Morphology

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LCD 102: Analyzing Language

Lesson Plan

- Group Project
- Morphology

MORPHOLOGY

Reduplication

- Repeating a unit
  - Syllable
    - Ilocano
    - Samoan
  - Word
    - English canonical reduplication
      - Salad-salad
      - Love-love
      - Hate-hate
      - Chair-chair

New morphemes

- These processes all combine and can lead to reanalysis
- A speaker reanalyzes a word as having different morphology

Historical Reanalysis

- ‘a napple’ > ‘an apple’
- ‘a napron’ > ‘an apron’
- OE *forgifeness = forgife(n)* + *-ess*? or *–ness*?
  - *-ess* > *-ness*
    - gōdness
    - beohrtness ‘brightness’

New Morphemes

- Can you think of any new morphemes?

- Any examples of reduplication

ALLOMORPHOLOGY

Allomorphy

- A morpheme can surface in more than one form
  - We call these varying forms ‘morphs’
  - These are surface realizations of an underlying ‘morpheme’

Morph:	tru + th
Morpheme:	{true} + {th}

Allomorphy

- Inexhaustible
- Incalculable
- Impossible
- Immovable
- Illogical
- Illegible
- irreligious
- irresponsible

Allomorphy

- In-exhaustible
- In-calculable
- Im-possible
- Im-movable
- Il-logical
- Il-legible
- Ir-religious
- Ir-responsible

Allomorphy

- [ɪn-], [im-], [il-], and [ir-] are allomorphs of the same morpheme.

- What is the underlying morpheme?
  - {in-}

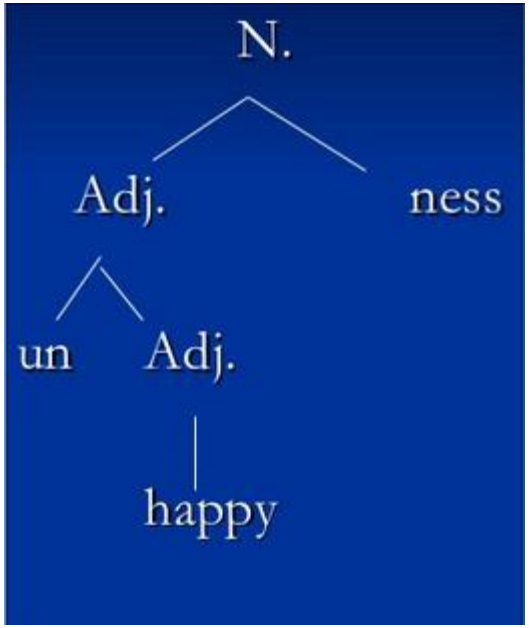
(*allo-* is a rather rarely used prefix ; it's from the Ancient Greek **ἄλλος** meaning 'other'.)

HIERARCHY

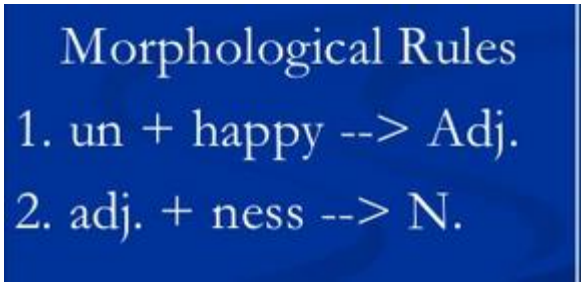
- Words are not just flat, linear sequences of morphemes

Hierarchy

- There is a hierarchy among the various morphemes as to the order in which they were added to the word.



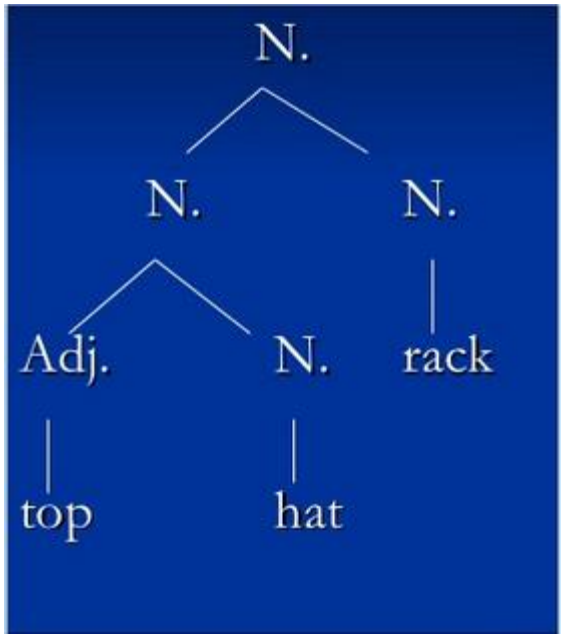
- They are formed in steps
- Because trees have a particular order of morphemic combination associated with them, we can say that their structure is hierarchical.

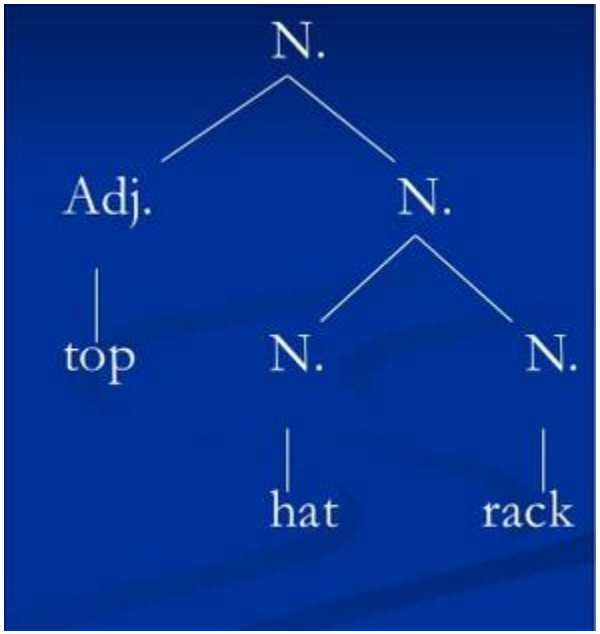


http://www.slideshare.net/moniozy/morphemes

Trees

- There is internal structure which we can represent with tree diagrams





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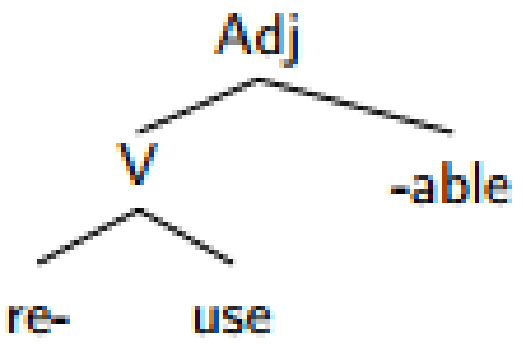
- This fact implies that the order of combination for morphemes makes a difference, because otherwise you would end up with ”non-well-formed” words.
  - unusable = un + (use + able),
    not *(un + use) + able.
  - reusable = (re + use) + able,
    not *re + (use +able).

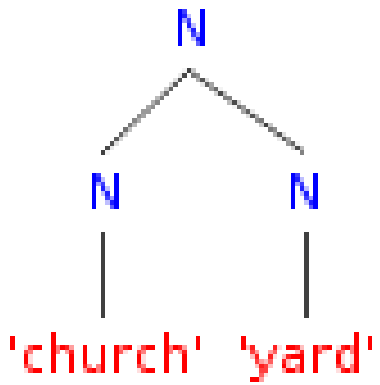


http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/~kdk/201/spring02/slides/morphology-4up.pdf

- Words aren't combined randomly to form phrases and phrases do not combine randomly to form sentences. The structure of a sentence is hierarchical.

http://languagelink.let.uu.nl/~lion/?s=Morphology_exercises/morphology_2&lang=en

- The same holds true for the way morphemes combine to form words. To visualize the hierarchical structure of words we can use trees, just as we can with sentences and grammar. For instance, a tree for the word "churchyard" would look like this:



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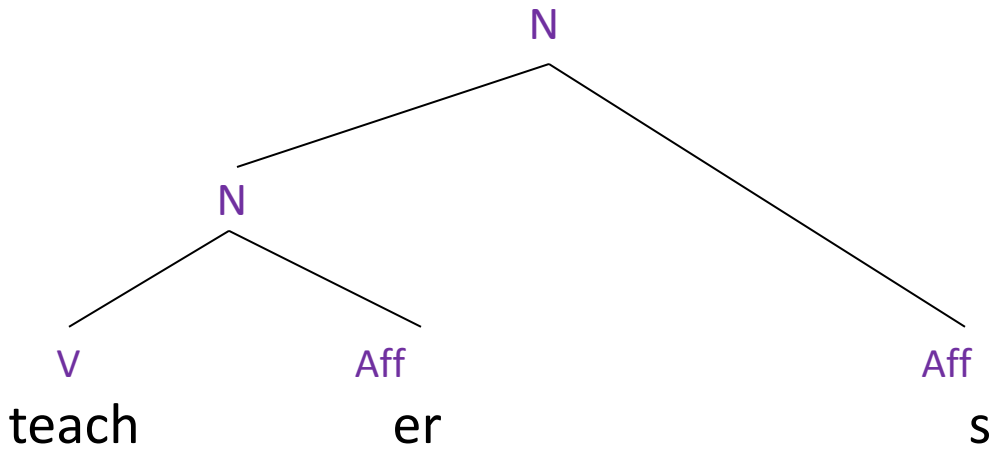
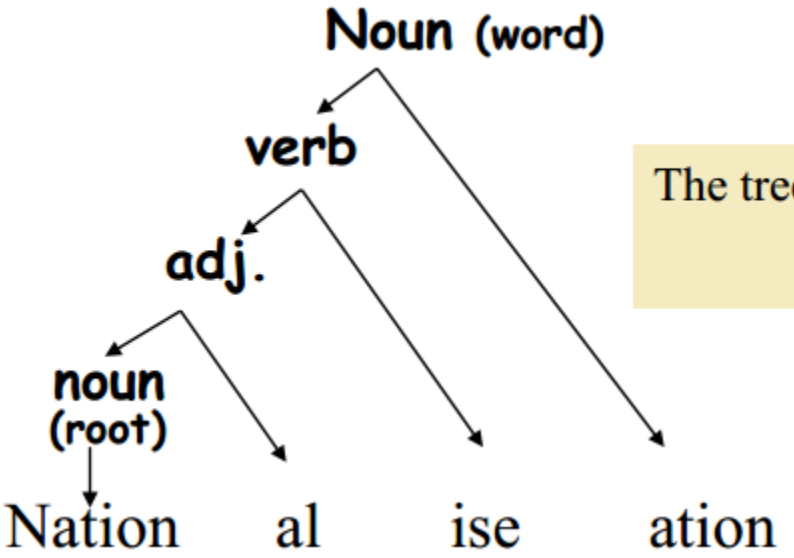
Combining Morphemes into Words

- In English, bound morphemes attach in a certain order:
  - ROOT + DERIVATIONAL + INFLECTIONAL
    - teachers
      - teach + er + s
      - *teach + s + er
  - we can use tree diagrams to represent how morphemes attach to the root to form words



Order → Hierarchy



The tree diagram of word structure

Order of appearance

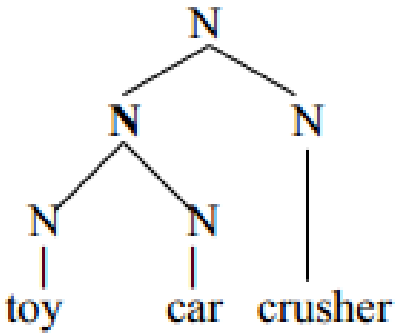
http://www.ntcc.fju.edu.tw/yueh/linguistics/lectures/Morphology.pdf

Hierarchy Important

- This hierarchical structure is very important and can change the meaning of a word

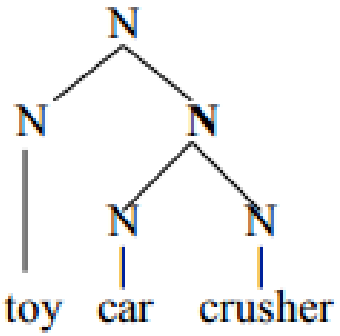
[kitchen towel] rack
'rack for kitchen towels'

[toy car] crusher
'device that crushes [toy cars]'



kitchen [towel rack]
'towel rack in the kitchen'

toy [car crusher]
'[car crusher] that is a toy'



http://www.sfs.uni-tuebingen.de/~sam/teach/IntroGenLing/handouts/syn1HO.pdf

Affixal Restrictions

- Affixes in general can only combine with words of a single part of speech. (e.g., ”-able” and “re-” only combine with verbs). Also, the words affixes form after combination are usually of a single part of speech as well, not necessarily the same as the words with which it combines. (”-able” forms adjectives, “re-” forms verbs).

http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/~kdk/201/spring02/slides/morphology-4up.pdf

Ambiguity

- Some words can have multiple structures associated with them because of various combinatorial possibilities for the constituent morphemes.
- This is usually due to phonetically identical but otherwise differing morphemes causing some sort of ambiguity, e.g., unlockable.
- These are ambiguous in their word structure.

http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/~kdk/201/spring02/slides/morphology-4up.pdf

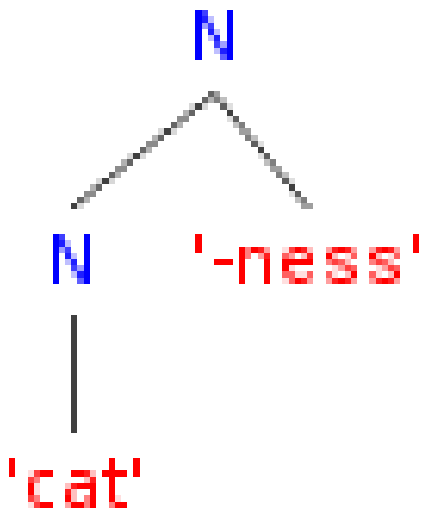
Ambiguity

- There are (a very small number of) examples of affixes which combine with more than one part of speech (e.g., pre-).
  - preexist, precede, predetermine (V → V)
  - preseason, prewar (N → A)
  - prefrontal, predental, prehistoric (A → A)

http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/~kdk/201/spring02/slides/morphology-4up.pdf

Ambiguity

- Not all trees are straightforward. When drawing trees for words you will have to think carefully about whether or not a certain morpheme may combine with a certain word. Most of you will immediately agree that the following tree is absolute nonsense.



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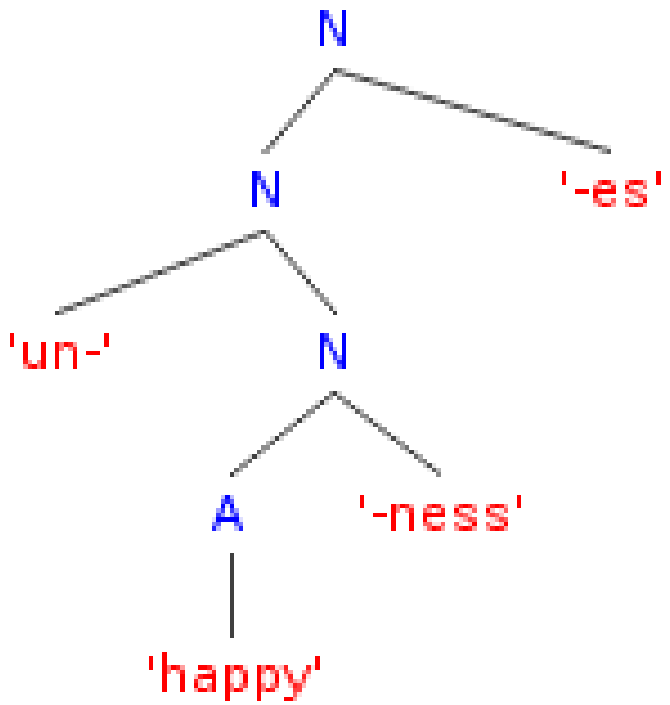
Ambiguity

- The following tree may look ok at first glance



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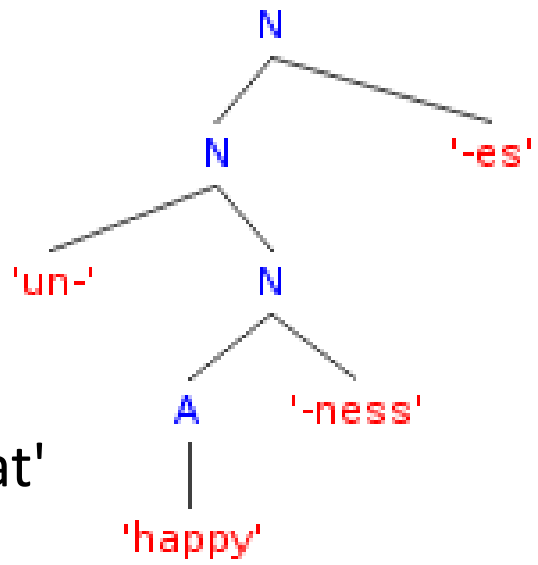
Ambiguity

- The tree is incorrect
  - the 'un-' prefix combines with a noun while this isn't allowed.
  - You can check this is the case by trying to combine 'un-' with any noun.
    - combining it with 'cat' gives us 'uncat' which is obviously not right.
    - 'un-' should combine with words such as 'succesful' and 'wise': adjectives.



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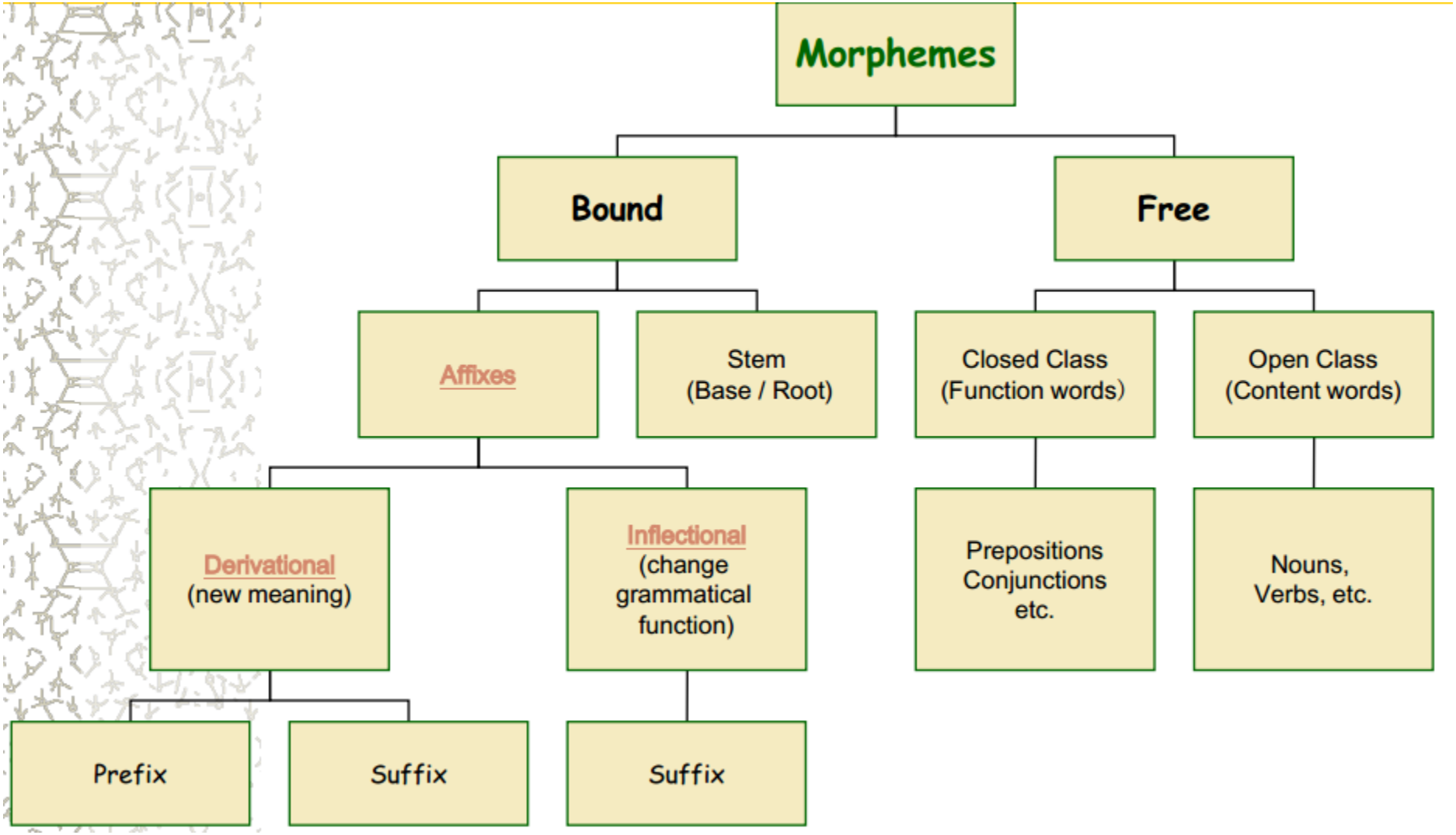
Used to determine the types of morphemes

HELP CHARTS FROM ONLINE

All Types



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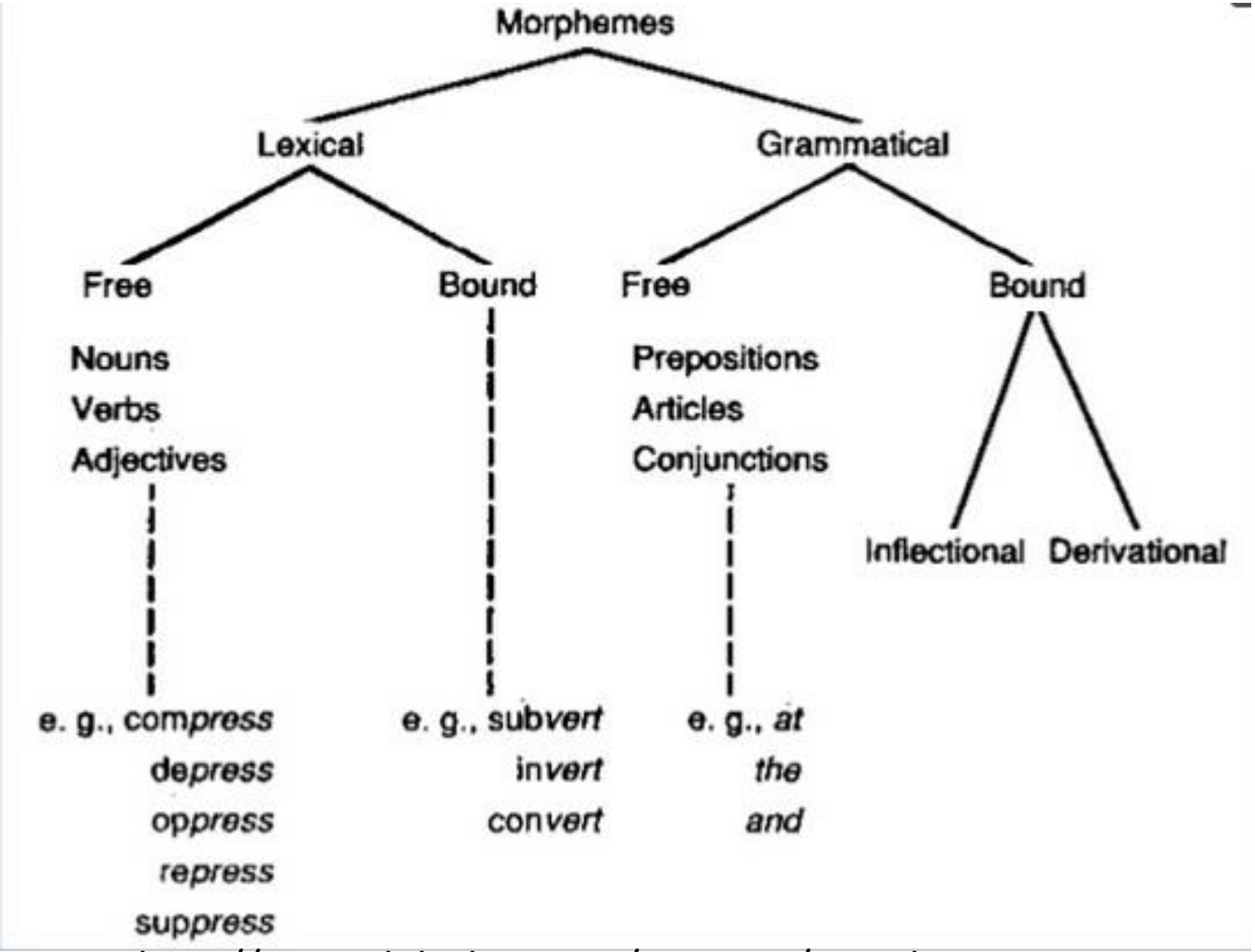
All Types (with examples)



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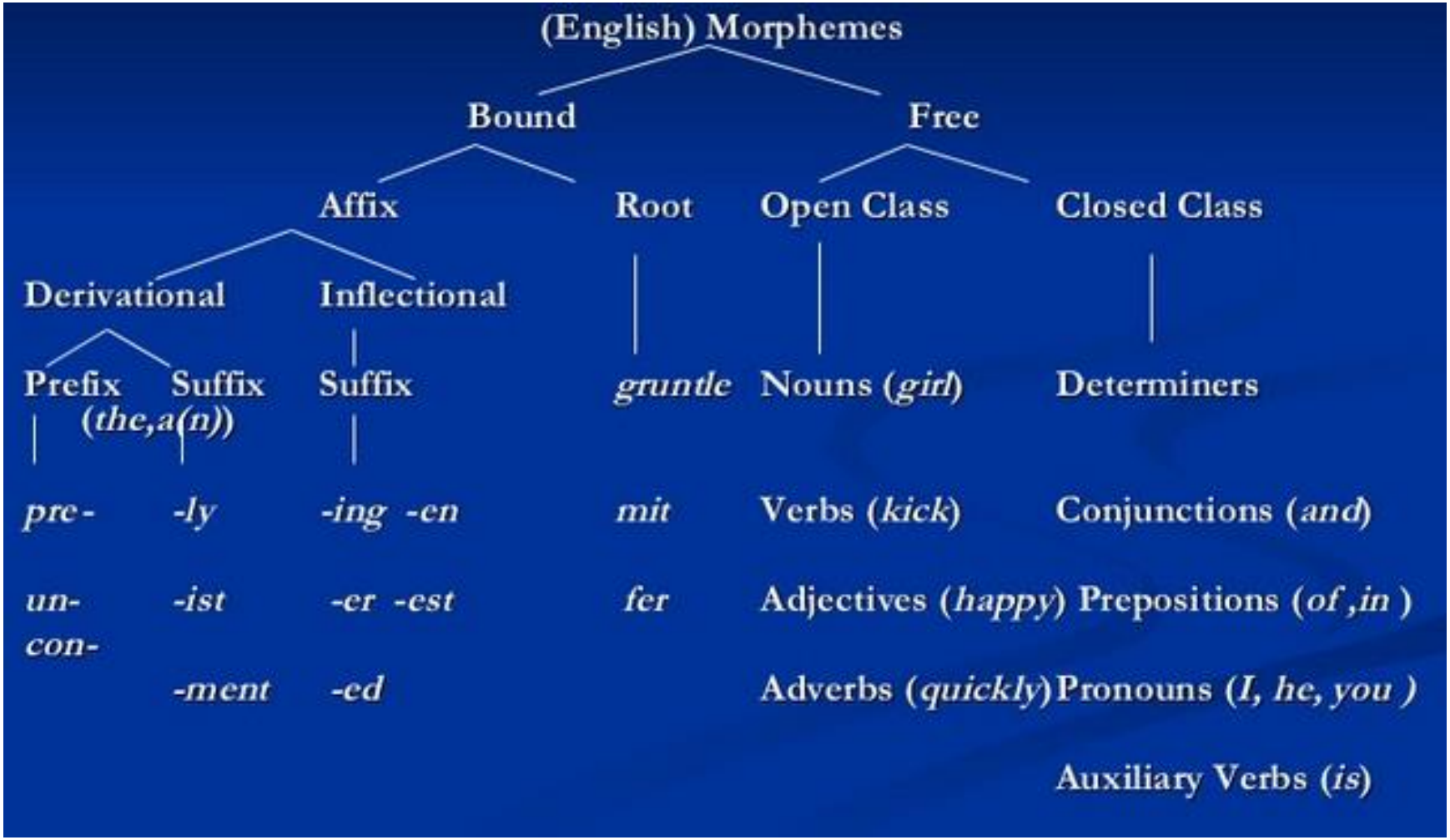

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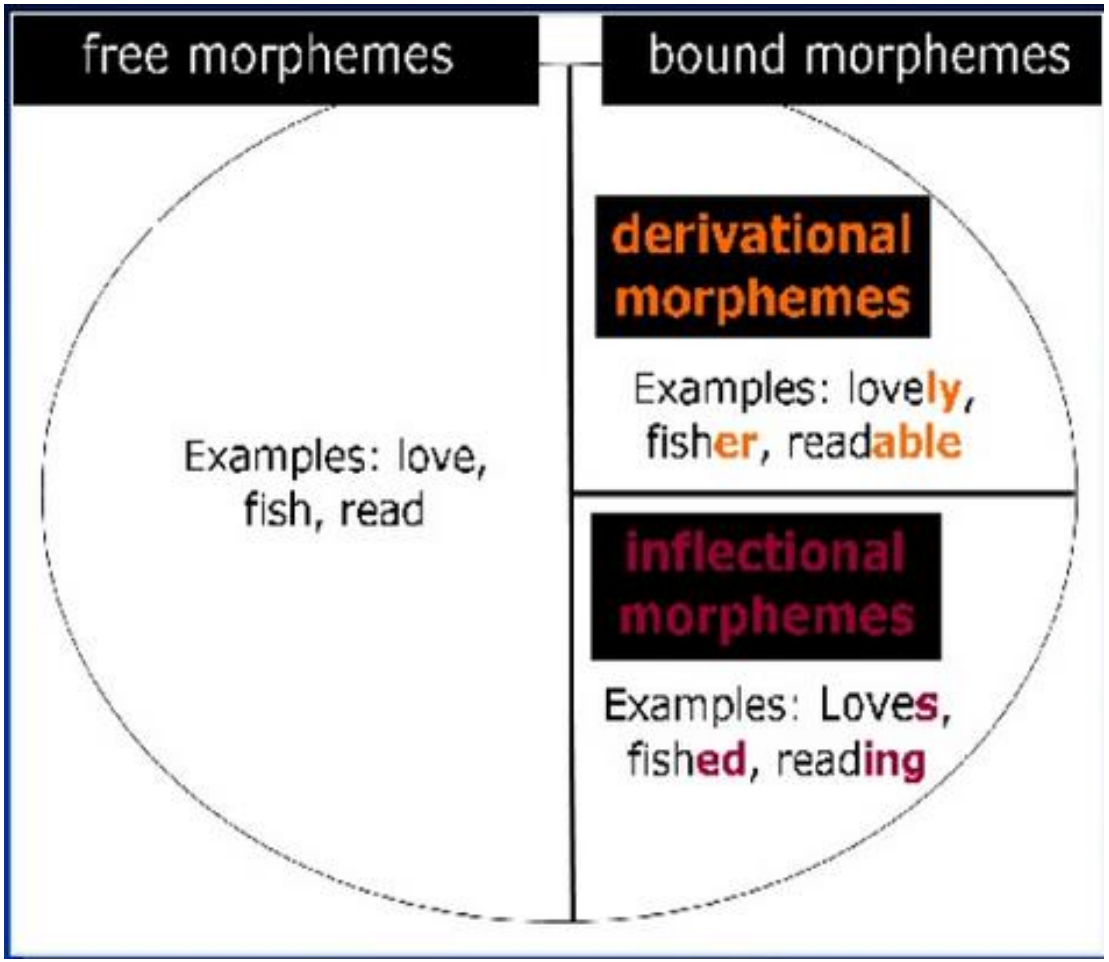
Free, and Bound (derivational and inflectional)



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Derivational and Inflectional

	Derivational	Inflectional
position	closer to stem	further from stem
addable on to?	yes	not in English
changes stem?	yes	no
productive?	(often) no	(usually) yes
meaning?	(often) unpredictable	predictable

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