

ENGLISH MORPHOLOGY

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The channels for our class

1. **Canvas:** <https://dntu.instructure.com>
2. **MS Team:** <https://teams.microsoft.com>

Class regulations

- You are expected to attend all classes.
- Attendance will be checked regularly.
- Being 10 minutes late accounts for one period absence.
- You are permitted no more than 06 periods during the term.
- You are expected to participate actively in class activities.
- You are required to complete all assignments & tests during the course.

Testing & Assessment

	Ratio	Note
Participation	10%	Attending 10 classes + bonus points in class
Assignments	10%	06 assignments (at home)
Mini tests	10%	02 mini tests (at class)
Presentation	10%	Presenting the given topic at class
Mini project	10%	01 mini project (individual, at class)
Mid-term test	20%	on the 7 th week, at class
Final test	30%	Depending on the schedule of Dept. of Training & Examination
Total	100%	

Textbooks

Required textbook:

- ✓ To Minh Thanh (2019). *English Morphology*. Ho Chi Minh City: Publishing House of Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City

Recommended textbooks:

- ✓ Fromkin, V., Rodman, R. and Hyams, N. (2018). *An Introduction to Language*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning
- ✓ Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy (2002). *An Introduction to English Morphology*. Edinburgh University Press.

Content

- **Unit 1 – Morphemes**
- **Unit 2 – Derivation & Inflection**
- **Unit 3 – Immediate constituents in Morphology**
- **Unit 4 – Words**

What is morphology?

Morphology = morphē + -ology

in the Greek, word “**morphē**” means “*form*”

the suffix “**-ology**” means “*science of*”

So, the meaning of **morphology** is “**the science of (word) forms.**”

→ The study of the internal structure of words, and of the rules by which words are formed, is morphology (Fromkin, 2012, 41)

Unit 1

MORPHEMES

Definition and characteristics of morpheme

- ❖ **Definition:** A morpheme is **the smallest meaningful unit in a language** (*or the minimal unit of meaning*).
- ❖ **Characteristics:** A morpheme is a short segment of language that meets **three criteria**:
 - ✓ It is ***a word or part of a word*** that ***has meaning***.
 - ✓ It ***cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts*** without violation of its meaning or without meaningless remainders.
 - ✓ It ***recurs*** in different verbal environments with a ***relatively stable meaning***.

Examples

EX1. **unkind**: 2 morphemes

- The base **KIND**: friendly and thoughtful to others (lexical meaning)
- The prefix **UN-** : not (lexical meaning)

unfair, unhappy; unknown

kindness; kindly, kinder; kindest; kindness

Examples

EX2. **talks**: 2 morphemes

- The base **TALK**: say something (lexical meaning)
- The suffix **-S**: no lexical meaning (grammatical meaning - showing the 3rd person singular present tense form)

stop-s, play-s, love-s

table-s “**plural (noun)**”

chairs, schools, students

In other words, a morpheme can be recognized by either its *lexical meaning* or *grammatical meaning*.

Examples

EX1. **unkind**: 2 morphemes

- The base **KIND**: friendly and thoughtful to others (lexical meaning)
- The prefix **UN-** : not (lexical meaning) unfair, unhappy

EX2. **talks**: 2 morphemes stops, plays

- The base **TALK**: say something (lexical meaning)
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In other words, a morpheme can be recognized by either its *lexical meaning* or *grammatical meaning*.

Examples

EX3. university: an institution at the highest level of education where you can study for a degree or do research (lexical meaning)

By dividing *university* = uni- + vers + -ity, but their meanings violate the meaning of “university” and we get the meaningless part: “vers”. So, university must be considered a morpheme.

EX4. bright – “light” and **brighten** – “make light”

This leads us to conclude that **-en** means “make” and **-en** recurs with a stable meaning in words like **cheapen**, **darken**, **deepen**, **soften**, ... so **-en** must be considered a morpheme.

MORPHEMES vs. PHONEMES

- A **phoneme** is **the smallest unit of sound** in a language which **can distinguish** two words.

EX: [b] in *bitch* is unaspirated and [p^h] in *pitch* is aspirated

- A **morpheme** is **the smallest meaningful unit** in a language.

In other words,

- *morphemes have meaning*
- *phonemes have no meaning but they have distinctive features that help to distinguish meaning.*

MORPHEMES vs. PHONEMES

- A morpheme may consist of only a single phoneme like the

/-z/ in *goes*.

talks /tɔ:ks/

talk + -s talk = talk + s

stop s

unhappy = un- + happy un + happy

able # -able

- But the phoneme /z/ and this morpheme are by no means identical. The phoneme /z/ occurs many times where it has nothing to do with this morpheme.

EX: *zoo* /zu:/ and *rose* /rəʊz/ both contain /z/ but the /z/ here has nothing to do with the morpheme realized as /-z/ in *goes*.

MORPHEMES vs. PHONEMES

- Morphemes are generally short sequences of phonemes:

EX: the morpheme {**of**} consists of two phonemes — /**ɒ**/ and /**v**/.

- Most English morphemes are intermediate in size

between {*of*} /**ɒv**/ and {*strange*} /streɪndʒ/

consist of about *two* to *six* phonemes.

MORPHEMES vs. SYLLABLES

- A syllable is a *phonological unit* composed of one or more phonemes.

in- + convenient – 4 syllbles

internet – 3 syllbles

- A morpheme is *a basic unit in morphology*.
- **Count the syllables and morphemes of the following words**

1. *strange*

2. *lion*

3. *crocodile*

MORPHEMES vs. SYLLABLES

- A morpheme happens to be identical to a syllable. However, any *matches between morphemes and syllables are fortuitous*. Many **poly-syllabic words** are **mono-morphemic**.

EX. <i>strange</i> / streɪndʒ/	<i>one syllable – one morpheme</i>
<i>lion</i> / 'laɪ.ən/:	<i>two syllables – one morpheme</i>
<i>crocodile</i> / 'krɒk.ə.daɪl/:	<i>three syllables – one morpheme</i>
<i>Connecticut</i> /kə 'net.ɪ.kət/:	<i>four syllables – one morpheme</i>
<i>university</i> /ju:nɪ 'və:sɪti/:	<i>five syllables – one morpheme</i>

- On the contrary, both /gəʊ/ and /-z/ in *goes* /gəʊz/ are morphemes, though altogether they are but a single syllable. That is, *goes* is mono-syllabic but poly-morphemic.

MORPHEMES vs. WORDS

- *Words are made up of morphemes.* In other words, *morphemes are the components of words.*
- A word may be composed of one or more morphemes:
 - One morpheme: *boy, desire*
 - Two morphemes: *boy + -ish, desir(e) + -able*
 - Three morphemes: *boy + -ish + -ness, desir(e) + -abil + -ity*
 - Four morphemes: *gentle + man + -li + -ness*
un- + desir(e) + -abil- + -ity
 - More than four morphemes:
un- + gentle + man + -li + -ness
anti- + dis- + establish + -ment + -ari + -an + -ism

CLASSIFICATION OF MORPHEMES

There are 2 basic classes of morphemes: free morphemes and bound morphemes.

FREE MORPHEME	BOUND MORPHEME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Can be uttered alone with meaning- Can be used on its own- May stand alone as words or enter into the structure of other words- un- + happy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cannot be uttered alone with meaning- Be never used alone but must be with another morpheme- May occur only if they combine with other morpheme <p>Televise = tele- + -vise (see)</p> <p>Vase</p>

Bases (Roots) vs. Affixes

- A word consists of a **base** and/or an **affix**.
- *Affixes* are almost always **bound**
- *Bases* can be **either free or bound**.

BASES (or ROOTS)

A BASE (also called A ROOT) is ‘that morpheme in a word that has the principal meaning’. It is the **central morpheme, the basic part of a word**. There are two kinds of bases: **free base** and **bound base**.

Free base	Bound base
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- May be a word on its own right once the other morphemes have been stripped away.- Ex: break in unbreakable act in deactivated friend in friendship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Can never occur on its own but can only be joined to other bound morphemes.- Ex: audi- in audience, audition, auditory -cide in suicide, patricide, matricide -pend/pend- in pendant, suspender

AFFIXES

- AN AFFIX is a **morpheme** (usually a bound morpheme) ‘**that occurs before or behind a base**’ Classified according to their POSITION in words, affixes have three main subclasses:

Prefixes	Suffixes	Infixes
- occur before a base - Ex: <u>im</u> port, <u>pre</u> fix, <u>un</u> kind, <u>under</u> stand	- occur after a base - Ex: noisy, quick <u>ly</u> , careful, dream <u>ed</u>	- are inserted within words - not exist in English

- Affixes may be added directly to bases or to constructions consisting of a base plus one or more (either *free* or *bound*) morphemes.

Thus we have: work + -s = works

work**er** + -s = work**ers**

work**shop** + -s = work**shops**

AFFIXES

Classified according to their FUNCTION in words, affixes have two main subclasses:

- **INFLECTIONAL** affixes, ‘which are always **suffixes** in English, perform a **grammatical function**; they are representatives of grammatical categories’. [Jackson, 1980: 53]
- **DERIVATIONAL** affixes, ‘which may be **prefixes or suffixes** in English, have a **lexical function**; they **create new words** out of existing words or morphemes by their addition’. [Jackson, 1980: 53]

INFLECTIONAL AFFIXES (SUFFIXES)

- The only **eight inflectional suffixes** in English are:
 - the noun plural morpheme **{-S₁}**: *book-s, apple-s, box-es, etc.*
 - the noun possessive morpheme **{-S₂}**: *man-'s, girl-'s, students-', Alice-'s, etc.*
 - the **verb third person singular present tense** morpheme **{-S₃}**: *walk-s, find-s, mix-es, etc.*
 - the verb present participle morpheme **{-ing₁}**: *play-ing, typ(e)-ing, dig(g)-ing, etc.*
 - the verb past simple morpheme **{-D₁}**: *flow-ed, work-ed, creat(e)-ed, drank, broke, thought, show-ed, etc.*
 - the verb past participle morpheme **{-D₂}**: *flow-ed, work-ed, creat(e)-ed, drunk, broken, thought, show-n, etc.*
 - the adjective or adverb comparative morpheme **{-er₁}**: *small-er, saf(e)-er, thinn-er, long-er, fast-er, hard-er, etc.*
 - the adjective or adverb superlative morpheme **{-est₁}**: *small-est, saf(e)-est, thinn-est, long-est, fast-est, hard-est, etc.*

Inflectional affixes

English Inflectional Morphemes

-s	third-person singular present
-ed	past tense
-ing	progressive
-en	past participle
-s	plural
-'s	possessive
-er	comparative
-est	superlative

Examples

She wait-s at home.
She wait-ed at home.
She is eat-ing the donut.
Mary has eat-en the donuts.
She ate the donut-s.
Disa's hair is short.
Disa has short-er hair than Karin.
Disa has the short-est hair.

DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

Derivational affixes may be of two kinds:

- ***Class-changing derivational affixes*** **change *the word class*** of the word to which they are attached: *-al* added to *nation* makes an adjective out of a noun.
- ***Class-maintaining derivational affixes*** **do not change *the word class*** of the word to which they are attached. Derivational prefixes are usually class-maintaining: *re-*mark, *dis-*enthroned, *un-*refined, etc.

Class-changing derivational affixes

Noun to Adjective

boy + -ish

virtu + -ous

Elizabeth + -an

pictur + -esque

affection + -ate

health + -ful

alcohol + -ic

Verb to Noun

acquitt + -al

clear + -ance

accus + -ation

sing + -er

conform + -ist

predict + -ion

Adjective to Adverb

exact + -ly

Noun to Verb

moral + -ize

vaccin + -ate

hast + -en

Adjective to Noun

tall + -ness

specific + -ity

feudal + -ism

free + -dom

Verb to Adjective

read + -able

creat + -ive

migrat + -ory

run(n) + -y

Class-maintaining derivational affixes

Noun to Noun

friend + -ship

human + -ity

king + -dom

New Jersey + -ite

vicar + -age

Paul + -ine

America + -n

humanit + -arian

mono- + theism

dis- + advantage

ex- + wife

auto- + biography

Verb to Verb

un- + do

re- + cover

dis- + believe

auto- + destruct

Adjective to Adjective

pink + -ish

red + -like

a- + moral

il- + legal

in- + accurate

un- + happy

semi- + annual

dis- + agreeable

sub- + minimal

Distinguishing **inflectional** from **derivational morphemes**

Inflectional morpheme

- Grammatical function
- No word class change
- Small or no meaning change
- Often required by rules of grammar
- Follow derivational morphemes in a word
- Productive

Derivational morpheme

- Lexical function
- May cause word class change
- Some meaning change
- Never required by rules of grammar
- Precede inflectional morphemes in a word
- Some productive, many nonproductive

The order of morphemes in English words

derivational prefix – base – derivational suffix(es) – inflectional suffix

ALLOMORPHS

- An **allomorph** is ‘**any of the different forms of a morpheme**’.
- Or morphemes have **two or more different pronunciations**, called **allomorphs**
- Ex: *The inflectional noun plural morpheme* $\{-S_1\}$:
cat /kæt/ → *cats* /kæts/;
dog /dɒg/ → *dogs* /dɒgz/;
box /bɒks/ → *boxes* /bɒksɪz/

It is believed that /-s/, /-z/, /-ɪz/ are **three allomorphs** of the *inflectional noun plural morpheme* $\{-S_1\}$ because:

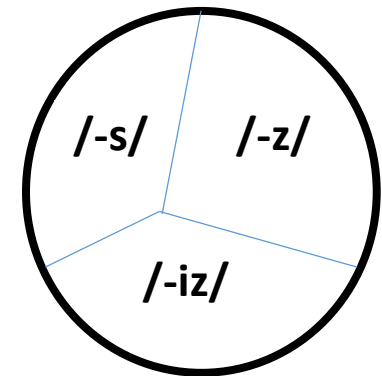
- They are in complementary distribution:

/-s / occurs only after the **voiceless consonants** /p, t, k, f, θ/;

/-ɪz / occurs only after the **sibilant** consonants /s, z, ʒ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/;

/-z/ occurs after voiced sounds, including all vowels and voiced consonants except /z/, /ʒ/, /dʒ/

- They all have the same meaning, either *lexical* or *grammatical*: /-s/, /-z/, /-ɪz/ all refer to ‘plurality’ and all mean ‘more than one’.



Selection of allomorphs

- The selection of allomorphs are phonologically conditioned. In this case, the conditioning factor is the phonetic nature of their preceding phoneme:
 - /-s/ occurs only after *the voiceless consonants* /p, t, k, f, θ/;
 - /-ɪz/ occurs only after *the groove fricatives and affricates* /s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/;
 - /-z/ occurs only after *voiced sounds*, except the three voiced sibilants /z, ʒ, dʒ/
- The selection of allomorphs may also be morphologically conditioned. In this case, the selection is determined by the specific morpheme or morphemes forming the context:
 - the plural of *ox* /ɒks/ is *oxen* /'ɒksən/; /-ən/ is *a morphologically conditioned allomorph* of *the inflectional noun plural morpheme* {-S₁} which is used with this stem /ɒks/:

ox / ɒks/ + -en /-ən/ → oxen /' ɒksən/

Types of allomorphs

1. Additive allomorphs

- To signify some difference in meaning, something is added to a word.

Ex. the past tense form verbs is formed by adding the suffix **-ed**

→ pronounced as either /-t/, or /-d/ or /-ɪd/:

ask + **-ed** /ɑ:sk/ + /-t/,

liv(e) + **-ed** /lɪv/ + /-d/,

need + **-ed** /ni:d/ + /-ɪd/.

Types of allomorphs

2. Replacive allomorphs

- To signify some difference in meaning, **a sound is used to replace another sound in a word.**
- Ex. the /ɪ/ in *drink* is replaced by the /æ/ in *drank* to signal the simple past. This is symbolized as follows:

/dræŋk/ = /drɪŋk/ + /ɪ → æ/.

3. Subtractive allomorphs:

To signify some difference in meaning, **something is deleted from a word.** For example, the letter *a* is deleted from *zopa* to signal that this Russian noun is in the plural form of the possessive case.

Types of allomorphs

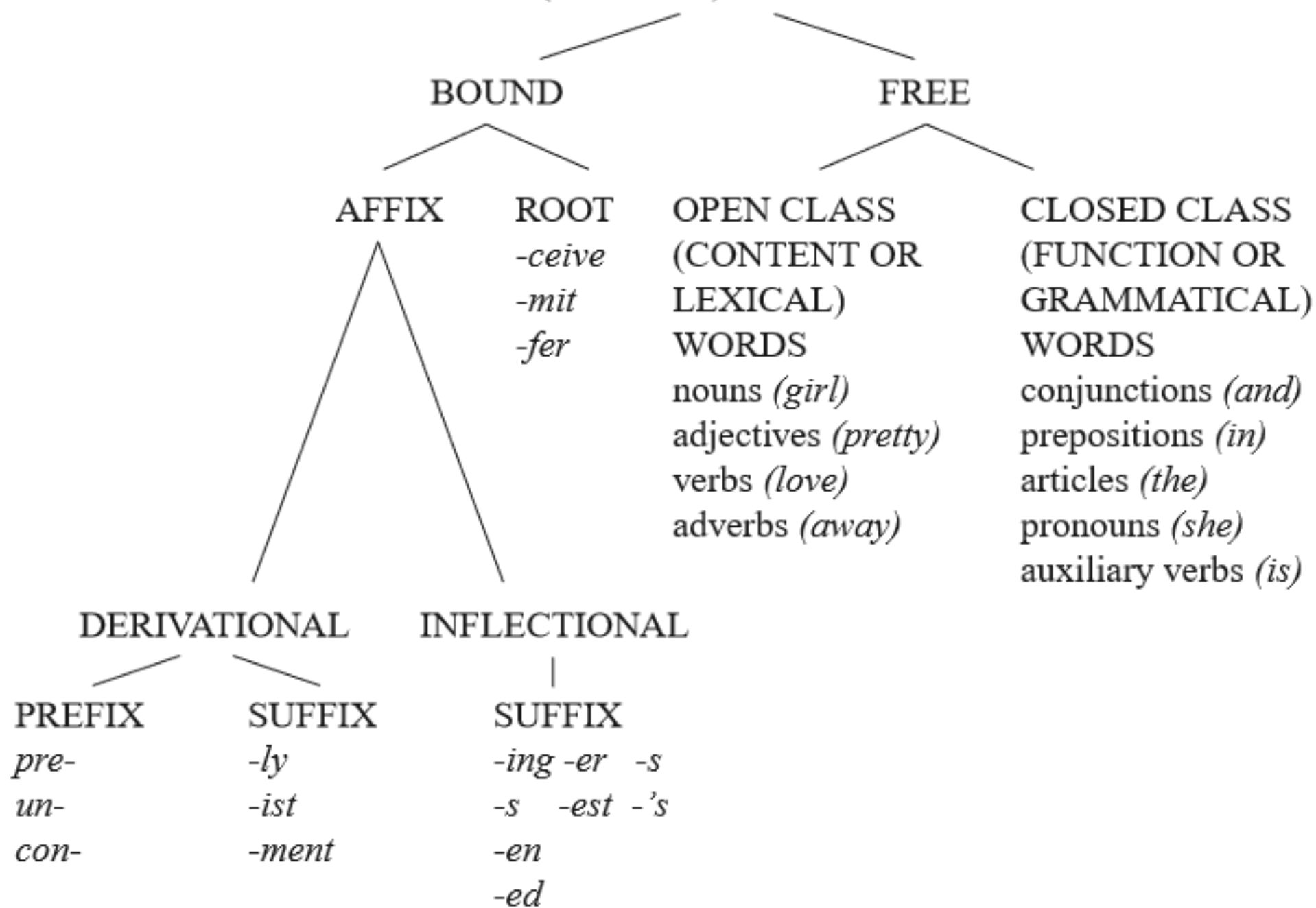
4. Suppletive allomorphs:

- To signify some difference in meaning, there is a complete change in the shape of a word.
- *Ex.* *go* + the suppletive allomorph of {-D1} = *went*;
be + the suppletive allomorph of {-S3} = *is*;
bad + the suppletive allomorph of {-er1} = *worse*;
good + the suppletive allomorph of {-est1} = *best*.

5. The zero allomorph:

- There is no change in the shape of a word though some difference in meaning is identified.
- *Ex.* the past tense form of *hurt* is formed by adding the zero allomorph of {-D1} to this word.

(ENGLISH) MORPHEMES



Exercise 8 – p.30

Question: Explain why ‘*a*’ and ‘*an*’ are two allomorphs of the same morpheme.

Answer:

‘*a*’ and ‘*an*’ are two allomorphs of the same morpheme because

- **they** are **in complementary distribution**:

- ‘*a*’ occurs before consonant phonemes

- ‘*an*’ occurs before vowel phonemes

- and **they** have **the same meaning**: ‘one’

Extra exercise

Question: Explain why ‘*was*’ and ‘*were*’ are two allomorphs of the same morpheme.

Answer:

Because they are in complementary contribution:

- *was* /wəz/ occurs with the **first** person and the **third** person **singular** subject.
- *were* /wɜ:/ occurs with the **third & first** person **plural** subject and the **second** person both plural and singular subject.

And they have the same meaning: used to say something about a person, thing, or state, to show a permanent or temporary quality, state, job, etc. in the past

Give examples of the following morphemes

- The inflectional verb past simple morpheme $\{-D_1\}$:
- The inflectional verb past participle morpheme $\{-D_2\}$:
- The derivational class-changing adjective-forming morpheme $\{-D_3\}$:
- The inflectional verb present participle morpheme $\{-ing_1\}$:
- The derivational class-changing noun-forming morpheme $\{-ing_2\}$:
- The derivational class-changing adjective-forming morpheme $\{-ing_3\}$:
- The derivational class-changing adverb-forming morpheme $\{-ly_1\}$:
- The derivational class-changing adjective-forming morpheme $\{-ly_2\}$:

Give examples of the following morphemes

- The inflectional adjective comparative morpheme $\{-er_1\}$:
- The derivational class-changing noun-forming morpheme $\{-er_2\}$:
- The derivational class-changing verb-forming morpheme $\{-er_3\}$:
- The inflectional noun plural morpheme $\{-S_1\}$:
- The inflectional noun possessive morpheme $\{-S_2\}$:
- The inflectional verb third person singular present tense morpheme $\{-S_3\}$: