

# Lexis: Word Formation

i.e. the various ways in which new words (or neologisms) are formed

# Words formed from existing words

- **Affixing** – involves adding prefixes or suffixes  
unhappy disinterested selfie
- **Compounding** – when words are combined to form a new, larger word or expression  
tooth+paste=toothpaste
- **Blends** – parts of words are joined together to form a new word  
moobs, movember, mankini
- **Conversion** – when the word class of a word changes, creating a new use for the word  
Text (noun) to text (verb)

# Words formed by shortening

- **Abbreviation or Clipping** – a new word is formed by shortening an existing word

PLANE

- **Acronym** – words formed from the initial letters or parts of existing words

Laser: light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation

Interpol: International Criminal Police Organization

NATO:

- **Initialism** – words abbreviated to their initial letters – BBC/NSPCC
- **Eponym** -Words from names – words derived from the names of people or places : DYSON, HOOVER, HAMBURGER

# Now you try.....

How many more examples can you come up with?

Here are a couple to start you off:

Moobs

Facebook

Twitter

## **CHALLENGE!**

Create a brand new word using one of the methods we have explored. Be prepared to introduce your word, describe the method of creation and define it's meaning.