Key Concepts

Morpheme: morpheme is a sign of language. In other words the minimal meaningful unit of language are morphemes.

Behavioral Objectives

After Studying this Section, student can:

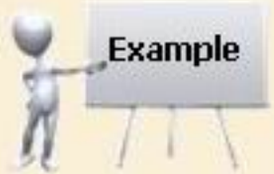
1. Define the morpheme as a linguistic sign.
2. Learn the general meaning of the morpheme as a linguistic sign. Some examples in English are also presented to help them understand the concept of morphemes in language.

Morphemes

The general definition given for sign is as follows:

Sign: association of form and meaning.

Regarding the language, the association of linguistic meaning and its form is called the linguistic sign or **morpheme**. That's why the minimal meaningful unites of language are morphemes . (Phonological features or phones are minimal unites of language, but they are meaningless).So morpheme is a sign of language.



1- The *minimal meaningful unites* of language are ....

- Sentences
- Phones
- ✓ Morphemes
- Phonological features

2- .....are minimal unites of language, but they are meaningless.

- ✓ Phonological features
- Morphemes
- Derivational morphemes
- Inflectional morphemes

Key Concepts

1. **Morph**: a meaningful form is a morph.
2. **Morpheme**: the set of morphs of similar form, like meaning, and complementary distribution make up a morpheme.
3. **Allomorphs**: different forms of a morpheme are its allomorphs

Behavioral Objectives

After Studying this Section, student can:

1. Define morph, morpheme and allomorph
2. Exemplify some English morphemes and their allomorphs

defining Morph, morpheme, allomorph

In order to discuss the differences between morph, morpheme and allomorph it is better to start with an example. Take the following words and pay attention to the negative morphemes marked in each word:

- **Im**possible, **im**balanced, **im**patient.
- **Il**liberal, **il**legal, **il**literate.
- **In**definite, **in**delicate, **in**direct.

Now consider the definition given for morph:

> **Morph**: a meaningful form is a morph.

So in these words-im =morph, -il = morph and -in= morph, because each of them are a meaningful form(each of them add negative meaning to the adjective) . Now consider the definition given for morpheme:

> **Morpheme**: the set of morphs of similar form, like meaning, and complementary distribution make up a morpheme.

Morpheme: the set of morphs of similar form, like meaning, and complementary distribution make up a morpheme.

Now considering the above mentioned examples (i.e. -im, -il, -in), they have similar form.Their first sound is the same and their second phone changes according to the initial phone of the adjective . Their meaning is the like because all of them add negative meaning to the adjectives. And they are in complementary distribution (which means they don't occur at the same place. '-im' combines with the adjectives beginning with bilabial sounds. '-il' combines with the adjectives beginning with lateral sounds and 'in' combines with adjectives beginning with other sounds except /r/). So we can say that (-im, -il, -in) = negative maker of adjectives = morpheme. Now consider the definition of allomorph:

Allomorphs: different forms of a morpheme are its allomorphs.

So considering the above mentioned examples, each of the morphs '-im', '-il', '-in' are the allomorphs of the morpheme "negative maker of adjectives".

1- Different forms of a morpheme are its ....

- Allophones
- Stems
- Roots
- ✓ Allomorphs

2- The set of morphs of similar form, like meaning, and complementary distribution make up a/an .... .

- Morph
- Allomorph
- ✓ Morpheme
- Word

Key Concepts

1. **Free morph**: is a morph which occurs relatively freely with other words and morphemes and it is not necessary to be attached to other words and morphemes.
2. **Bound morph**: is a morph which must always be attached to other words or morphemes .also the number and kind of words or morphemes which can be attached to it are restricted.

Behavioral Objectives

After Studying this Section, student can:

Classify different morphemes in English according to their form.

Free and Bound Morphemes

Free morph: is a morph which occurs relatively freely with other words and morphemes and it is not necessary to be attached to other words and morphemes.

Bound morph: is a morph which must always be attached to other words or morphemes .also the number and kind of words or morphemes which can be attached to it are restricted.

- those girls seem unhealthy.

Free = those, girl, seem, health = word

Bound= -s, un-, -y.

Bound morphs are of three kinds:

1. Prefix 2. suffix 3. Stem

- antivirus, antibacterial, antibody.

'anti-' = prefix

- deemphasize, deactivate, demagnetize

'de-' = prefix

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• antivirus, antibacterial, antibody.

'anti-' = prefix

• deemphasize, deactivate, demagnetize

'de-' = prefix

• government, enrichment, achievement.

'-ment' = suffix

• Simplify, clarify, justify.

'-ify'= suffix

• clarify (**clar**- is the stem which is the bound form of **clear**)

• reception (**recep**- is the stem which is the bound form of **receive**)

'clear' and '**clar-'** are allomorphs of one morpheme. The first is free allomorph and the other is bound one.**'Receive'** and '**recep-'**are allomorphs of one morpheme. The first is free allomorph and the other is bound one.

1- Which one is a prefix?

- "ment"
- ✓ "il"
- "ing"
- "ify"

2- Which one is a bound grammatical morpheme?

- "-re"
- "-ment"
- ✓ "-ed"
- " to"

Key Concepts

1. **Simple word**: is a word which consists of a single free morpheme.
2. **Complex word**: is a word which consists of two or more morphemes (each of them can be free or bound).

Behavioral Objectives

After Studying this Section, student can:

Classify each English word to simple or complex word and will learn the basic rule for breaking down the complex words in to their parts.

Simple word: is a word which consists of a single free morpheme.

e.g.: walk, chair, anger, season.

Complex word: is a word which consists of two or more morphemes(each of them can be free or bound).

e.g.: 'seashore'= sea+shore 'unclassified'=un- + class+ -ify+ -ed

Note

In breaking down a word into its part, each part must be meaningful. If not, the meaningless part would be a **residue** of analysis.

e.g.: blueberry: a small blue fruit so: Blue+berry

But in boysenberry, raspberry, loganberry in comparison with blueberry, we can't remove 'berry' from first parts; because the remaining parts would be meaningless and will be considered as residue of the analysis.

1- Which of the following words is a simple word?

- Seashore
- Season
- Seaside
- None of the answers

Key Concepts

1. **Lexical morphemes** are those morphemes which:Their presence is determined by what we are talking about, express concrete meaning and are infrequent in comparison with grammatical morphemes.

2. **Grammatical morphemes** are those morphemes which:Their presence is obligated by grammar, Express abstract meaning and In comparison to lexical morphemes they are very frequent.

Behavioral Objectives

After Studying this Section, student can:

1. Distinguish grammatical morphemes from lexical ones in English.
2. According to the characteristics given for each class, the students can determine the class of morphemes in their own language.

Lexical and Grammatical Morphemes

Lexical morphemes are those morphemes which:

- Their presence is determined by what we are talking about.
- Express concrete meaning.
- In comparison to grammatical morphemes they are infrequent.
- In every language the number of them increases.
- Have always stressed syllables.

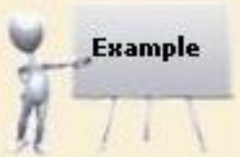
They in the following example the lexical morphemes are underlined:

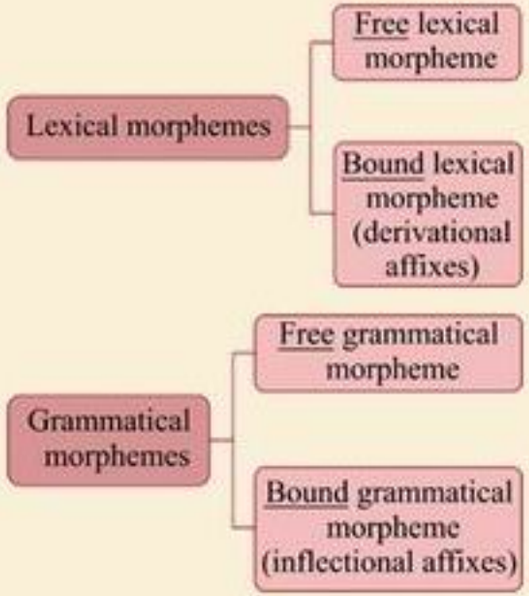


Grammatical morphemes are those morphemes which:

- Their presence is obligated by grammar.
- Express abstract meaning.
- In comparison to lexical morphemes they are very frequent.
- In every language the number of them dose not increase.
- They lack stressed syllables.

In the following example the grammatical morphemes are underlined.





1- Which morpheme is not a grammatical one?

- All
- Of
- Our
- And

2- Which statement is NOT true about grammatical morphemes?

- Their presence is obligated by grammar.
- Express abstract meaning.
- have always stressed syllables.
- In every language the number of them does not increase.

Morph: a meaningful form is a morph. Morpheme: the set of morphs of similar form, like meaning, and complementarydistribution make up a morpheme Allomorphs: different forms of a morpheme are its allomorphs.

Sign: association of form and meaning.

Allomorphs: different forms of a morpheme are its allomorphs.

Morpheme: the set of morphs of similar form, like meaning, and complementarydistribution make up a morpheme

Complex word: is a word which consists of two or more morphemes(each of them can be free or bound).

e.g.: 'seashore'= sea+shore

'unclassified'=un- + class+ -ify+ -ed

Residue: the left-over forms of a morphological analysis of a word which seem to be meaningless and do not exist apart from their combination with a single form.

Simple word: is a word which consists of a single free morpheme. e.g.: walk, chair, anger, season. Complex word: is a word which consists of two or more morphemes(each of them can be free or bound). e.g.: 'seashore'= sea+shore 'unclassified'=un- + class+ -ify+ -ed Residue: the left-over forms of a morphological analysis of a word which seem to be meaningless and do not exist apart from their combination with a single form.

1- The stem in "decision" .....

- "Is "decide
- ✓ Has both free and bound allomorphs
- Is "deci"
- Is a free morpheme

2- Which statement about the word "disagreements" is not true?

- ✓ It has 2 grammatical morphemes
- It is a complex word
- It has 3 bound morphemes
- It has 3 lexical morphemes

3- Which suffix is different from the others?

- ‘-ment’
- ‘-ing’
- (s’ (as in dogs-‘
- (s’ (as in walks-‘

4- Which statement is true about the word “service”?

- It has one inflectional morpheme
- It has two bound morpheme
- ice" is residue in this word-"
- It has two grammatical morphemes

5- Which morpheme is not a grammatical one?

- All
- Of
- Our
- And

6- Which morpheme is a grammatical one?

- "er-"
- "or"
- "dry"
- "hot"

7- Which word has two bound morphemes?

- Houses
- Unhappy
- ✓ Formalize
- Prefix

8- Which word is <u>not</u> a complex word?

- ✓ Abstract
- Infrequent
- Carves
- Decision

9- Which word is a complex word?

- Try
- Tree
- Carve
- ✓ Disagree

10- "re" in "retest" is ... .

- Free morpheme
- ✓ Bound lexical morpheme
- Bound grammatical morpheme
- Root