

## Session 5 and 6: Morphology

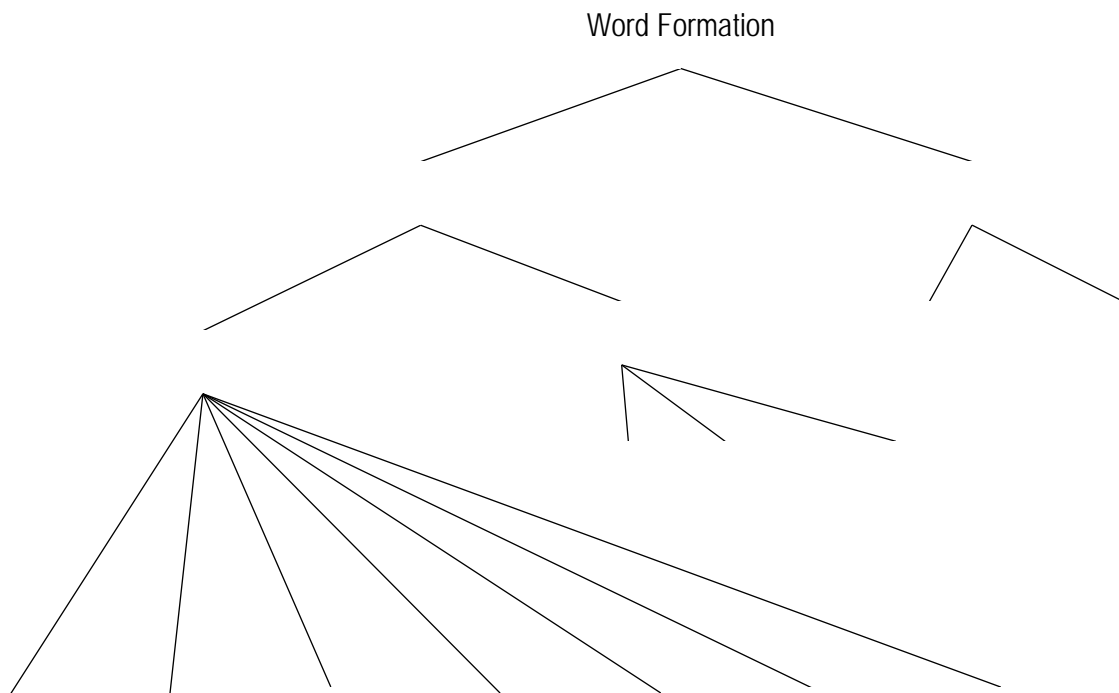
# Word Classes

Identify the word class of the underlined lexeme in the following examples. Explain why you assign them to a specific word class and also suggest the more usual word class they ‘normally’ belong to.

1. The only way things could go at the moment would have to be up.
2. The state of play in the negotiations is hard to determine with any accuracy.
3. The elderly need to be looked after by committed nursing staff.
4. The first action the new manager took was to clear the deck.
5. Switzerland is unlikely to host any Winter Olympics in the near future.
6. The change in temperature will impact most notably in the Alps.
7. The management are 100% behind the proposed changes.

## Word Formation

*Fill in the following overview of how word formation (mainly of content words) works in English.*



*Find examples for each one of the categories named above.*

## Affixations

### Possible and impossible affixation

Determine in the following examples which of the affixes do not work (mark them with \*). Which could work, “sort of”. Can you formulate some rules?

	- dom	- er / - or	- ing	mis -	re -	- en
<i>bind</i>	binddom	binder	binding	misbind	rebind	binden
<i>star</i>	stardom	starrer	starring	misstar	restar	starren
<i>dark</i>	darkdom	darker	darking	misdark	redark	darken
<i>king</i>	kingdom	kinger	kinging	masking	reking	kingen
<i>child</i>	childdom	childer	childing	mischild	rechild	children
<i>up</i>	updom	upper	upping	misup	reup	uppen
<i>use</i>	usedom	user	using	misuse	reuse	usen
<i>like</i>	likedom	liker	liking	mislike	relike	liken

Are there any that seem to work, but not in the same way as the others in the same category?

### Domains and Prefixation

From: Hamawand, Z. (2011) *Morphology in English: Word formation in cognitive grammar*. London, New York: Continuum, pp. 100-102

#### (Sub)Domains evoked by positive suffixes

Domains	Facets	Exponents	Meaning differences	Example
degree	quality	<i>hyper-</i>	describes emotional reaction as being beyond what is tolerable	
		<i>ultra-</i>	describes mental reaction as being beyond what is proper	
		<i>super-</i>	describes the quality of products or materials as being extraordinary	
	quantity	<i>mega-</i>	describes events or their performers as being phenomenal	
		<i>sur-</i>	describes things as being additional or extra	
spatiality		<i>ante-</i>	depicts an entity as being situated before another	
		<i>fore-</i>	sketches an entity, or its first part, as being situated in front of another	
		<i>mid-</i>	portrays an entity as being in the middle of something	
		<i>inter-</i>	describes interaction between entities in different places	

		<i>intra-</i>	describes interaction between entities within the same place or group	
		<i>post-</i>	describes an entity as being behind something else	
temporality	anterior	<i>ante-</i>	features an event or a process that exists before another	
		<i>fore-</i>	emphasizes an event that happens beforehand or prematurely	
		<i>pre-</i>	stresses an event or a stage in a series of events as taking place earlier than another	
	middle	<i>mid-</i>	describes an event as taking place in the middle	
	posterior	<i>post-</i>	describes an entity as being later in time than another	
size	large	<i>macro-</i>	pictures something, generally chemical substances, as being very large	
		<i>maxi-</i>	describes physical objects, broadly clothing, as being larger than a normal example of its kind	
	medium	<i>midi-</i>	delineates physical objects, usually plastic objects, as being of medium size or length	
	small	<i>micro-</i>	characterizes something, principally electronic equipment, as being extremely small or of reduced size	
		<i>mini-</i>	describes something, primarily objects or places, as being very small or smaller than a normal example of the same thing	

### (Sub)Domains evoked by negative suffixes

<b>Domains</b>	<b>Facets</b>	<b>Exponents</b>	<b>Meaning differences</b>	<b>Examples</b>
distinction	contra-dictory	<i>non-</i>	describes a choice between two actions	
		<i>a(n)-</i>	describes a choice between two features	
	contrary	<i>dis-</i>	evaluates attitude of people	
		<i>un-</i>	evaluates properties of things	
		<i>in-</i>	evaluates properties of situations	
Opposition	attitude	<i>anti-</i>	reacts against a practice	
	action	<i>counter-</i>	responds to an action	
	compar-ison	<i>contra-</i>	compares one thing to another	
privation	places/ things	<i>de-</i>	deprives a place or thing of something	
	people	<i>dis-</i>	causes someone to lack something	
	objects	<i>un-</i>	bereaves an object of something	
removal	places/ things	<i>de-</i>	removes something from a place or thing	
	people	<i>dis-</i>	rids someone of something	
	objects	<i>un-</i>	takes away an object from something	
reversal	places/ things	<i>de-</i>	reverses a place or thing to its original nature	
	people	<i>dis-</i>	turns around the position of someone	
	objects	<i>un-</i>	inverts the direction of an object	

Domains	Facets	Exponents	Meaning differences	Examples
treatment	accidental	<i>mis-</i>	treats an entity unconsciously	
	intentional	<i>mal-</i>	treats an entity purposely	

### Contrasts in meanings

confusable word	Collocation
forceful vs. forcible	argument, detention, entry (legal term), leader, measure, personality, removal of people,
deviation vs. deviance	in lifestyle, from the norm, in a pattern, a behavioural ~, sexual ~
primary vs. primal	education, impulses, instinct, objective, screams, sources, stage, urges,
disuse vs. abuse vs. misuse	drug ~, fall into ~, human rights ~, ~ of funds, ~ of power
oppress vs. suppress vs repress	a painful memory, an urge, anger, masses, minorities, news, peoples, political disagreement, rebellion, women,

### Structuring affixation

1. *Identify*  
*the stem/base.*  
*the type of affixation (derivational or inflectional)*  
*the word classes*
  2. *Draw structure trees that illustrate the order in which morphemes are added to the stem.*
1. unfriendly
  2. uncertainties
  3. inactivity
  4. incinerator
  5. disempowering
  6. unconstitutionality
  7. digitisations
  8. dislocation
  9. inconsiderate
  10. reiterations
  11. unpleasantness
  12. poeticisms
  13. retrofitting
  14. instability

### Identifying prefixes

*In the following list of words identify the prefixes and stems/bases.*

1. disgruntled
2. uncouth
3. undone
4. amorphous

5. detract

6. destruction

7. disdain

8. inflammable

9. invaluable

10. derail

11. mislead

12. unless

13. involved

14. inhabitable

15. recriminate

16. confuse

## Compounding

### Constructing compounds

*Try to find compounds (combinations of free morphemes) that fit the 'construction rules'.*

N+N	
Adj+N	
Prep+N	
V+N	
V+V	
Prep+V	
N+V	
Adj+V	
Adj+Adj	
N+Adj	
Prep+Adj	
Prep+Prep	
X+Prep	

**Assignment:** take some of the above examples and analyse them using the Laurie Bauer overview.

### Endocentricity vs. Exocentricity

*Check the meaning of the following compounds and determine their word class and how they are constructed.*

bonehead		carpark	
cold turkey		crocodile tears	
dreadnought		eardrum	
failsafe		flabberghasted	

fly-by-night		freefall	
grande dame		gumshoe	
halfway house		haphazard	
hip-hop		humdinger	
humdrum		ivy league	
killjoy		laptop	
lockstep		Mickey Mouse/ cowboy outfit	
movie mogul		overseer	
PlayStation		redeye	
rotgut		shipping tycoon	
skyrocket		swimming pool	
twinkletoes		X-box	

## An exploration: In(ter)fixation (or rather Tmesis<sup>1</sup>) in English

Where would you put an expletive like *blooming*, *bloody*, *bleeding* or *fucking* inside the following adjectives; where would this not work at all?

amazing	
astonishing	
astounding	
dazzling	
extraordinary	
fandabedozzy	
fantastic	
incredible	
overwhelming	
tremendous	
unbelievable	

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<sup>1</sup> According to Merriam-Webster.com: Tmesis is the ‘separation of parts of a compound word by the intervention of one or more words (such as *what place soever* for *whatsoever place*).’ The term compound word is to be used ‘with caution’.