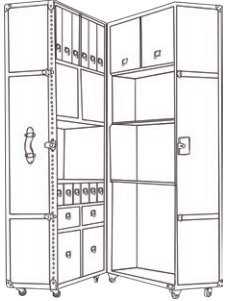


Portmanteau Words - An eVitation to Reconnoitre Evolving English

In this activity, you will be learning about portmanteau words. An example of a portmanteau word being used in Wonder is on page 67, when Mom mentions 'evites'.



English is one of the most versatile and malleable (look it up) languages in the world. It's a language that has influenced and come under the influence of many other languages over the years, usually through invasion or colonisation (look it up!).

And English is still changing. Technology and slang influence English vocabulary so that the language is constantly evolving (look it up!).

Part A

Find synonyms for these words:

Reconnoitre	
Malleable	
Colonisation	
Evolving	
Portmanteau	

Now read the page again from the top.

One way that new words evolve is by mixing parts of two different words to make a new combined word. These are called portmanteau words (but you already know that!).

Work in a group to match up the **Portmanteau Word cards**, the original word cards and the meanings. You should have sets of four cards. Check your answers with another group and then check the answer sheet.

Can you find any more examples of portmanteau words?

Portmanteau Words - An eVitation to Reconnoitre Evolving English

Part B

In this activity, you will be learning about slang portmanteau words. An example of a portmanteau word being used in Wonder is on page 67, when Mom mentions 'evites'.

English is one of the most versatile and malleable (look it up) languages in the world. It's a language that has influenced and come under the influence of many other languages over the years, usually through invasion or colonisation (look it up!).

And English is still changing. Technology and slang influence English vocabulary so that the language is constantly evolving (look it up!).

Can you match the meanings of these slang portmanteau words? For the blanks in the meaning column, fill in your own meaning. Can you work out what words make up the portmanteau?

Meaning
Laying your clothes across a chair at bedtime.
Lying in bed, surfing the web.
A big sneeze
Food that tastes like another.
Talking about nothing in particular.
Something that I already know.
Brilliant new word.
Just thinking about yourself.

Portmanteau	Words
cellfish	cellphone & selfish
chairdrobe	
dudevorce	
floordrobe	
internest	
juggersnot	
nomonym	
nonversation	
unlightening	
worderful	
youniverse	

Challenge Task

Research the portmanteau words that match these definitions:

Definition	Portmanteau
A mid-morning meal	
Take it easy!	
Gaining finance for a business venture from lots of people via the Internet	
A piece of music you can't get out of your head.	
Spending time under canvas, comfortably.	
Give a very rough idea of how much something will cost.	
A funny TV programme	
Remaining at home whilst on holiday.	
Instalment of a TV show that you watch on the Internet.	

Portmanteau Words - An eVitation to Reconnoitre Evolving English **Answers**

Part A

Find synonyms for these words:

Reconnoitre	<i>explore</i>
Malleable	<i>easily adapted/changed</i>
Colonisation	<i>one country taking over and settling another country</i>
Evolving	<i>changing bit by bit</i>
Portmanteau	<i>a large bag with two equal parts or a word that combines the sound and meaning of two others</i>

Portmanteau word card answers:

Portmanteau word	Original word	Original word	Meaning
bionic	biology	electronic	artificial body parts aided by technology
Bollywood	Bombay	Hollywood	Indian movie industry
Brexit	Britain	exit	UK leaving the EU
emoticon	emotion	icon	using keyboard characters to make faces/emotions
evite	electronic	invitation	online invitation
smog	smoke	fog	air pollution
telethon	television	marathon	long TV programme
vidiot	video	idiot	someone who'll watch anything on TV or DVD

Part B

Can you match the meanings of these slang portmanteau words? For the blanks in the meaning column, fill in your own meaning. Can you work out what words make up the portmanteau?

Meaning
<i>Ignoring the person you're with to check your mobile.</i>
Laying your clothes across a chair at bedtime.
<i>Two men breaking up a friendship.</i>
<i>Throwing your clothes on the floor.</i>
Lying in bed, surfing the web.
A big sneeze
Food that tastes like another.
Talking about nothing in particular.
Something that I already know.
Brilliant new word.
Just thinking about yourself.

Portmanteau	Words
cellfish	cellphone & selfish
chairdrobe	<i>chair & wardrobe</i>
dudevorce	<i>dude & divorce</i>
floordrobe	<i>floor & wardrobe</i>
internest	<i>internet & nest</i>
juggersnot	<i>juggernaut & snot</i>
nomonym	<i>nom nom & synonymous</i>
nonversation	<i>non & conversation</i>
unlightening	<i>un & enlightening</i>
worderful	<i>word & wonderful</i>
youniverse	<i>you & universe</i>

★ ★ Challenge Task ★ ★

Research the portmanteau words that match these definitions:

Definition	Portmanteau
A mid-morning meal	<i>brunch</i>
Take it easy!	<i>chillax</i>
Gaining finance for a business venture from lots of people via the Internet	<i>crowdfunding</i>
A piece of music you can't get out of your head.	<i>earworm</i>
Spending time under canvas, comfortably.	<i>glamping</i>
Give a very rough idea of how much something will cost.	<i>questimate</i>
A funny TV programme	<i>sitcom</i>
Remaining at home whilst on holiday.	<i>staycation</i>
Instalment of a TV show that you watch on the Internet.	<i>webisode</i>