



## THE WAYS OF WORD FORMATION IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES.

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### ABSTRACT

*Word formation is a fundamental aspect of linguistics, as it allows languages to expand their vocabulary and adapt to new concepts. Both English and Uzbek use a variety of methods to create new words, but the specific techniques they employ are influenced by their different linguistic structures. English, as a Germanic language with influences from Latin and French, and Uzbek, as a Turkic language with agglutinative characteristics, have some similarities and notable differences in how they form words. This article explores the primary methods of word formation in both English and Uzbek, with a focus on their similarities and distinctions.*

Word formation is a fundamental process in any language, enabling speakers to create new words and expand their vocabulary. Both English and Uzbek, while belonging to different language families—English being a Germanic language and Uzbek a Turkic language—share several key methods for forming words, though they do so in ways that reflect their distinct grammatical structures. The main methods of word formation in both languages include derivation, compounding, and borrowing. These processes allow each language to generate new terms, express nuanced meanings, and adapt to changes in society, technology, and culture.

**1. Derivation** is the process of creating new words by adding prefixes or suffixes to an existing word (root or base form). This method is common in both English and Uzbek, although the way affixes are used differs. In English, derivation typically involves the use of prefixes and suffixes to form new words. The prefix is added at the beginning of the root word, while the suffix is added to the end. Examples:

- Happy → Unhappy (Prefix: un-)
- Care → Careful (Suffix: -ful)
- Comfort → Discomfort (Prefix: dis-)

Uzbek also uses derivational affixes, but as an agglutinative language, it often combines multiple suffixes in a single word, which are added sequentially. Uzbek has an extensive system of suffixes that express grammatical relations and meanings. Examples:

- Yaxshi (good) → Yaxshilash (improvement, where “-lash” forms a verb indicating the process)
- Kitob (book) → Kitobxona (library, where “-xona” means a place)
- Odam (man) → Odamlar (people, plural suffix -lar)

**2. Compounding** refers to the process of creating new words by combining two or more existing words. Both English and Uzbek commonly use this technique. English compounds are often formed by joining two independent words to create a new concept. These compounds can be written as a single word (closed compounds), two words (open compounds), or hyphenated words. Examples:

- Tooth + Brush → Toothbrush
- Foot + Ball → Football
- Post + Office → Post office (open compound)

Compounding is also prevalent in Uzbek, though the words are usually combined without spaces or hyphens. Uzbek compounds frequently describe objects or concepts in a straightforward manner. Examples:

- Telefon (telephone) + raqam (number) → Telefonraqam (phone number)
- Yulduz (star) + to‘p (ball) → Yulduzto‘p (soccer ball)
- Bosh (head) + qosh (eyebrow) → Boshqosh (forehead)

**3. Borrowing.** Both English and Uzbek regularly incorporate loanwords from other languages. However, due to historical and cultural differences, the sources of borrowing differ significantly. English has borrowed extensively from many languages throughout its history, especially Latin, French, Germanic languages, and more recently, global technological terms. These borrowed words often retain their original forms with minimal changes. Examples:

- Café (from French)
- Telephone (from Greek)
- Chocolate (from Nahuatl via Spanish)

Uzbek has borrowed extensively from Russian, Arabic, Persian, and Turkish, especially during the Soviet period and the historical influence of Islam. Often, borrowed words are adapted to fit Uzbek phonology and grammar. Examples:

- Kompyuter (computer, from Russian)
- Maktab (school, from Arabic “maktab”)
- Telefon (telephone, from Russian)

**4. Conversion (Zero Derivation),** also known as zero derivation, is the process by which a word changes its grammatical category without any change in form. This process is quite common in English but less so in Uzbek. In English, words can easily change from one part of speech to another without the addition of an affix. Examples:

- Noun to verb: Google (noun) → to google (verb)

- Adjective to noun: Fast (adjective) → The fast (noun, as in “the fast of Ramadan”)
- Verb to noun: Run (verb) → Run (noun, as in “a morning run”)

In Uzbek, conversion is less common. Instead, the language typically relies on derivation through suffixes to indicate the grammatical function of a word. Examples:

- Odam (man) → Odamlar (people, plural suffix -lar)
- Yordam (help) → Yordamchi (helper, with the suffix “-chi” forming an agent noun).

**5. Back-formation** is a method of creating a new word by removing an affix from an existing word, typically creating a word of a different part of speech. Back-formation is relatively common in English, where affixes are removed to form new words. Examples:

- Editor (noun) → Edit (verb)
- Baker (noun) → Bake (verb)

In Uzbek, back-formation is less common because words are more often modified through the addition of suffixes rather than removal. However, similar processes can happen in informal speech or in specialized vocabulary. Examples:

- Kuch (strength) → Kuchli (strong, by adding a suffix to indicate an adjective)
- Ko‘r (see) → Ko‘rish (to see, where a verb root is modified with the suffix “-ish” for the verb form)

**6. Blending** is the process of combining parts of two words to create a new one. While this is more common in modern English, it is less frequently used in Uzbek. English speakers often blend parts of two words to create a new term, especially in informal or technological contexts. Examples:

- Brunch (breakfast + lunch)
- Smog (smoke + fog)
- Motel (motor + hotel)

Blending is not as common in Uzbek as it is in English. However, some modern, especially technical, terms may follow this pattern. Examples:

- Avto (auto) + mashina (car) → Avtomashina (automobile)
- Internet + do‘kon (store) → Internet-do‘kon (online store)

## Conclusion

Both English and Uzbek share several common methods of word formation, including derivation, compounding, and borrowing. However, their differences lie primarily in the structural features of the languages: English tends to rely on affixation and conversion, whereas Uzbek, with its agglutinative nature, makes extensive use of suffixes to create meaning. Additionally, while English frequently uses processes like back-formation and blending, these processes are less common in Uzbek. Understanding these differences and similarities enhances our appreciation for how languages evolve and adapt, enriching their vocabulary and reflecting cultural influences.

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