

Lesson 7: Portmanteau Words**★ All-STAR Readers Know**

A **portmanteau word** is formed by combining two words. It is sometimes called a blended word. Unlike compound words, portmanteau words drop some letters when two words are blended.

smoke + fog = smog **internal + communication = intercom**

Solve It! Write the portmanteau word from the box that best completes each sentence. Then circle the two words that formed it.

blotch **brash** **brunch** **emoticon** **flare**
flurry **fortnight** **gasohol** **glimmer** **motel**

- 1 You can park your **motor** vehicle at a smaller **hotel** called a **motel**.
- 2 Snow that comes down in a **flutter** and a **hurry** is a **flurry**.
- 3 When you combine **breakfast** with **lunch**, you eat **brunch**.
- 4 A faint **gleam** with a brief **shimmer** is a **glimmer**.
- 5 When you drop a **blot** of paint and **botch** a painting job, you make a **blotch** on the work.
- 6 A **flame** that causes a brief, bright **glare** is a **flare**.
- 7 Some vehicles run on a combination of **gas** and **alcohol** called **gasohol**.
- 8 When you want to describe the time span that takes place within **fourteen** **nights**, you can use the old-fashioned term **fortnight**.
- 9 A **bold** and **rash** move is **brash**.
- 10 An **emotion** shown as an **icon** is an **emoticon**.

Portmanteau Words

Objectives

Students will

- understand what portmanteau words are and identify them in oral and written activities.
- correctly write and spell portmanteau words to best complete sentences.



5-STAR Pointers

1 Activating Prior Knowledge

Remind students that there are various shortened forms of words, such as contractions and clipped words. Show students a science fiction book. Share a brief summary of the book, making it clear what genre it is. Ask students if they have ever heard of *science fiction* and write the phrase on the board. Ask students if they can think of a shorter way to write or say *science fiction*. Write *sci-fi* on the board.

2 Introducing the Lesson

Read aloud the **All-STAR Readers Know** box on page 187. Write the examples on an overhead. Emphasize that not just any letters can be dropped from each of the two words that are combined to form a portmanteau word; each word portion should make sense and sound correct once combined (*smog* sounds more sensible than *foke*). Explain that portmanteau words are usually informal and some require hyphens.

3 Guided Practice

Write these word equations, without the answers, on an overhead:
motorcycle + *crossing* = *motocross*;
website + *camera* = *webcam*; *slow* + *motion* = *slo-mo*; and *simultaneous* +

Name _____

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Unit 6: Word Origins 187

broadcast = *simulcast*. Select students to complete each equation. Discuss any errors as a class.

4 Informal Assessment

Observe students during guided practice. Do they understand how to form portmanteau words? Do they avoid participation? Use the **All-STAR Intervention Strategies** on the next page as needed to reteach or reinforce.

5 Independent Practice

Review the **All-STAR Readers Know** box on page 187. Assign pages 187 and 188. Read aloud each activity's directions. Observe students as they finish the pages. Assess each student's understanding. Discuss the **Think & Link** on page 188.

Lesson 7: Portmanteau Words

Solve It! Put the boldfaced word parts together to form a portmanteau word. Write the word in the blank.

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------|-------------|
| 1 | haggle + tussle = | _____ | hassle |
| 2 | motor + pedal = | _____ | moped |
| 3 | information + commercial = | _____ | infomercial |
| 4 | chuckle + snort = | _____ | chortle |
| 5 | International + network = | _____ | Internet |
| 6 | blow + spurt = | _____ | blurt |
| 7 | globe + blob = | _____ | glob |

Write It! Complete each sentence with a portmanteau word from above.

- 8 Have you found any good jokes on the Internet recently?
- 9 Please don't blurt out the punchline to the joke.
- 10 Some comedians find it a hassle when conversations in the audience are too loud.
- 11 Instead of laughing, some people quietly chortle.
- 12 I saw an infomercial where you could buy the ultimate joke book.
- 13 Do you really think a falling glob of slime is funny?
- 14 I think a clown riding a moped is hilarious.

Think & Link The word *portmanteau* is French for *suitcase*. Just as old-fashioned suitcases have two parts folded into one, so do portmanteau words. The author Lewis Carroll wrote about portmanteau words in his story *Through the Looking-Glass*:

“Well, *slithy* means *lithe* and *slimy*. *Lithe* is the same as *active*. You see, it's like a portmanteau— there are two meanings packed into one word.”

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★★★★★
**All-STAR
Intervention
Strategies**

Visual Reinforcement

Materials: newspaper and magazine articles/advertisements

Provide each student with several appropriate newspaper or magazine articles. Instruct them to search for portmanteau words. Explain that some companies use portmanteau words in their ads to grab readers' attention. Set a time limit. Invite students to share their findings. As a class, discuss the words that are combined to form each portmanteau word.

Auditory Reinforcement

Materials: index cards, markers

Prepare word cards with words such as *landscape*, *phobia*, *technology*, *camera*, *gasoline*, *festival*, and *digital*. Place the word cards facedown on a table. Invite a student to come up, select a card, and start an oral chain story. Students must combine the word on their cards with a word of their own to create a portmanteau word. You might allow them to create combinations that do not exist, but do combine in a sensible way (*techfest*). Direct another student to continue the story, repeating the same process.

English-Language Development Strategies**Portmanteau Words**

English-language learners (ELL) may have difficulty determining the original words that were combined to form a portmanteau word. Pair ELL students with more fluent English-speaking students to find portmanteau words and their origins in a dictionary or using an online source. Examples include *telecast* (*television/broadcast*) and *biochem* (*biology/chemistry*).

**Literature
Connection**

Turner, Dick. *Portmanteau Dictionary: Blend Words in the English Language, Including Trademarks and Brand Names*. McFarland & Company, Inc. Publishers, 1993.

Many recombinant English words are defined. Read aloud several entries from this book. List and discuss portmanteau examples with students.