

Morphology

2nd Year – 1st Semester / 2020-2021

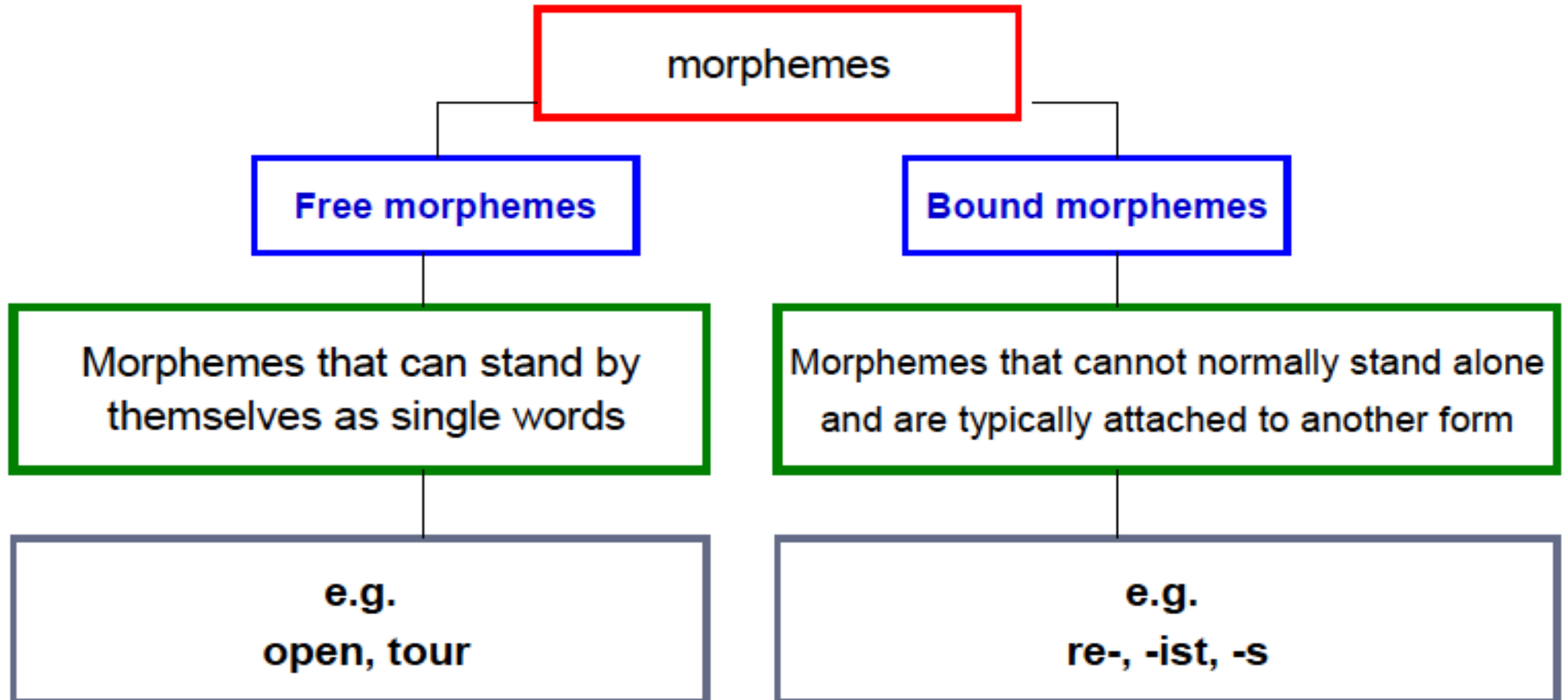
Bound Morphemes: Affixes

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What is a morpheme?

A minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function.

The bound and free morphemes



Bound morphemes = Affixes

Affixation: is the morphological process of adding an established prefix or a suffix to the existing base.

Suffixes attached to the end of another morpheme (such as **-er/-or** in words like **opener**, **inventor** and **writer**).

Prefixes attached to the beginning of another morpheme (such as **re-** in words like **reinvent**, **reopen** and **rewrite**).

Suffixes

Noun-forming suffixes (1)

- or:** actor, visitor, director
- er/eer:** speaker, engineer, opener
- ist:** scientist, satirist, journalist
- ess:** hostess, stewardess, actress
- ty/ity:** cruelty, purity, stupidity
- ure/ture:** failure, exposure, mixture
- dom:** freedom, kingdom,

Noun-forming suffixes (2)

-age:	passage, marriage, postage
-ance/ence:	appearance, preference
-hood:	likelihood, brotherhood, neighbourhood
-ing:	reading, opening, beginning
-ion/sion/tion/ition/ation:	operation, permission, description
-ness:	kindness, goodness, willingness
-y/ery:	difficulty, enquiry, robbery, slavery
-ship:	partnership, membership, kinship
-ment:	government, development, movement
-t:	complaint, restraint

Adjective-forming suffixes (1)

- able/ible :** comfortable, fashionable, sensible
- ic/atic :** atomic, heroic, systematic
- ful:** beautiful, helpful, careful
- y:** bloody, dirty, sunny
- less:** useless, homeless, careless
- al/ial/tial:** personal, influential, preferential
- ive/ative/itive :** active, creative, sensitive

Adjective-forming suffixes (1)

-ant/ent:	pleasant, different, excellent
-en:	wooden, golden, woollen
-like:	childlike, ladylike
-ing:	amusing, interesting, charming
-ous:	dangerous, famous, mysterious
-ish:	bookish, childish, foolish
-ly:	friendly, lovely, manly

Verb-forming suffixes

-ize / ise:	civilize, modernize
-ify/ fy /efy:	simplify, glorify
-en,	deepen, sharpen, lengthen

Adverb-forming suffixes

-ly:	formally, calmly, easily
-ward / wards:	homeward, afterwards, backwards
-wise / ways:	clockwise, otherwise, sideways
-fold:	twofold, threefold

Prefixation

Prefixation : is the morphological process of adding an established prefix to the existing base (such as **re-** in words like **reinvent, reopen and rewrite**)

- a prefix usually changes the lexical meaning of a word and only **rarely** parts of speech, e. g. **write – rewrite, smoker – non-smoker**
- Prefixes are sometimes used to form new verb: **circle – encircle, large – enlarge ...etc.**

Prefixes

Negation or opposition

un-:	unable, unfair, unpack, unzip
dis-:	disagreeable, dislike
a-:	amoral, atypical
in-:	informal, inexperience
im-:	(before b, m, p) impossible, immoral
il-:	(before l) illegal, illogical
ir-:	(before r) irregular, irrational
non-:	non-smoker, non-scientific
de-:	decode, defrost, devalue, deactivate

Repetition, making it possible

re-:	reread, rebuild, reunited
en-/em-:	enrich, enlarge, embitter

Degree, measure or size

super-:	supersonic, superhuman
semi-:	semi-final, semidetached
hyper-:	hyperactive, hypersensitive
ultra-:	ultrahigh, ultraviolet
over-:	overtime, overpopulated

Time and place, order, relation

post-:	post-war, postpone, postgraduate
inter-:	international, intercontinental
pre-:	pre-war, prehistoric, prearrange
ex-:	ex-president, ex-husband, ex-film-star

Number and numeral relation:

bi-:	bilateral, bilabial
uni-:	unisex, unicycle, unilateral
auto-:	autobiography, autopump, auto-suggestion
multi-:	multinational, multi-storey, multilingual

Attitude and membership:

anti-:	antisocial, antiwar, antifreeze
counter-:	counter-offensive, counter-revolution
pro-:	pro-English, pro-vice-chancellor

Infixes

Infixes

Infixes are bound morphemes that have been inserted within a word

They occur in a few noun plurals, like the **-ee-** in **geese**, replacing the **-oo-** of **goose**, or those that occur in the past tense and past participles of some verbs, like the **-o-** of **chose** and **chosen** replacing the **-oo-** of **choose**. These are more precisely called “**replacive allomorphs**”.

Exercises

An introductory English grammar: Norman Stageberg

➤ 8.8

➤ 8.9

➤ 8.10

➤ 8.11