Inflection
Word forms
Paradigms
INFLECTION

is a morphological change by means of which a word adapts to a grammatical function without changing its lexical meaning.
Can a word look like this?
walkeds
By means of inflection, one change can happen to a word per context so that it adapts to a grammatical function appropriate for the context without changing the lexical meaning of the word.

He walks to school.
Inflectional suffixes can be classified into 8 categories:

I Inflectional suffixes used with nouns:
1. Genitive case – S1 group: father’s, boy’s, children’s
2. Plural – S2 group: bags, wishes, ladies

II Inflectional suffixes used with verbs:
3. 3rd person singular – S3 group: plays, gets, wants, watches
4. The past tense – ed1 group: loved, wanted, studied
5. The past participle – ed2 group: had loved, had wanted
6. The present participle – ing group: loving, coming, shooting

III Inflectional suffixes used with adjectives:
7. Comparative form – er group: nicer, bigger, easier
8. Superlative form – est group: nicest, biggest, easiest
As far as stems are concerned, we can say that the **stem** of the word is that part of the word which remains when the inflectional suffix is removed.

There are three types of stems:

1. **Simple stems** are identical to the root.  
   *run*, *tree*, *room*, *chair*
2. **Derived stems** consist of a root and one or more derivational suffixes.  
   *freedom*, *motherhood*, *anticapitalism*
3. **Compound stems** consist of two or more roots.  
   *blackberry*, *airplane*, *day-care*
According to their morphological structure, words can be classified into two groups:

1. **Simple words** which consist of one morpheme and they cannot be analysed any further.
   
   bag, school, hope

2. **Complex words** which can be subdivided into smaller structures. There are three groups of complex words:
   
   1. **Compound words** consist of at least two morphemes (three) and in such words the process of composition is at work.
      
      bedroom, workshop, toothpaste
   2. **Derivative words** consist of at least two morphemes one of which must be bound.
      
      unbelievable, helplessness, disobedience
   3. **Mixed words** consist of bound and free morphemes.
      
      bedrooms, speakers, girl-friend’s
An **inflectional paradigm** is a set of related words consisting of the same stem to which different inflectional suffixes have been added.

- watch, watches, watched, watching
- great, greater, greatest
- boy, boy’s, boys

A **derivational paradigm** is a set of related words which have the same root but different stems.

- nature, natural, naturally
- unnatural, unnaturally
- naturalistic, naturalistically
- naturalize, naturalization