



Talkin' ' bout my
generation

Homework

Read the article 'Bridget Jones deserved better' (on Moodle).

Find 5 examples of **compound** words.

Find 5 examples of words which have been made **using affixation** (derivation).

Helen Fielding's ditzy heroine was all the rage when she was introduced to American audiences in 1998. Today, her nuttiness and self-loathing read like a relic from another time.

America (n) → American (adj)

nuttiness → nut (n) → nutty (adj) → nuttiness (n)

self-loathing → self + loathing

Learning Objectives

- To discuss different generations and the generation gap
- To build vocabulary
- Reading comprehension
- To develop understanding of suffixes and prefixes

Affixation and allomorphs

Review and develop our understanding of affixation.

Quick Review

What do you remember about affixation from last week?

1. Affixation is when we add a **[a]** (at the end of the word) or a **[b]** (at the beginning of the word) to a base or **[c]** word to change the meaning or the part of speech.
2. Affixation is also called **[d]**.
3. This type of word formation is either **[e]** or **[f]**, for example when a verb becomes a noun.
4. Prefixes are usually **[g]**.
5. Suffixes are usually **[h]**.

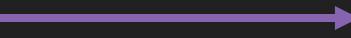
Quick Review

1. Affixation is when we add a **suffix** (at the end of the word) or a **prefix** (at the beginning of the word) to a base or **root** word to change the meaning or the part of speech.
2. This is also called **derivational morphology**.
3. This type of word formation is either **class-preserving** or **class-changing**, for example when a verb becomes a noun.
4. Prefixes are usually **class-preserving**.
5. Suffixes are usually **class-changing**.

Inflectional Morphology

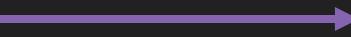
- Last we looked at **derivational morphology**, or how affixation is used to change the meaning of a word or its word class.
- **Inflectional** is when a morpheme is added to give grammatical information (eg. -s for 3rd person singular present tense verbs).

like



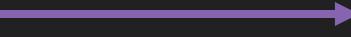
She likes /s/

pay



She pays /z/

use



She uses /ɪz/

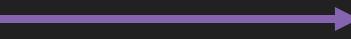
Do these
endings sound
the same?

You can use websites
like tophonetics.com to
check!

Inflectional Morphology

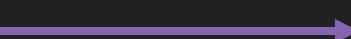
- Let's look at another example:

like



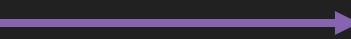
She likeded /t/

pay



She paidd /d/

want



She wanted /ɪd/

When a morpheme has more than one form, it's called an allomorph.

An allomorph can be a change in sound or spelling.

-s allomorphs

cat	→	cats	/kæts/
dog	→	dogs	dɒgz
roof	→	rooves	rU:vz
excuse	→	excuses	ɪk 'skjU:sɪz

The plural endings that follow regular patterns (s / es / ves) and their sound variants (s / z) can be thought of as versions of the same bound morpheme.
This is called an **allomorph**.

Allomorphs

- Allomorphs are equally found in **derivational morphology** (suffixes and prefixes).
- Consider the following words:

illegal	ineligible
irrelevant	intolerant
impossible	insecure
immoral	infamous
impatient	injury

inactive	imbalance
indeterminate	immature
illogical	irregular
imbalance	injudicious
ingrate	incongruous

What does the prefix mean?

What are the allomorphs of this prefix?

Can you write a rule for when I use each allomorph?

In- / im- / il- / ir- allomorphs

elegant	→	inelegant	<i>in- (most common)</i>
polite	→	impolite	<i>im- before /m/, /b/, /p/</i>
legible	→	illegible	<i>il- before morpheme with /l/</i>
regular	→	irregular	<i>ir- before morpheme with /r/</i>

We can think of in-, im-, il-, and ir- as versions of the same bound morpheme.

Allomorphs

Consider these pairs of words:

sign

signature

design

designation

resign

resignation

What part of speech do they belong to?

What sounds change?

Can you write a rule for the change in sound?

Generation gap

How many generations can you name?

Skimming and Scanning

In pairs / threes
5 mins

Read the questions below.

Now skim and scan the text for answers.

1. According to the text, which two generations are the most misunderstood and mislabelled.
2. Which generation fought in World War II?
3. Which generation is described as a ‘bridge’ between older and younger populations?
4. Which two generations have had contact with social media their whole lives?
5. Which generation is often used (incorrectly) to refer to anyone in their 20s?

Skimming and Scanning

Read the questions below.

Now skim and scan the text for answers.

1. According to the text, which two generations are the most misunderstood and mislabelled? Baby Boomers / Millennials
2. Which generation fought in World War II? The Greatest Generation
3. Which generation is described as a ‘bridge’ between older and younger populations? Generation X
4. Which two generations have had contact with social media their whole lives? Gen Z / Gen Alpha
5. Which generational group is often used (incorrectly) to refer to anyone in their 20s? Millennials

Language and Culture

In pairs / threes
7-10 mins

1. Which country do you think this text was written in? What cultural clues are there?
2. What is the effect of the use of the word ‘folks’?
3. Find as many multi-word verbs (phrasal verbs) as you can.
4. What is the effect of using the word ‘expose’ when the author says that Gen Z has been ‘exposed to social media’. Do you agree with the implications?
5. Do you agree with the author’s characterization of tensions between generations? Do you think there are any other tensions?

Discussion

What's the 'generation gap'?

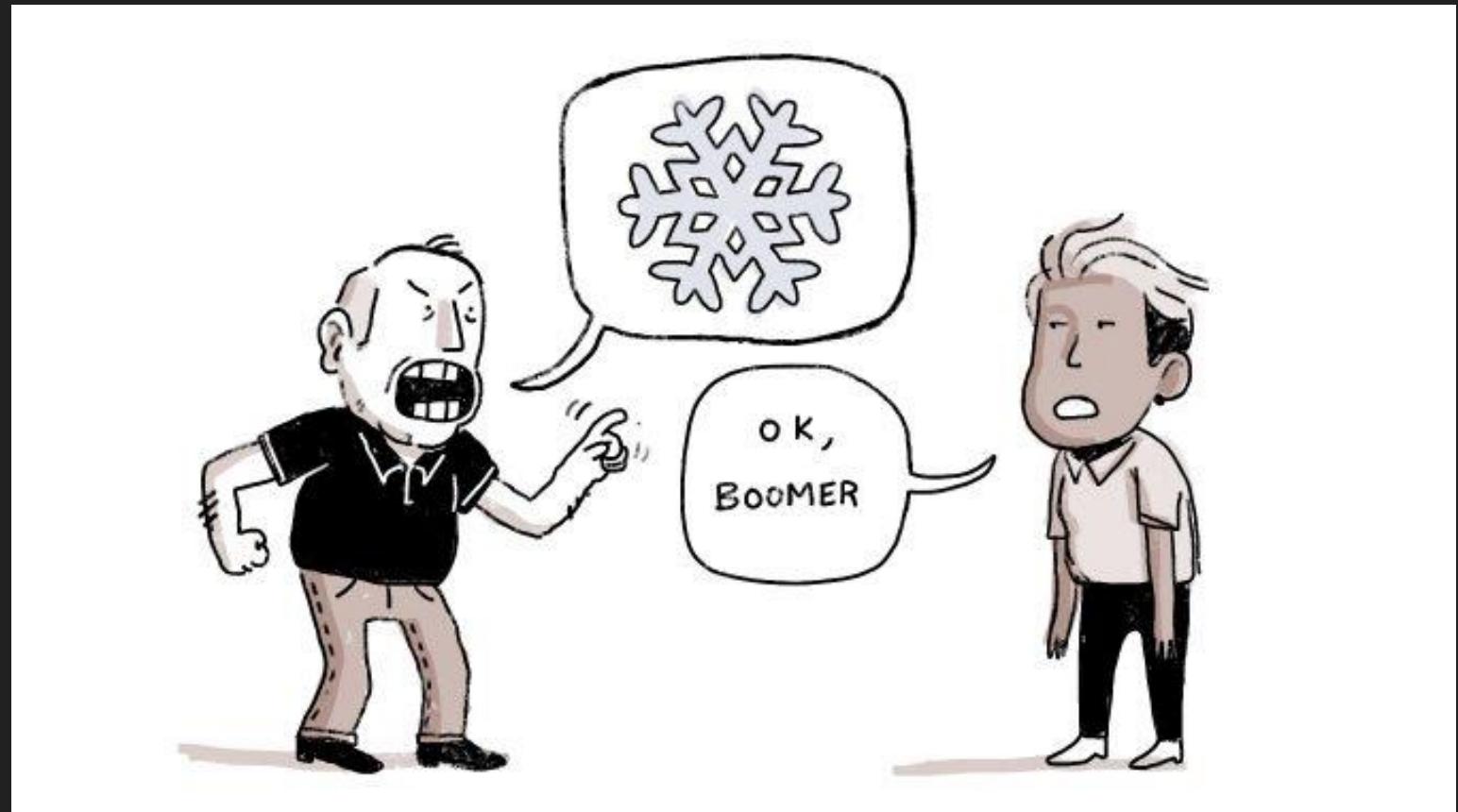
The Generation Gap

Snowflake:

an insult, used to mean that a person is too easily insulted or is too sensitive to opinions.

Ok boomer:

A catchphrase and internet meme used to dismiss or mock attitudes associated with baby boomers.



Millennial Snowflakes

- Chuck Palahniuk is often credited with the modern pejorative use of “snowflake” in his 1996 novel *Fight Club*, but this has been questioned.
- The term “special snowflake” was used pejoratively to refer to young people who are allegedly overly convinced of their own uniqueness and individuality (like a snowflake).
- The term “snowflake generation” was popularized around 2016 and refers particularly to a generation seen as being less resilient and more likely to take offence.

Vocabulary

To squander - to waste

pumping gas – distribute petrol at a petrol station

wait tables – to work as a waitress / waiter

to be raised on – to grow up with a specific input (to be brought up on)

To break a rule – to do something you shouldn't (eg. talk about fight club)

To bend a rule – to break a rule in a way that is unimportant or not harmful

White collar workers – typically office work (you might wear a white collared shirt)

Blue collar workers – work involving manual labour (you might wear blue jeans / dark, durable clothing) – offensive in some contexts.

Fight Club

work as a waiter

to waste

distribute petrol

I look around, I look around, I see a lot of new faces. Shut up! Which means a lot of you have been breaking the first two rules of fight club.

Man, I see in fight club the strongest and smartest men who've ever lived. I see all this potential, and I see squandering. God damn it, an entire generation pumping gas, waiting tables; slaves with white collars. Advertising has us chasing cars and clothes, working jobs we hate so we can buy shit we don't need. We're the middle children of history, man. No purpose or place. We have no Great War. No Great Depression. Our Great War's a spiritual war... our Great Depression is our lives. We've all been raised on television to believe that one day we'd all be millionaires, and movie gods, and rock stars. But we won't. And we're slowly learning that fact. And we're very, very pissed off.

office workers

grow up with a specific input

The Middle Children of History

1. What do you think Tyler means by 'the middle children of history'?
2. Tyler would be a Millennial in the film. Do you think he represents the voice of his generation? Or of an older generation? Or both?
3. *Fight Club* was written in 1996. The film is from 1999. Do you think this speech is still relevant today? Why? Why not?
4. What sort of tensions are there between your generation and older generations?
5. Do you think your generation has an equivalent film about generational angst?

In pairs / threes
6 mins.

Homework

Look at the following words:

- a. What prefix is added to the verb to make it a noun?
- b. Are there any changes in sound / spelling?
- c. What are the allomorphs?
- d. Can you write a rule for when we use each allomorph?

Go to tophonetica.com to check sound changes.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Opt → option	Obsess → obsession	Invade → invasion
Act → action	Express → expression	Persuade → persuasion
Delineate → delineation	Discuss → discussion	Erode → erosion
Sedate → sedation		