Unit 3

IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENTS
IN MORPHOLOGY

Definition

'IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENTS (IC) are any of **the two meaningful parts forming a larger linguistic unit**'

un– | *gentlemanly*

gentleman | *–ly*

gentle | *man*

un– | gentle | man | –ly

Some recommendations on IC division

① *If a word ends in an inflectional suffix, the first cut is between this suffix and the rest of the word.*

pre– + conceiv(e)| –ed   mal– + formation|–s

Some recommendations on IC division

② *One of the IC's should be*, if possible, *a free form*. A free form is *one that can be uttered alone with meaning*: *egg, doing, enlarge, supportable*, etc. Here are examples of wrong and right first cuts:

Wrong: en– | large + –ment
        in– + depend | –ent
        un– + law | –ful

Right: en– + large | –ment
        in– | depend + –ent
        un– | law + –ful

Some recommendations on IC division

③ *The meanings of the IC's should be related to the meaning of the word.*
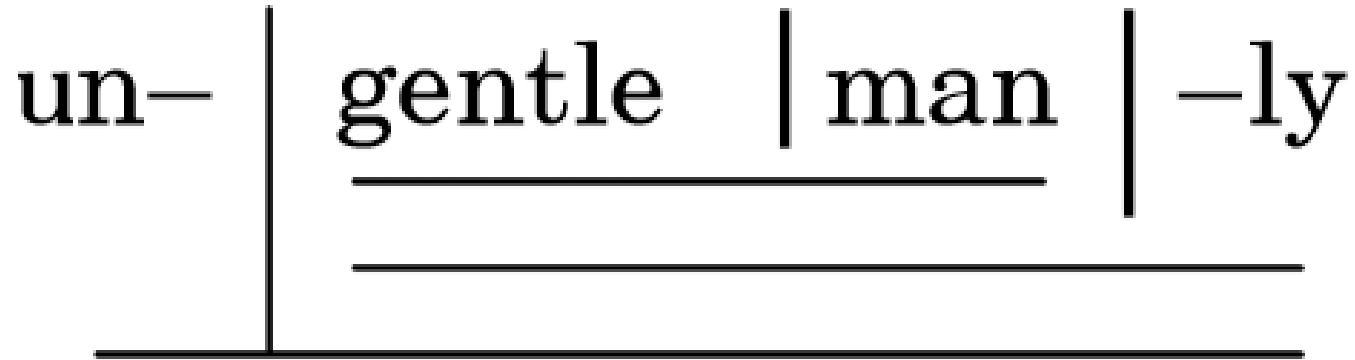
• *Example: **restrain** and **starchy***

Wrong	Right
rest | rain	re– | strain
star | chy	starch |–y

DIAGRAM

When we analyze a word, we show the process of word formation in reverse.

- First, we divide the word into two parts.

- We continue this way cutting every parts into two more until we can reduce the word to its *ultimate constituents*, that is to *the morphemes of which the word is composed — those which cannot be divided any more*
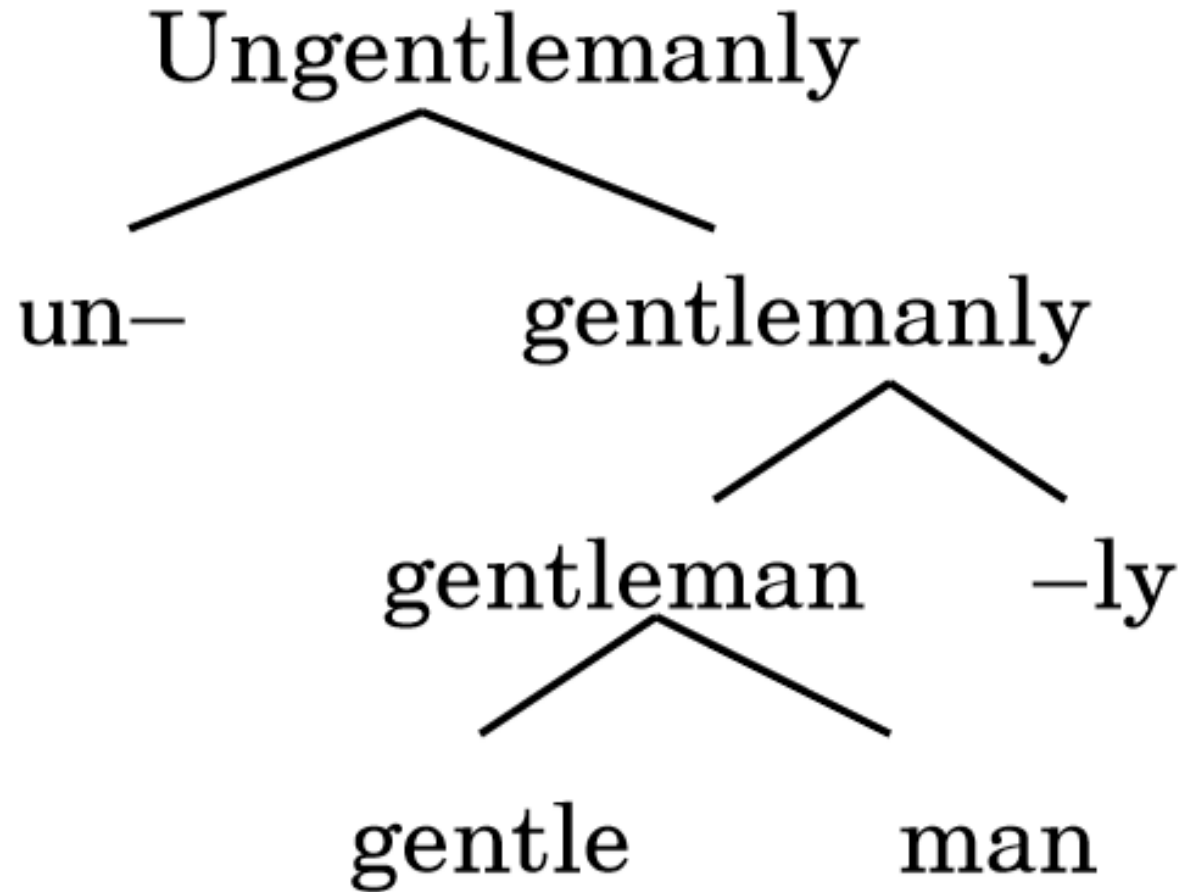
LAYERS of STRUCTURE

un– | gentle | man | –ly

The two IC's of the **1ˢᵗ layer** of construction are ***un–*** and ***gentlemanly***.

The two IC's of the **2ⁿᵈ layer** of construction are ***gentleman*** and ***–ly***.

The two IC's of the **3ʳᵈ layer** of construction are ***gentle*** and ***man***.

TREE DIAGRAM

Ungentlemanly

un–   gentlemanly

gentleman   –ly

gentle   man

Exercise 1. Give the IC cuts of each of the following words *(layers of structure & tree diagram)*. Identify all the possible morphemes in each of the following words

    1. unhappier

    2. truthfully

    3. researchers

    4. incompletely

    5. modernizing (v)

Exercise 2. Give the IC cuts of each of the following words *(layers of structure & tree diagram)*. Identify all the possible morphemes in each of the following words

1. unacceptable
2. reformers
3. disagreed
4. actors
5. disinvestment

More exercise 1. Give the IC cuts of each of the following words *(layers of structure & tree diagram).* Identify all the possible morphemes in each of the following words

1. manliness

2. unemployment

3. workers

4. enlarged (v)

5. inflectional

6. carelessness

7. befriended (v)

8. symbolizing (v)

9. personalities

10. beautifies

More exercise 2. Give the IC cuts of each of the following words *(layers of structure & tree diagram)*. Identify all the possible morphemes in each of the following words

1. educational
2. unhealthy
3. noisier
4. previewed (v)
5. oversleeping (v)

MINI TEST 1
Give the IC cuts of each of the following words *(layers of structure & tree diagram)*.
Identify all the possible morphemes in each of the following words

1. educational
2. unhealthy
3. noisier
4. previewed (v)
5. oversleeping (v)

Mini test

Give the IC cuts of each of the following words *(layers of structure & tree diagram)*. Identify all the possible morphemes in each of the following words

1. shippers

2. dangerously

3. activities

4. disobey

1. activities

2. painting

3. shortened

4. carelessly