

1. Morphology:

- Is the division of linguistics that studies words and their structures.
- Language is creative and humans have the ability to produce and understand an infinite number of sentences we've never heard before.
- In our mental **lexicon**, we can store sounds and simple words.
- A **word** is the smallest **free form** in language.
- A **free form** is an element that does not have to occur in a fixed position with respect to neighbouring elements.
- Words are structured.
- Words are not the smallest units of meaning.

2. Morphemes:

- The smallest units of meaning.
- E.g. Unhappy has 2 morphemes: 1. Un 2. Happy
- Note: In order to be a morpheme, they must contribute meaning. E.g. Delight has 1 morpheme. Although it can be broken down into De and Light, neither contributes to the definition of delight. Therefore, neither are morphemes in this case. However, the word unhappy has 2 morphemes, "un" and "happy" because they both contribute meaning to it.
- A **simple word** is a word with only one morpheme.
- E.g. Desk, chair, table are simple words.
- A **complex word** is a word with more than one morpheme.
- Complex words have a root and one or more affixes.
- E.g. Unhappy, wishful, joyful are complex words.
- **Free morphemes** are morphemes that are words and can stand on their own.
- E.g. happy, joy, cry
- **Bound morphemes** are morphemes that must be attached to another element.
- E.g. ness, ed, ful

3. Allomorphs:

- **Allomorphs** are morphemes that vary in pronunciation.
- These different pronunciations depend on the context where the morpheme occur.
- E.g. Consider the morpheme "ed", and these 3 words: booked, begged, stated. In booked, "ed" is pronounced as [t]. In begged, "ed" is pronounced as [d]. In stated, "ed" is pronounced as [əd].

4. Roots and Affixes:

- A **root** is a lexical category morpheme that cannot be analyzed into smaller parts. The root contributes to the core meaning of the word.
- **Lexical categories** are nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions.
- Roots may or may not be a word, so it can be free or bound.
- E.g. paint in painter is a word but ceive in receive is not a word. In painter, paint is a free morpheme but in receive, ceive is a bound morpheme.
- **Affixes** are bound morphemes that do not belong to a lexical category.
- A **prefix** is an affix attached to the beginning of a base.

- A **suffix** is an affix attached to the end of a base.
- An **infix** is an affix that is inserted inside another morpheme, usually the main morpheme.
- E.g. In “abso-**freaking**-lutely”, the infix is freaking.
- A **circumfix/discontinuous morpheme** is an affix that is attached to both the beginning and the end of another morpheme, usually the main morpheme. There are no circumfixes in English.

5. **Bases:**

- A **base** is the form to which affixes are attached to.
- All roots are bases, but not all bases are roots.
- The number of bases equal to the number of affixes.
- The order in which you attach the affixes matter.
- E.g. In the word unhappy, happy is both the root and the only base. Unhappy is not a base because there are no more morphemes left that can attach onto it.
- E.g. In the word joblessness, job is both the root and a base. Jobless is another base because morphemes can still attach onto it. However, it is not a root. Joblessness is not a base because there are no more morphemes left that can attach onto it.

6. **Derivational Affixes:**

- **Derivational affixes** attach to another morpheme or word to create a new word that has a different meaning or a different category from the base.
- E.g. Friend is a noun, but adding the derivational affix “ly” creates the word friendly, an adj.

7. **Inflectional Affixes:**

- **Inflectional affixes** do not change the meaning or lexical category of the base they are attached to, but changes its grammatical information.
- In English, there are 8 inflectional affixes, all of which are suffixes.

English Inflectional Affixes	Example
Plural “ s ” (N)	The stones.
Possessive “‘ s ” (N)	The kitten’s paws.
3rd Person Singular “ s ” (V)	She walks.
Continuous “ ing ” (V)	He is walking.
Past Tense “ ed ” (V)	They walked.
Past Participle “ en/ed ” (V)	You have eaten. You have played.
Comparative “ er ” (ADJ/ADV)	A bigger ball.
Superlative “ est ” (ADJ/ADV)	The biggest ball.

- Some affixes can be either derivational or inflectional, depending on the context.
- E.g. The affix “er” can be both. E.g. Tall + er is inflectional but Teach + er is derivational.