

# Introduction to English Linguistics

## 3: Morphology and Word Formation

# Part I: Morphology

Part II: Word Formation

# Systems and Nomenclature

## Phonology

phoneme  
(meaning-distinguishing)

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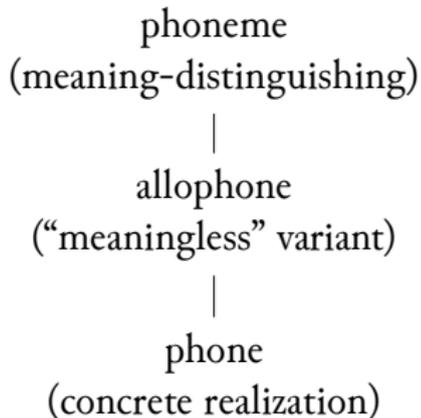
allophone  
("meaningless" variant)

|

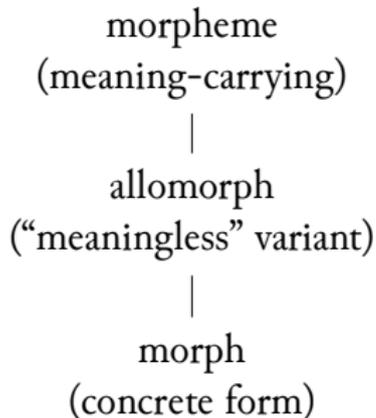
phone  
(concrete realization)

# Systems and Nomenclature

## Phonology



## Morphology



## Allomorphs of {PLURAL} (for Nouns)

Example	Phonemic Form
cats	/s/
birds	/z/
houses	/ɪz/
oxen	/ən/
children	“vowel change” + /ɪən/
geese	fronting of the stem vowel
sheep	∅

(Descriptions are synchronic:  
the vowel in *children* predates that in *child*.)

## Allomorphs of {ADVERBIAL DERIVATION} (for Adjectives)

Example	Phonemic Form
rapidly	/lɪ/
fast	∅

# Free Morphemes

Can form a word by themselves

## Lexical Morphemes

- ▶ **Open class:** new words may easily be coined
- ▶ Nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs

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## Functional Morphemes

- ▶ **Closed class:** words are rarely added
- ▶ Prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions

# Bound Morphemes

## Derivational Morphemes

- ▶ Typically change a word's meaning  
(and thus its reference to something outside of language)
- ▶ May change its part of speech
- ▶ Carry no grammatical information
- ▶ **Closed class**, but substantial
  - ▶ *un-*, *-ness*, *arch-*, *de-*, *-ation*, *-ling*, etc.

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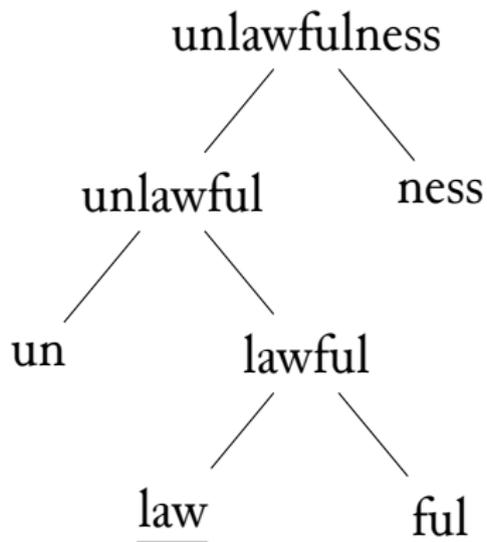
## Inflectional Morphemes

- ▶ Carry grammatical information
- ▶ Do not refer to anything outside of language
- ▶ Mostly do not change a word's part of speech
- ▶ **Closed class**, eight members:
  - ▶ plural *-s*; possessive *-'s*; third person singular *-s*; aspectual *-ing*; tense markers *-ed* and *-en*; comparative *-er*; superlative *-est*; and allomorphs of these where applicable

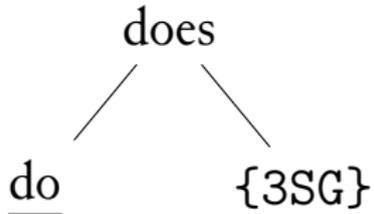
# Language Types

- ▶ Isolating: a low morpheme-per-word ratio, no inflectional morphemes
- ▶ Analytic: a low morpheme-per-word ratio (Mandarin, MnE)
- ▶ Synthetic: a high morpheme-per-word ratio
  - ▶ Fusional: overlays units of meaning (Latin, German, OE)
  - ▶ Agglutinative: serializes units of meaning (Finnish)

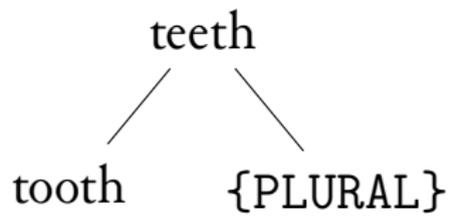
## Morphological Structure: Derivational Morphemes



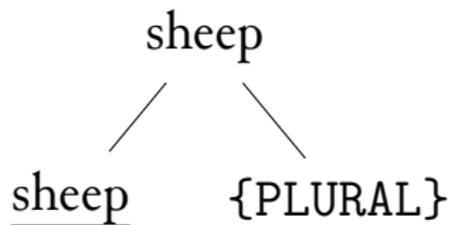
## Morphological Structure: Inflectional Morphemes



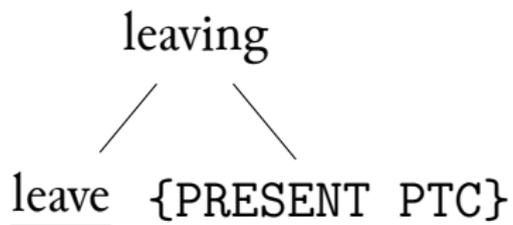
## Morphological Structure: Inflectional Morphemes



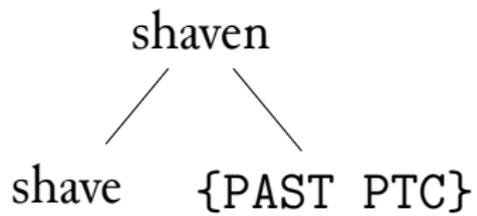
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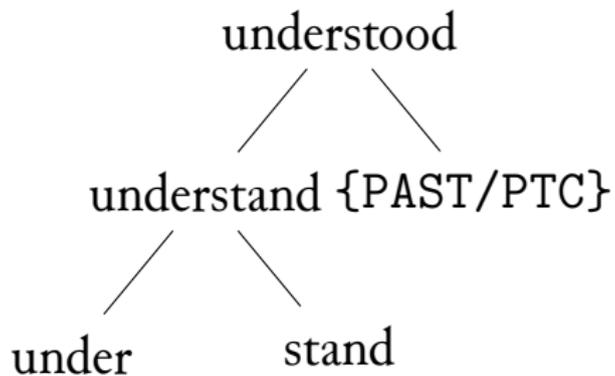
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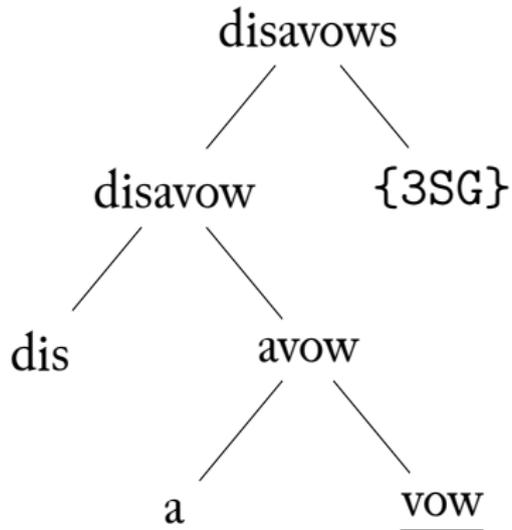
## Morphological Structure: Inflectional Morphemes



## Morphological Structure: Mixed Morphemes



## Morphological Structure: Mixed Morphemes



# Morphology Exercise

See handout.

Part I: Morphology

Part II: Word Formation

# Coinages Without Linguistic Precedent

## Ex nihilo

- ▶ A new coinage with no formal precedent
- ▶ e.g. *quark* (Brit. /kwa:k/, US /kwark/): subatomic particle that only occurs in pairs and triplets, and has a fractional electrical charge

## Onomatopoeia

Formation based on a sound associated with the concept being named:  
*shriek*, *boom*.

# Compounding

The combination of preexisting words: *telephone booth*, *no-hitter*

## Conversion (1/2)

A new lexeme is formed out of an existing word, typically by turning it into a different part of speech.

### Straightforward conversion

- ▶ *convert* verb > *convert* noun
- ▶ *invite* verb > *invite* noun
- ▶ *soldier* noun > *soldier* verb

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### Derivation

Conversion through the addition of an affix.

- ▶ *green* adjective > *greenness* noun
- ▶ *green* adjective > *ungreen* adjective

-*ness* and *un-* among the most **productive** derivational morphemes; contrast *be-*.

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### Back conversion

Removal of a perceived affix (actual or otherwise).

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Dropping the beginning or end of a word.

- ▶ *ad*
- ▶ *phone*
- ▶ *auto*

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### Hypocorism

Clipping in which the omitted final element is replaced with a diminutive suffix

- ▶ *Andy*
- ▶ *telly*

# Borrowing

## Straightforward loan

- ▶ English *derive* < *dériver*

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## Loan translation

Translates a compound element for element.

- ▶ *Foreword*, *Vorwort* < *praefatio*
- ▶ *Gehirnwäsche* < *brainwash*

# Blending (Portmanteau Words)

Combining parts of two words into a single new word

- ▶ *motel* < *motor hotel*
- ▶ *smog* < *smoke, fog*
- ▶ *hangry* < *hungry, angry*
- ▶ *sexting* < *sex, texting*

# Eponymy and Trade Names

## Eponymy

A common word derived from a proper name

- ▶ watt
- ▶ aspirin
- ▶ pasteurize
- ▶ mentor
- ▶ scrooge

## Trade Name

A product name originating with a manufacturer, whether or not by eponymy

- ▶ Walkman
- ▶ Kleenex

# Abbreviations

## Initialism

A word formed from the initials of a phrase or longer word and pronounced by spelling it out

- ▶ GDR
- ▶ TV

## Acronym

A word formed from the initials (and sometimes other letters) of a phrase and pronounced as a word

- ▶ radar
- ▶ laser
- ▶ NATO
- ▶ WYSIWYG

## Word Formation Exercise

Create one or more new or existing word forms using the morphemes listed on the handout “Common Derivational Morphemes in PDE” in combination with lexical morphemes supplied by yourself.

Morphologically analyze the new forms as on the handout “Morphology Exercise” and draw a tree diagram for each form.

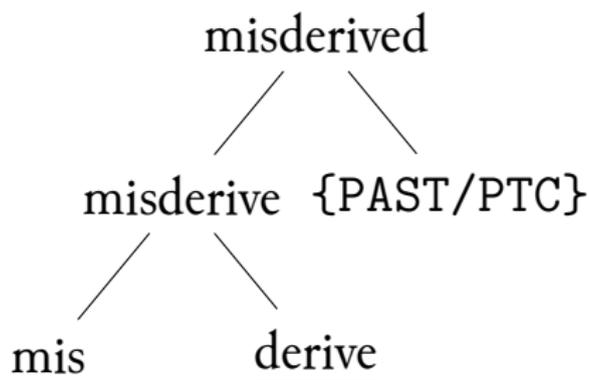
### Example (1/2)

- ▶ *misderived*
  - ▶ *mis-*: derivational morpheme, wrongfulness prefix
  - ▶ *derive*: lexical morpheme, verb
  - ▶ *-d*: inflectional morpheme, past tense/participle

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Example (2/2)





P. S. Langeslag