

ENGLISH MORPHOLOGY

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Abstract.

There is a popular understanding among English learners that meaning lies in words. This is only partially true. In English monomorphemic words meaning lies in the single morphemes which are also the words. However, there are a lot of bimorphemic or polymorphemic words in English. The meaning of these words is determined by the units of meaning that combine into words. These units of meaning are called morphemes. Meaning lies in morphemes. In English the meaning of words lies in free morphemes, bound stems, prefixes, suffixes, and superfixes.

Keywords: *free morphemes, bound stems, prefixes, suffixes, superfixes*

Introduction

In the learning of English vocabulary, many students fail to predict the meaning of certain words. This is because they think that words always have a single unit of meaning. In fact there are a lot of words that consist of two or more units of meaning. Understanding one or more units of meaning that constitute the words will certainly help students to predict the meaning of the words. This paper is to introduce students to the concept of morphemes, the smallest units of meaning in language.

Discussion

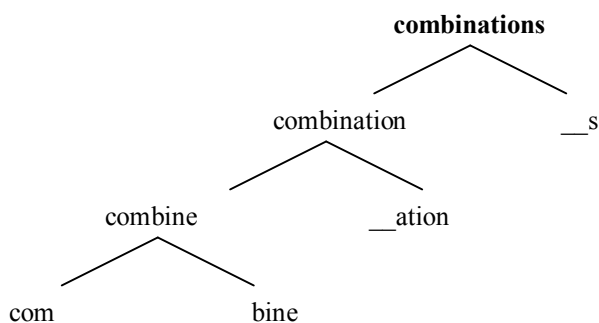
The Morpheme

Linguists, language experts who study language scientifically, divide the study of language into five branches. They are:

1. Phonology : The study of the sounds of language and their combination into groups or families which are called phonemes.
2. Morphology : The study of the structure of words. It is the study of the combination of morphemes into words.
3. Syntax : The study of the organization of words into phrases, clauses, and sentences.
4. Semantics : The study of the meaning of words and the meaning of sentences.
5. Pragmatics : The study of the meaning of language in communication.

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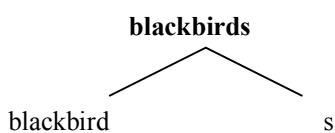
Language is used to convey meaning by the members of a speech community, that is, a group of people who speak the same language. Language assigns meaning to morphemes. Morphemes are the smallest meaningful units in language. The smallest meaningful units mean that the units cannot be subdivided anymore and they have got a meaning. For example the word **combination** has four morphemes:



They are:

1. morpheme s : a plural-forming morpheme from singular, countable nouns
2. morpheme _ation : a noun-forming morpheme from verbs
3. morpheme com_ : a prefix meaning “together”
4. morpheme _bine : morpheme _bine is a morpheme that cannot stand alone. It is called a bound stem or a bound base. The word companion also consists of a prefix com_ and a bound stem _panion.

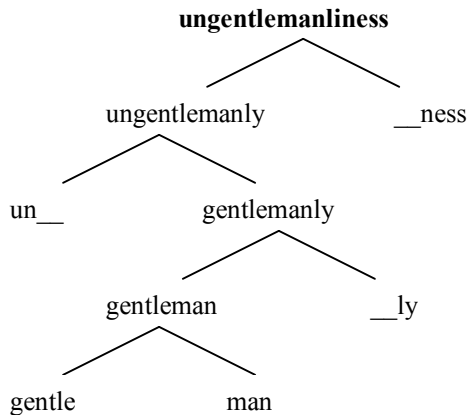
The word **blackbirds** has two morphemes:



They are:

1. morpheme _s : a plural-forming morpheme
2. morpheme blackbird : Blackbird is the name of a bird. It is a single morpheme.

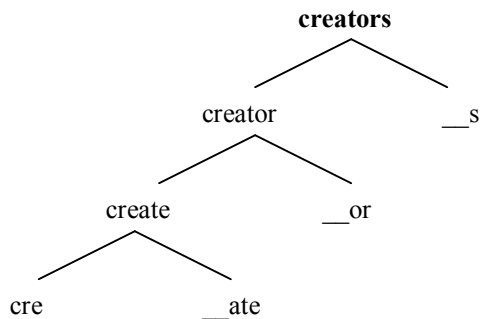
The word **ungentlemanliness** has five morphemes:



They are:

1. morpheme __ness : a noun-forming morpheme from an adjective: ungentlemanly
2. morpheme un__ : a prefix to make negative
3. morpheme __ly : an adjective-forming morpheme
4. morpheme gentle : a free morpheme
5. morpheme man : a free morpheme

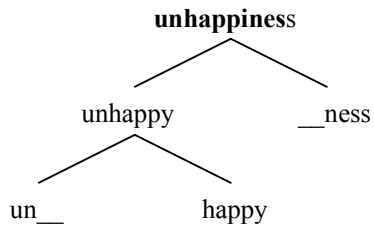
The word **creators** has four morphemes:



They are:

1. morpheme __s : a plural morpheme
2. morpheme __or : a suffix meaning “someone who does something”
3. morpheme __ate : a verb-forming morpheme
4. morpheme cre : a bound stem

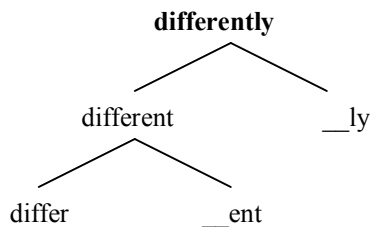
The word **unhappiness** has three morphemes:



They are:

1. morpheme __ness : a noun-forming morpheme from adjectives
2. morpheme un__ : a negative-forming morpheme from adjectives
3. morpheme happy : the base

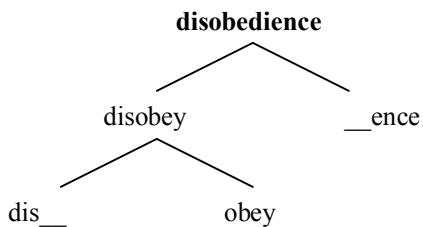
The word **differently** has three morphemes:



They are:

1. morpheme __ly : an adverb-forming morpheme from adjectives
2. morpheme __ent : an adjective-forming morpheme from verbs
3. morpheme differ : the base, which is a verb

The word **disobedience** has three morphemes:



They are:

1. morpheme ence : a noun-forming morpheme from verbs
2. morpheme dis : a negative-forming morpheme from verbs
3. morpheme obey : the base, which is a verb

It should be noted that not all words can always be clearly subdivided into clearly meaningful units of meaning. There are words like *create*, *regulate*, *separate*, *implicate*, *duplicate*, *narrate*, *operate*, *liberate*, *educate*, *tolerate*, *irradiate*, *irritate*, *eradicate*, and *confiscate* which have a verb-forming morpheme ate, but the remaining units: cre, regul, separ, implic, duplic, narr, opper, liber, educ, toler, irradic, irrit, cradic, and confisc cannot stand by themselves and do not have a clear meaning. These morphemes have to be combined with another morpheme to produce a clear meaning. Francis (1958) calls these morphemes bound stems. A stem is a construction of one or more morphemes to which an affix can be added. Similarly, there are words like *nature*, *structure*, *fracture*, *gesture*, and *picture*, which have a noun-forming morpheme ure, but the morphemes nat, struct, fract, gest, and pict cannot stand alone with a clear meaning. These forms are called bound stems.

There are also bound bases or bound stems that can co-occur with different morphemes. In the word *include*, *exclude*, and *preclude*, clude is a bound base or a bound stem that co-occurs with in, ex, and pre. In the words *perceive*, *conceive* and *deceive*, ceive is a bound base or a bound stem that appears with per, con, and de. In the words *construct* and *deconstruct*, struct is a bound base or a bound stem that appears with con and de. In the words *deflect* and *reflect*, flect is a bound base that appears with de and re. In *project* and *inject*, ject is a bound base that appears with pro and in. In *desist* and *resist*, sist is a bound base or a bound stem that appears with de and re.

According to Francis (1958: 237 – 288) the kinds of noun – forming morphemes are:

1. **Noun-forming morphemes from verb.** They are:

<u>age</u>	: demurrage, breakage
<u>ance</u>	: conveyance, contrivance
<u>er</u>	: boiler, sailor, liar, sawyer
<u>ing</u>	: breathing, readings, leavings
<u>ee</u>	: payee, employee, draftee
<u>ment</u>	: payment, agreement, argument

Other noun-forming morphemes from verbs may be added. They are:

<u>al</u>	: arrival, refusal, survival, revival, appraisal, betrayal, betrothal
<u>ant</u>	: applicant, discussant, educant, complainant
<u>ation</u>	: competition, compilation, exaggeration
<u>ion</u>	: education, permission, admission

- __ity : depravity
2. **Noun-forming morphemes from adjectives.** They are:
- __ce : abundance, convenience, compliance, independence
- __cy : consistency, relevancy, intricacy
- __ity : facility, hostility
- __ness : happiness, boldness, friendliness, hopelessness
- __ster : youngster, oldster
3. **Noun-forming morphemes from other nouns.** They are:
- __cy : advocacy, democracy, captaincy
- __er : lifer, liner, outfielder
- __ian : mathematician, librarian
- __ism : methodism, monarchism, gangsterism
- __ist : physicist, violinist, Jansenist
- __ship : friendship, professorship
- __ster : gangster, roadster, dopester.
- Another noun-forming morpheme from nouns is:
- __hood : brotherhood, sisterhood, neighbourhood, fatherhood, manhood
4. **Noun-forming morphemes from bound stems.** They are:
- __er : carpenter, tailor, porter
- __ism and : monism, monist, polytheism, communism
- __ist
- __ity : depravity, debility, felicity

According to Francis *depravity* has a noun-forming morpheme added to a bound stem. It may not be correct. *Depravity* is from the verb *deprave* and a noun-forming morpheme __ity.

There are other noun-forming morphemes which appear on a few nouns: *auctioneer*, *hostess*, *anthracite*, *kingdom*, *booklet*, *likelihood*, *bronchitis*, *duckling* and *cigarette* (Francis, op.cit.: 240-241).

Nouns may also have morphemes __s and __es which are called *plural* morpheme. The plural morpheme has three variants on the basis of the pronunciation. They are:

1. The variant pronounced with __s: books, cats, pets, cocks, caps.
2. The variant pronounced with __z: pens, dogs, rivers, tigers.
3. The variant pronounced with __iz: houses, horses, buses, matches, watches, judges.

Other variants of the plural morphemes are:

1. The variant ending in __en: children, oxen
2. The variant ending in __Ø (zero variant): sheep, deer
3. The variant ending in __replacive (the changing of the sound), agenda, strata, phenomena, stimuli, alumni, alumnae

Verbs may have the following morphemes.

1. The third-person singular present tense morpheme with three variants:
 - 1.1 ending in __s: looks, meets, taps, sleeps
 - 1.2 ending in __z: reads, plays, runs, brings

- 1.3 ending in __iz: catches, watches, washes
2. The simple-past tense morpheme __ed₁. This morpheme has several variants. They are:
 - 2.1 morpheme ending in __t: looked, shocked, slapped, worked
 - 2.2 morpheme ending in __d: played, endangered, ruined, glowed
 - 2.3 morpheme ending in __id: wanted, rejected, objected, commented
 - 2.4 morpheme ending in __Ø or zero variant: cut, shut, hit, hurt, burst, cast, cost
 - 2.5 morpheme ending __replacive (the changing of sound): threw, rang, sank, brought, drank, got
 3. The past-participle morpheme __ed₂. The variants of the past-participle morpheme are the same as the variants of the simple past tense morpheme __ed₁
 4. The present participle morpheme __ing: *working, coming, going, singing, running*
 5. The morpheme __ate. This morpheme is added to bound stems, nouns, and also other free morphemes, for example: *implicate, operate, corroborate, dehydrate, calumniate, salivate, orchestrate, complicate*
 6. The morpheme __ize: *utilize, recognize, idolize, organize, socialize, modernize*
 7. The morpheme __fy: *liquefy, indemnify, countrify, dandify, beautify, simplify*
 8. The phoneme __ish: *finish, furnish, languish, establish*
 9. The morpheme __en: *blacken, sharpen, widen, tighten, heighten, hasten, glisten*
 10. The morpheme en__: *enfold, enslave, empower, enliven, enlighten, embitter, endure*

The adjective-forming morphemes are:

1. __er : bigger, longer, stronger, larger
2. __est : cleverest, happiest, strongest
3. __y : faulty, leafy, healthy, rickety, holy
4. __al : fatal, natural, national, traditional, local, physical, racial
5. __able : remarkable, understandable, adaptable, conceivable, examples of __able added to bound stems are: viable, portable, capable, terrible, visible
6. __ful : hopeful, useful, plentiful
7. __less : hopeless, useless, penniless
8. __ar : columnar, popular, regular
9. __ary : legendary, literary
10. __ic : climatic, comic
11. __ish : childish, lavish
12. __ous : marvelous, pernicious
13. __ent : abhorrent, significant, convenient

14. ___ive : active, native, impulsive
15. ___en : woolen, waxen, wooden, oaken
16. ___ed : ragged, beloved, aged, rugged, learned, garlanded, overcoated, booted, flowered, tired, bored, complicated, devoted
17. ___ing : interesting, exciting, revealing, tiring, pleasing
18. ___ly : friendly, orderly, homely, mannerly, ugly
19. ___ile : agile, docile, ductile, fragile, prehensile, volatile

The adverb-forming morphemes are:

1. ___ly : hopefully, healthily, traditionally, remarkably, visibly, uselessly, legendarily, climatically, marvelously, popularly, impulsively, woodenly, learnedly, exhilaratingly, friendlyly
2. a___ : aloud, ahead, away, aboard, adrift, astir, anew, abroad
3. ___wise : lengthwise, crabwise, actor-wise
4. ___ward(s) : backward(s), forward(s), homeward(s)

It is very important to note that many morphemes are attached to bound stems or bound bases. Bound stems do not have clearly definable meaning.

Kinds of Morphemes

From the examples above, it is clear that there are two kinds of morphemes. They are morphemes that can stand by themselves with a clear meaning and morphemes that cannot stand by themselves. Morphemes that can stand by themselves are called **free morphemes**. Morphemes that have to be attached to one or more morphemes are called **bound morphemes**.

Free morphemes include:

1. Nouns : tree, flower, house, kitchen, dog, tiger, lion, dress, shirt
2. Verbs : go, come, drink, sing, bring, cut, shoot, walk, run, get
3. Adjectives : clean, strong, weak, clear, red, yellow, near, far
4. Adverbs : yesterday, now, fast, hard, up, out, in
5. Pronouns : he, she, I, we, you, they, it
6. Conjunctions : but, and, since, when, after, before, or, because
7. Prepositions : after, in, of, on, at, with, above, under
8. Determiners : that, this

Bound morphemes, morphemes that cannot stand alone, include bound stems or bound bases and affixes. Bound stems are constructions of one or more morphemes to which an affix can be added. An affix is a bound morpheme that is added to a free morpheme. Some examples of bound stems are nature, structure, inject, project, cognition, visible,

populate, implicate, separate, tolerate, carpenter, construct, perceive, include, resist, desist, porter, tailor, monism, monist, fascism, debility, felicity, operate, corroborate, dehydrate.

The kinds of affixes are *prefixes*, *suffixes*, *infixes* and *superfixes*. Prefixes are affixes which are placed before a morpheme. Some examples of prefixes are:

1. a__ or ab, which means “away from”: atheism, abnormal
2. bi__, which means “two”: bilingual, bipolar
3. de__, meaning “removal” or “negation”: dehumanize, demerit, dehumidify, degrade, derange, deduce, defract
4. pre__, which means “prior to” or “before”: preschool, prewar, prepay, preaxial, prejudge, preadolescence
5. re__, which means “again” or “backwards”: reenact, retype, retrace, refurbish, regenerate, revert
6. inter__, which means “between” or “among”: intercept, interest, intercom, interdepartmental, interact, intercellular, interchange
7. super__ or supra__, which means “above”: superman, superhighway, supermarket
8. un__, which means “not” or “reversal”: unfair, unfairly, unfairness, unfelt, unseen, unfitting, unformed, unheard of, unfasten, undo, unrest, unemployment
9. mal__, which means “bad”, “wrongful” or “ill”: malfunction, malcontent, malpractice, maladjust, maltreat
10. in__, which means “in”: income, indwelling, inland, incarcerate, intrust, inweave, incantation
11. in__, which means “negation”: inattention, indefensible, inexpensive, inorganic, incompetent
12. im__, ir__, il__, which means “negation”: immoral, impartial, impatient, irregular, illogical, illiterate, irrelevant
13. en__, which means “in” or “into”: enable, enact, endear, engulf, enshrine, enslave, enkindle, entwine, engird, engrave, enshield, empower
14. ex__, which means “out of” or “from”: exstipulate, exterritorial, ex-president, ex-member, ex-wife
15. mis__, which means “ill”, “mistaken”, “wrong”, or “negation”: mistrial, misprint, mistrust, misunderstand, misconceive, miscount, misconduct
16. be__, which means “about”, “around”, or “all over”: besiege, becloud, bedaub, begrudge, belabor, befriend, belittle
17. a__, which is an adverb-forming morpheme: aloud, ahead, away, aboard, abridge, astir, anew, abroad
18. trans__, which means “across”, “beyond”, or “through”: trans-Siberian, transempirical, transvalue. It may also mean father from the see: trans-Martian, trans-Neptunian (Urdang and Flexner, 1975: 1394)

19. under__, which means “below”: underbrush, undertow, understudy, undersheriff, undersized, underfeed (Urdang and Flexner, 1975: 1430)
20. over__: overboard, overcoat, overhang, overlap, overrun, overthrow, overact, overcapitalize, overcrowd, overfull, overmuch, oversupply, overweight (Urdang and Flexner, 1975: 946)
21. pro__, which means “favour”: pro-British, procommunist, proslavery. It may also mean “priority in space or time”: provision, prologue, proceed, produce, protract, procathedral, proconsul (Urdang and Flexner, 1975: 1054)
22. extra__, which means “outside” or “beyond”: extrajudicial, extraterritorial
23. anti__, which means ‘against’ or “opposite of”: antislavery, antispiritual, antipole, anticyclone, antipyretic
24. out__: outlast, outlive, outstay, outbid, outcast, outdo
25. sub__, which is a prefix to produce words like subject, subtract, subvert. It is also a prefix with a meaning of “under”, “below”, or “beneath”: subalpine, subcommittee, subplot, subdivide, subclass
26. di__, which means “two”, “twice”, or “double”: diphthong, decotyledon
27. semi__, which means “half”: semifinal, semimonthly
28. fore__, which means “before”, “front”, “superior”: forehead, forecastle, forecast, foretell, foreman
29. co__, com__, con__, col__, cor__, which means “with”, “together”, “in association”: comate, combine, co-author, cohabit, cognate (Urdang and Flexner, 1975: 256, 267), collaborate, corroborate, correlate
30. eu__, which means “good”, “well”: euphony, eupepsia, euphemism, euphoria, eurhythmic (Urdang and Flexner, 1975: 454-456)
31. multi__, which means “more than one” or “many”: multicolored, multiracial
32. dis__, which means “opposite” or “negative”: disapprove, dishonesty, discontented, disconnect
33. tri__, meaning “three”: trilingual, triangle, tripartite, trimester
34. ultra__, meaning “above” or “beyond”: ultraviolet, ultramodern
35. hyper__, meaning “more than usual”: hypersensitive, hyper-extension, hyper-intelligent, hyperactive, hyperlink
36. hypo__, meaning “under” or “below”: hypothermia, hypodermic
37. mono__, meaning “single”: monosyllabic, monolingual, monorail
38. mini__, meaning “very small”: miniskirt, minimarket, minibus, minicam, minicar, minimart
39. poly__, meaning “many”: polysyllabic, polyglot, polygamy, polyandry, polygene, polytheism
40. extra__, meaning “outside of” or “beyond”: extracurricular,

- extramarital, extramural
41. intra __, meaning “into”, “inside”, or “within”: intra-departmental, intranet, intravenous, intramural, intrastate
 42. intro __, meaning “inside” or “within something”: introspection, introvert
 43. ante __, meaning “coming or happening before”: antedate, antebellum
 44. anthrop __, “like human” or “relating to humans”: anthropomorphic, anthropology
 45. neo __, meaning “new” or “recent”: neophyte, neonatal, neologism, neocolonialism
 46. non __: nonalcoholic, nonsmoker, nonstick, non-event, non-character (Longman Advanced American Dictionary, 2003)
 47. biblio __: bibliography, bibliophile, bibliolatr, bibliomania, bibliopegy
 48. ad __, a __, ac __, af __, ag __, al __, an __, ap __, ar __, as __, at __, which mean “toward” or “addition”: affix, allot, agravate, aggrandize, accelerate
 49. allo __, which means “other”: allotrope, allomorph, allophone
 50. mid __, meaning “in the middle”: mid-20^s, mid-July, midair, midsemester, midwinter
 51. in __, meaning “in” or “into something”: income, inward, insert
 52. omni __, meaning “all”: omniscient, omnivores, omnipotent
 53. post __, meaning “later than”, “after something”: postwar, postpower, postpone, postgraduate, postgame, posthumous
 54. meta __, meaning “beyond the ordinary”: metaphysical, metalanguage, metamorphosis
 55. micro __, meaning “small”: micro-computer, micro-electronics, microeconomics, microbiology
 56. mega __, meaning “much larger”: megabit, megabucks, megalomania, megastar
 57. macro __, meaning “a large system as a single unit”: macroeconomics, macrocosm
 58. bio __, meaning “relating to living things”: biomedical, biographer, biomass
 59. gyn __, meaning “relating to women”: gynecology, polygyny
 60. neuron __, meaning “relating to the nerves”: neurosurgeon, neurology
 61. geo __, meaning “relating to the earth”: geophysics, geopolitical, geology, geography
 62. ped __, which means “foot”: pedal, pedestrian, pedicure
 63. ped __, which means “child”: pediatrician, pediatrics, pedagogy, pedophilia
 64. infra __, which means “below”: infrasonic, infrared
 65. para __, which means “beyond”: paranormal. It may also mean “a profession to help more highly skilled people”: paramedic,

- paralegal. It may also mean “very similar to”: paramilitary.
It may mean “relating to parachutes”: paratrooper, paragliding, parasailing
66. uni__, meaning “one”: unify, unity, uniform, unisex
 67. iso__, meaning “equal”: isogeneous, isogonics
 68. auto__, meaning “of or by oneself”: autobiography, autopump
 69. contra__, meaning “acting to prevent”: contraceptive, contravene.
It may mean “opposite”: contradictory, contradict
 70. counter__, meaning “opposite”: counterproductive, counteract
 71. homo__, which means “the same”: homosexual, homograph, homogenous
 72. hetero__, which means “the opposite”: heterosexual, heterogeneous
 73. retro__, meaning “back to the past”: retrospect, retrogress, retroactive, retrograde
 74. matri__, which means “relating to mother”: matricide, matriarchal, matriarch
 75. patri__, which means “relating to father”: patricide, patriarch, patriarchal
 76. penta__, meaning “five”: pentagon, pentagram, pentameter
 77. quadric__, meaning “four” or “four times”: quadrilateral, quadruped
 78. down__, meaning “toward the lower”: downstairs, downriver, downsize, download, downgrade, downfall
 79. up__, which means “the greater or the high”: upgrade, upriver, uproot, upscale
 80. tele__, telescope, telecommunication, telecast, teleconference
(Longman Advanced American Dictionary)

Suffixes are affixes which are placed after free morphemes or bound stems. In the discussions of noun-forming morphemes, verb-forming morphemes, adjective-forming morphemes and adverb-forming morphemes above, many examples of suffixes are provided. Thus, __age, __ance, __er, __ing, __ee, __ment, __al, __ant, __ation, __ness, __cy, __ism, __ist, __ship, __ful, __able, __en, __ous, __ly, __wise, and __ile are examples of suffixes. Other examples of suffixes are:

1. __ity: regularity, stupidity, modernity
2. __let, which means “small”: booklet, leaflet, anklet, piglet
3. __ess: lioness, waitress, heiress, princess, duchess
4. __ette, which means “small”: kitchenette, dinette, statuette, cigarette. It may also mean the “feminine”: usherette, coquette
5. __some: burdensome, troublesome, bothersome, cumbersome. It may also mean “a group of a particular number”: a golf foursome, a loving twosome (Longman Advanced American Dictionary, 2003: 1385)
6. __dom: freedom, boredom, wisdom
7. __ern: northern, eastern, southern, western

8. __ade: lemonade
9. __al, which means “relating to” or “being like something”:
political, emotional, industrial, magical
10. __ar: beggar, liar
11. __ad: dyad, triad
12. __in, which means “an activity organized by a group of people as a
protest against something: a sit-in
13. __ling, which means “smaller, younger, or less important”:
duckling, princeling, yearling, nestling, gosling, sapling
14. __log, meaning “something written or spoken”: catalog,
monologue, prologue
15. __logy: mineralogy, geology
16. __ure, which means “nouns showing actions or results”: failure,
pleasure, mixture
17. __ose, meaning “too much”: verbose, grandiose
18. __osis, meaning “diseased condition”: tuberculosis, neurosis,
hypnosis
19. __smith, meaning “the maker”: gunsmith, silversmith, wordsmith,
goldsmith, blacksmith
20. __nik, beatnik, healthnik
21. __itis, bronchitis, tonsillitis, appendicitis
22. __ular: globular, glandular
23. __ped: biped, quadruped
24. __’s: Peter’s, Mary’s
25. __st, __nd, __rd, __th, which show “order”
26. __th, which is a noun-forming morpheme: depth, width, breadth
27. __ule: granule, spherule
28. __ware: silverware, tableware, glassware
29. __eer: auctioneer, profiteer
30. __ese: Japanese, Viennese
31. __ery: slavery, bravery, machinery, finery
32. __cide: genocide, patricide, matricide, homicide
33. __ative: talkative, argumentative, imaginative
34. __ive: explosive, detective, adoptive
35. __ory: explanatory, congratulatory
36. __ory: observatory, directory
37. __proof: bulletproof, soundproof, waterproof
38. __ty: certainty, poverty
39. __craft, which means “vehicle”: spacecraft, hovercraft, aircraft. It
also means “skill”: statecraft, witchcraft, stagecraft
40. __ectomy, which means “removing the stated body part by an
operation”: appendectomy, vasectomy, tubectomy
41. __ial: managerial, secretarial
42. __tude: certitude, exactitude
43. __monger: fishmonger, rumormonger, warmonger
44. __oid, which means “similar”: humanoid, avoid (egg-shaped)

45. __ward: homeward, downward, upward
46. __ent: persistent, different. It is also a noun-forming morpheme: resident, president, respondent
47. __ine, meaning “relating to”: equine, bovine, feline, ovine, porcine. It also means “made of something or similar to”: crystalline
48. __ana, which means “a collection of objects, papers, etc., relating to someone or something”: Americana
49. __philia, which means “a tendency to feel sexually attracted”: pedophilia, necrophilia. It also means “a diseased or unhealthy tendency to do something”: hemophilia. It also means “a tendency to like something”: Francophilia
50. __phile, meaning “someone who likes something very much”: bibliophile, Francophile, anglophile
51. __phobe, meaning “a person who dislikes or hates”: Anglophobe, xenophobe, technophobe
52. __ship. This suffix has several meanings: “a particular position, condition, or state”: membership, friendship, hardship; “art or skill”: musicianship, scholarship; “all people in a particular group”: leadership; “a particular title for people”: Ladyship
53. __ite. This suffix has several meanings: “a follower or supporter”: Trotskyite; “relating to a particular political or religious ideas or person”: Mennonites; “someone who lives in a particular place or belongs to a particular group”: suburbanite, Israelite; “substance such as a mineral, a compound, or an explosive”: graphite, dynamite
54. __phobia, meaning “a strong dislike or fear”: claustrophobia, aquaphobia, homophobia
55. __ie, which means “less formal”: Eddie, sweetie, nudie, grannie, oldie
56. __iform, meaning “having a particular shape”: cruciform, cuneiform
57. __aholic, meaning “someone who likes and cannot stop doing the stated thing”: workaholics, computaholic, chocoholic
58. __wright, which means “someone who makes”: playwright, wheelwright
59. __ics, meaning “the scientific study of a subject”: linguistics, phonetics, electronics, genetics, economics
60. __esque, which means “in the manner of a particular group, person, or place”: Kafkaesque. It also means “having a particular quality”: picturesque, grotesque
61. __ier, which means “someone who does something or in charge of something”: cashier, hotelier, carrier, drier (Longman Advanced American Dictionary)

Infixes are affixes that are inserted into other morphemes. Linguists generally agree that English does not use infixes.

Circumfixes are affixes that are placed before and after a morpheme together. It is said that there are no Circumfixes in English.

Superfixes are affixes that are added from above in the form of sound quality which is called stress. A change of stress may change the form class of the words, such as from a noun to a verb. Some examples are:

Noun	Verb
`permit	per`mit
`transfer	trans`fer
`record	re`cord
`project	pro`ject
`progress	pro`gress
`import	im`port
`export	ex`port
`escort	es`cort
`digest	di`gest
`present	pre`sent
`prospect	pros`pect
`protest	pro`test
`rebound	re`bound
`produce	pro`duce
`subject	sub`ject
`outgrowth	out`grow
`intern	in`tern
`increase	in`crease
`decrease	de`crease
`object	ob`ject
`suspect	sus`pect
`transport	trans`port
`contract	con`tract
`convict	con`vict
`transplant	trans`plant
`contrast	con`trast
`detail	de`tail
`implant	im`plant
`purport	pur`port

`update	up`date
`recount	re`count
`insert	in`sert
`refill	re`fill

Affixes are classified into two groups: inflectional suffixes and derivational affixes. Inflectional suffixes are suffixes that appear at the extreme end of the construction. No more affix can be added to an inflectional suffix. Inflectional suffixes do not add a new meaning or change the form class of the words. They serve grammatical functions such as to mark tense or plurality. Inflectional suffixes include:

1. __s : the plural morpheme
2. __'s or __s' : the possessive morpheme
3. __er : the comparative degree morpheme
4. __est : the superlative degree morpheme
5. __s : the third person singular tense morpheme
6. __ing : the progressive tense morpheme
7. __ed¹ : the past tense morpheme
8. __ed² : the past participle morpheme

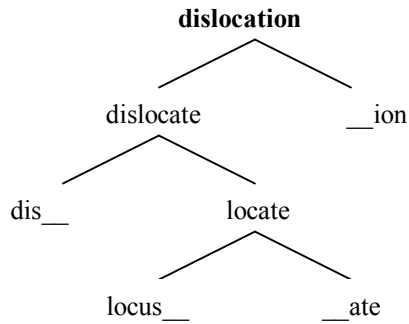
Derivational affixes are affixes that add new meanings to morphemes or change the form class of the morphemes. All prefixes are derivational. Most of the suffixes are derivational. A superfix is also is also derivational.

Certain morphemes have variants. Variants are different forms of a morpheme variants are called **allomorphs**. The plural morpheme, for example, has the following allomorphs:

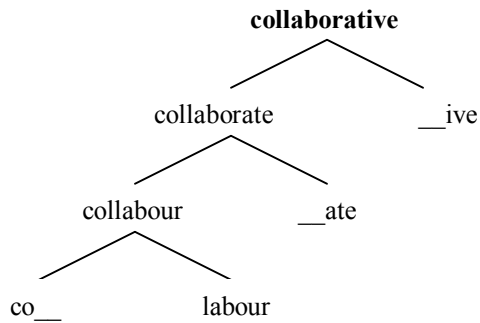
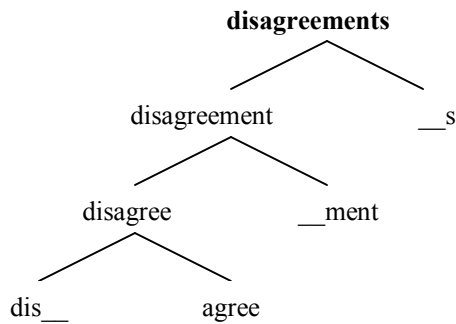
1. - / s /, appearing after / p , t , k , f , θ / : cats, hats, locks, chiefs
2. - / z /, appearing after / b , d , g , v , ə , m , n , ŋ , l , s , y , w , h , ə /
3. - / iz / , appearing after / s , z , ʃ , ʒ , tʃ , dʒ /
4. __en , appearing in: oxen, children
5. __Ø or zero allomorph: sheep, deer
6. __replacives, the changing of sound: phenomena, agenda, strata

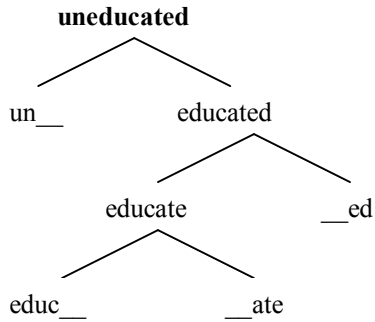
These allomorphs have their own distribution or environment in which they appear. The distribution or position of an allomorph cannot be occupied by other allomorphs. The allomorphs are in complementary distribution. A morpheme can, therefore, be defined as a group of allomorphs that are semantically identical and in complementary distribution (Francis, 1958: 180).

In polymorphemic words, there are layers of meaning. Certain units of meaning combine earlier than others. For example:

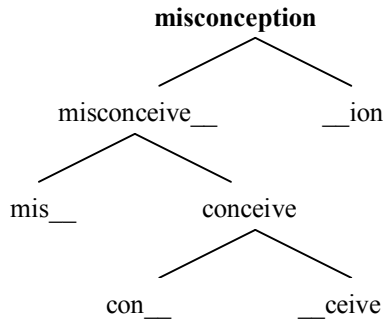
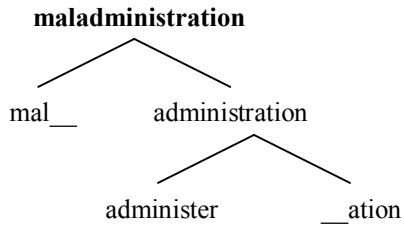


locus_ is a bound stem

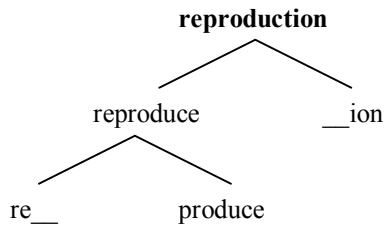


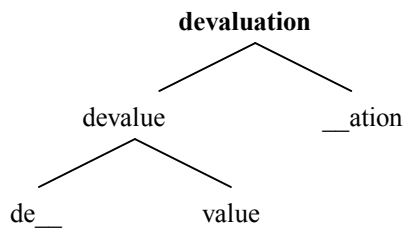
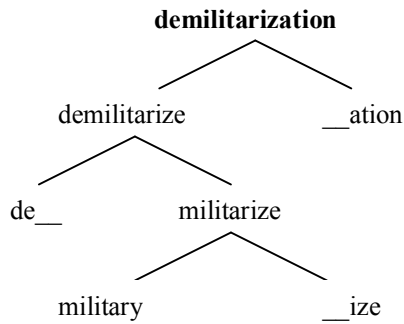
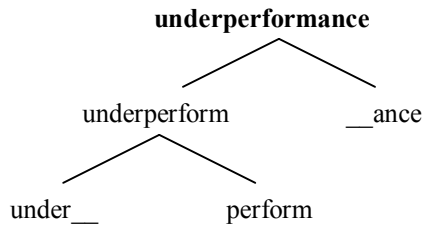
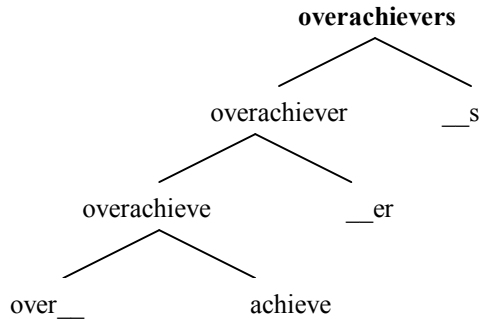


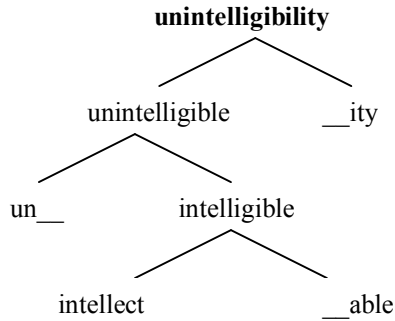
educ__ is a bound stem



__ceive is a bound stem or base.







Conclusion

In the learning of English language, there is a popular understanding among learners that meaning lies in words. This is only partly true. In English there are many words with a single unit of meaning. These words are called **monomorphemic words**. However, there are a lot of English words that consist of two or more units of meaning. These words are called **bimorphemic words** or **polymorphemic words**. Meaning, therefore, lies in morphemes. The meaning of English words lies in free morphemes, bound stems, prefixes, suffixes, and superfixes. Understanding these units of meaning will certainly help understand the meaning of English words.

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