Hyponymy is a **semantic relationship** in which the meaning of a more specific word is included within the meaning of a broader, more general word. It establishes a hierarchical or "is-a" relationship between words, organizing them into categories.

The Two Components of Hyponymy

Hyponymy involves a pair of terms with a clear subordinate-superordinate relationship:

- **Hyponym:** The more specific word. It is a **type of** the more general term. For example, "rose," "tulip," and "daisy" are all hyponyms.

- **Hypernym:** The more general word, also known as a superordinate. It is the **category** that the hyponyms fall under. For example, "flower" is the hypernym for "rose," "tulip," and "daisy."

The relationship can be tested with the phrase "**X is a kind of Y**." For example:

- "A **rose** is a kind of **flower**." (Correct)

- "A **flower** is a kind of **rose**." (Incorrect)

This demonstrates that the hyponym ("rose") is a member of the category defined by the hypernym ("flower").

Examples of Hyponymy

The relationship of hyponymy is a fundamental way languages structure vocabulary and can be found across various parts of speech.

Hypernym (General Term)	Hyponyms (Specific Terms)
Vehicle	car, truck, bus, motorcycle
Color	red, blue, green, yellow, purple
Verb (to look)	glance, stare, gaze, peer
Emotion	joy, sadness, anger, fear
Furniture	chair, table, sofa, desk

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Hyponyms that share the same hypernym are called **co-hyponyms**. For example, "car," "truck," and "bus" are co-hyponyms of "vehicle."

This hierarchical relationship is not limited to a single level. A word can be both a hyponym and a hypernym at the same time. For instance, "dog" is a hyponym of "animal," but it is also a hypernym for more specific types of dogs, like "poodle" or "labrador."