

Introduction to Linguistics

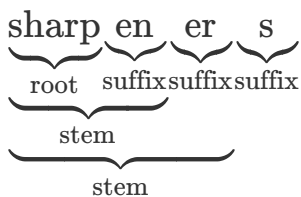
Assignment 4

Examine the following words:

sharpeners, nationalizes, misleading, recognizable, constructivism, irregularities, misinterpreted

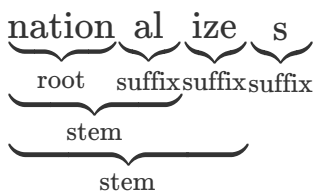
1. Divide the following English words into morphemes. Indicate the stem(s), root and suffixes/prefixes (there could be more than one option).
2. Indicate for **each** affix whether it is inflectional or derivational (no need to explain at this stage).
3. Account for the order of affixes in the words irregularities and misinterpreted.

- sharpeners



- **root** sharp
- **suffix** -en This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -er This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -s This is a inflectional affix
- **stem** sharpen
- **stem** sharpener

- nationalizes



- **root** nation
- **suffix** -al This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -ize This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -s This is a inflectional affix
- **stem** national
- **stem** nationalize

- misleading

mis lead ing
 prefix root suffix
 stem

- **root** lead
- **prefix** mis- This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -ing This is an inflectional affix
- **stem** mislead

- recognizable

recognizable
 root suffix

- **root** recogniz
- **suffix** -able This is a derivational affix

- constructivism

construct iv ism
 prefix root suffixsuffix
 stem
 stem

- **root** struct
- **prefix** con- This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -iv This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -ism This is a derivational affix
- **stem** construct
- **stem** constructive

- irregularities

ir regular itie s
 prefix root suffixsuffix
 stem
 stem

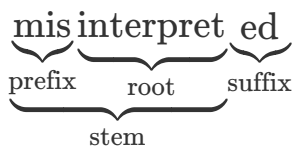
- **root** regular
- **prefix** ir- This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -itie This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -s This is an inflectional affix
- **stem** irregular
- **stem** irregularitie

Rules:

- **ir-**
 Input: Adjective
 Output: Adjective(opposite meaning)
- **-itie**
 Input: Adjective
 Output: Noun

The prefix “ir-” takes an adjective and produces an adjective with opposite meaning. The suffix “-ity” takes a adjective and produces a noun. As such, for the deconstruction of “irregularities”, we attach “ir-” to ”regular” first. For putting “-s” last, see my explanation for the next word.

- misinterpreted



- **root** interpret
- **prefix** mis- This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -ed This is a inflectional affix
- **stem** misinterpret

Rules:

- mis-
Input: Verb
Output: Verb(opposite meaning)
- -ed
Input: Verb
Output: Verb (Past tense)

Here I am less sure of the order, but my general feeling would be to put “-ed” last because as an inflectional affix it applies to the word attached to it as a whole. When I think about the word misinterpreted, I do not think mis-interpreted, but I think that "to misinterpret in the past".