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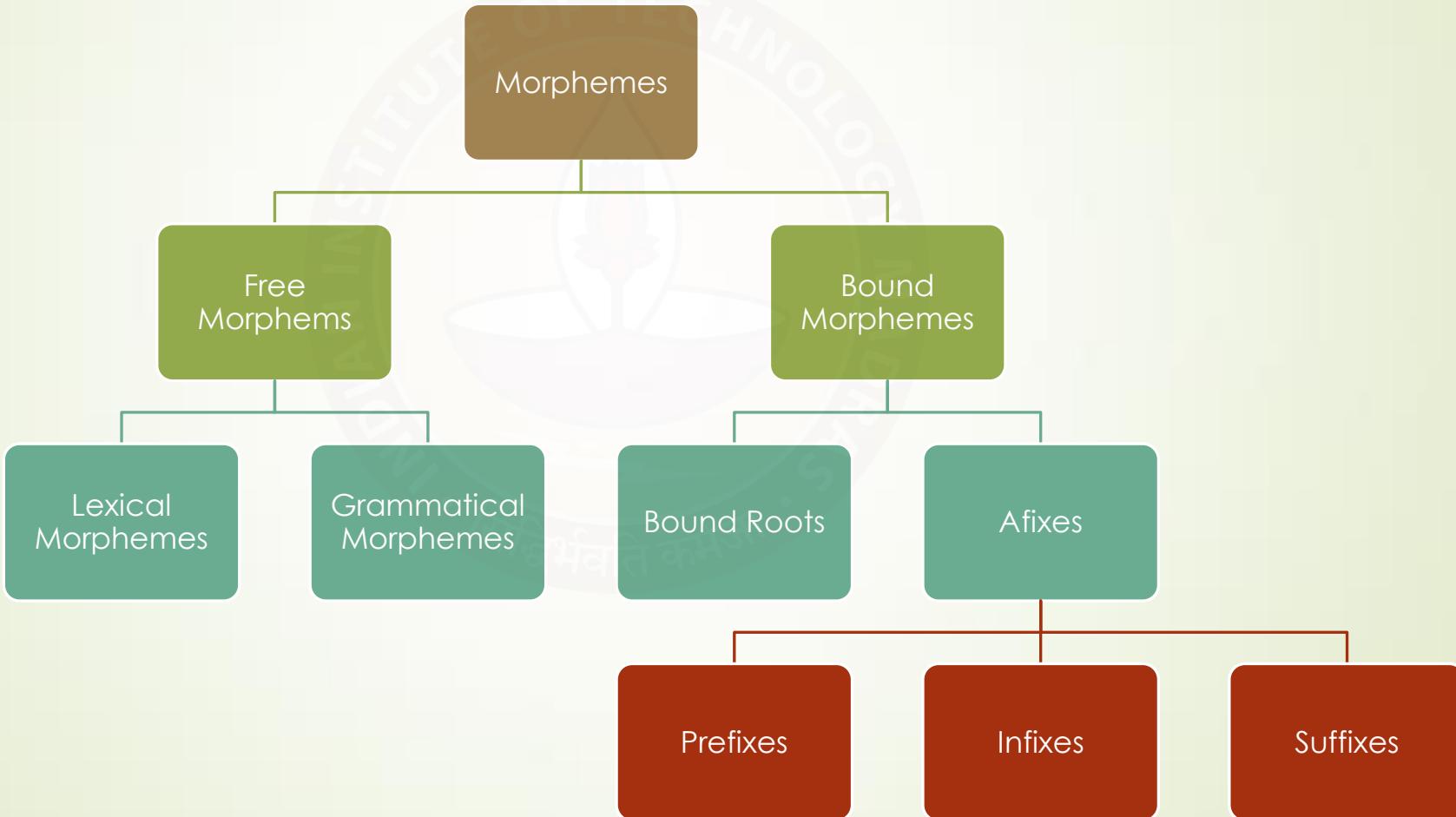
# English Vocabulary-01

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# Words

- ▶ The smallest units of language that have a meaning or a grammatical function and form words or parts of words are called morphemes.
- ▶ Morphemes are meaningful units which constitute a word or as grammatical units are instrumental in construction of new words.
- ▶ Types of Morphemes
- ▶ Depending on the way morphemes occur in an utterance, they are grouped into two large groups:
  - ▶ Free morphemes and
  - ▶ Bound morphemes.

# Classification of Morphemes



# Free or independent morphemes

- Such morphemes occur alone as words and have a meaning or fulfill a grammatical function; e.g., *man*, *run*, *and*. There are two types of free morphemes.

**Lexical (referential) morphemes** are free morphemes that have semantic content (or meaning) and usually refer to a thing, quality, state or action. For instance, in a language, these morphemes generally take the forms of **nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs**; e.g., *dog*, *Peter*, *house*, *build*, *stay*, *happy*, *intelligent*, *quickly*, *always*. Actually, lexical morphemes constitute the larger class of morphemes. They form the **open class of words** (or **content words**) in a language, i.e., a class of words likely to grow due to the incorporation of new members into it.

**Function(al) or grammatical morphemes** are free morphemes which have little or no meaning on their own, but which show grammatical relationships in and between sentences. For instance, in a language, these morphemes are represented by **prepositions, conjunctions, articles, demonstratives, auxiliary verbs, pronouns**; e.g., *with*, *but*, *the*, *this*, *can*, *who*, *me*.

# Bound (or dependent) morphemes

- ▶ Such morphemes never occur alone as words but as parts of words; they must be attached to another morpheme (usually a free morpheme) in order to have a distinct meaning; e.g.,
  - ▶ -er in *worker*,
  - ▶ -er in *taller*,
  - ▶ -s in *walks*,
  - ▶ -ed in *passed*,
  - ▶ re- in *reappear*,
  - ▶ un- in *unhappy*, *undo*,
  - ▶ -ness in *readiness*,
  - ▶ -able in *adjust- able*;
  - ▶ -ceive in *conceive*, *receive*,
  - ▶ -tain in *contain*, *obtain*, etc.

There are two types of bound morphemes: bound roots and affixes.

**Bound roots** are those bound morphemes which have lexical meaning when they are attached to other bound morphemes to form content words; e.g.,

-ceive in *receive*, *conceive*;  
-tain in *retain*, *contain*;  
plac- in *implacable*, *placate*;  
cran- in *cranberry*, etc.

Notice that bound roots can be prefixed or suffixed to other affixes.

**Affixes** are bound morphemes which are usually marginally attached to words and which change the meaning or function of those words; e.g., -ment in *development*, en- in *enlarge*; 's in *John's*; -s in *claps*, -ing in *studying*, etc.

# Types of Affixes

- ▶ Affixes can be classified into two different ways: according to their position in the word and according to their function in a phrase or sentence.
- ▶ According to their **position in the word** (or **side of the word they are attached to**), affixes are classified into prefixes, infixes and suffixes.
  - ▶ **Prefixes** are bound morphemes that are added to the beginning of the word; e.g., un- in *unnoticed*, a- in *amoral*, sub- in *subway*, etc.
  - ▶ **Infixes** are bound morphemes that are inserted within the words. There are no infixes in the English language.
  - ▶ **Suffixes** are bound morphemes which are attached to the end of the word; e.g., -able in *noticeable*, -less in *careless*, -s in *seeks*, -en in *shorten*, etc.

# Functions of Affixes

- ▶ According to the **function** affixes fulfill in the language, affixes are classified into derivational affixes (derivational morphemes or derivations) and inflectional affixes (inflectional morphemes or inflections).
  - ▶ **Derivational affixes** are morphemes that create (or derive) new words, usually by either changing the meaning and/or the part of speech (i.e., the syntactic category), or both, of the words they are attached to (Godby et al., 1982).
  - ▶ In English, derivational morphemes can be either prefixes or suffixes. For example, *un-* *happy* (adj.) = *unhappy* (adj.); *re-* *classify* (v) = *reclassify* (v.); *by-* *product* (n.) = *by-product*. (See Appendix for a list of derivational prefixes and suffixes in English).

# Functions of Affixes

- ▶ **Inflectional affixes**, for their part, are morphemes which serve a purely grammatical function, such as referring to and giving extra linguistic information about the already existing meaning of a word (e.g., number, person, gender, case, etc.), expressing syntactic relations between words (e.g. possession, comparison), among others.
- ▶ Verb forms; Comparative and superlative forms; Plural marking suffixes etc.
- ▶ In English, there are only eight inflections. They are
  1. -(e)s (third person singular marker of verbs in present tense), as in speaks, teaches;
  2. -(e)s (regular plural marker) as in books, oranges;
  3. 's (possessive marker) as in John's house;
  4. -(e)d (regular past tense marker) as in helped, repeated;
  5. -en (past participle marker) as in spoken, eaten;
  6. -ing (present participle marker) as in eating, studying;
  7. -er (comparative marker) as in faster, happier; and
  8. -est (superlative marker) as in fastest, happiest.

# Noun forming Suffixes

Noun-forming suffixes:				
v	+	~	=	n
assist	+	-ance	=	assistance
assist	+	-ant	=	assistant
confide	+	-ence	=	confidence
confide	+	-ent	=	confident
permute	+	-ation	=	permutation
compete	+	-ition	=	competition

adj.	+	~	=	n
young	+	-ster	=	youngster
industrial	+	-ist	=	industrialist
crude	+	-ity	=	crudity
dry	+	-ness	=	dryness
free	+	-dom	=	freedom

# Adjective-forming suffixes:

V	+	~	=	adj.
eat	+	-able	=	eatable
reduce	+	-ible	=	reducible
differ	+	-ent	=	different
signify	+	-ant	=	significant
act	+	-ive	=	active

fashion	+	-able	=	fashionable
response	+	-ible	=	responsible
magic	+	-al	=	magical
planet	+	-ary	=	planetary
affection	+	-ate	=	affectionate

# Verb forming affixes

adj	+	~	=	v
black	+	-en	=	blacken
solid	+	-ify	=	Solidify
n	+	~	=	v
beauty	+	-ify	=	beautify
computer	+	-ize	=	computerize
length	+	-en	=	lengthen

# Prefixes that change the grammatical class of the words they are attached to.

- ▶ a-sleep      asleep      [prefix + noun- verb]
- ▶ be-friend      befriend
- ▶ em-power      empower
- ▶ en-danger      endanger
- ▶ be-little      belittle
- ▶ en-large      enlarge

# Affixes that do not change the grammatical class of the words they are attached to.

cigar	+	-ette	=	cigarette
usher	+	-ette	=	usherette
flannel	+	-ette	=	flannelette
hand	+	-ful	=	handful
boy	+	-hood	=	boyhood
mathematics	+	-ian	=	mathematician
music	+	-ian	=	musician
dog	+	-ie	=	doggie
pig	+	-y	=	piggy
hero	+	-ism	=	heroism

function	+	-ary	=	functionary
director	+	-ate	=	directorate
boot	+	-ee	=	bootee
mountain	+	-eer	=	mountaineer
philosophy	+	-er	=	philosopher
fish	+	-ery	=	fishery
cook	+	-ery	=	cookery
snob	+	-ery	=	snobbery
rival	+	-ry	=	rivalry