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EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
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GYMNÁZIUM  
PRÁCHEŇ

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

III/2-AJ4/1.9/De

## English as the World Language – Student's Worksheet

Try to complete the British equivalent:

- apartment
- ash can
- assignment
- bill
- billfold
- brunch
- buck
- candy
- check
- checkout counter
- chips
- sales clerk
- closet
- diaper
- elevator
- faucet
- filling station
- first floor
- freeway
- garbage
- gas/gasoline
- high school
- homemaker
- icebox
- mail
- to market
- movie
- parking lot
- pharmacy
- railroad
- rest room
- sidewalk
- store
- streetcar/trolley
- subway
- zip code

Read the text and answer the questions:

### WHERE DO NEW WORDS COME FROM?

Where do new words come from? Who makes them up? How do they enter the language? New words have several sources, but simple answer to these questions is that most new English words are derived from other English words, and not made up at all. In fact, two thirds of all new English words come about by joining existing words in a new combination – a process called compounding. Words such as *website*, *airport*, *screensaver* and *football* are everyday examples.

The second most popular method of acquiring new words is to take them from other languages. This is euphemistically known as 'borrowing', although few are ever handed back. Examples of this are *schadenfreude* (pleasure derived from others' misfortune) from German or *shampoo*, *veranda* and *pyjamas* from Hindi.



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## INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

The third method is to load new meaning onto an existing word. These days a *desktop* is at the same time both on your computer and the surface your computer sits on. And a *mouse* is attached to your computer while a *virus* causes devastation inside it.

Another common method of getting new words is shortening of existing words. These days we take *exams*, work out at the *gym*, spend the evening in front of the *telly*, surf the *Net* and send *emails*.

And how does derivation work? Derivation is the process of forming a new word on the basis of an existing word, e.g. *happi-ness* and *un-happy* from *happy*, or *determination* from *determine*. A derivational suffix usually applies to words of one syntactic category and changes them into words of another syntactic category. For example, the English derivational suffix *-ly* changes adjectives into adverbs (*slow* → *slowly*); suffix *-ness* changes adjectives to nouns (*slow* → *slowness*); suffix *-able* changes verbs to adjectives (*drink* → *drinkable*); and *-er* changes verb to noun (*write* → *writer*) and etc.

The last but not the least method is the creation of a word (of a new part of speech) from an existing word (of a different part of speech) without any change in form. This is called conversion. For example: *a drink* – *to drink*; *to watch* – *a watch*...

Once a word has come to life, speakers start adapting its forms by adding an affix her and there and using it as a different part of speech and so on. Eventually, any new word will either survive and find itself in the next edition of the dictionary or disappear without trace. And there is usually no telling which words will suffer which fate. After all, who would have thought four hundred years ago that *excellent*, *majestic* and *monumental* would be among the fifteen hundred or so words that Shakespeare invented that are in use today.