

MORPHOLOGY

What is Morphology?

- the study of the **internal structures of words**, and of the **rules by which words are formed**.
- the study of morphemes and their different forms (allomorphs) and the way they combine in word formation.

INTERNAL STRUCTURES OF WORDS = MORPHEMES

1/ Morphemes:

Morphemes are abstract units. They are the **minimal (smallest), meaningful units** in a language.

2/ Morphemes, words and syllables:

a morpheme can be **a word, part of a word**, contains one or more syllables.

e.g: boy = 1 word = 1 syllable = 1 morpheme (boy)

boys = ? = ? = ?

boys = 1 word = 1 syllable = 2 morphemes {boy + s (plural)}

boy's = ? = ? = ?

boy's = 1 word = 1 syllable = 2 morphemes {boy + 's (possessive)}

boyish = ? = ? = ?

boyish = 1 word = 2 syllables = 2 morphemes {boy + ish (characteristic)}

boyishness = ? = ? = ?

boyishness = 1 word = 3 syllables = 3 morphemes {boy + ish + ness}

independently = ? = ? = ?

independently = 1 word = 5 syllables = 4 morphemes
{in + depend + ent + ly}

3/ Morpheme and morph:

a morph is a unit which is **a segment of a word-form**. It has a **constant form** and realizes or is **related to a constant meaning**.

4/ Allomorphs and morphemes:

allomorphs are morphemic variants. They can be understood as any of the **different forms of a morpheme** (i.e alternative representations of a morpheme).

4.1/ Phonetically conditioned allomorph: is determined or conditioned by the following phonetic sound.

e.g: **a -> an** when the following noun **begins with a vowel**.

a book, **a** university, **a** green apple.

an apple, **an** uncle, **an** old man.

4.2/ Lexically conditioned allomorph: the plural marker **-en** is determined by the **particular words**:

e.g: ox -> ox**en**; child -> child**ren**

but box -> box**es**; kid -> kid**s**

TYPES OF MORPHEME

1/ Free: Free morphemes are those which can be used as **minimal free forms**. They do not need to be attached to other morphemes. They can be used as words.

e.g: *book, boy, girl, depend, house*

2/ Bound: Bound morphemes must be joined to other morphemes. They are **always parts of words** and **never words** by themselves.

e.g: *boyish, independent, uncomf~~ort~~ableness*

Bound morphemes are of the following two kinds:

2.1/ Inflectional/ Grammatical morphemes

2.2/ Derivational/ Lexical morphemes

INFLECTIONAL/GRAMMATICAL MORPHEMES

1/ Definition:

Inflectional morphemes (IM) are bound morphemes that are purely **grammatical markers**, representing such concepts as tense, number, gender, case ...

IM **do not change the parts of speech of the words** or morphemes to which they are attached. They modify a word's form in order to mark the grammatical subclass to which it belongs.

2/ Forms and meanings:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| + S/ -ES : plurality | e.g: boys, boxes |
| + 'S : possession | e.g: boy's boxes |
| + S/ -ES : third person sing., simple present tense | e.g: works |
| + ING : present participle; gerund | e.g: working |
| + ED : past participle | e.g: worked |
| + ER : comparative degree of comparison | e.g: taller |
| + EST : superlative degree of comparison | e.g: tallest |

DERIVATIONAL/LEXICAL MORPHEMES

1/ Definition:

Derivational morphemes (DM) are bound morphemes that **add new meaning** to an existing word. When they are conjoined to other morphemes or words, a new word is derived or formed.

The derived words may be in a **different grammatical class or in the same grammatical class.**

e.g: nation (n) => national (adj)

man (n) => superman (n)

2/ Types and meanings: (for further information, see illustration file **attached_Most common prefixes, suffixes and their meanings**).

2.1. Prefixes: A prefix is a bound derivational morpheme which is placed before and connected to a root to form a new word with a new meaning. E.g: kind (adj) => unkind (adj).

2.2. Suffixes: A suffix is also a bound derivational morpheme which is placed after and connected to a root to form a new word class with a new lexical meaning. E.g: kind (adj) => kindness (n)

Most Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Key Word
anti-	against	antifreeze
de-	opposite	defrost
dis-*	not, opposite of	disagree
en-, em-	cause to	encode, embrace
fore-	before	forecast
in-, im-	in	infield
in-, im-, il-, ir-*	not	injustice, impossible
inter-	between	interact
mid-	middle	midway
mis-	wrongly	misfire
non-	not	nonsense
over-	over	overlook
pre-	before	prefix
re-*	again	return
semi-	half	semicircle
sub-	under	submarine
super-	above	superstar
trans-	across	transport
un-*	not	unfriendly
under-	under	undersea

Most Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Key Word
-able, -ible	can be done	comfortable
-al, -ial	having characteristics of	personal
-ed*	past-tense verbs	hopped
-en	made of	wooden
-er	comparative	higher
-er,	one who	worker, actor
-est	comparative	biggest
-ful	full of	careful
-ic	having characteristics of	linguistic
-ing*	verb form/ present participle	running
-ion, -tion, -ation, ition	act, process	occasion, attraction
-ity, -ty	state of	infinity
-ive, -ative, -itive	adjective form of a noun	plaintive
-less	without	fearless
-ly*	characteristic of	quickly
-ment	action or process	enjoyment
-ness	state of, condition of	kindness
-ous, -eous, -ious	possessing the qualities of	joyous
-s, -es*	more than one	books, boxes
-y	characterized by	happy

ROOT, BASE and STEM

1/ Root:

a root is a morpheme in a word that has the **principal meaning**. Roots constitute the **nuclei/cores** of all words.

Note: Most roots are free morphemes, but some are not.

e.g: Euro-crat, octo-pus, wis-dom, phonet-ic v.v...

2/ Base:

a base is **anything we attach affixes to** (either inflectional or derivational or both), whether it is just a root or something bigger than a root.

3/ Stem:

a stem is the **actual form** to which an **inflectional affix** is attached to

**e.g: nation: root; national: base; nationalize
work: root; worker: base=stem; workers**

Analyze the following words into number of morphemes, number of syllables; indicate roots, bases, stems, inflectional morphemes (IM), derivational morphemes (DM), and then give the meanings of IMs and DMs:

1/ PERSONALITIES

3/ INTERDISCIPLINEES

5/ OVERSTRETCHED

7/ HUMOURISTS

9/ INDUSTRIALISTS

11/ UNBREAKABILITY

13/ INTRANSITIVELY

15/ UNPREDICTABILITY

17/ BABYSITTER

19/ IMPRACTICALITY

21/ POLYSYNTHETICALITY

23 /ANTIDISESTABLISHMENTARIANISM

2/ DEACIDIFICATION

4/ UNNECESSARILY

6/ RELATIONSHIPS

8/ UNDEREMPLOYED

10/ REFORMERS

12/ GENERALIZATIONALITY

14/ ORGANIZATIONALLY

16/ DONATION

18/ GREENHOUSES

20/ MICROWAVES

22/ HOUSEHOLDERS

24/ ABANDONMENT

26/ REINSTITUTIONALIZATION

28/ INSTITUTIONALIZATION

30/ INCOMPATIBILITIES

32/ RATIONALIZATION

25/ INDIVISIBILITY

27/ ANTIEXPANSIONISM

29/ UNSYSTEMATICALLY

31/ UNCOMFORTABILITY

WORDS

1/ Definition:

A word is a linguistic sign, i.e, **an arbitrary union of sound and meaning.**

A word is **a minimal free form.**

A free form is an element that can occur in isolation and whose position with respect to neighbouring elements is not entirely fixed.

2/ Types of words:

2.1. Simple words: are those made up of only one stem and can not be broken down into smaller meaningful units. E.g: house, car...

2.2. Compound words: composed from the combination of two or more free morphemes. E.g: classroom, armchair,....

2.3. Complex words: are those made up of stem(s) and one or more inflectional and/or derivational affixes. E.g: workers, houses,...

3/ Word classes:

3.1. Open: lexical words: nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs.

3.2. Closed: function words: pronouns, determiners, conjunctions.

How many words, different words, simple, compound, complex words are there in each of the following sentences?

1/ They were going to a better school with the most modern equipment.

2/ My friends are presently working in the international sales division at an international firm.

3/ Diana's hair is shorter than Becky's hair.

4/ I once was lost but now I am found.

5/ Those old men have drunk ten small barrels of red wine easily.

6/ The old man is getting/ got better and better every day.

7/ She had been a teacher, and made sure the girl went to good schools.

8/ She walked to town yesterday and she has walked there this morning.

9/ They had had so many singles before they had this award.

10/ The girl put her white mice into her gift boxes.

11/ The students didn't report that serious event to the professor.

12/ Those students had their hair cut in a lady beauty salon.

13/ These heaters had warmed the refugees throughout the severe winter.

14/ The hungry wolves have attacked their enemies fiercely.

15/ The students said they had invited the professor.

16/ Those students thought they could pass the exam easily.

17/ The food was cooked just the way I like it.

18/ The girl went into her brother's room to annoy him.

19/ The students were told to invite the professor for the party.

20/ The children decided to do their homework quickly.

21/ The students are thinking seriously about the solution to the class problem.

22/ These ragged clothes had warmed the refugees throughout the severe winter.

23/ They have been learning English for 15 years.

24/ The stories greatly upset parents and children alike.

25/ These students failed the exam because their marks are below 4.5.

26/ They have been working for five hours.

27/ Not many banks have branches on the banks of the Avon.

28/ She walked to town yesterday and she has walked there this morning.

29/ They had had so many singles before they had this award.

WORD-FORMATION PROCESSES

1/ AFFIXATION

Affixation is the process of coining new words from the existing ones by adding affixes to a base. Affixation is classified into prefixation and suffixation

+ Prefixation: adding a prefix to a base, with or without a change of word class. (see appendix 1, pp 431-435, kinds of prefixes)

+ Suffixation: adding a suffix to a base, with or without a change of word class. (see appendix 1, pp 436-441, kinds of suffixes)

2/ COMPOUNDING => COMPOUNDS

is a process of forming new words by adding one base to another.

e.g: girlfriend, classroom

Noun + Noun

icy-cold, deaf-mute

Adj. + Adj.

Note: *Most compounds are self-explaining; that is, the meaning of the whole compound reflects the meanings of individual parts.*

However, the meanings of the individual parts of a compound may be expressed wholly in the meaning of the compound.

3/ BLENDING => BLENDS

is a process that creates words from parts of two already existing lexical items, usually the first part of one word and the last part of the other.

e.g: motel = motorist + hotel; brunch = breakfast + lunch

4/ CLIPPING/ ABBREVIATION

Clipping is a process whereby a new word is created by subtracting of one or more syllables from a word. The shortening may occur at:

+ the beginning of the word

e.g: telephone => phone; aeroplane => plane

+ the end of the word

e.g: photograph => photo; examination => exam

+ at both ends of the word

e.g: influenza => flu; refrigerator => fridge; Elizabeth => Liz

5/ ACRONYMY => ACRONYMS

Acronymy is a process in which a word is formed from the initial letters (or larger parts) of words.

New acronyms are freely produced, particularly for names of organizations

e.g: U.N = United Nations; F.D.I = Foreign Direct Investment

Note: Many acronyms are pronounced as words

e.g: **laser** = *light amplification by stimulating the emission of radiation.*

radar = *radio detecting and ranging*

scuba = *self-contained underwater breathing apparatus*

6/ CONVERSION

Conversion is the derivational process whereby an item changes its word-class without the addition of an affix. It is also called **zero derivation**.

e.g: love (v) => love (n); bottle (n) => bottle (v);

daily (adj) => daily (n); calm (adj) => calm (v);

7/ BACK FORMATION

Back formation is the reverse of affixation. It is a process whereby a word whose form is similar to that of a derived form that undergoes a process of de-affixation, i.e the removal of an affix from an existing word.

e.g: typewriter (n) => typewrite (v); television (n) => televise (v)

8/ COINAGES

Coinages are words created outright to fit some purpose, especially used in the advertising industry.

e.g: OMO, VEDAN, CAMAY, VISO, DASO

9/ WORDS FROM NAMES

are derived from proper names of individuals or places.

e.g: sandwich, hamburger

10/ REDUPLICATIVES

are either identical or only slightly different

e.g: tik-tak, goody-goody, walkie-talkie, zig-zag

11/ ONOMATOPOEIC WORDS

are the words created to sound like the things to which they refer. They may imitate the sound of animals, of natural phenomena v. v...

e.g: cock-a –doodle-doo, meow/ miaow, chirp, bow, buzz, squawk (parrot), croak (frog), squeak (mouse)