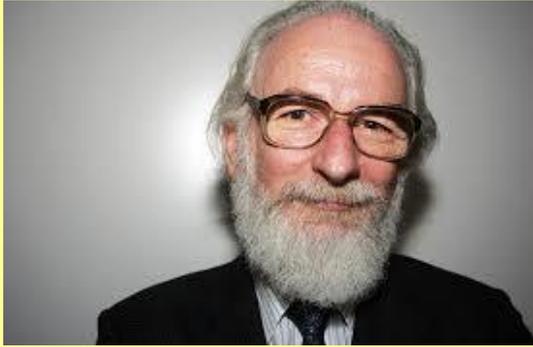
Attitudes

Are you prescriptivist or descriptivist?

Decide whether you agree with this to help you work it out:

*The phrase I've watched seep into the language (especially with broadcasters) is "**two-time**" and "**three-time**". Have the words double, triple etc, been totally lost? Grammatically it makes no sense, and is even worse when spoken. My pulse rises every time I hear or see it. Which is not healthy as it's almost every day now. Argh!*

D Rochelle, Bath



“Texting has added a new dimension to language use, but its long-term impact is negligible. It is not a disaster.”
David Crystal



“The rule is: don’t use commas like a stupid person. I mean it.”
Lynne Truss

Who are you with?

