



Morphology

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DEFINITION OF MORPHOLOGY

1

The study of the internal structure of words.
It examines how words can be **broken down** into meaningful units.

unhappy



un + happy



classes



class + es

DEFINITION OF MORPHOLOGY

2

The study of word formation. It examines how new words **are created** in language.

[**un**] + **happy**
= **unhappy**

agree + [**ment**]
= **agreement**

Morpheme

The **smallest**
unit in a
language
that has
meaning.



Morphemes



free
morphemes



bound
morphemes



They can
stand alone.

Content morphemes

table cat

apple can

love kid

Function morphemes

this the

and

or

in to



They cannot
stand alone.

Content
morphemes

Derivational
Affixes

prefixes suffixes

pre-

-ly

re-

-al

dis-

-ize

un-

-ment

Function
morphemes

Inflectional
Affixes

-s

-ed

-er

-est

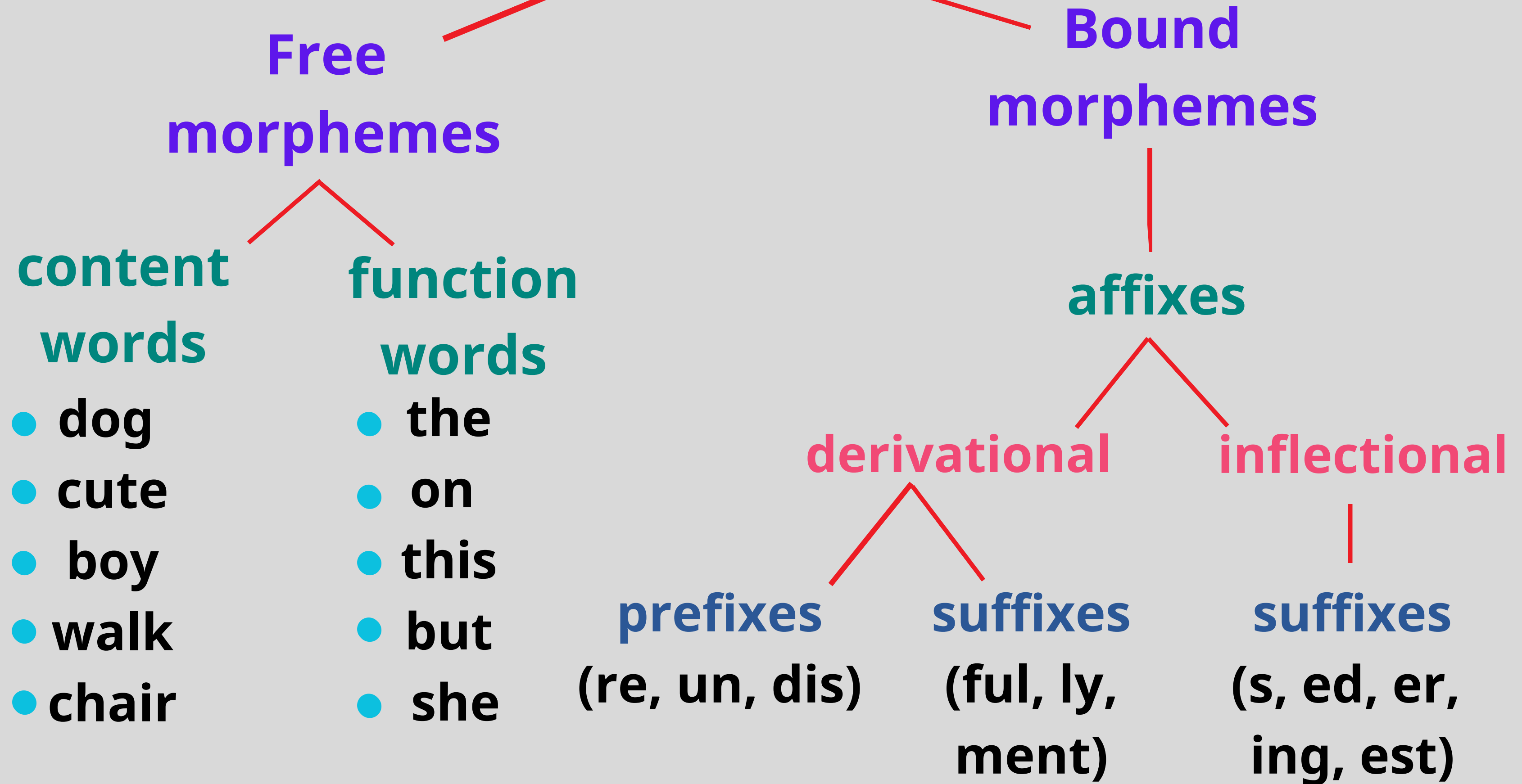
-ing

Words	Morphemes		
dislike	• dis -	• like	
worked		• work	• - <u>ed</u>
loves		• love	• - s
blackboard		• black	• board
disagreement	• dis -	• agree	• - <u>ment</u>



The morpheme cannot be broken down into smaller unit.

Morphemes



Derivational affixes



Prefixes

Adjective base	Derived Adjective
definite formal edible sensitive adequate	in definite in formal in edible in sensitive in adequate



Suffixes

Verb base	Derived noun
act elect discuss complete appreciate	action election discussion completion appreciation

Inflectional affixes

Suffixes



Function	Affix	Base	Example
• 3rd per.sing.	-s	verb	cooks
• Progressive	-ing	verb	cooking
• Past tense	-ed	verb	cooked
• Past participle	-ed, -en	verb	has cooked
• Plural	-s	noun	pens, bags
• Possessive	-’s	noun	Joe’s pen
• Comparative	-er	adjective, adverb	slower, faster
• Superlative	-est	adjective, adverb	slowest, fastest



root	base	affix	stem
cat	cat	-s	cats
critic	critic	-ize	criticize
critic	criticize	-ed	criticized

Allomorph

- The same morpheme can be realized in different ways.

Words	Morphemes (plural)	Allomorphs
cats	cat + s	/s/
dogs	dog + s	/z/
glasses	glass + <u>es</u>	/ <u>iz</u> /

- /s/, /z/, /iz/ are allomorphs of the same morpheme **s (plural)**

Words	Morphemes (possessive)	Allomorphs
cat's	cat + 's	/s/
dog's	dog + 's	/z/
church's	church + 's	/ <u>iz</u> /

- /s/, /z/, /iz/ are allomorphs of the same morpheme **'s (possessive)**

Words	Morphemes (add -s to verb)	Allomorphs
talks	talk + s	/s/
goes	go + <u>es</u>	/z/
watches	watch + <u>es</u>	/ɪz/

➤ /s/, /z/, /ɪz/ are allomorphs of the same morpheme add -s to verb

Words	Morphemes (add - <u>ed</u> to verb)	Allomorphs
happened	happen + <u>ed</u>	/d/
worked	work + <u>ed</u>	/t/
needed	need + <u>ed</u>	/ɪd/

➤ /d/, /t/, /ɪd/ are allomorphs of the same morpheme add -ed to verb

Analyzing the internal structure of words

Reelection

Linear order

Re + elect + ion



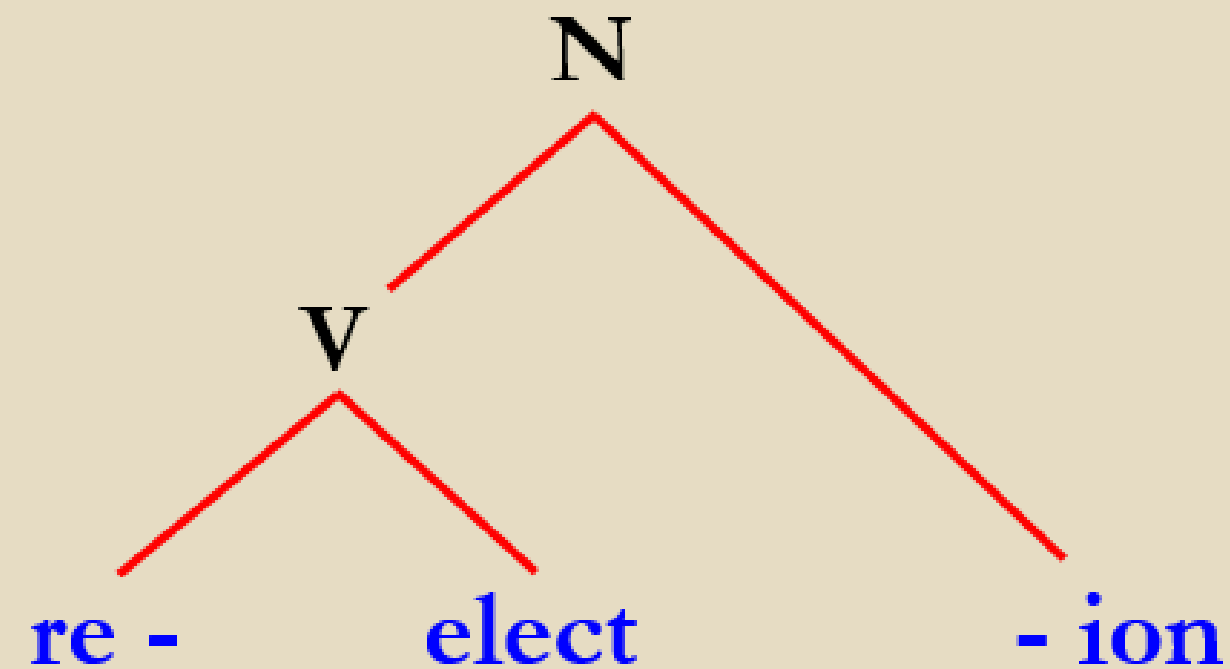
prefix

root

suffix

Analyzing the internal structure of words

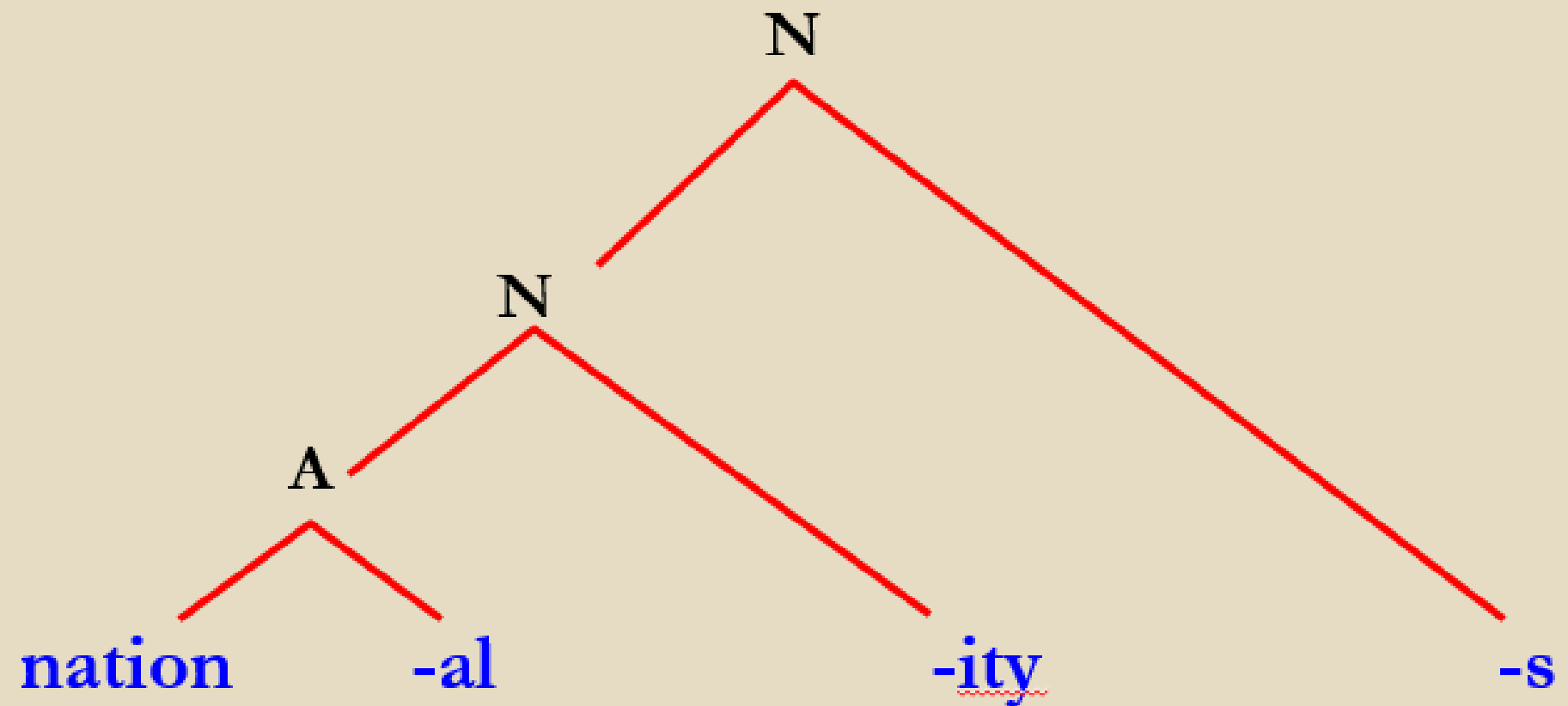
Hierarchical
order



Step 1 : **re -** + elect (v) = **reelect (v)**

Step 2 : reelect (v) + **- ion** = **reelection (n)**

Hierarchical order



Step 1 : nation (n) + - al = **national (a)**

Step 2 : national (a) + - ity = **nationality (n)**

Step 3 : nationality (n) + - s = **nationalities (n)**

TASK

Break down the words into morphemes and identify the morpheme types and their allomorphs.



Word	Morphemes	Type of morpheme	Allomorph
Cats	Cat + -s	plural	/s/
Buses			
Walked			
Played			
Wanted			
Unhappy			
Teacher			
Rewrite			
Nationalize			
Derivation			



Thank you

