

Introduction to morphology

13/11/2024

Homework

**In pairs / threes
10 minutes**

Look at the second part of the extract (Sunday 5th March).

- 1) What features make it obvious this is still a diary?
- 2) Are there any language features that indicate this book was published in 1998?
- 3) Sharon uses the term 'emotional fuckwit' in line 23 to refer to Daniel. What does this mean? What is the abstract noun used in the second part?
- 4) What abbreviations does Bridget use? What do they mean?
- 5) What do you notice about the use of pronouns and articles on Saturday and Sunday's entries?

Homework

Rewrite Sunday's entry using articles and pronouns and expanding abbreviations.

In pairs /
threes
5 minutes

8 a.m. Ugh. Wish was dead. Am never, ever going to drink again for the rest of life.

8.30 a.m. Oooh. Could really fancy some chips.

11.30 a.m. Badly need water but seems better to keep eyes closed and head stationary on pillow so as not to disturb bits of machinery and pheasants in head.

Noon. Bloody good fun but v. confused re: advice re: Daniel. Had to go through Jude's problems with Vile Richard first as clearly they are more serious since they have been going out for eighteen months rather than just shagged once. I waited humbly, therefore, till it was my turn to recount the latest Daniel instalment. The unanimous initial verdict was, 'Bastard fuckwittage.'

Homework

8 a.m. Ugh. (I) wish (I) was dead. (I) am never, ever going to drink again for the rest of (my) life.

8.30 a.m. Oooh. (I) could really fancy some chips.

11.30 a.m. (I) badly need water(,) but (it) seems better to keep (my) eyes closed and (my) head stationary on (the/my) pillow so as not to disturb (the) bits of machinery and pheasants in (my) head.

Noon. (It / last night was) bloody good fun but v. (very) confused re: (about Sharon and Jude's) advice re: (about) Daniel. (I) had to go through Jude's problems with Vile Richard first as(,) clearly(,) they are more serious since they have been going out for eighteen months rather than (having) just shagged once (like me and Daniel). I waited humbly, therefore, till it was my turn to recount the latest Daniel instalment. The unanimous initial verdict was, 'Bastard fuckwittage.'

Morphology

Key terms, word classes, affixes and compounds

Morphology

- Morphology looks at the internal structures of words
 - how words are made
 - how we make new words
- The smallest unit of meaning is called a morpheme (eg. un- or -er)
- We can divide words into three broad categories
 - Simple words (1 morpheme, eg. cat, paper)
 - Complex words (<1 morpheme, eg. un+fortun(e)+ate+ly, print+er)
 - Compound words (a new word made of 2 existing words, eg. sketch+pad, bitter+sweet)

Morphology

- We would be unlikely to consider cat and cats as two different words.
- We can therefore call cat a lexeme. This is the abstract, representative form to a word.
- This is also useful for conceptualizing multi-word verbs / nouns. Eg. to put off.
- Some lexemes have more than one meaning. This is called **polysemy**.
 - mouse – a small rodent
 - mouse – a piece of computer hardware.
- We can also use the term 'lexical item'.
- A **lexical set** refers to a group of closely related words
 - apple, orange, bananas, pineapple, papaya (all names of fruit)

Key terms

morpheme

mouse

lexeme

mouse / mice

lexical set

mouse, rabbit, hamster

simple word

mouse

complex word

mousy

compound word

mousy-brown

mouse – a small rodent

polysemy

mouse- a piece of computer hardware

Word Classes

How many word classes can you name?

Word Classes

- nouns
- verbs
- adjectives
- adverbs
- pronouns
- determiners
- auxiliaries
- prepositions
- conjunctions

9 major word
classes

- interjections
- particles

2 minor word
classes

Numerals are sometimes treated as a separate word class, sometimes they are grouped under pronouns and determiners

cardinals: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5...

ordinals: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th...

fractions: a half, a quarter...

Word Classes

Read the following list of words taken from all nine major word classes:

In pairs / threes
3 mins

<i>pheasant</i>	<i>phone</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>fancy</i>
<i>they</i>	<i>which</i>	<i>witter</i>	<i>sheepishly</i>
<i>from</i>	<i>today</i>	<i>computer</i>	<i>and</i>
<i>flat</i>	<i>could</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>traumatized</i>
<i>since</i>	<i>shifty</i>	<i>head out</i>	<i>in</i>

Divide these words into two groups according to type. These groups might not be the same size. Use your instinct!

Word Classes

pheasant

phone

fancy

witter

sheepishly

today

computer

flat

traumatized

shifty

head out

me

they

which

from

and

could

the

since

in

Now identify the
word class for each
word.

In pairs / threes
3 mins

noun

verb

adjective

adverb

pronoun

determiner

auxiliary

preposition

conjunction

Word Classes

pheasant

noun

phone

noun

fancy

verb

witter

verb

sheepishly

adverb

today

adverb

computer

noun

flat

noun

traumatized

adjective

shifty

adjective

head out

verb

me

pronoun

they

pronoun

which

pronoun

from

preposition

and

conjunction

could

auxiliary

the

determiner

since

conjunction

in

preposition

Word Classes

pheasant
phone
fancy
witter
sheepishly
today
computer
flat
traumatized
shifty
head out

open class
words

me
they
which
from
and
could
the
since
in

closed class
words

Open and Closed Class Words

Open class words

- Also called lexical words / content words
- Readily admit new words and new meanings
- Large group
- monosyllabic / disyllabic / polysyllabic

Closed class words

- Also called function words / grammatical words
- Much less change
- New words enter occasionally
- Small group
- Most likely to be monosyllabic / disyllabic

Derivational Morphology

Derivational morphology is the process of creating new words, or lexemes, by changing the meaning or part of speech of an existing word.

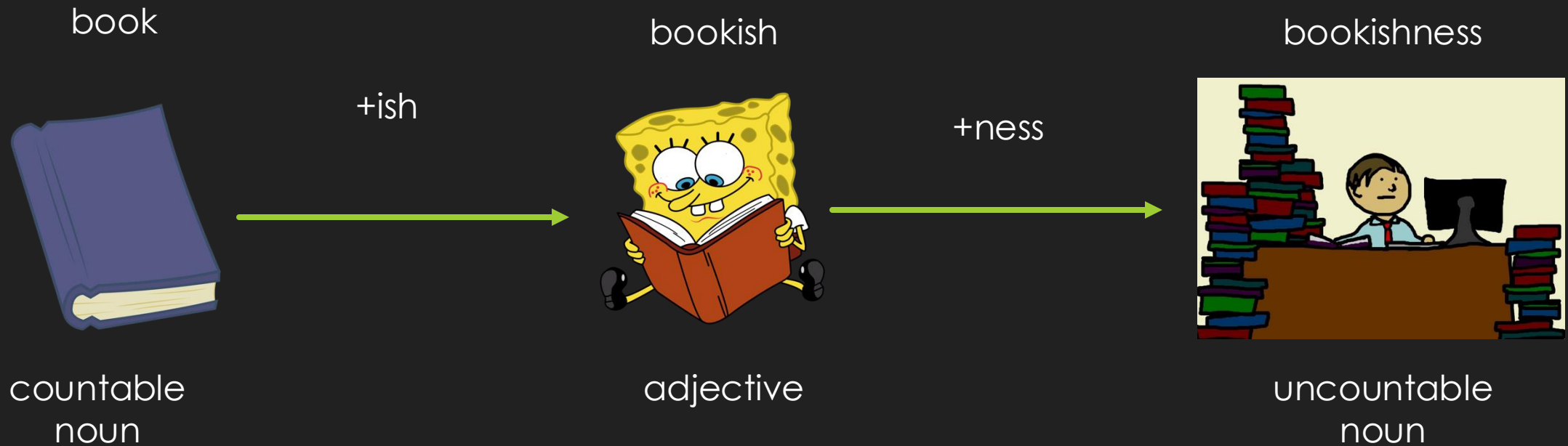
Morphology

Now let's look at how we make new words.

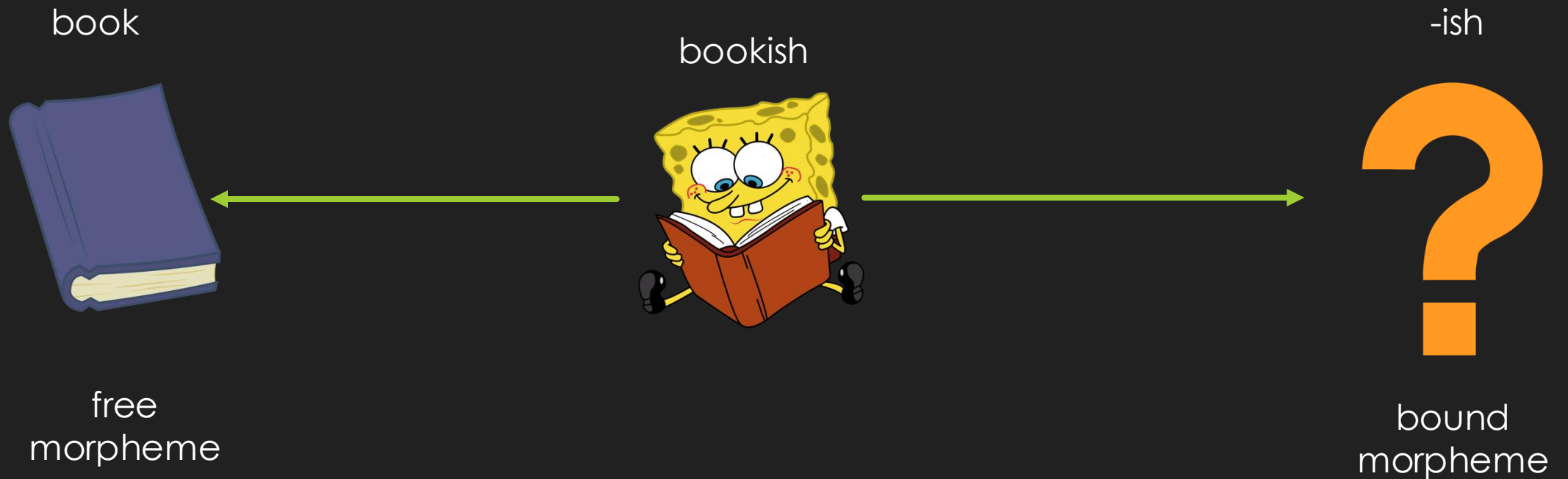
- The smallest unit of meaning is called a morpheme (eg. un- or -er)
- We can divide words into three broad categories
 - Simple words (1 morpheme, eg. cat, paper)
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Derivational Morphology

- Forming new lexemes (words) that differ in part of speech or in meaning.



Bound / Free Morphemes



Bound / Free Morphemes

'-ish' and '-ness' are morphemes, but they don't mean anything by themselves.

They are **bound** morphemes



'book' means something by itself

It is a **free** morpheme



Affixation

- Affixation is the process whereby an affix is added to a base / root word.
 - Prefix is an affix at the beginning (eg. un-; dis- ; pre-)
 - Suffix is an affix at the end (eg. -ness; -ish; -age)
- This type of word formation can either preserve (**class-preserving**) or change the class of the word (**class-changing**), for example a verb becomes a noun.
- Prefixes are usually class-preserving.
- Suffixes are usually class-changing.

a.k.a. derivation

Affixation

What do you notice about the use of prefixes and suffixes?

happy → happily

adjective → adverb

happy → happiness

adjective → noun

agree → disagree

verb → verb

familiarize → defamiliarize

verb → verb

Class-changing / Class-preserving

Class-changing

Suffixes tend to be class-changing

- friend → friendly
- happy → happiness
- sad → sadly
- cavern → cavernous

Class-preserving

Prefixes tend to be class-preserving

- agree → disagree
- print → misprint
- active → proactive
- familiarize → defamiliarize

Affixation

Create a derived word from the word in brackets to fit the sentence.

1. If the children, they must go to bed early. (behave)
2. You can't what's already been done. (do)
3. His support gives the case (legitimate)
4. Jo is the most dancer in the group. (grace)
5. It's not as as you think. There are some options. (hope)
6. There is nothing worse than (bore)
7. Dogs are great for anyone looking for (companion)
8. She has a very work schedule. (regular)

Affixation

Now look at the answers and decide if your affix was class-changing or class-preserving.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. If the children <u>misbehave</u> , they must go to bed early. | (behave) |
| 2. You can't <u>undo</u> what's already been done. | (do) |
| 3. His support gives the case <u>legitimacy</u> . | (legitimate) |
| 4. Jo is the most <u>graceful</u> dancer in the group. | (grace) |
| 5. It's not as <u>hopeless</u> as you think. There are some options. | (hope) |
| 6. There is nothing worse than <u>boredom</u> . | (bore) |
| 7. Dogs are great for anyone looking for <u>companionship</u> . | (companion) |
| 8. She has a very <u>irregular</u> work schedule. | (regular) |

Compounding

What is a compound word?

Compounds

- A compound word is formed when two or more separate words are joined together.
- For example: blackboard, superhero, toothbrush, animal lover, eco-friendly.
- Some compound words appear as one word, some are hyphenated (-) and some remain as two separate words.
- Often new compounds are written as two separate words and, as they become more familiar, they are either connected with a hyphen (-) or made into one word.
- We can make compound words in almost all word classes.

Compounds

Identify the word class for the following compound words. Which word classes are missing?

fat-free

soap opera

however

car park

into

anyone

daydream

dry-clean

everything

although

onto

environmentally-friendly

nevertheless

nobody

nowadays

Compound nouns

- The most common compounds are compound nouns and adjectives. Compound verbs are less common.
- Compound nouns are made in various ways. Here are some:

noun + noun: <i>earphones</i>	verb -ing form + noun: <i>parking ticket</i>
verb base form + noun: <i>rescue team</i>	adjective + noun: <i>blackboard</i>

Compound nouns

How many compound nouns from the following words?

clip

school

board

exam

work

primary

book

room

paper

school board

exam board

clipboard

schoolwork

schoolbook

schoolroom

paperwork

paperclip

workbook

workroom

primary school

Pronunciation of compounds

- Where does the stress fall on the following words?

a blackboard

a black board

the Whitehouse

a white house

- The usual spoken stress pattern is with the stress on the first word.

a **black**board

the **White**house

Bridget's Neologisms

Fuckwit (n / adj.), first recorded use 1969 (Australia)

What type of word is this?

Fuck + wit

dim + wit

A compound word. Two existing words are merged to create a new word.

How does Bridget turn 'fuckwit' (noun) into an abstract noun?

fuckwit + t + age

What might this mean?

The state or condition of being a fuckwit.

Wit compounds

- dim-witted
- slow-witted
- outwit
- witless
- quick-witted
- sharp-witted
- halfwit
- dimwit

wit (n)

1. The capacity for inventive thought and quick understanding (intelligence)
2. A natural capacity for using words in a quick and inventive way to create humour

What word class do these compounds belong to?

Wit Expressions

- pit one's wits **against**
- bored **out of** one's wits
- to live **by** one's wits
- battle **of** wits
- to gather **one's** wits
- **beyond** the wit of man
- scared **out of** one's wits
- keep your wits **about** you

Take **two minutes** to look at these expressions with a partner. Say them out loud to each other. Pay attention to the prepositions.

Homework

Read the article 'Bridget Jones deserved better' (on Moodle).

Find 5 examples of **compound** words.

Find 5 examples of words which have been made **using affixation** (derivation).

Helen Fielding's ditzy heroine was all the rage when she was introduced to American audiences in 1998. Today, her nuttiness and self-loathing read like a relic from another time.

America (n) → American (adj)

nuttiness → nut (n) → nutty (adj) → nuttiness (n)

self-loathing → self + loathing