Introduction to Linguistics
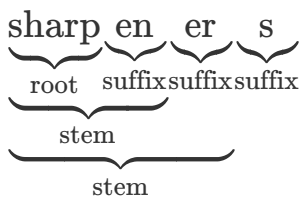
Assignment 4

Examine the following words:

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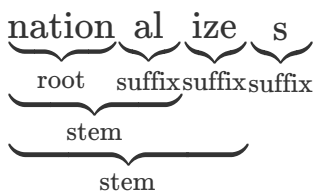
1. Divide the following English words into morphemes. Indicate the stem(s), root and suffixes/prefixes (there could be more than one option).
2. Indicate for **each** affix whether it is inflectional or derivational (no need to explain at this stage).
3. Account for the order of affixes in the words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

$$\underbrace{\underbrace{\overbrace{\text{mis}}^{\text{prefix}}\overbrace{\text{lead}}^{\text{root}}}_{\text{stem}}\overbrace{\text{ing}}^{\text{suffix}}}$$

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

- recognizable

$$\overbrace{\text{recognize}}^{\text{root}}\overbrace{\text{able}}^{\text{suffix}}$$

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

- constructivism

$$\underbrace{\underbrace{\overbrace{\text{con}}^{\text{prefix}}\overbrace{\text{struct}}^{\text{root}}}_{\text{stem}}\overbrace{\text{iv}}^{\text{suffix}}}_{\text{stem}}\overbrace{\text{ism}}^{\text{suffix}}$$

- **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

$$\underbrace{\underbrace{\overbrace{\text{ir}}^{\text{prefix}}\overbrace{\text{regular}}^{\text{root}}}_{\text{stem}}\overbrace{\text{itie}}^{\text{suffix}}}_{\text{stem}}\overbrace{\text{s}}^{\text{suffix}}$$
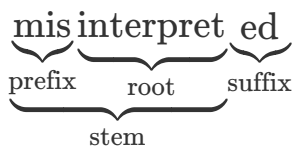
- **root** regular
- **prefix** ir- This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -itie This is a derivational affix
- **suffix** -s This is a inflectional affix
- **stem** irregular
- **stem** irregularitie

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

  $$\underbrace{\underbrace{\underbrace{mis}_{\text{prefix}}\underbrace{interpret}_{\text{root}}}_{\text{stem}}\underbrace{ed}_{\text{suffix}}}$$

  - **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 thing about the word misinterpreted, I do not thing mis-interpreted, but I think that "to misinterpret in the past".