

1. Course Introduction

The Structure of Words (Ling 350)

Prof. Pentangelo

Fall 2025

What We'll Cover

1. Personal introductions
2. Course introduction
3. A bit of morphology
4. For next time

Personal Introductions

- I'm Joseph Pentangelo.
- I live on Staten Island with my wife, Rebecca, our daughter, Elizabeth, and our cat, Babycat.
- I'm a linguist and folklorist.
- I graduated from the Macaulay Honors College at the College of Staten Island in 2012. Later, I got my PhD in Linguistics from the Graduate Center, CUNY, in 2020.
- Your turn! Name, major, year, and a hobby or anything cool.

Icebreaker

- Find Someone Who...
- Don't fill in yourself on your own sheet.
- Don't use the same person for two squares.

Find Someone Who...			
Has a dog	Knows ASL	Knows how to knit	Drives
Shares a hobby (name & hobby)	Has been to California	Has a cat	Hates cilantro
Is a painter	Loves the same show (name & show)	Free Space (name & fun fact)	Knows CPR
Is multilingual (name & languages)	Lives outside NYC	Loves to garden	Skates



Syllabus and Website

Ling 350: The Structure of Words
The College of Staten Island, CUNY
Fall 2025

Day/Time: Wednesdays, 6:30-9:50pm
Room: 2N 110
Website: <https://ling350fall25.commons.gc.cuny.edu/>

Instructor: Joseph Pentangelo
joseph.pentangelo@csi.cuny.edu
cix.csi.cuny.edu — I won't see them.
• Please don't send emails to "cix.csi.cuny.edu" — I won't see them.
• Please include "Ling 350" in the subject of any emails for this class.

Office Hours: Mondays, 5:30-6:30pm, 2S 225 (in-person)
Email me to set up remote office hours.

Catalogue Description:
An introduction to linguistic morphology, the study of word structure and word formation in languages of the world. This course will explore how words can be analyzed into smaller units of meaning and sound, the semantic properties of words, the origin of English words and how word structure interacts with sound and sentence structure. For English majors and minors, this is designated as a linguistics course. NOTE: Not open to students who have already completed ENL 447. Enrollment Requirements: Prerequisite: ENG 151.
Requirement Designation: Regular Liberal Arts.

1. Requirements

Expect to read about 20 pages per week from these two books:

- *An Introduction to English Morphology*, 2nd edition (2018), by Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy
- *Introducing Linguistic Morphology*, 2nd edition (2003), by Laurie Bauer

Digital copies are on the course website. You are encouraged to buy physical copies, but are by no means required to do so.

1.1. Readings

1.2. Grading
Your grade breakdown is as follows:
Participation: 30%
Exams: 70%

Grade Key	
A	91%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C	77-79%
C-	70-76%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Keep your paper copies!

Bring them to class!

Structure of Words (Fall 2025)

College of Staten Island, CUNY

- Home
- Syllabus
- Assignments
- Slides
- Readings

Home

Welcome to the course website for Prof. Pentangelo's Fall 2025 Structure of Words class at the College of Staten Island, CUNY. Here, you can find the syllabus, assignments, slides, and other course materials.

You are encouraged to bookmark this website and check it regularly for updates. We will not really be using Brightspace for this class, for reasons which we can discuss in class.

ling350fall25.commons.gc.cuny.edu

Morphology

- What is a word?
- Is “shirt” a word?
- What does it mean?
- Is “dog” a word?
- What does it mean?
- Is “the” a word?
- What does it mean?
- Is “gonna” a word?
- How many words are there in: “I shouldn’t’ve lent her my shoes.”



How can we tell these are both dogs?



More on Words

- “He is a fool.”
- “They are fools.”
- Are “fool” and “fools” the same word?

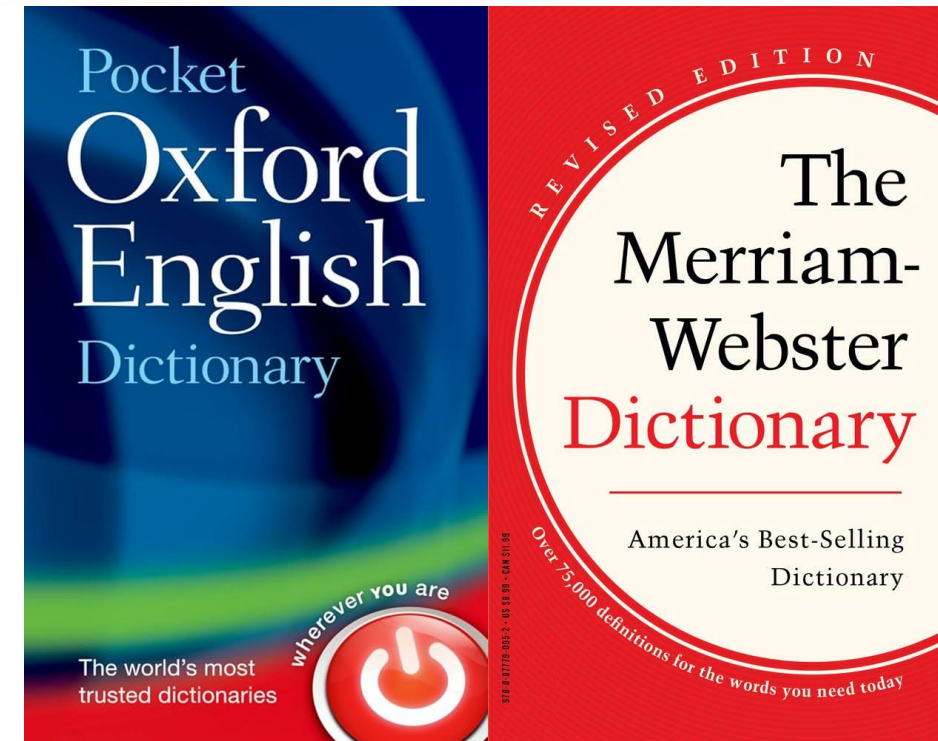
- “He is a child.”
- “They are children.”
- Are “child” and “children” the same word?

- “I love to walk.”
- “I am walking.”
- Are “walk” and “walking” the same word?

- “He is a kid.”
- “You have to be kidding.”
- Are “kid” and “kidding” the same word?

Lexicogenesis

- Where do words come from, anyway?
- How do you know if something is a word?
- Can you just make up words on your own?



For next time

- Read chapters 1 and 2 in the textbook. There will be a quiz on this reading and on what we did today at the start of class.