

# Lesson 41: Standard and Non-Standard Forms (OA)



This lesson defines and provides examples of standard and non-standard forms of verbal responses.

- ≡ Fragmentary Recombinations and Standard Forms
- ≡ Fragmentary Recombinations and Non-Standard Forms
- ≡ Definition of Standard and Non-Standard Forms
- ≡ Neologisms
- ≡ Review

# Fragmentary Recombinations and Standard Forms

---



00:19

Some fragmentary recombinations take the form of responses that have previously been emitted and reinforced by the verbal community. Saying “cable” as a blend of “cake” and “table” is an example. “Cable” is not the “correct” response in this instance, but it is commonly reinforced under other circumstances.



## Fragmentary Recombinations and Non-Standard Forms

---



00:11

Other blends are entirely novel response forms that have never been reinforced by the verbal community. Saying “frumious” as a blend of “furious” and “fuming” is an example of this.



# Definition of Standard and Non-Standard Forms

---



00:28

Response forms that are typically reinforced by the verbal community are called **standard forms**. Response forms that are not are called **non-standard forms**. Generally, a non-standard form is not reinforced and is not more likely to be emitted in the future than it was in the past. Occasionally, however, a non-standard response form will receive some reinforcement and will, in fact, be more likely to be emitted in similar situations in the future.



**standard** form



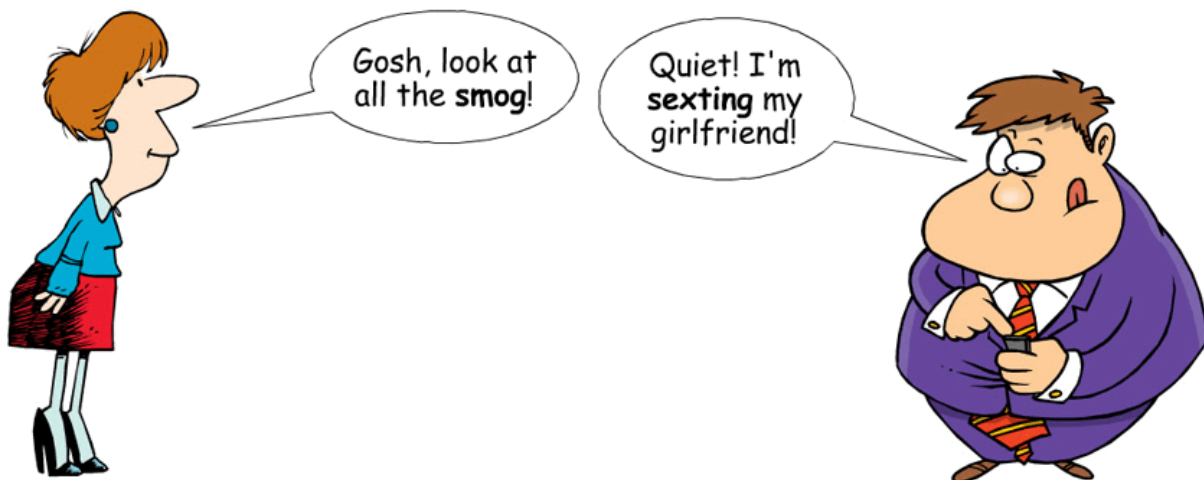
**non-standard**  
form

# Neologisms

---



We call such a response form a **neologism**. The word “smog” is a good example of a neologism. Presumably the response was first emitted as a result of a strong tendency to say both “fog” and “smoke.” Because both smoke and fog occur together as a stimulus situation, and because there was not already some response form appropriate in this combination of stimulus features, the response “smog” was reinforced since it provided useful information to the speaker. A word is not really a neologism until it has been emitted and reinforced. “Sexting” is another, more recent example of a neologism.



# Review

---

- Some fragmentary recombinations take the form of responses that have previously been emitted and reinforced by the verbal community. These blends are called **standard forms**.
- Some fragmentary recombinations take the form of responses that are entirely novel and have never been emitted reinforced by the verbal community. These blends are called **non-standard forms**.
- Sometimes a novel, non-standard blend will receive some reinforcement and be more likely to be emitted in similar situations in the future. Such response forms are called **neologisms**.

*End of Lesson*