

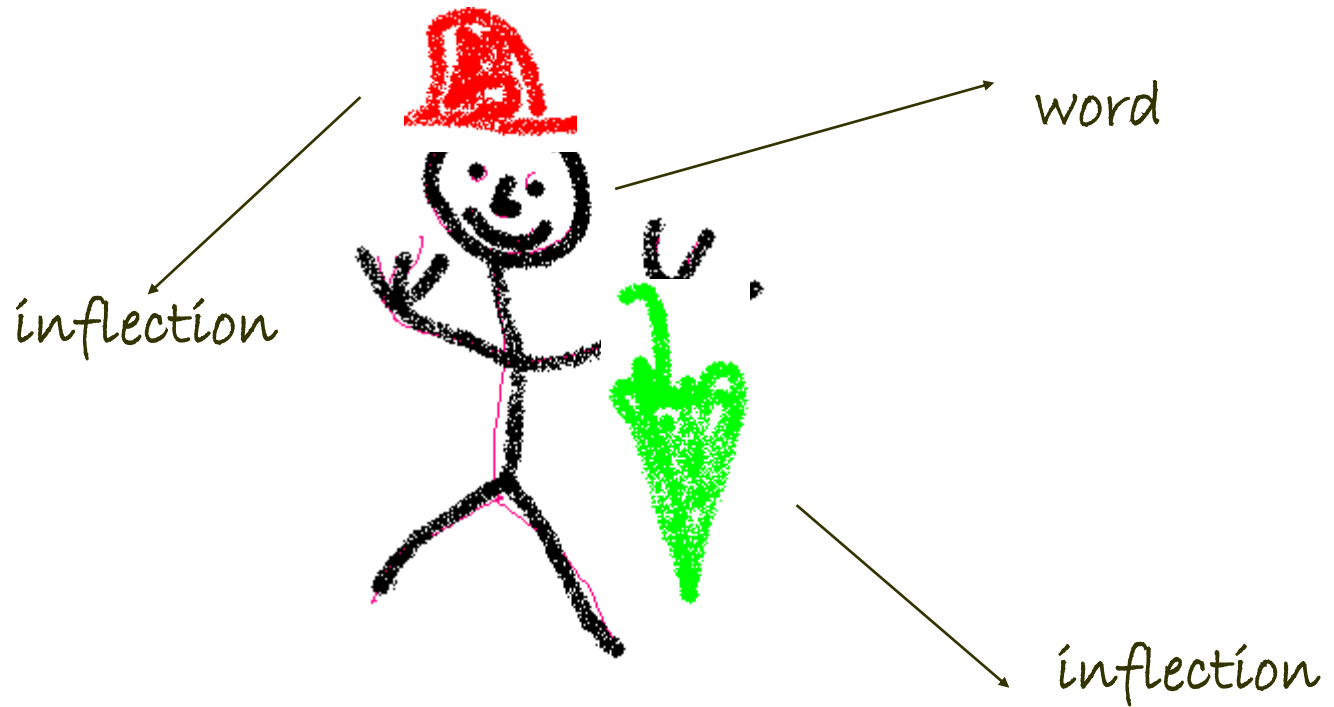


Inflection  
Word forms  
Paradigms

# 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, watch**es**, watch**ed**, watch**ed**, watch**ing**  
great, great**er**, great**est**  
boy, boy'**s**, boy**s**

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

nature, natural**ly**, natural**ly**  
unnatural**ly**, unnatural**ly**  
natural**istic**, natural**istically**  
natural**ize**, natural**ization**