

12. Words & Meaning III + Final Review

Introduction to Language (Ling 201)

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Course Evaluations

- 1 extra credit point for doing your evaluation and showing me proof you did it!
- Don't show me how you evaluated me – just show me that you submitted your evaluation.

Go to <https://csi.mce.cc>

Log in with your CUNYfirst login credentials

(Enter your CUNY_Login_MFA authentication code once requested.)

- Email me a screenshot when you get a chance:
joseph.pentangelo@csi.cuny.edu

Morphology

- We're picking up from where we left off last week.
- If you weren't here, you'll get a new worksheet. We did activities 1 and 2 last time.

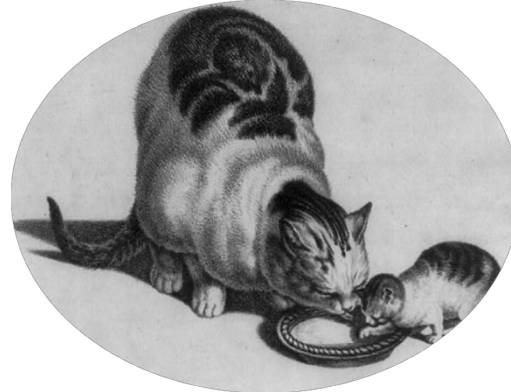
What is morphology?



Sing has one morpheme



moth has one morpheme



singer has two morphemes:
sing and the “one who does something” -*er*

How many morphemes does *mother* have?

One, even though it ends in *er* – it’s not “one who moths”

How many morphemes does *smaller* have?

Two

Is the -*er* in *smaller* the same as the -*er* in *singer*?

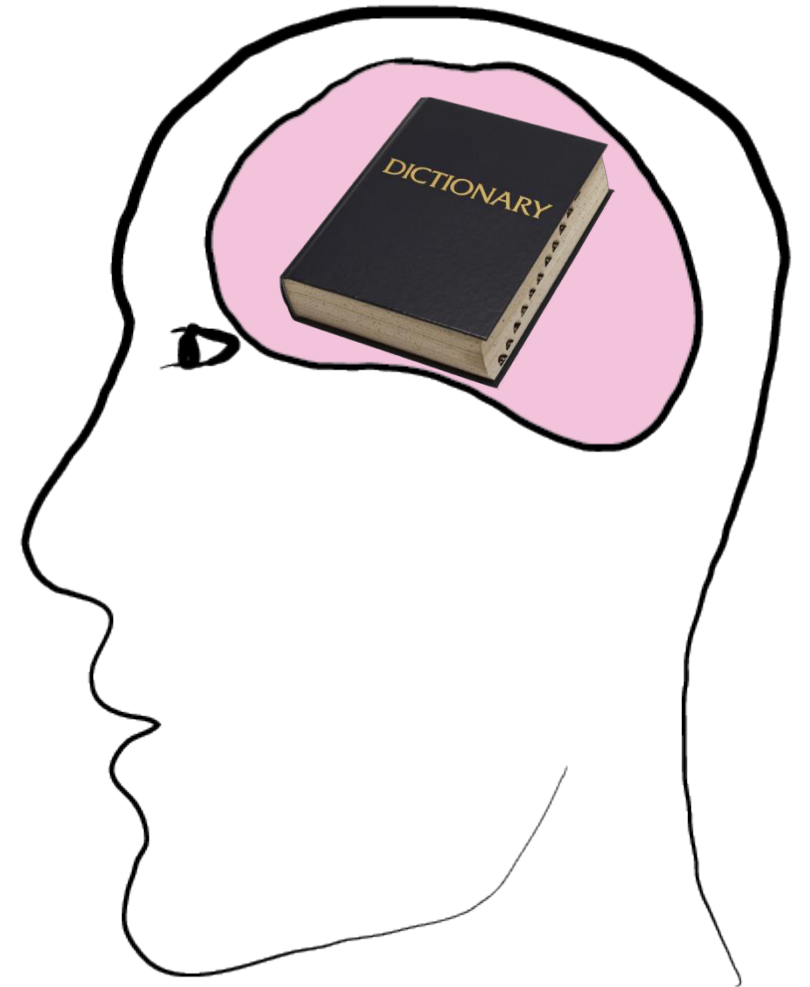
Do activity 3 on your sheets.

The Lexicon

- What is the *lexicon*?

[...] a sort of mental dictionary that language users—both speakers and hearers—have internalized as part and parcel of acquiring their particular language.
(p.155)

- What is stored in the lexicon?
- Words!
- Or, more specifically, *lexical entries*.



What's in a word?

- Words have **form**, **meaning**, and a **lexical category**.
- **Form:** pronunciation, spelling, sign.
- **Meaning:** definition.
- **Lexical category:** part of speech (noun, verb, etc.)



Form:

moth /mɑθ/ or /mɒθ/

Meaning:

nocturnal flying insect with powdery wings.

Lexical category:

Noun



Lexical Entry

- Form:

/kæt/

- Meaning:

Small quadrupedal mammal with whiskers and pointy ears that meows and purrs.

- Lexical category:

Noun



Lexical Entry

- Form:
/dag/ or /dɒg/
- Meaning:
Small to medium mammal
that barks and growls.
- Lexical category:
Noun

What kinds of words are there?

Every word belongs to a **lexical category**.

- Nouns ‘apple’ ‘aardvark’ ‘liberty’
- Verbs ‘run’ ‘play’ ‘consider’
- Adjectives ‘blue’ ‘octagonal’ ‘unbelievable’
- Adverbs ‘quickly’ ‘fast’ ‘yesterday’
- Prepositions ‘for’ ‘under’ ‘from’
- Determiners ‘the’ ‘a’ ‘his’
- Pronouns ‘she’ ‘him’ ‘it’
- Conjunctions ‘and’ ‘but’ ‘because’

What kinds of words are there?

Every word belongs to a **lexical category**.

- Nouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives

We'll be dealing with these three.

- Adverbs
- Prepositions
- Determiners
- Pronouns
- Conjunctions

'apple' 'cardinal' 'liberty'

'blue' 'octagonal' 'unbelievable'

'quickly' 'fast' 'yesterday'

'for' 'under' 'from'

'the' 'a' 'his'

'she' 'him' 'it'

'and' 'but' 'because'

What kinds of words are there?

- Some words are monomorphemic. They contain a single morpheme.
- Some words are polymorphemic. They have two or more morphemes. Of these words, some have **free** roots.

un- + **speak** + -able

‘unable to be spoken’

farm + -er

‘one who farms’

- Some have **bound** roots. A bound root cannot appear as its own word.

psych- + -ology

‘study of the mind’

mono- + -**graph**

‘book on a single subject’

- We should be able to do this kind of morphological breakdown alongside our lexical entries.



Form: anteater /æntitəɪ/

Meaning: animal that eats ants

Lexical category: noun

Morphemes:

three: *ant* + *eat* + *-er* 'one who does the verb'



Form: raccoon /ɹækʊn/

Meaning: nocturnal mammal with a mask

Lexical category: noun

Morphemes: one: *raccoon*



Form: musicians /mjuːzɪʃɪnz/

Meaning: people who play music

Lexical category: noun

Morphemes:

three: *music* + *-ian* 'one who does something'
+ *-s* 'plural'



Form: drummer /drʌmər/

Meaning: one who plays a drum or drums

Lexical category: noun

Morphemes: two: *drum* + *-er* 'one who does the verb'



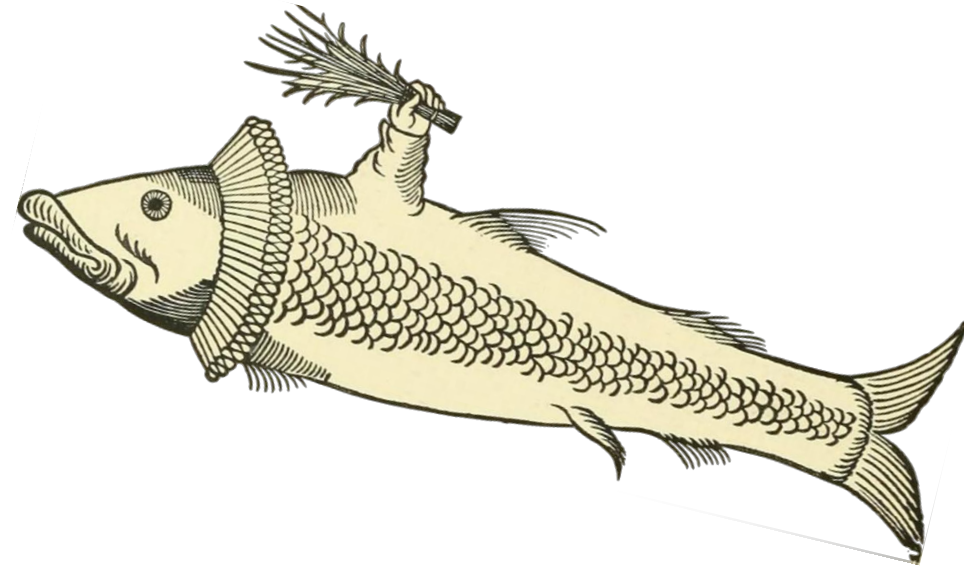
Form: athletic /æθlətɪk/

Meaning: skilled, like an athlete

Lexical category: adjective

Morphemes:

two: *athlete* + *-ic* 'like the noun'



Form: unbelievable /ʌnbəlivəbəl/

Meaning: impossible to take seriously

Lexical category: adjective

Morphemes:

three: *un-* 'not' + *believe* + *-able* 'able to be verbed'

Morphological Processes

- So far, we've talked a lot about affixation.
- Three other morphological processes to know are **compounding**, **alternation**, and **suppletion**.
- **Compounding** is when two free morphemes combine to form a new word with its own lexical entry.
- Compounds are not the same as phrases – they need to be learned as new words.







a sour milkman

Compounds and Phrases

- A compound's internal elements can't be modified with outside words.

*a very blackboard

a very black board

a very black blackboard

- In the phrase “a sour milkman,” what's sour? The milkman – not the milk.
- How about “a big jailbreak” – what's big? The jailbreak – not the jail.
- What's hot in “a hot bathroom”?
The bathroom – not the bath.



Alternation

- This is a process whereby inflection is marked through modification of a word's internal sounds rather than the addition of an affix.

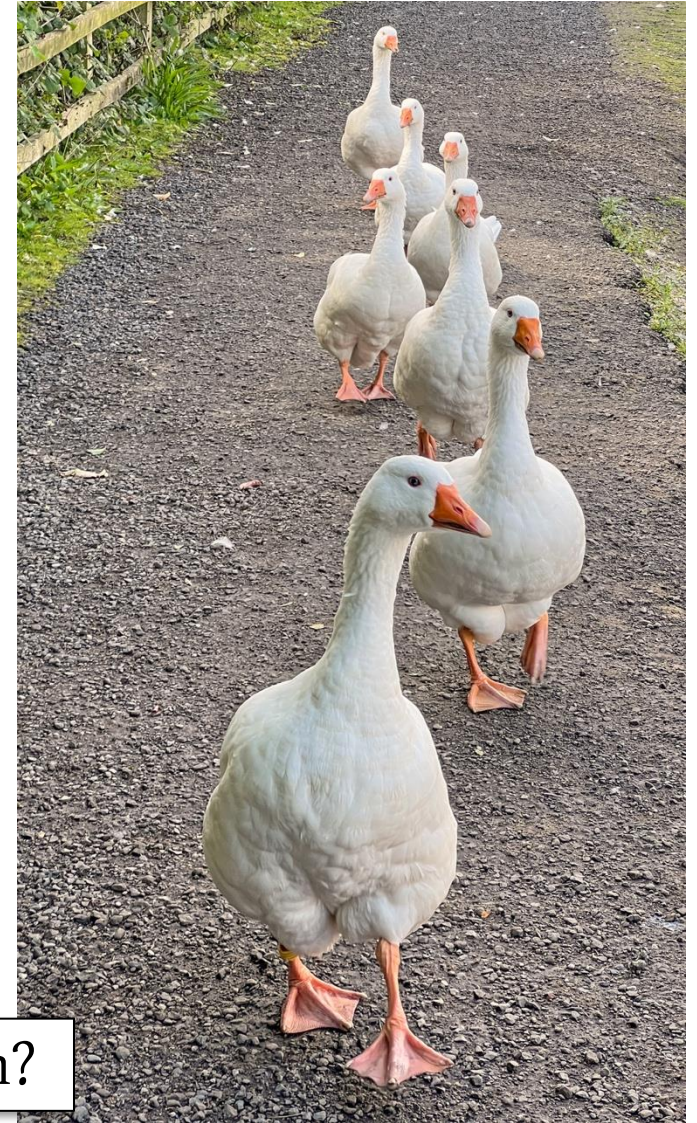
goose → geese

NOT goose → *gooses

What's another word that pluralized through alternation?

What's the past tense of *swim*?

What's another verb that is marked for past tense through alternation?



Suppletion

- Sometimes, within a given lexeme, a different root is used for one grammatical word than for the others. This is called **suppletion**.
- What's the past tense of GO?
- What's the difference between *went* and *gone*?

GO

go, goes, going, went, gone

Do activity 4 on your sheets.

Final Review

Brief break now (optional);
we'll do the review when
you get back

Final

- Next week (18 May 2026)
- Open book for printed materials – handwritten notes, printed notes, printed textbook, printed slides – but not open laptop, phone, or other digital devices.
- You may not share printed materials with others.
- All multiple choice; bring a pen or pencil.
- 15 points in total, thirty questions, half-point per question.
- Self-timed, up to 9:50pm (class's end time).
- You can leave once you've turned it in.



FINAL REVIEW RULES

- Work in teams of 5 or 6 students. Choose names for your teams.
- Open book, but not open device (like the final itself).
- Members of each team will use their phone as a buzzer, by joining our game on the website **buzzin.live**
- Fifty questions, divided over two rounds.
- Each team earns one point per question correctly answered.
- In round 2, each team loses one point per question incorrectly answered.
- In both rounds, if your team answers incorrectly, another team gets to answer (if they want) before you can try again.
- The team with the most points at the end wins.
- All members of the winning team will receive 1 extra credit point on their final.

Round One

20 questions

1 point for each correct answer

No penalty for wrong answers

1. Give an example of an endangered language (not language family) from North America.
2. Give another.
3. Give an example of a healthy, non-endangered language.
4. What's one social condition that contributes to a language's health?
5. What's one natural condition that contributes to a language's health?
6. What is a language family? (Don't give an example.)
7. Name one language family indigenous to North America? (Language *family*, not language.)

8. What indigenous language was spoken on Staten Island prior to the arrival of the Europeans?
9. What is its language family?
10. What is the Boasian trilogy?
11. What is the lexicon?
12. What is derivation?
13. Give an example of a derivational affix.
14. Give an example of an inflectional affix.
15. What is the difference between sense and reference?
16. Give a hyponym of the word *soda*.
17. Give an antonym of the word *create*.

18. Identify the morphemes in the word *homelessness*: how many there are, and what they are.
19. In the word *stronger*, is *-er* an inflectional or derivational affix?
20. In the word *builder*, is *-er* an inflectional or derivational affix?

Round Two

20 questions

1 point for each correct answer

1 point deducted for wrong answers

1. Is the number of languages in the world currently increasing or decreasing?
2. The language Kanien'kéha is more often known as what?
3. What language family is it in?
4. What is language documentation?
5. What is language revitalization?
6. According to the *Encyclopedia of the World's Endangered Languages*, approximately how many of the indigenous languages of North America are ultimately endangered? (Pick one.)
100% 75% 50% 25%
7. What is 'generational transmission'?

8. True or false: Most of the languages spoken in the world today may be lost by the end of the century.
9. Around when did people first arrive in North America? (Pick one.)
 - 5–10k years ago
 - 10–12k years ago
 - 12.5–15k years ago
 - 15–20k years ago
10. Around when did Europeans first begin their long term settlement of North America?
11. What is compositional meaning?
12. Give an example of a word with sense but no reference.
13. Give an example of a word with reference but no sense.
14. What are the sense and reference of the word *pencil*?

15. Give two hyponyms of the word *reptile*.
16. What is the difference between simple antonyms and gradable antonyms?
17. Give an example of gradable antonyms.
18. What is the sense relationship between these two words:
molar — tooth
19. What is the difference between compounding and affixation?
20. Identify the morphemes in the word *greenhouses*.

For next week:

- Study!
- The last section on the final will be an optional extra-credit quiz, worth up to 5 extra credit points.