



Morphology

- **Morphology** is the branch of linguistics that studies *the structure of words*.
 - In English and many other languages, many words can be broken down into parts. For example:
 - unhappiness un-happi-ness
 - horses horse-s
 - walking walk-ing
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- *un* - carries a negative meaning
 - *ness* - expresses a state or quality
 - *s* - expresses plurality
 - *ing* - conveys a sense of duration
 - A word like “yes”, however, has no internal grammatical structure. We can analyze the sounds, but none of them has any meaning in isolation.
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- *The smallest unit which has a meaning or grammatical function that words can be broken down into* are known as **morphemes**.
 - So to be clear: “un” is a morpheme.
 - “yes” is also a morpheme, but also happens to be a word.
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- There are several important distinctions that must be made when it comes to morphemes:
 - (1) – **Free vs. Bound morphemes**
 - **Free morphemes** are morphemes which can stand alone. We have already seen the example of “yes”.
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- **Bound morphemes:** never exist as words themselves, but are always attached to some other morpheme. We have already seen the example of “un”.
 - When we identify the number and types of morphemes that a given word consists of, we are looking at what is referred to as the **structure** of a word.
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- Every word has at least one free morpheme, which is referred to as the *root, stem, or base*.
 - We can further divide bound morphemes into three categories:
 - **prefix** *un*-happy
 - **suffix** happi-*ness*
 - **infix** abso-*blooming*-lutely
 - The general term for all three is **affix**.
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- (2) – Derivational vs. Inflectional morphemes
 - **Derivational morphemes** create or *derive* new words by changing the *meaning* or by changing the *word class* of the word.
 - For example:
 - happy → unhappy
 - Both words are adjectives, but the meaning changes.
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- quick → quickness
 - The affix changes both meaning and word class - adjective to a noun.
 - In English: Derivational morphemes can be either prefixes or suffixes.
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- **Inflectional morphemes** don't alter the meaning or word class of a word; instead they only refine and give extra grammatical information about the word's already existing meaning.
 - For example:
 - Cat → cats
 - walk → walking
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- In English: Inflectional morphemes are all suffixes (by chance, since in other languages this is not true).
 - There are only 8 *inflectional* morphemes in English:
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● -s 3rd person sg. present

● “He waits”

● -ed past tense

● “He waited”

● -ing progressive

● “He is waiting”





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● -en past participle

● “I had eaten”

● -s plural

● “Both chairs are broken”

● -'s possessive

● “The chair’s leg is broken”





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● -er comparative

● “He was faster”


● -est superlative

● “He was the fastest”






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- *Inflectional* morphemes are required by syntax. (that is, they indicate syntactic or semantic relations ***between different words*** in a sentence).
 - For example:
 - Nim *loves* bananas.
 - but
 - They *love* bananas.
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- *Derivational* morphemes are different in that *syntax* does not require the presence of derivational morphemes; they do, however, indicate semantic relations ***within a word*** (that is, they change the meaning of the word).
 - For example:
 - kind → unkind
 - He is unkind
 - They are unkind
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- A morpheme is *not* equal to a syllable:
 - "coats" has 1 syllable, but 2 morphemes.
 - "syllable" has 2 syllables, but only 1 morpheme
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- **Types of Word-Formation Processes**
 - One of the most productive ways to form new words is through *affixation*, which is *forming new words by the combination of bound affixes and free morphemes*.
 - There are three types of affixation:
 - *prefixation*: where an affix is placed before the base of the word
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- *suffixation*: where an affix is placed after the base of the word
 - *infixation*: where an affix is placed within a stem (abso-blooming-lutely)
 - While English uses primarily prefixation and suffixation, many other languages use infixes.
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● A second word-formation process is known as *Compounding*, which is *forming new words not from bound affixes but from two or more independent words*: the words can be free morphemes, words derived by affixation, or even words formed by compounds themselves.

● e.g.	girlfriend	air-conditioner
●	blackbird	looking-glass
●	textbook	watchmaker





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- Compound words have different stress, as in the following examples:
 - 1. The wool sweater gave the man a red neck.
 - 2. The redneck in the bar got drunk and started yelling
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- In compounds, the primary stress is on the first word only, while individual words in phrases have independent primary stress.


● *blackbird* *black bird*

● *makeup* *make up*






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- A third word-formation process is known as *Reduplication*, which is *forming new words either by doubling an entire free morpheme (total reduplication) or part of a morpheme (partial reduplication)*.
 - English doesn't use this, but other languages make much more extensive use of reduplication.
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● In Indonesian, for example, total reduplication is used to form plurals:

- rumah 'house'
 - rumahrumah 'houses'
 - ibu 'mother'
 - ibuibu 'mothers'
 - lalat 'fly'
 - lalatlalat 'flies'
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● A fourth type of word-formation process is known as *Blending*, where *two words merge into each other*, such as:

● *brunch* from breakfast and lunch

● *smog* from smoke and fog

