

**Pre-Intermediate 2**  
**Unit 1 Reading**  
**Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur**

## Words and Their Stories

Every word has a story behind it. Sometimes it is easy to figure out how a word came into being. The word "breakfast", for example, is made up of the two smaller words, "break" and "fast". Fasting means not eating for a certain time usually from dawn to sunset. The general meaning of the word is to break one's fast when one eats breakfast.

figure out = understand

come into being = be born

➤ *how a word came into being = how a word was born*

be made up of = include, consist of

dawn ≠ dusk

dawn = daybreak, the time around sunrise

fast (noun, verb) = not to eat or drink for a period of time because of a religious reason

general = usual

one = a person

### Other Examples of Words Made Up of Two Smaller Words:

Television = Tele + Vision

- Tele = Far
- Vision = Sight; Seeing

Photograph = Photo + Graph

- Photo = Light
- Graph = Picture

### Point:

Words are like people. Words are born, grow up, sometimes grow old, and sometimes they die. Some words are new and some words are as old as hills.

Selfie ⇒ a new word in English

Webcam ⇒ a new word in English

Father ⇒ an old word in English

Wolf ⇒ an old word in English

Sometimes words arise from a hidden story one must search to find. For example, the word "sandwich" pertains to Lord Sandwich who was far too busy to eat proper meals. Therefore, he decided to take some kind of snack with him to work. He took two slices of bread and put meat, cheese, tomato, pickles, or whatever he felt like eating between them. This snack became associated with his name and thus became known as a sandwich.

arise = originate  
hidden = concealed, not seen  
one = any person, any individual  
pertain to = be related to  
far too busy = much too busy  
proper = suitable  
feel like = enjoy  
become associated with = become linked to  
thus = therefore



Lord Sandwich

**Point:**

Lord Sandwich was a gambler. He gambled a lot and he loved gambling. He spent most of his time at casinos.

gambler = a person who plays games to win money

**Another Word Like Sandwich Which Comes from the Name of a Famous Person:**

**Bluetooth**

A wireless technology used to connect devices. The word "Bluetooth" comes from the name of the King of Denmark and Norway, Harald Bluetooth, who united clashing Danish tribes into one kingdom in the 10th century.

Many words come into our mother tongue from other languages. We may easily adopt and adjust them to our own patterns of language and intonation. "Umbrella", for example, originates from the Latin word "umbra" which means "shade". The Italians used this word to make the word "umbrella" which means "a little shade". In their hot sunny climate, they needed an umbrella to shade them a little from the sun. The English borrowed the word from the Italians, but they use umbrellas when it rains, not when the sun shines.

adopt = accept  
adjust = customize, modify, set  
intonation = the sound patterns of a language  
Latin = an old language which was spoken in Europe  
shade (noun) = darkness because of lack of light  
shade (verb) = protect against the sun  
➤ *He shaded his eyes with his hand.*

## **The + Adjective = All the people with that characteristic**

Examples:

- The English = the people of England
- The French = the people of France
- The rich = the rich people
- The poor = the poor people
- The blind = the blind people

## **Some English Words Which Are Originally Persian:**

- Caravan
- Khaki
- Pajamas
- Bazar
- Kebab
- Sugar
- Jackal
- Paradise

So words sometimes stay the same even when new meanings arise to change the way they are used.

## **Main Ideas:**

Every word has a story behind it.

Some words are made up of smaller words like "breakfast".

Sometimes there is a hidden story behind a word. For example, the word "sandwich" pertains to Lord Sandwich.

We borrow words from other languages and adopt and adjust them to our own patterns of language and intonation. For example, the English language has borrowed the word "umbrella" from Italian. In Italian, it means "a little shade". In Italy, people usually use umbrellas on sunny days, but in Britain, people usually use them on rainy days.

## **Full Text:**

# **Words and Their Stories**

Every word has a story behind it. Sometimes it is easy to figure out how a word came into being. The word "breakfast", for example, is made up of the two smaller words, "break" and "fast". Fasting means not eating for a certain time usually from dawn to sunset. The general meaning of the word is to break one's fast when one eats breakfast.

Sometimes words arise from a hidden story one must search to find. For example, the word "sandwich" pertains to Lord Sandwich who was far too busy to eat proper meals. Therefore, he decided to take some kind of snack with him to work. He took two slices of bread and put meat, cheese, tomato, pickles, or whatever he felt like eating between them. This snack became associated with his name and thus became known as a sandwich.

Many words come into our mother tongue from other languages. We may easily adopt and adjust them to our own patterns of language and intonation. "Umbrella", for example, originates from the Latin word "umbra" which means "shade". The Italians used this word to make the word "umbrella" which means "a little shade". In their hot sunny climate, they needed an umbrella to shade them a little from the sun. The English borrowed the word from the Italians, but they use umbrellas when it rains, not when the sun shines.

So, words sometimes stay the same even when new meanings arise to change the way they are used.

**Sample Summary:**

The text explains that every word has a story behind it. Some are easy to understand, like "breakfast" (break the fast), while others have interesting origins, like "sandwich" from Lord Sandwich's snack habit, or "umbrella," which originally meant "a little shade" in Italian. Many words come from other languages and their meanings and functions may change over time.

**Source:**

[Pre-Intermediate 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://Pre-Intermediate 2 (anglophone.ir))