Morphology

I. Basic concepts and terms
II. Derivational processes
III. Inflection
IV. Function words
V. Problems in morphological description
VI. Interaction between morphology and phonology
VII. Collocations

Basic Concepts and Terms (1)

Morphology:

- **The study of the structure of words & how words are formed (from morphemes)**

Morpheme:

- **The smallest unit of language that carries meaning (maybe a word or not a word)**
- **A sound-meaning unit**
- **A minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function**
- **The level of language at which sound and meaning combine**

  A. Free morpheme: lexical & functional morpheme

  B. Bound morpheme: derivational & inflectional

Basic Concepts and Terms (2)

Stem (root, base): *the morpheme to which other morphemes are added*

Stem

- **free (e.g. teacher, dresses, unkind)**
- **bound (e.g. inept, unkempt)**

Free Morpheme

I. ***Definition:*** **can occur by itself, not attached to other morphemes**

II. ***Examples:*** **girl, teach, book, class, the, of, etc.**

III. ***Two kinds***

A. ***lexical morpheme (open class)***

1. ***definition:*** **has lexical meaning; new examples can be freely added**
2. ***examples:*** **N, Verb, Adj, Adv (content words)**

B. ***functional morpheme (closed class)***

1. ***definition:*** **new examples are rarely added (but not impossible to add)**
2. ***examples:*** **Pro, Prep, Conj, Art. (function words)**

Bound Morpheme

I. Definition: must be attached to another morpheme

II. Derivational morpheme

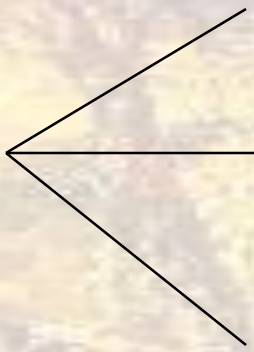
A. may change syntactic class
B. to form new words
C. examples: -able, un-, re-, etc.

III. Inflectional morpheme

A. Different forms of the same word
B. Not change syntactic class
C. Only 8 kinds in English: -'s, -s (plural nouns), -ing, -ed/-en, -est, -er, -s (S-V agreement)

Basic Concepts and Terms (3)

Affix:



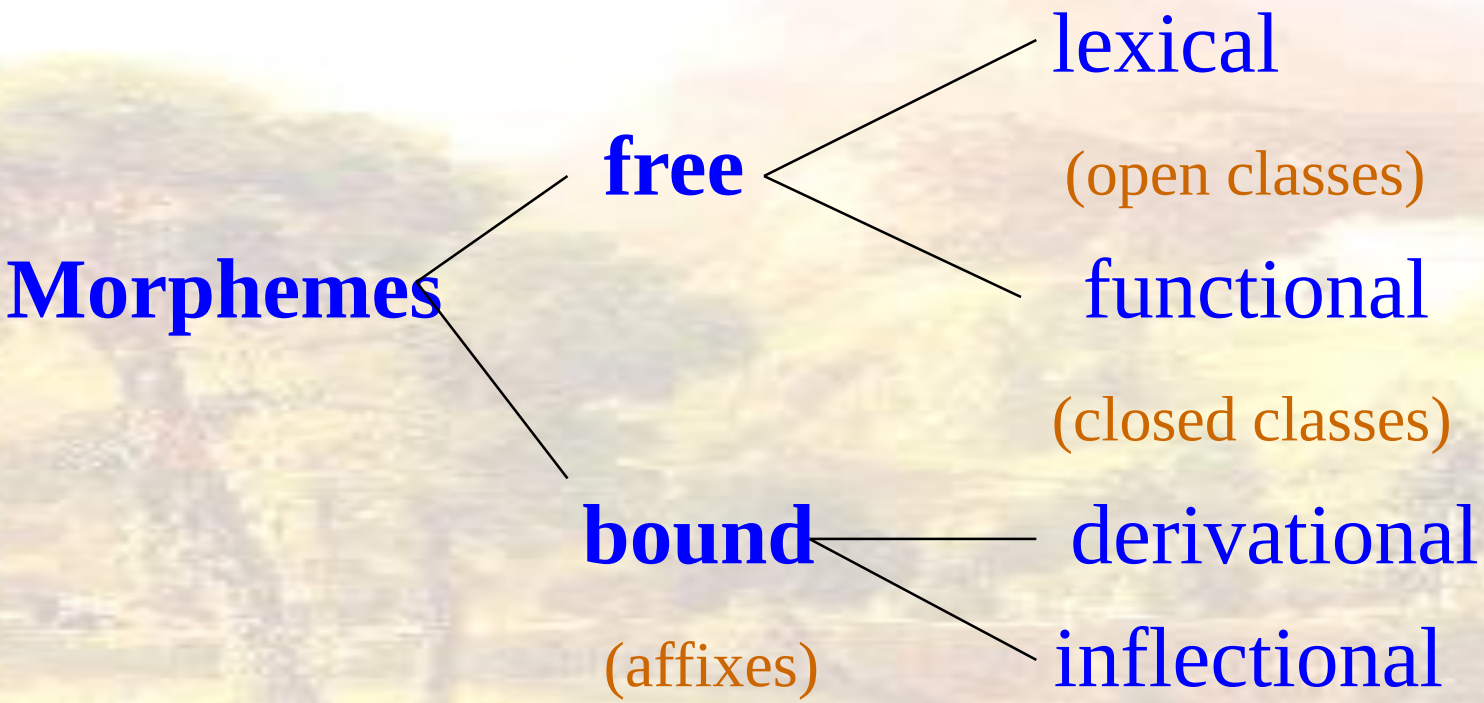
Prefix **e.g.** **Unhappy**

Infix **e.g.** **Absogoddamlutely**

(see Nash 56)

Suffix **e.g.** **happiness**

Morphemes


Morphemes
free
lexical
(open classes)
functional
(closed classes)
bound
derivational
inflectional
(affixes)

Exercises

II. Derivational Processes: a method to get new words

1. ***Derivation*: (or Derivational affixation, Affixation)**
2. ***Compounding*: combine two or more morphemes to form new words**
3. ***Reduplication*: full or partial repetition of a morpheme**
4. ***Blending*: parts of the words that are combined are deleted**
5. ***Clipping*: part of a word has been clipped off**
6. ***Acronyms*: abbreviate a longer term by taking the initial letters**
7. ***Back formation*: A word (usually a noun) is reduced to form another word of a different type (usually a verb)**
8. ***Extension of word formation rules* : Part of a word is treated as a morpheme though it's not**
9. ***Functional shift (Conversion)*: A change in the part of speech**
10. ***Proper names → Common words***
11. ***Coining*: Creating a completely new free morpheme**
12. ***Onomatopoeia*: words imitate sounds in nature**

1. Derivation (1)

★ ***Derivation:*** ***derived by rules; it can also be called derivational affixation or affixation.***

A. different rules e.g.

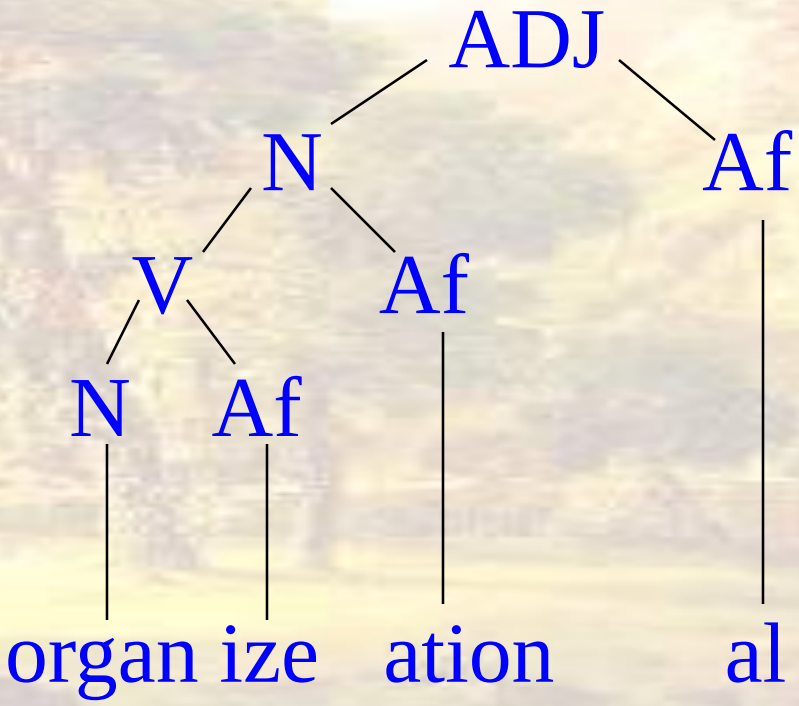
- V + affix → N
- N + affix → V
- ADJ + affix → V
- N + affix → ADJ

B. multiple combination

e.g. organizational

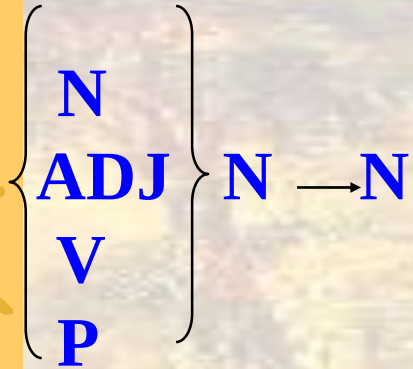
1. Derivation (2)

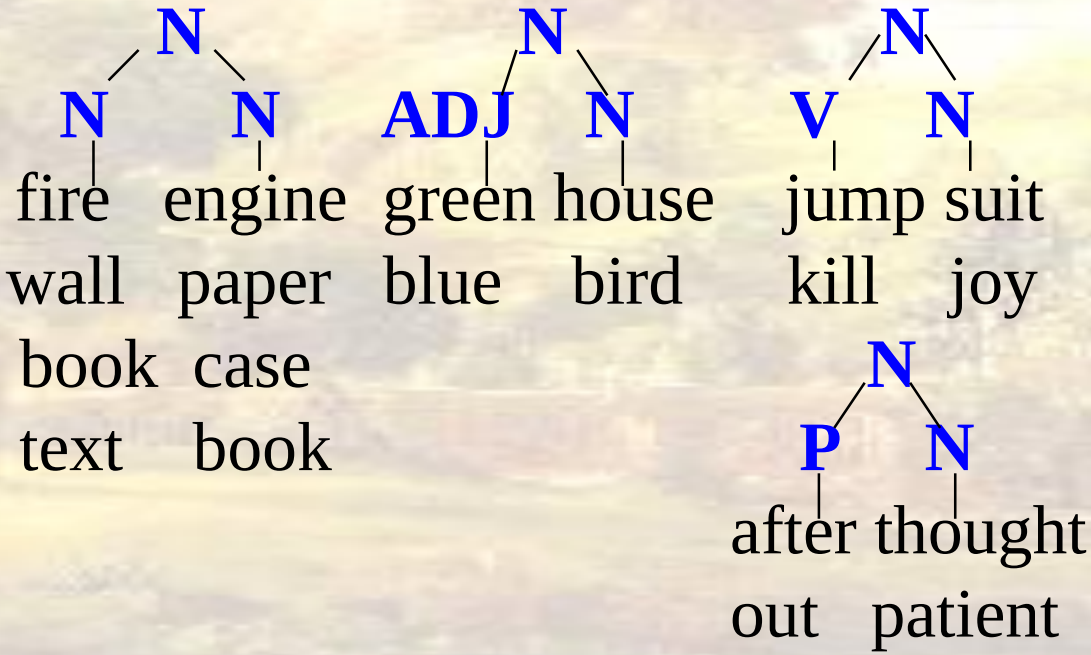
Tree structure of “organizational”



2. Compounding (1)

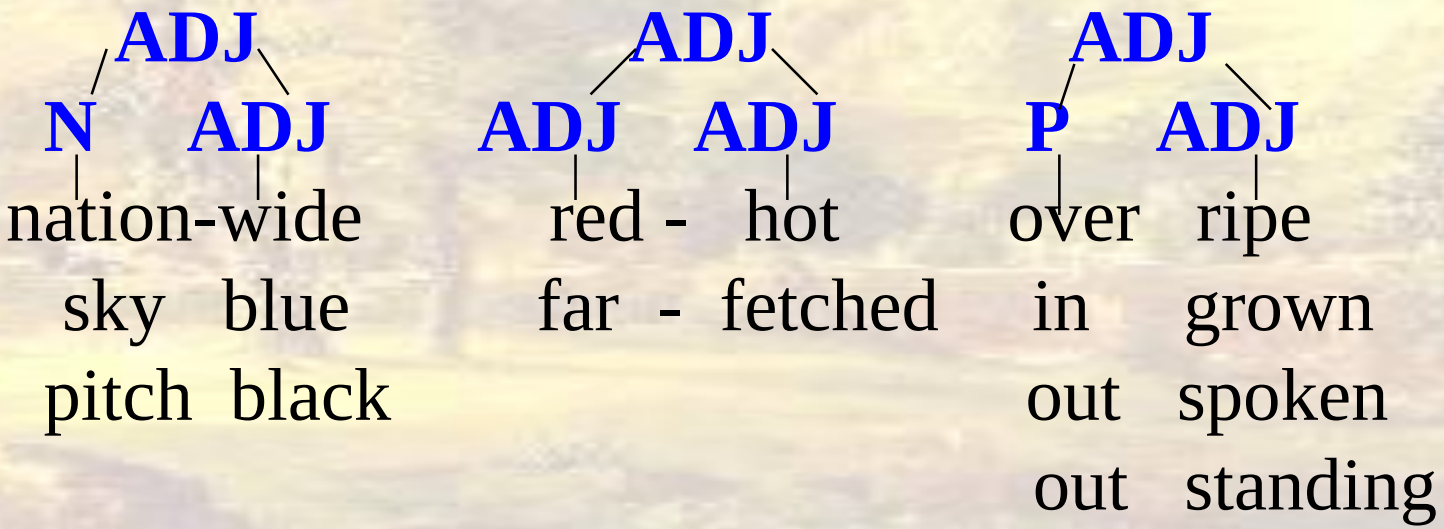
- **Compounding (compounds): combine two or more free morphemes to form new words**



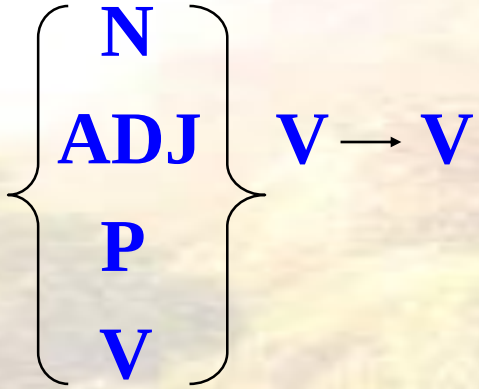


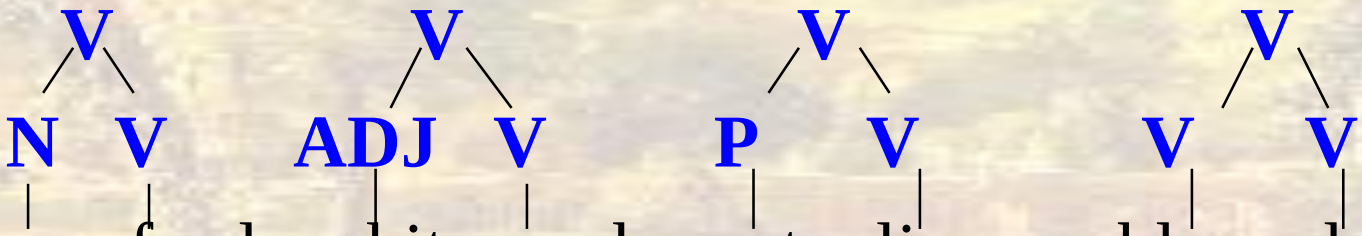
2. Compounding (2)

{ N, ADJ, P } ADJ → ADJ



2. Compounding (3)

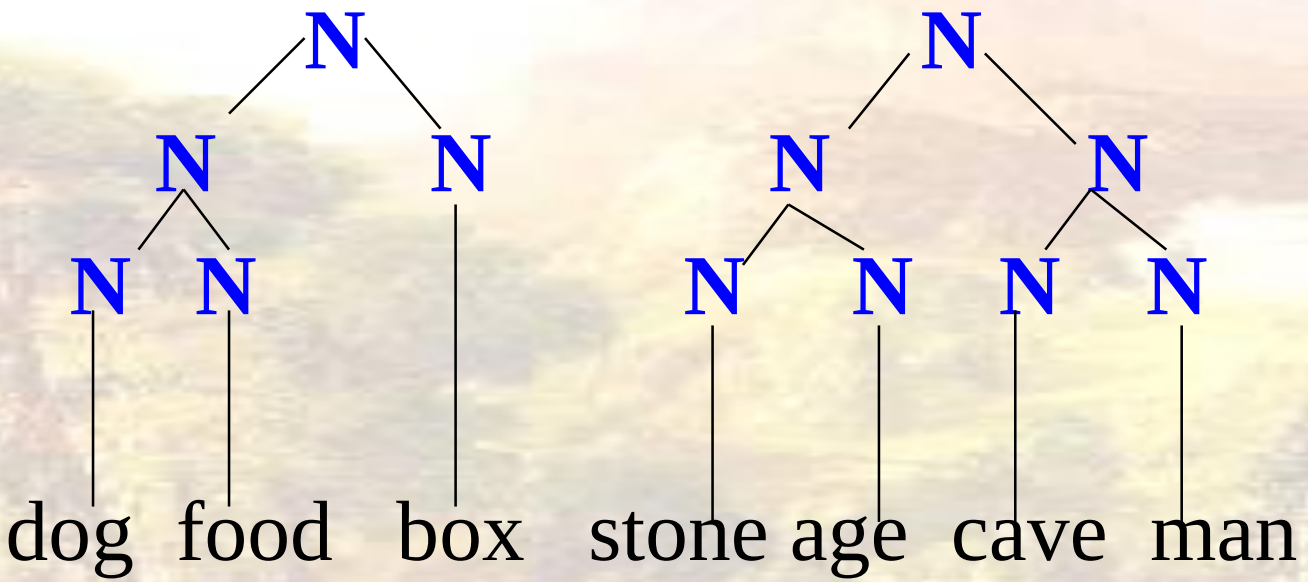




Spoon-feed white wash out live blow dry

Steam-roller dry clean underestinate breakdance

2. Compounding (4)



3.Reduplication

- ***Reduplication: full or partial repetition of a free morpheme; sometimes with variation***

full	partial	with variation
so-so	一點點	zigzag
bye-bye	冷冰冰	dilly-dally
天天.人人	蹦蹦跳	hotch potch
來來.往往		hodge podge
點點.滴滴		mishmash
卿卿我我		

4. Blending

✶ ***Blending (Blends):*** ***similar to compounding, but parts of the free morphemes involved are lost (usually 1st part of 1st word + end of 2nd word)***

e.g. brunch (breakfast+ lunch)

smog (smoke+ fog)

motel (motor+ hotel)

newscast (news + broadcast)

perma-press (permanent press)

Reaganomics (? + ?)

fantabulous (? + ?)

5. Clipping

★ ***Clipping (Clipped forms): part of a free morpheme is cut off (i.e., shortening a polysyllabic word); often in casual speech***

e.g.

prof.	auto	(also in names)
phys-ed	lab	Liz
ad	bike	Kathy
poli-sci	porn	Ron
doc	sub	Lyn

6. Acronyms (1)

- ***Acronyms:*** ***abbreviate a longer term by taking the initial letters***

A. follow the pronunciation patterns of Eng

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

TOEFL (Test of Eng. as a Foreign Language)

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

NASA (National Aeronautics & Space Administration)

6. Acronyms (2)

B. If unpronounceable → each letter is sounded out separately

ATM (automatic teller machine)

I.Q. (intelligence quotient)

MRT (Mass Rapid Transit)

MTV (music television)

TVBS (television broadcasting service)

VCR (video cassette recorder)

6. Acronyms (3)

C. Customary to sound out each letter even if the combined initials can be pronounced.

AIT (American Institute in Taiwan)

UCLA (Univ. of California at Los Angeles)

7. Back formation

- ***Back formation:*** ***A word (usually a noun) is reduced to form another word of a different type (usually a verb)***

e.g. editor ⟶ edit

donation ⟶ donate

burglar ⟶ burgle

zipper ⟶ zip

television ⟶ televise

babysitter ⟶ babysit

8. Extension of word formation rules

- ***Extension of word formation rules:*** ***Part of a word is treated as a morpheme though it's not***

burger	**(mar)athon**	**(alco)holic**
ham<u>burger</u>	tele<u>thon</u>	worka<u>holic</u>
cheese <u>burger</u>	dance<u>athon</u>	
buffalo <u>burger</u>	walk<u>athon</u>	
fish <u>burger</u>		
vege <u>burger</u>		
tofu <u>burger</u>		

9. Functional shift (Conversion)

★ ***Functional shift (or conversion, category change): A change in the part of speech***

V→ N a guess, a must, a spy, a printout,
walk, run, laugh, touch

N→V position, process, contact, notice,
party, fax, butter, bottle

(computer-related term) input, output, window

V→ADJ see-thru, a stand-up, comedian

10. Proper names→ common words (1)

★ ***Proper names → Common words***

A. People

jack→lumberjack, jack of all trades

tom→tomcat, tomboy, peeping Tom

阿花 (三八阿花)

B. Real people

Earl of Sandwich, teddy bear, Marquis de Sade

10. Proper names (2)

C. Places

Hamburger, marathon, bikini, Shanghai, champagne, cognac, 香港腳, 蒙古大夫, 哈蜜瓜

D. Mythology

Tantalus → tantalize

Eros→ erotic; Narcissus→ narcissistic

Mars→ martial

psyche, panic, Echo

E. Brand names

band-aid, zipper, Xerox, coke, Scotch tape, Kleenex, Vaseline, 生力麵

11. Coining

- ***Coining (Coinage):*** ***Creating a completely new free morpheme, which is unrelated to any existing morphemes; a rare thing***

e.g. googol

pooch

Nylon

12. Onomatopoeia

- ***Onomatopoeia:*** ***words imitate sounds in nature (or in technology)***

e.g. ***A dog:*** bow wow or woof-woof, 汪汪

A clock: tick-tock, 滴答

A rooster: cock-a-doodle-doo 咕咕咕

A camera: click, 喀擦

A duck: quack 啊啊

A cat: meow 喵喵

Ring of a bell: ding-dong, 叮咚

A cow: moo, 哞哞

A bee: buzz, 嗡嗡

A snake: hiss, 嘶嘶

13. Borrowing

- ***Borrowing (Borrowed words): The taking over of words from other languages***

A. Loan translation or calque (Yule 65)

hot dog→ 熱狗

superman→ 超人

B. Transliteration

cool→ 酷

DINK→ 頂客

YUPPIE→ 雅痞

III. Inflection (1)

I. Inflectional morphology: adds grammatical functions (i.e., number, tense, aspect, gender, case), so related to Syntax, but does not create new words (so not related to the lexicon).

A. That (Those) planter(s) grows (grow) . . . .

B. in Eng.: inflections are all suffixes

C. examples in other languages: Yule 80

II. Basic word structure in English:

(DER) Base (DER) (INFL)

e.g. plant er s → planters

un organ ize ed → unorganized

III. Inflection (2)

I. Mandarin inflectional/functional “了” :

A. Perfective aspect: 怎麼碰了杯子也不喝？

B. Sentence final particle: 他胖起來了

把球拿走了

II. English examples:

A. able (adj. in “I’m able to do it”) → lexical

B. -able (e.g., “enjoyable”) → derivational

IV. Function Words

I. Free functional morphemes
   - Definition: (Nash 64)

II. A list of function words in Eng: (Nash 65)
   A. More than inflections
   B. Eng. And Chinese tend to isolate grammatical functions out into free morphemes
   C. Some other langs. tend to use bound morphemes; e.g., Russian, Swahili

V. Problems in Morphological Description

- ***Bound stem***

  receive, unkempt, inept; cranberry? Huckleberry?

- ***Unidentifiable or inseparable elements***

  - *Due to historical influences and borrowing:*

A. Plural form:

sheep → sheep; man → men

B. Past tense:

read → read; go → went

C. Noun → ADJ:

law (old Norse into old Eng) → legal (Latin)

VI. Interaction Between Morphology and Phonology (1)

A. Past tense in English (inflection)

past tense morpheme /d/=allomorphs {d, t, ɪd}

1. Verbs ends in **+voiced** → /d/
   - e.g. agree**d**, drag**ged**
2. Verbs ends in **-voiced** → /t/
   - e.g. work**ed**, miss**ed**
3. Verbs ends in **alveolar stop** → /ɪd/
   - e.g., load**ed**, estimate**d**

VI. Interaction Between Morphology and Phonology (2)

B. Plural form (inflection)

plural morpheme /z/=allomorphs {z, s, ɪz}

1. Noun ends in **+voiced** ⟶ /z/
   e.g. flag**s**, game**s**
2. Noun ends in **-voiced** ⟶ /s/
   e.g. map**s**, bank**s**
3. ends in **+sibilant** ⟶ /ɪz/
   e.g. glass**es**, watch**es**

C. Negative (Nash 51)

/In/ = {n, ɴ }

VI. Interaction Between Morphology and Phonology (3)

- **Morphophonemic Rules:**

  The rules that determine the pronunciation of the regular past tense, plural morphemes, and negative prefix are called morphophonemic rules because morphology adds the suffix to the root, and the phonology controls the pronunciation of the affix (morpheme).

VII. Collocations

A. Definition: ***combinations of words stored as whole units in the brain, like one big word; So, unnecessary to be put together using syntax—can be called up for use all at once.***

B. Examples:

___ and ___ (fork, knife, bread, pepper, salt, butter)

___ harm; ___ business; ___ a mistake

How're you? How do you do? Nice to meet you.

I'm so glad you could bring Pamela.

* That Pamela could be brought by you makes me so glad.

* That you could bring Pamela makes me so glad.