

## Portmanteau words

- **Amtrak** – the US national passenger rail service; from *American* and *track*. "Amtrak connects over 500 destinations across 46 states."
- **Animatronics** – robotic puppets or figures used in film and theme parks; from *animated* and *electronics*. "The dinosaurs in Jurassic Park combined animatronics with early CGI."
- **Biopic** – a film that dramatises the life of a real person; from *biographical* and *picture*. "The biopic about Fela Kuti has been in development for several years."
- **Bollywood** – the Hindi-language film industry based in Mumbai; from *Bombay* and *Hollywood*. "Bollywood produces more films annually than Hollywood and reaches audiences across the globe."
- **Brexit** – the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union; from *Britain* and *exit*. "The word Brexit itself became one of the most searched terms in the world in 2016."
- **Bromance** – a close but non-romantic friendship between two men; from *brother* and *romance*. "The film's central bromance was more convincing than its actual love story."
- **Brunch** – a late-morning meal combining elements of breakfast and lunch; from *breakfast* and *lunch*. "Sunday brunch has become a social ritual for many people in British cities."
- **Camcorder** – a handheld device combining a video camera and a recorder; from *camera* and *recorder*. "The camcorder made home video affordable for ordinary families in the 1980s."
- **Camelopard** – an old English word for a giraffe; from *camel* and *leopard*, reflecting early European attempts to describe the animal. "Medieval scholars called the giraffe a camelopard, believing it to be a hybrid of the two creatures."
- **Chugger** – a person who approaches strangers on the street to solicit charity donations; from *charity* and *mugger*. "She crossed the road to avoid the chuggers outside the shopping centre."
- **Chunnel** – the Channel Tunnel connecting England and France; from *Channel* and *tunnel*. "Taking the Chunnel is faster than flying when you account for airport check-in times."
- **Clickbait** – online content deliberately designed to entice users into following a link; from *click* and *bait*. "The headline was pure clickbait, bearing almost no relation to the article beneath it."
- **Cyborg** – a being combining organic and mechanical components; from *cybernetic* and *organism*. "Science fiction has long imagined a future in which the line between human and cyborg is unclear."

- **Edutainment** – content designed to educate while entertaining; from *education* and *entertainment*. *"The documentary was praised as effective edutainment for younger audiences."*
- **Electrocute** – to injure or kill with an electric current; from *electric* and *execute*. *"The word was coined in 1889 when the electric chair was introduced as a method of execution."*
- **Eyeborg** – a device implanted in the body that extends sensory perception; from *eye* and *cyborg*. *"Artist Neil Harbisson's eyeborg allows him to hear colours as sounds through an antenna in his skull."*
- **Frenemy** – a person who is simultaneously a friend and a rival or adversary; from *friend* and *enemy*. *"The two companies have been frenemies for years, competing in some markets while collaborating in others."*
- **Glamping** – camping with luxurious amenities; from *glamorous* and *camping*. *"The festival offered glamping options including heated tents and proper beds."*
- **Hangry** – bad-tempered as a result of hunger; from *hungry* and *angry*. *"She was getting hangry after waiting two hours for a table."*
- **Hermaphrodite** – an organism or person with both male and female characteristics; from the Greek gods *Hermes* and *Aphrodite*. *"In Greek myth, Hermaphroditus merged with a water nymph to become a single being of both sexes."*
- **Jackalope** – a mythical creature from American folklore depicted as a jackrabbit with antelope horns; from *jackrabbit* and *antelope*. *"Postcards featuring the jackalope have been sold as novelty souvenirs in the American West since the 1930s."*
- **Labradoodle** – a crossbreed dog combining a Labrador retriever and a poodle; developed in Australia in the 1980s. *"The labradoodle was originally bred to be a hypoallergenic guide dog."*
- **Lenovo** – the Chinese technology company; from *Legend* (its original name) and *novo* (Latin for new). *"Lenovo became the world's largest PC manufacturer after acquiring IBM's personal computer division in 2005."*
- **Liger** – the offspring of a male lion and a female tiger; the largest known cat in the world. *"Ligers only exist in captivity, as lions and tigers do not share territory in the wild."*
- **Malware** – software designed to cause damage to a computer; from *malicious* and *software*. *"The malware was embedded in what appeared to be a legitimate software update."*
- **Mansplaining** – the habit of a man explaining something to a woman in a patronising way, typically something she already knows; from *man* and *explaining*. *"His mansplaining reached a new peak when he explained her own research back to her."*

- **Microsoft** – the technology company founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in 1975; from *microcomputer* and *software*. *"The name Microsoft was first used in a letter Gates wrote to Allen in 1975."*
- **Mockumentary** – a film or programme that adopts documentary style to tell a fictional story; from *mock* and *documentary*. *"The Office used the mockumentary format to find comedy in the mundane reality of office life."*
- **Motel** – a roadside hotel designed for motorists; from *motor* and *hotel*. *"They pulled off the highway and checked into a motel for the night."*
- **Movember** – an annual campaign in which men grow moustaches during November to raise awareness of men's health issues; from *moustache* and *November*. *"His Movember moustache raised over five hundred pounds for prostate cancer research."*
- **Muppet** – a puppet character created by Jim Henson; from *marionette* and *puppet*. Also British slang for a foolish person. *"Don't be such a muppet, you had the keys in your hand the whole time."*
- **Netflix** – the global streaming service founded in 1997; from *internet* and *flicks*. *"Netflix began as a DVD postal rental service before pivoting entirely to streaming."*
- **Pixel** – the smallest unit of a digital image; from *pix* (informal for pictures) and *el* (from element). *"A standard HD screen contains over two million pixels arranged in a grid of 1920 by 1080."*
- **Podcast** – a series of digital audio episodes available for download; from *iPod* and *broadcast*. *"The podcast has over two million listeners across more than eighty countries."*
- **Portmanteau** – a word formed by blending parts of two or more words; also a type of large suitcase. *"Smog is a classic portmanteau, blending smoke and fog into a single efficient word."*
- **Romcom** – a film or television genre combining romance and comedy; from *romantic* and *comedy*. *"The romcom peaked in the 1990s with films like Notting Hill and You've Got Mail."*
- **Sitcom** – a television comedy series based on recurring characters in everyday situations; from *situation* and *comedy*. *"Fawlty Towers remains one of the most celebrated British sitcoms ever made."*
- **Smog** – a dense haze caused by pollution; from *smoke* and *fog*. *"Smog levels in the city reached dangerous levels after a week without rain."*
- **Spork** – a utensil combining the bowl of a spoon and the tines of a fork; from *spoon* and *fork*. *"The spork has been a staple of fast food restaurants and school canteens since the 1970s."*
- **Staycation** – a holiday spent at or near home; from *stay* and *vacation*. *"Rising flight prices have made the staycation increasingly popular among British families."*

- **Telethon** – a long broadcast event used to raise money for charity; from *television* and *marathon*. *"Comic Relief's telethon has raised hundreds of millions of pounds since 1988."*
- **Tigon** – the offspring of a male tiger and a female lion; the reciprocal cross to the liger. *"Tigons are smaller than ligers and are even rarer in captivity."*
- **Verizon** – the American telecommunications company formed in 2000; from *veritas* (Latin for truth) and *horizon*. *"Verizon was created from the merger of Bell Atlantic and GTE."*
- **Voluntourism** – travel combined with voluntary charitable work; from *volunteer* and *tourism*. *"She spent three weeks on a voluntourism project building schools in rural Cambodia."*
- **Webinar** – an online presentation or workshop; from *web* and *seminar*. *"The webinar attracted over three thousand participants from thirty countries."*
- **Wholphin** – a rare hybrid of a false killer whale and an Atlantic bottlenose dolphin. *"Only a handful of wholphins have ever been documented, all in captivity."*
- **Wikipedia** – a free online encyclopaedia edited collaboratively; from *wiki* (Hawaiian for quick) and *encyclopaedia*. *"Wikipedia has become the first point of reference for millions of people seeking quick information."*
- **Workaholic** – a person who compulsively works excessively; from *work* and *alcoholic*. *"She was such a workaholic that she answered emails on Christmas Day."*
- **Yelp** – the crowd-sourced review platform founded in 2004; from *yellow pages* and *help*. *"Before choosing a restaurant, she checked its Yelp reviews going back three years."*
- **Zonkey** – a hybrid of a zebra and a donkey; from *zebra* and *donkey*. *"A zonkey born in a Mexican zoo in 2013 attracted worldwide media attention."*
- **Zorse** – a hybrid of a zebra and a horse; from *zebra* and *horse*. *"Like most zebra hybrids, the zorse inherits the zebra's characteristic stripes."*