

# Introduction

## Morphology: The Internal Structure of Words



"kumilad"



Blushing man: denis\_pc/iStock/Thinkstock; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

## The Unit

Morphology: the morpheme

- Morphemes are the smallest signifier/signified bundles.
- One morpheme can have multiple instantiations called allomorphs.

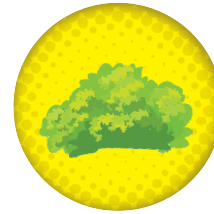
**Example: English plural**



cat  
[k<sup>h</sup>æts]



dog  
[da:gz]



bush  
{əz} [buʃəz]

Cats/Dogs: colematt/iStock/Thinkstock; Bush: stock\_shoppe/iStock/Thinkstock; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

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**Example: English plural**

Signified	Signifiers	
Morpheme	Allomorphs	
PLURAL	Regular	{-s}
		{-z}
		{-ez}
	Irregular	{-i}
		{-a}
		{-e}
		...

Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

## Morph + ology

**Morph** = shape

- morphine
- Morpheus
- metamorphic
- metamorphosis
- anthropomorphic
- amorphous
- isomorphic
- polymorphic
- morpheme
- allomorph
- (to) morph
- morphology (biological)

**ology** = to talk

- technology
- biology
- geology
- zoölogy
- theology
- psychology
- astrology
- scientology
- appliantology
- geneology
- logos
- logic

## Morphological Examples

Morphemes	Phonetic transcriptions	Example
{ <b>un-</b> } Antonym former	[ʌn]	unattractive
{ <b>re-</b> } Iterative former	[ri]	replay
{ <b>draw</b> } Verb, to make representative marks	[dra]	draw
{ <b>-s</b> } Third-singular-present agreement former	[s]	lies
{ <b>-ing</b> } Present-participle former	[ɪŋ]	jumping

## Homophony

Homophony

{-ing}

- Present-participle former:  
"Oriana is draw**ing** the cat."
- Gerund former:
  - "Oriana's draw**ing** of the cat is beautiful."
  - "Oriana's big draw**ing** of the cat is beautiful."
- Adjective former:  
"Oriana's draw**ing** chalk is the white one."

Phonetic transcription

[iŋ]



Cat drawing: University of Waterloo

## Semasiological/Onomasiological Modes of Analysis

### Semasiology

Signifier

Morpheme form:

- free (= word)
- bound (= affix)
  - prefix
  - suffix
  - infix
  - circumfix

### Onomasiology

Signified

Morpheme function:

- derivational  
change meaning dramatically, and/or word category
- inflectional  
never change category, and only change meaning very subtly

## Affix Rules

### prefix

oldcategory → [prefix - oldcategory]<sub>newcategory(verb)</sub>

### suffix

oldcategory → [oldcategory - suffix]<sub>newcategory(noun)</sub>

### infix

oldcategory → [old - infix - category]<sub>newcategory</sub>

### circumfix

oldcategory → [circum - oldcategory - fix]<sub>newcategory</sub>

*example:*

re	{ri-}	re-verb	{ri-} → [ri- <b>VERB</b> ] <sub>VERB</sub>
		replay	{plej} → [re-plej] <sub>VERB</sub>
er	{-Λr}	verb-er	{-Λr} → [ <b>VERB</b> -Λr] <sub>NOUN</sub>
		farmer	{farm} → [farm-Λr] <sub>NOUN</sub>