

## Chapter 3 — Morphology: the words of language

---

### QUESTION 1

1. Languages have a relatively large number of function words, but a relatively small number of content words.

T. Incorrect. Content words make up the majority of a language's vocabulary. See the section on 'Content Words and Function Words' at the beginning of Chapter 3.

F. Correct.

PTS: 1

DIF: E

TOP: Content Words and Function Words

---

### QUESTION 2

2. *Although, from, that, Vanessa* and *she* are all function words.

T. Incorrect. *Vanessa* is not a function word. See the section on 'Content Words and Function Words' at the beginning of Chapter 3.

F. Correct.

PTS: 1

DIF: E

TOP: Content Words and Function Words

---

### QUESTION 3

3. The compounds *airhead, show-off, killjoy* and *turncoat* are all examples of *exocentric* compounds.

T. Correct.

F. Incorrect. These are in fact all exocentric compounds; neither of the words in these compounds can substitute for, or can be considered to be acting as the head of, the compound. See the section on 'Compounds' in Chapter 3.

PTS: 1

DIF: E

TOP: Compounds

---

#### QUESTION 4

4. Which word contains a morpheme *dis*-?
- A. distinguish
  - B. distil
  - C. disprove
  - D. disco
  - E. disturb
- A. Incorrect. *Distinguish* can't be decomposed into morphemes *dis* and *tinguish*, as they would carry no meaning. See the section on 'Morphemes: The Minimal Units of Meaning' in Chapter 3.
- B. Incorrect. *Distil* can't be decomposed into morphemes *dis* and *til*, as they would carry no meaning. See the section on 'Morphemes: The Minimal Units of Meaning' in Chapter 3.
- C. Correct.
- D. Incorrect. *Disco* can't be decomposed into morphemes *dis* and *co*, as they would carry no meaning. See the section on 'Morphemes: The Minimal Units of Meaning' in Chapter 3.
- E. Incorrect. *Disturb* can't be decomposed into morphemes *dis* and *turb*, as they would carry no meaning. See the section on 'Morphemes: The Minimal Units of Meaning' in Chapter 3.

PTS: 1

DIF: M

TOP: Morphemes

-----

#### QUESTION 5

5. Which of the below is the most appropriate morphemic decomposition of the word *unforgettable*? (Note, ignore the double *t* at the end of *forget*; it's just an artefact of English spelling and not part of our morpheme analysis.)
- A. un –forgettable
  - B. un –forgett –able
  - C. un –for –gett –able
  - D. un –for –gett –a –ble
- A. Incorrect. You can decompose *forgettable* into two discrete morphemes. See the section on 'Morphemes: The Minimal Units of Meaning' in Chapter 3.
- B. Correct
- C. Incorrect. You cannot decompose *forget* into *for* and *get*; that doesn't make sense semantically. See the section on 'Morphemes: The Minimal Units of Meaning' in Chapter 3.
- D. Incorrect. This decomposition does not make sense semantically. See the section on 'Morphemes: The Minimal Units of Meaning' in Chapter 3.

PTS: 1  
Meaning

DIF: M

TOP: Morphemes: The Minimal Units of

---

**QUESTION 6**

6. *Un* in the word *unhappy* is the ‘same’ morpheme as *in* in the word *inflexible*.

T. Correct. The *un* and the *in* have exactly the same meaning. We say that this is one morpheme, but that it has different forms. See the section on ‘The discreteness of morphemes’ in Chapter 3

F. Incorrect. The *un* and the *in* have exactly the same meaning in these two words, and can be considered as the ‘same’ morpheme, but one which can take different forms. See the section on ‘The discreteness of morphemes’ in Chapter 3

PTS: 1

DIF: M

TOP: The discreteness of morphemes

---

**QUESTION 7**

7. Which word is made up of just a single *free morpheme*?

- A. barter
- B. barbaric
- C. barristers
- D. bartender
- E. bargaining

A. Correct.

B. Incorrect. *-ic* is a suffix. See the section on ‘Bound and free morphemes’ in Chapter 3.

C. Incorrect. *-s* is a suffix. See the section on ‘Bound and free morphemes’ in Chapter 3.

D. Incorrect. *Bartender* has three morphemes, *bar – tend –er*. See the section on ‘Bound and free morphemes’ in Chapter 3.

E. Incorrect. *-ing* is a suffix. See the section on ‘Bound and free morphemes’ in Chapter 3.

PTS: 1

DIF: M

TOP: Bound and free morphemes

-----

### QUESTION 8

8. Which word contains **both** a prefix and a suffix?

- A. jealous
- B. hopeless
- C. humiliated
- D. disrespectful
- E. insecure

- A. Incorrect. *Jealous* is a free morpheme. See the section on ‘Bound and free morphemes’ in Chapter 3.
- B. Incorrect. *Hopeless* consists of the root *hope* and the suffix *-less*. See the section on ‘Bound and free morphemes’ in Chapter 3.
- C. Incorrect. *Humiliated* consists of the root *humiliate* and the suffix *-ed*. See the section on ‘Bound and free morphemes’ in Chapter 3.
- D. Correct. *Disrespectful* has a prefix *dis-*, a suffix *-ful*, and a root *respect*.
- E. Incorrect. *Insecure* has a prefix *-in* and a root *secure*. See the section on ‘Bound and free morphemes’ in Chapter 3.

PTS: 1

DIF: M

TOP: Bound and free morphemes

-----

### QUESTION 9

9. The word *nationalisation* can be analysed as containing a number of different *stems*.

T. Correct.

F. Incorrect. For example, *nation*, *nation-al* and *nation-al-is* can all be considered as *stems* to which further suffixes are added. See the section on ‘Bound and free morphemes’ in Chapter 3.

PTS: 1

DIF: M

TOP: Bound and free morphemes

---

**QUESTION 10**

10. Which word does **not** contain a *derivational* suffix?

- A. expansion
- B. dimension
- C. imagination
- D. inflation
- E. congratulations

- A. Incorrect. *Expansion* is a noun derived from the verb *expand*. See the section on ‘Derivational Morphology’ in Chapter 3.
- B. Correct.
- C. Incorrect. *Imagination* is a noun derived from the verb *imagine*. See the section on ‘Derivational Morphology’ in Chapter 3.
- D. Incorrect. *Inflation* is a noun derived from the verb *inflate*. See the section on ‘Derivational Morphology’ in Chapter 3.
- E. Incorrect. *Congratulations* is a noun derived from the verb *congratulate*. See the section on ‘Derivational Morphology’ in Chapter 3.

PTS: 1

DIF: M

TOP: Derivational Morphology

---

**QUESTION 11**

11. Inflectional morphemes in English normally come before any derivational morphemes that occur in a word.

T. Incorrect. Inflectional morphemes typically follow the derivational morphemes. See the section on ‘Inflectional Morphology’ in Chapter 3

F. Correct.

PTS: 1

DIF: E

TOP: Inflectional Morphology

---

## QUESTION 12

12. Which of the following statements about *derivational* and *inflectional* morphology is **not** true?

- A. Derivational morphology always changes the word-class.
- B. Inflectional morphology has grammatical functions.
- C. Inflectional morphology has little or no effect on meaning.
- D. Adding a derivational morpheme may affect pronunciation of a root.
- E. Languages vary greatly in the number of inflectional morphemes that they have.

- A. Correct. Adding a derivational morpheme may result in a change of word-class, but does not necessarily do so.
- B. Incorrect. This is true. See the section on ‘Inflectional Morphology’ in Chapter 3.
- C. Incorrect. This is true. See the section on ‘Inflectional Morphology’ in Chapter 3.
- D. Incorrect. This is true. See the section on ‘Derivational Morphology’ in Chapter 3.
- E. Incorrect. This is true. See the section on ‘Inflectional Morphology’ in Chapter 3.

PTS: 1

DIF: M

TOP: Inflectional Morphology

---

## QUESTION 13

13. *Unlockable* can have two quite different meanings. On the one hand it can mean *not able to be locked*. On the other hand, it can mean *able to be unlocked*. This ambiguity can be accounted for by proposing different hierarchical structures for the word, in which the different meanings come about through the root morpheme *lock* having a different place in the structure.

T. Incorrect. The difference in meaning is indeed explained by proposing a hierarchical structure, but the position of *lock* in the structure is unchanged. See the section on ‘The hierarchical structure of words’ in Chapter 3.

F. Correct. Note that the difference in meaning **is** indeed explained by proposing a hierarchical structure, but the position of *lock* in the structure is unchanged. See the section on ‘The hierarchical structure of words’ in Chapter 3.

PTS: 1

DIF: H

TOP: The hierarchical structure of words

---

#### QUESTION 14

14. Let's imagine that the word *bloosk* is an English verb. On that basis, without even knowing what *bloosk* might mean, we can apply morphological processes to it, based on our understandings of English word structure. Below we have some examples of legitimate processes we might apply to this verb, together with one example of a process that would not apply. Which is the bad example?

- A. *bloosking*
- B. *unbloosk*
- C. *blooskable*
- D. *bloosker*
- E. *blooskily*

- A. Incorrect. Verbs in English can take the *-ing* suffix.
- B. Incorrect. Many verbs in English can take the *-un* prefix.
- C. Incorrect. Many verbs in English can take the *-able* suffix.
- D. Incorrect. Many verbs in English can take the *-er* suffix, to derive a noun meaning 'someone/something that bloosks'.
- E. Correct. Verbs do not take the *(i)ly* suffix. This applies instead to adjectives, eg. *happy* → *happily*, *sad* → *sadly*.

PTS: 1

DIF: H

TOP: Morphology (Chapter 3)

-----

#### QUESTION 15

15. Look at the following list of English words. Which would you identify, from a morphological perspective, as the odd one out? (*Note*: There may be more than one correct answer.)

- A. *participant*
- B. *celebrant*
- C. *vacant*
- D. *occupant*
- E. *migrant*

- A. Incorrect. Isn't *participant* to be analysed in exactly the same way as *celebrant* and *migrant*? So it's not the odd one out.
- B. Incorrect. Isn't *celebrant* to be analysed in exactly the same way as *participant* and *migrant*? So it's not the odd one out.

- C. Correct. But you only score a point if you identify it as the odd one out for the right reason. *Vacant* patterns like *participant*, *celebrant* and *migrant*, in that it relates to a verb that ends in *-ate*, ie. *vacate*. Compare: *participate*; *celebrate*; *migrate*. So it's not the odd one out in that respect. But note that *vacant* is an **adjective**; all the other words in the list are **nouns**.
- D. Correct. But you only score a point if you identify it as the odd one out for the right reason. *Occupant* is a noun referring to someone who 'occupies' something. In that respect it is analogous to *participant* (= someone who participates), *celebrant* (= someone who celebrates) and *migrant* (= someone who migrates). It is not analogous to *vacant*, however; *vacant* does not mean 'someone who vacates' something. But *occupant* does stand out from the other four in that its corresponding verb is *occupy* and not \**occupate*; the other four all have corresponding verbs that end in *-ate*. So in that respect *occupant* is the odd one out. (By the way, would you analyse the *-ate* at the end of *participate*, *celebrate*, *vacate* etc. as a morpheme?)
- E. Incorrect. Isn't *migrant* to be analysed in exactly the same way as *participant* and *celebrant*? So it's not the odd one out.

PTS: 1

DIF: H

TOP: Morphology (Chapter 3)