



Lingua e Traduzione Inglese I

Lesson 2

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Outline of the lesson

- Different types of morphemes: autonomy, position, function
- English prefixes and suffixes
- Inflection and derivation in English
- Complex morphology in English and text types

Recap

Criteria to identify types of morphemes:

- Autonomy
- Position
- Function

Types of morphemes II – Position

- RE – START – ING
- Base
- Affix

Position criteria: **prefixes** and **suffixes**

LOAD

LOAD – ING

LOAD – ED

base + affix (suffix)

LOAD

RE – LOAD

affix (prefix) + base

UN – LOAD – ED

affix (prefix) + base + affix (suffix)

Some common affixes in English

- unhappy
- dislike
- mispronounce
- malnutrition

- management
- motherhood
- cheerful
- settlement

- Bound morphemes, such as 'un-' and '-ment', which appear only attached to other, usually free, morphemes are termed **AFFIXES**.

PREFIXES



Affixes attached
before the base

SUFFIXES



Affixes attached
after the base

- **Root:** what is left when all affixes are removed

UN – LOAD – ED

(UN) – LOAD – (ED)

LOAD

both a base (when deriving words) and a root

INTEREST – ING

INTEREST: both a base and a root

INTERESTING – LY

INTERESTING: base (to INTERESTINGLY) but not a root

-ance

-ment

Are these affixes?

Yes: disturb**ance**, aton**ement**

Compare: dance, comment

Are –ance and –ment affixes here?

The importance of context.

–ance and –ment are **not** affixes in *dance* and *comment* because **d-** and **com(m)-** are **not** roots.

- Identify the roots in the following words

knowingly, brainlessness, ministerially, untainted, actions, paranormality, unreheated, rediscover, insufferable, disinherited

knowingly, brainlessness, ministerially, untainted, actions, paranormality, unreheated, **rediscover**, insufferable, **disinherited**

- Focus on affixes and their meaning

Types of morphemes III – Function

- Inflectional morphemes

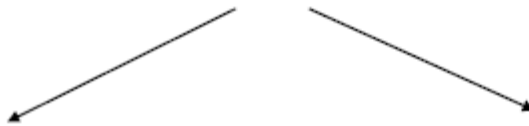
Marking inflection and creating **alternative** grammatical forms of a word.

- Derivational morphemes

Deriving **new** words from existing ones.

Morphological processes: Inflection and derivation

Morphology is normally subdivided into two branches:



1. Derivational (or
Lexical) Morphology

Class change can

occur

it studies the means by which *existing words* have been constructed and by which *new words* might be created.

2. Inflectional
Morphology

No class change

it studies the way words are adapted in different *grammatical* contexts.

(e.g. making a noun plural)

Inflectional morphemes

- Common inflectional morphemes for nouns. What are they? What is their meaning?

-s **-'s/-'**

- Common inflectional morphemes for verbs. What are they? What is their meaning?

-s **-ing** **-ed**

**Polyfunctionality
of English
morphemes**

- Common inflectional morphemes for adjectives. What are they? What is their meaning?

-er **-est**

Inflectional morphology in English

In English:

- Inflectional morphemes are multifunctional
- Inflectional morphemes are a limited set
- Inflectional morphemes are all suffixes
- Inflectional morphemes do not change the word class of the original word
- Inflectional morphemes do not apply to all language items in a category in English (e.g. uncountable nouns; non-gradable adjectives)
- Inflectional morphology is productive (inflectional morphology is applied to new words)
- Inflectional morphology can be regular (i.e. follow a common pattern) or irregular

Inflectional morphology in English

Motivations to inflectional morphology in English

Agreement (verb agreement [person, number]; noun agreement (number, [rarely] gender))

sleep / sleeps

this house / these houses

Dependency

*I am coming with you. – Come with **me**.*

What morphology can tell us about a text

WHITER THAN
WHITEST

Commercial advertising
provides fertile
soil for adjective inflections.

The brightest knits in town

WASHES CLEANER
THAN ANY OTHER MACHINE.

THE RESULT:
SMOOTHER, FIRMER SKIN

ENGLAND'S
FINEST
BONE CHINA

THE
TASTIEST
FISH

THE PURER WAY TO ADD FLAVOUR

The latest in gas cooking

DECORATING?

Check with us first for all the latest tools and tips

better, bolder, brighter than ever!

Restrictions in inflectional morphology

- Position: inflectional morphemes are placed after derivational morphemes in English
- Inflectional morphemes do not apply to all language items in a category in English (e.g. uncountable nouns; non-gradable adjectives)
- **Regular** inflectional morphology is productive (regular inflections are applied to new words)
- **Irregular** inflectional morphology is less productive (or no longer productive at all) (cf. zero morphology for plural, internal vowel change)

- Give all the possible inflections for the following words:

bring

cow

forget

guest

have

high

stop

tall

tooth

weary

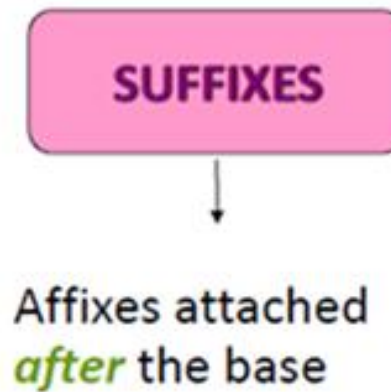
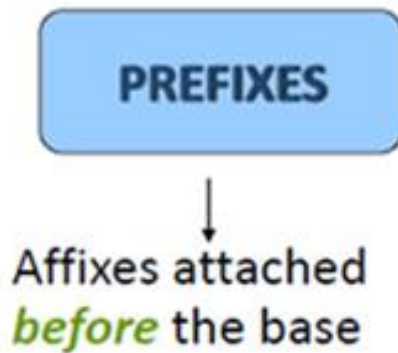
- Do they show regular or irregular inflection?

Derivation

- Derivation vs. inflection
- Derivation is not driven by syntax
- New lexical items are created (*develop* → *development*; *self* → *selfie*)
- The new lexical items **may** belong to a different word class or grammatical category
- Types of derivation: **affixation, conversion, compounding**
- Derivation **mostly** involves the addition of morphemes (but see conversion)

Affixation

- English affixes: prefixes and suffixes



- Can you think of any prefixes and suffixes in English?
- Which one is the largest set (prefixes or suffixes)?
- Do we have specific affixes in English (specific to given word classes)?

- Which suffixes are frequently used to create nouns?

-ment	-tion	-dom	-ship
-ity	-th	-acy	-ness
-age	-al	-ce/-ance	

-er/-or	-ess	-ee	-ant	-ist
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- Which suffixes are frequently used to create adjectives?

-able/-ible	-ic/-ical	-ful/-less	-ous	-en
-ian	-like	-y/-ary	-al	-ish

- Which suffixes are frequently used to create verbs?

-ise/-ize	-en	-fy
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- Which suffixes are frequently used to create adverbs?

-ly	-ward/-wards	-wise
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- Which prefixes do you know in English? What is their meaning?
- Consider the following English prefixes:

a-

dis-

un-

ex-

re-

en-

- Can you think of any words containing these prefixes?

creased. Qualitative simulations of the dissociation dynamics suggest a high probability that the photoexcited complex can be trapped in the Cl^- minimum and that the concerted solvent motion and electron **redelocalization** required to reach the global minimum is unlikely on the time scale of the experiment ($\sim 10 \mu\text{s}$). For cluster ions with more than six


Compositionality in English morphology:
how easy it is to infer the meaning of a
derived word from its morphemes

RE - LOAD - ING

RE - DE - LOCAL - IZ - ATION

- Exceptions to compositionality:

recorder

re·cord·er  (rĭ-kôrd'ər)


n.

1. One, such as a tape recorder, that makes recordings or records.

n.

1. a person who records, esp. as an official duty.

actor

ac·tor  (ăk'tər)


n.

1. A theatrical performer.
2. One who takes part; a participant: *"France, Britain . . . and any other external actors now involved . . . in the affairs of the continent"* (Helen Kitchen).

looker

looker

noun [C] UK  US  /'lʊk.ər/ ⓘ /'lʊk.ə/ OLD-FASHIONED INFORMAL

 a physically attractive person, usually a woman:

Have you seen Karl's new girlfriend? She's a real looker!

What happens when you learn English as a foreign language?

Morphological complexity and register specificity

- Use of English **in context**
- Morphology **in context**
- In which contexts do you think English morphology can be especially complex?
- In which contexts do you think English affixation can be used extremely productively?
- Which fields require the rapid and systematic creation of new words?


Morphological complexity and register specificity – English for science

Photofragmentation studies at 644 nm and 740 nm of $\text{ICl}^-(\text{CO}_2)_n$ cluster ions ($n=0-8$) have been carried out in a tandem time-of-flight mass spectrometer. Photodissociation of these cluster ions at a wavelength at which bare ICl^- produces only I^- results in the formation of three classes of fragment ions: I^- , Cl^- , and ICl^- based clusters. The I^- based clusters correspond to the direct photoproduct in which a Cl atom has escaped the cluster ion. The ICl^- and Cl^- based clusters are a result of a nonadiabatic electronic transition to the ground state mediated by the solvent. The relative importance of these photofragment channels strongly depends on the cluster ion size. An ICl^- caged product is first observed for $\text{ICl}^-(\text{CO}_2)_2$, increasing rapidly to a maximum at $n \approx 6$ and then decreasing. This caging efficiency is dramatically different from the $\text{I}_2^-(\text{CO}_2)_n$ cluster ions where complete caging was observed for 16 solvent molecules. The Cl^- photofragment channel increases smoothly for the cluster size range studied and becomes the dominant channel for $n=8$. The relative yields of the ICl^- and Cl^- based products reflect the extent to which solvation influences the photodissociation pathways of ICl^- . © 1996 American Institute of Physics. [S0021-9606(96)00526-0]

Morphological complexity and register specificity – More instances of academic texts in English


The Greek word *sophistés* (“expert, master craftsman, man of wisdom”) is originally the name applied by the ancient Greeks to learned men, such as the Seven Wise Men of Greece. In the 5th century BC the name is applied to itinerant teachers who provide instruction in several higher branches of learning for a fee.

The Sophists popularize the ideas of various early philosophers; but based on their understanding of this prior philosophic thought, most of them conclude that truth and morality are essentially matters of opinion. Thus, in their own teaching, they tend to emphasize forms of persuasive expression, such as the art of rhetoric.



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- Translation and comment
 - Morphosyntactic contrastivity
 - From synthetic to analytic forms, from morphology to syntax

Catalytic Incineration

Incineration in the context of this article is the combining of oxygen with noxious material to form harmless compounds, usually carbon dioxide and water. It can be carried out by two methods: *thermal incineration* – whereby a flame is maintained – and *catalytic incineration* – whereby the combustion is carried out in the presence of a solid catalyst without a flame.

**Preserving
morphological
complexity in
technical texts.
Compare:**

Literal translation?

Incenerimento catalitico

L'incenerimento, nel contesto di questo articolo, è la combinazione di ossigeno con sostanze nocive per formare composti innocui, di solito biossido di carbonio e acqua. Può essere effettuato con due metodi: *incenerimento termico* – in cui si mantiene la fiamma – e *incenerimento catalitico* – in cui la combustione viene effettuata in presenza di un catalizzatore solido senza fiamma.