

## **Lecture No. 7 (Second Year)**

### **Chapter Eleven: Compound Words (pages-82-87)**

After dealing with the first type of complex words, which is words made up of a stem and an affix, now we want to deal with the second type of complex words, which is compound words.

- **What is a compound word?**

A compound word is two or more words that are combined together to make a new word, and each one of these words can stand independently as an English word.

- **How to write a compound word?**

A compound word is written in different ways.

1. As one word "armchair"
2. Words separated by a hyphen "arm-chair"
3. Words separated by a space "arm chair"

- **Where do we normally put the stress, on the first word or the second word?**

First we need to divide compound words based on their constituents i.e. the grammatical category of the words the compound word includes.

1. The compound includes two nouns (noun+ noun)

Stress is on the first word " 'sunrise "

Most compounds in English are stressed on the first word, however, some compounds are stressed on the second, and the first word will only take secondary stress. Consider the following cases.

2. The compound is an adjectival and the second word ends with –ed morpheme.

Stress is on the second element " bad- 'tempered "

3. A compound with a number as its first element.

Stress is on the second element " three- 'wheeler "

4. Compounds functioning as adverbs.

Stress is on the second word " down- 'stream "

5. Compounds functioning as verbs and have an adverb as their first element.

Stress is on the second word " back- 'pedal "

- **Is stress fixed or changing in English?**

Stress may change for two reasons:

1. Because of stress on other words surrounding the word in question.

2. Because not all speakers agree on the place of stress on some words.

As an example, the compound word "bad-'tempered" is stressed on the second syllable as in (2) above, but when it is followed by another word that starts with a strong syllable such as "teacher", the stress on "tempered" will be moved to the first word of the compound and changed into secondary stress.

Bad –'tempered ---- ɪbad-tempered 'teacher

### **Word-class pairs (p.87)**

There are several dozens of words that have the same spelling and consist of (**prefix- stem**). These pairs can have different meaning and their part of speech is changed due to the position of stress.

- **The rule:**

If the stress is on the **first part** of the word, it is a **noun** or an **adjective**. Yet, if the stress is on the **second part**, it is a **verb**.

Abstract (a) 'ab**stract** (adjective)

(b) ab'**stract** (verb)

- **Is stress phonemic in the case of word-class pairs?**