

## **What is Morphology? Discuss the kinds and types of Morphology**

Morphology is a combination of two words **Morph** means (form) and **Ology** means (science of). Thus, morphology is the science of word formation. It is the study of the internal structure of words and the rules by which words are formed.

It is the study of morphemes which are the smallest significant units of grammar.

According to Bloomfield, it is the study of the constructions in which sound forms appear among the constituents.

Dorfman defines

**"Morphology is the study of the ways and methods of grouping sounds into sound-complexes or words."**

A morpheme is a minimal indivisible unit in morphology. The word 'unlikely' has three morphemes while the word 'carpet' is a single morpheme. Thus, a systematic study of morphemes or how morphemes join to form words is known as morphology.

According to Hockett:

**"Morphemes are the smallest individually meaningful elements in the utterance of a language"**

(Or) A morpheme is a meaningful minimal linguistic unit which is unable to be further divided or broken into smaller meaningful parts.

**Example:**

**Readable**= read+ able>2 morphemes

**Unhappiness**= un+ happy+ ness> 3 morphemes

**Three Different Forms of Words:**

**Simple forms:**

They consist of single free morpheme. These are unable to be analyzed further into smaller, meaningful segments.

Ex. an, the, that, boy, happy, take, dog, but, etc.

**Complex forms:**

Words that have more than one morpheme i.e. a base and a derivational affix.

Ex. Unhappy, replacement, readability, boyhood, enable etc.

**Compound forms:**

They consist of two (or more) free stems which are independent words by themselves.

Ex. Over-ripe, elevator-operator, happy-go-lucky etc.

**Allomorph:**

Allomorph is one of the various distinct forms of a morpheme.

**Ex. 1: English Plural Suffixes**

- s: books, marks
- es: beaches, dishes
- en: oxen, children

**Ex. 2: Negative Prefixes**

- im- : impossible
- il-: illegal
- ir-: irresponsible
- un-: ungraceful
- in-: independent
- dis-: disagree

**Morphology includes the study of:**

- 1) How the words are formed?
- 2) Where they originate from?
- 3) What their grammatical forms are?
- 4) What is the function of prefixes and suffixes in the formation of words?
- 5) On what basis the parts of speech of a particular language are formed?
- 6) How and why the word forms change?

In all languages, discrete linguistic units combine rule governed ways to form larger units.

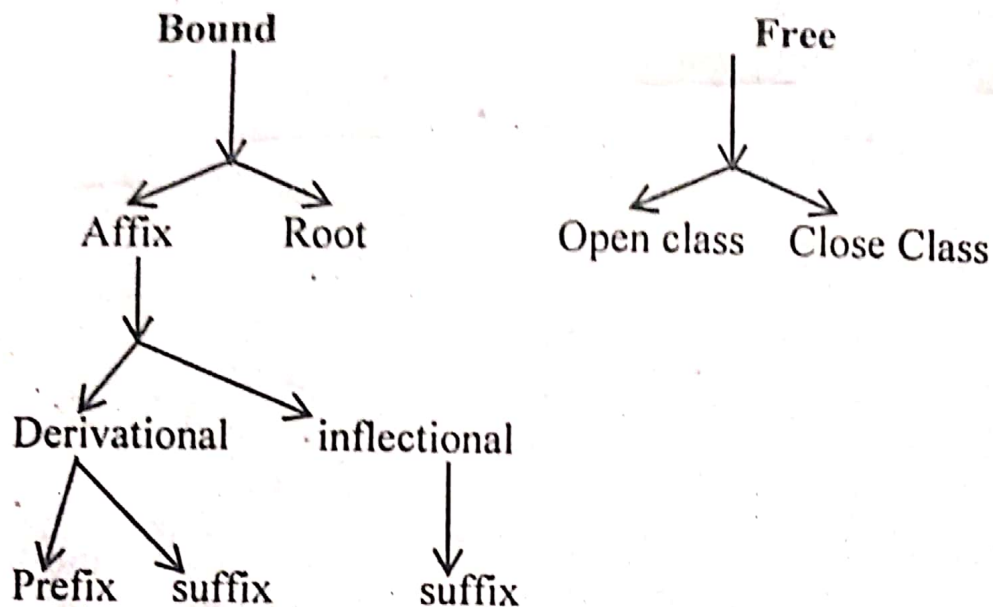
- i. Sound units combine to form morpheme
- ii. Morphemes combine to form words.
- iii. Words combine to form phrases.
- iv. Phrases combine to form sentences.

The concept of morpheme is central to morphology. There are two basic and five secondary types of morphemes:

1. Bound Morpheme and
2. Free Morpheme
3. Root Morpheme
4. Stem Morpheme
5. Derivational Morpheme
6. Inflectional Morpheme
7. Affixes: prefixes and suffixes

**Classification of Morphemes**





### 1. Bound Morpheme:

Bound Morphemes cannot normally stand alone but they are typically attached to another form. Affixes are bound morphemes. Ex. re-, -ist, ed, -s ...

Bound morphemes (affixes) must be attached to the words. They are prefixes, infixes, suffixes and circumfixes. For example, "Clude" in *include*, *preclude*, *exclude*. etc.

### 2. Free Morphemes:

Free Morphemes are those that can stand alone as words.

For example, Tour, open, stay girl, system, desire, act, phone, happy etc.

### 3. Root Morpheme:

A root is a morpheme that can't be analyzed into smaller parts. It is that part of word which is left when all the affixes have been removed.

For example, act, beauty, system etc.

Un + faith + ful  
 ↓        ↓        ↓  
 Prefix + Root + Suffix

**Free Morpheme:** run, bottle, phone etc.

**Bound Morpheme:** Clude, re-, -ist, ed, -s ... etc.

Roots may be bound or free morphemes.

All affixes (prefixes and suffixes are known as affixes) are bound morphemes.

When **free morphemes** are used with **bound morphemes**, the basic word-form involved is technically known as the "**stem**".

Ex. Un-dress-ed

un=> Prefix ( bound ) ,  
 dress => stem ( free ) .  
 ed=> suffix ( bound )

### Lexical morphemes: (Kind of Free Morpheme)

Lexical morphemes are absolutely necessary to convey an idea to someone else. Can be understood fully in and of itself—{boy}, for example, as well as {run}, {green}, {quick}, {paper}, {large}, {throw}, and {now}.

Nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are typical kinds of lexical morphemes.

They are called open class of words, since we can add new lexical morphemes to the language easily.

Sad, long, look => lexical morphemes

### Functional morphemes: (Kind of Free Morpheme)

Functional morphemes are the functional words in the language such as conjunctions, prepositions, articles, auxiliary verbs, modals, quantifiers and pronouns. They are called close class of words, since we almost never add new functional morphemes to the language.

Example:

And, but, when, because, on, near, above, in, the, that, it,  
 => functional morphemes

### Mono-morphemic:

The word consisting only free root morpheme is called mono morphemic.

For example, cat, rat, hat etc.

### Poly morphemic:

The word consisting of more than one root is called poly morphemic.

For example,

Air- craft, dinner-table etc.

Root and affixes may be of any length and structure.

Affixes are generally shorter than roots.

### 4. Stem Morpheme:

A stem is formed when a root morpheme is combined with an affix. Other affixes can be added to a stem to form a more complex stem.

For example,

Root

believe (verb)

Stem

believe + able ( verb + suffix)

Word

un + believe+ able

( prefix + verb + suffix)



Bound Morphemes can also be divided into two types.

- i. Derivation Morpheme      ii. Inflectional Morpheme

**5. Derivational Morpheme: (kind of Bound Morpheme)**

When root + derivational morpheme combine a new word is formed with new meaning. This word usually change grammatical clause.

**Noun + Derivational Morpheme (adj)**

Boy + ish

**Verb + Derivational Morpheme ( Noun)**

Clear + ance

**Adj or Adverb + Derivational Morpheme**

(Quiet + ly )

( Exact + ly )

Ex. good => adjective good + ness => noun

Care => noun care + less => adjective

**6. Inflectional Morpheme: ( Kind of Bound Morpheme)**

Inflectional morphemes have grammatical meaning in the sentence. They never change part of speech.

For example,

Infinitive is its best example "to" is added before the word "to go" to work, to finish etc.

There are eight inflectional Morpheme in English

**1. "-s" or "-es" third person singular present**

She waits at home.

**2. "-ed" past tense**

She waited at home.

**3. "-ing" progressive**

She is eating the nuts.

**4. "-en" past participle**

Sonia has eaten the biscuit.

**5. "-s" plural**

Sonia has eaten the biscuits.

**6. "-s" possessive**

Sonia's hair is long.

**7. "-er" comparative**

Sonia has shorter hair than Sidra.

**8. "-est" superlative**

Sonia has the longest hair.

**Derivational Versus Inflectional:**

An inflectional morpheme is a suffix that is added to a word to assign a particular grammatical property to that word.

Play +ing = playing

Tall (adj) -----Taller (adj)

An inflectional morpheme never changes the grammatical category of a word.

Ex. old => adj. , Older => adj.

A derivational morpheme can change the grammatical category of a word.

Ex. teach => verb, teacher => noun

Some morphemes look the same but this does not mean that they do the same kind of word.

Ex. teacher => suffix + inflectional

Younger => suffix + derivational

Whenever there is a derivational suffix and inflectional suffix attached to the same word, they always appear in that order.

Ex. teach + er + s => stem + derivational + inflectional

### Morphological Description:

The girl's wildness shocked the teachers.

The (functional), girl (lexical), 's (inflectional), wild (lexical), ness (derivational), shock (lexical), -ed (inflectional), the (functional), teach (lexical), -er (derivational) -s (inflectional).

### Major differences between Derivation and Inflectional Morphology

	Derivational	Inflectional
Position	Closer to stem	Farther from stem
Addable on to?	Yes.	Not in English
Changes stem?	Yes	No
Productive?	(often) No	(usually) yes
Meaning?	(often) unpredictable	Predictable

Free Morpheme	Bound Morpheme
Example, love, fish , read	Derivational Morpheme Lovely, fisher, readable
	Inflectional Morpheme Example, loves, fished, reading.

### 7. Affixes, Prefixes and Suffixes:

Affix is a morpheme that comes at the beginning (prefix) or the ending (suffix) of a base morpheme.

**NOTE:** Affix is usually a morpheme that can't stand alone.

For example, -ful, -ly, -ity, -ness,

A few exceptions are able, like and less.

**Prefix:** An affix that comes before a base morpheme is called affix. For example "in" in the word inspect is a prefix.



**Suffix:** An affix that comes after a base morpheme is called suffix. For example, The "S" in cats is a suffix.

Prefixes	Suffixes	Infixes	Circumfixes
Bound	Bound	Bound	Bound
Morpheme which occur only before another morpheme	Morpheme which occur following other morpheme	Morphemes which are inserted into other morphemes	Morphemes that are attached to a root or stem morpheme both initially and finally
<b>Examples,</b> Un (uncover, undo) Dis (disconnect, displease) Pre (pre determine, pre plan)	<b>Examples,</b> -er (singer, performer) -ist (typist, pianist) -ly (manly, friendly)	<b>Examples,</b> Not in English	<b>Examples,</b> No in English

### Grammatical Morphemes:

Words can have an internal structure much like the syntax of phrases.

Morphemes like the "-s" and "re-" near the grammatical end of the continuum are called grammatical morphemes.

**NOTE** that grammatical morphemes include forms that we can consider to be words like "the, a, and" or "and others that make up parts of the words like "-s" and "-ed"

### Content words:

These are those words that denote concepts such as subjects, actions, and ideas. (Noun, verb, adjective, adverbs) Content words are open class words (new words can be added).

Examples of new words,

Steganography (the art of hiding information in electronic text)

### Functional Words:

They express grammatical functions (e.g prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns etc.)

- They connect the functional words to the larger grammatical context.
- They are also called close word class ( no new words are added to this class)

### Different Types of words from different formations:

- Derived words
- Lexical gaps

- iii. Compounding: also how to differentiate compound from noun phrase.
- iv. Acronyms
- v. Back formations
- vi. Abbreviations / truncation / clipping
- vii. Eponyms
- viii. Blends
- ix. Coinage or Neologism

#### i. Derived Words:

New words with new meanings formed from root + derivational morpheme are called derived words.

For example,

Root + derivational word

ir + regular = irregular

#### ii. Lexical Gaps:

These are well formed but non existing words. Possible combination (punishment) never let them come into use.

For example,

Disobvious, linguisticism, uncomplete

#### iii. Compounding:

Joining of two separate words to produce a single form, is a very common word formation process in languages.

Examples of compounding using all noun:

bookcase, doorknob, fingerprint, sunburn, textbook, wallpaper, wastebasket and waterbed

Using adjectives:

(good-looking, low-paid)

Compounds of adjective:

Fast plus noun food fast-food restaurant a full-time job.

It is a very common process in other languages too.

For example

Hot dog = angry dog

Hotdog = a dish for eating

When the two words are in the same category, the compound will be in the same category.

Home (noun) + work (noun) = homework (noun)

Pick (noun) + pocket (noun) = pickpocket (noun)

a) Compounds can be more than two words.

b) Two words compounds are quite common in English.

Three words compounds: Three-time-loser

Four words compounds:



four- dimensional -space- time.

**iv. Acronyms:**

Acronyms are words derived from the initial of several words

For example,

PEPCO (Pakistan Electric And Power Company)

WASA (Water And Sanitation Authority)

**v. Back Formation:**

A new word may enter into a language because of an incorrect morphological analysis.

Example,

Peddle was derived from peddler on the mistaken assumption that the "-er" was suffix.

Stoke ----- Stoker

Edit ----- Editor

**vi. Abbreviations:**

Abbreviations of longer words or phrases can be lexicalized. Abbreviation is taken from the Latin word "brevis" which means "short". Thus, it is a shortened form of a word.

For example,

T.V. for television

**Clipping**

The element of reduction that is noticeable in blending is even more apparent in the process described as clipping for example;

- Fax from facsimile

This process occurs with a word of more than one syllable and usually the beginning is clipped. It is used in casual speech.

- Ad (advertisement), flu (influenza), Phone,
- English speakers also like to clip each other's names
- Ed, Liz, Mike, Ron, Sam, Sue, Tom

**In educational field**

- chem, exam, gym, lab, math, policy, prof and typo

**Hypocorisms:**

A particular type of reduction, favored in Australian and British English, produces forms technically known as hypocorisms. In this process a longer word is reduced to a single syllable, then -y or -ie is added to the end.

Movie ("moving pictures") telly ("television"). barbie ("barbecue"), brekky ("breakfast") hankie ("handkerchief")

**vii. Eponym**

Eponyms are words made out of proper nouns.  
For example,

Sandwich, jumbo, robot

#### viii. Blends:

The combination of two separate forms to produce a single new term is called blending.

Smoke + fog = smog

Smoke + haze = smaze    Smoke + murk = smurk

Breakfast + lunch = Brunch    Hotel + motor = Motel

Information + entertainment = Infotainment

These are similar to compounds but parts of the words that are combined are deleted.

For example,

Smog from ( smoke + fog)

Motel from ( motor + hotel)

#### ix. Coinage or Neologism:

Coinage is the word formation process in which a new word is created either deliberately or accidentally without using the other word formation processes and often from seemingly nothing. In neologism or coinage, we identify the word formation process of inventing entirely new words. This is constant evolution of new words and new uses.

Its examples are aspirin, nylon, vaseline and zipper

#### **Other terms for word formation:**

- i. Rule productivity
- ii. Universality of compounding
- iii. Suppletive (exception)
- iv. Expletive
- v. Allomorphs
- vi. Default / elsewhere
- vii. Homophonous morphemes

#### i. Rule Productivity:

Morphological rules are productive because

They can be used freely to form new words from the list of free and bound morphemes

Some morphemes are more productive than others

Productive morphemes are “-able” and “-er”

Nonproductive Morphemes are “ex” and “-let”

#### ii. Universality of Compounding:

It is a common and frequent process for enlarging the vocabulary of all languages.



For example, in Thai the word "cat" is "meew", watch is "faan" and house is "baan". The word for watch cat is compounding of "meewfaanbann" which literally means "catwatchhouse"

### iii. Suppletive (Exception):

Suppletive are treated separately in the grammar. They can't use the regular rules of inflectional morphology to add affixes to word the exception.

For example, woman ----- women

Child ----- children

### iv. Allomorph:

In linguistics, an allomorph is a variant form of a morpheme. Allomorphs are different forms of morphemes that have the same meaning.

For example,

ir-----il-----im-----in = all means NOT

*ir*regular, *im*possible, *in*complete

-en----- = to become

To brighten our mind.

Whereas any phonetic shape or representation of a phoneme is called morph

### v. Zero / Null / derivation Morpheme:

The process of adding a null morpheme is called null affixation, null derivation or zero derivation.

The null morpheme is represented as either the figure zero (0) or the empty set symbol  $\emptyset$ .

The existence of a null morpheme in a word can also be theorized by contrast with other forms of the same word showing alternate morphemes.

For example, the singular number of English nouns is shown by a null morpheme that contrasts with the plural morpheme -s.

cat = cat +  $\emptyset$  = ROOT ("cat") + SINGULAR

cats = cat + -s = ROOT ("cat") + PLURAL

### vi. Homophonous Morphemes:

These are those morphemes that have same sound but have different meanings and spellings.

For example, bar, bear, (plain, plane)(cite, sight, site)

### vii. Reduplication:

Reduplication is the morphological process by which root or stem or a part of a word is copied or duplicated. If the whole word is repeated, it is called full reduplication.

For example,

Chum chum in Urdu, So So, okey-dokey, wee-wee and zig-zag, bye bye, chi chi, no no in English