

# Lingua Inglese IV: The structures of English

## Lesson 4

Charlotte Taylor




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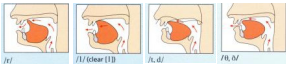
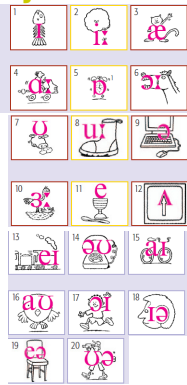
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### The English sound system

#### Review (see photocopy)

- Phonemes
- Articulation of consonants
- Minimal pairs
- Consonants
- Vowels
- Word stress
- Discourse and intonation
- Connected speech



Crystal, 2003




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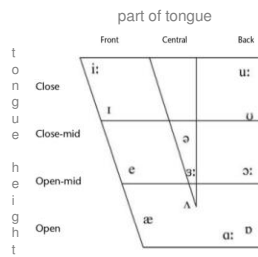
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### The English sound system

#### Review

- Phonemes
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## The English sound system

### Review: Pronunciation and spelling



Task – what spelling/pronunciation 'rules' can you identify?

- Addition of 'e' ...
  - cap, cut, tub, con, fat, lad  
*/æ/ /ʌ/ /ɪ/ /ɒ/ /æ/ /æ/*
  - cape, cute, tube, cone, fate, lady  
*/eɪ/ /ju:/ /ju:/ /əʊ/ /eɪ/ /eɪ/*
  - (but mum – mummy, fat – fatter)  
*/ʌ/ /ʌ/ /æ/ /æ/*
- Addition of 'r' ...
  - cap, cut, con  
*/eɪ/ /ʌ/ /ɒ/*
  - carp, curt, corn  
*/ɑ:/ /ɜ:/ /ɔ:/*

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## The English sound system

### Review: Pronunciation and spelling



Task – what spelling/pronunciation 'rule' can you identify?

- Addition of 'e' makes the letter 'say its name' (longer or diphthong)– unless the consonant is doubled
  - cap, cut, tub, con, fat, lad  
*/æ/ /ʌ/ /ɪ/ /ɒ/ /æ/ /æ/*
  - cape, cute, tube, cone, fate, lady  
*/eɪ/ /ju:/ /ju:/ /əʊ/ /eɪ/ /eɪ/*
  - (but mum – mummy, fat – fatter)  
*/ʌ/ /ʌ/ /æ/ /æ/*
- Addition of 'r' lengthens the previous vowel sound
  - cap, cut, con  
*/eɪ/ /ʌ/ /ɒ/*
  - carp, curt, corn  
*/ɑ:/ /ɜ:/ /ɔ:/*

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## English words and word formation



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## English words and word formation



- The **structure** of words (morphology)
- Different **classes** or groups to which English words belong
  - *photo/photograph, photographer, photography*



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## English words and word formation Morphology



- The study of **morphology** is the study of the structures of words in a language, in **English** for us
- It lies between the levels of phonology and syntax
  - *I would like 'v' vorrei*
- In morphology, the **morpheme** is the smallest unit of meaning
  - *sing-ing, bright-ly, de-motiv-ation, ice-rink*
  - Unlike phonemes, which do not usually have a meaning of their own – just the capacity to change meaning – morphemes usually have an identifiable meaning
    - e.g. *like: childlike, birdlike,*

Jeffries, Chapter 3



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## English words and word formation Morphemes



- Free and bound morphemes
  - **Free morphemes** are the words with no additions, they can stand alone *photograph*
  - **Bound morphemes** are usually affixes added to free morphemes alter their grammatical effect *photograph+er*
    - In English, (nearly) all lexical morphemes are free
      - *work, dog, cat etc*
    - Many grammatical morphemes are free
      - *in, on, under, by* – bound morphemes in German, Latin, Russian...

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## English words and word formation

### Morphemes



- Bound morphemes
  - Affixes
    - Prefixes
      - *\_\_happy, \_\_patient, \_\_regular, \_\_sincere*
    - Suffixes
      - *teach\_\_, quick\_\_, sad\_\_*
  - Some words are a little more difficult to divide, they may be referred to as bound lexical morphemes or bound stems
    - *receive, reduce, repeat*
    - *raspberry, cranberry*




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## English words and word formation

### allomorph



- Allomorph describes the different forms that a morpheme can take

Task (& review). Put the nouns below into the plural form. Say them.

- *cat, book, biscuit*
- *dog, bed, cookie, doctor*
- *garage, badge, kiss, watch*

Task. Put the verbs below into the past simple form. Say them

- *stop, walk, wash,*
- *move, listen, enjoy*
- *wait, need, hate*

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## English words and word formation

### allomorph



- Allomorph describes the different forms that a morpheme can take

- *cats, books, biscuits* /s/ (unvoiced)
- *dogs, beds, cookies, doctors* /z/ (voiced)
- *foxes, horses, kisses, watches* /ɪz/ /s/ /z/ /ʃ/ /ʒ/ /tʃ/ /dʒ/

- *stopped, walked, washed* /t/ (unvoiced)
- *moved, listened, enjoyed* /d/ (voiced)
- *waited, needed, hated* /ɪd/ /t/ /d/

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## English words and word formation



### Task

Can you identify the difference between the two sets of words?

- nicer
- girls
- promised
- slowest
- watched
- walking
- incomplete
- immoral
- violinist
- dancer
- quietly
- unbelievable
- vaccinate

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## English words and word formation



### Inflection

- nicer
- girls
- promised
- slowest
- watched
- walking

### Derivation

- incomplete
- immoral
- violinist
- dancer
- quietly
- unbelievable
- vaccinate

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## English words and word formation



- Inflection is the process by which the main lexical word classes in English acquire regular endings to form particular grammatical structures
- English inflectional morphemes:
  - are bound morphemes
  - suffixes (added to the end)
  - quite regular in form and meaning
  - apply to all members of a word class (with significant irregular exceptions)
  - do not change the word class – alter the grammatical form
  - are few!

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## English words and word formation



### • Inflection

- nouns:
  - *sister, sisters, sister's, sisters'*
  - *woman, women, woman's, women's*
- verbs:
  - *promise, promises, promised, promising*
  - *break, breaks, broke, broken, breaking*
  - *\*be, am, is, are, was, were, been, being*
- (gradable) adjectives:
  - *quick, quicker, quickest*
  - *good, ?, ?*
- \*adverbs (not many)
  - *fast, faster, fastest*
  - *well, better, best*



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## English words and word formation



### • Derivation

- Normally have a morpheme + base form (except zero derivation)
- Normally change the word class
- Less regular and less comprehensive than inflection
- *demystify, undo, amoral, incomplete, disused, illegible, immature, irregular,*
- *violinist, oboist, flautist, percussionist*
- *drummer, trumpeter*
- Zero derivation: *a play/to play, a drink/to drink,*



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## English words and word formation



### • Compounding

- combining two free morphemes
- the 'new' word is not just the sum of its parts
  - e.g. a *blackbird* is not just a *black bird* > *merlo*
- the grammatical category of the compound is always the same as the second part e.g.
  - noun+noun *teacup (n), swordfish (n)*
  - noun+verb *water-ski (v), carbon-date (v)*
  - adjective+adjective *red-hot (adj), bitter-sweet*
  - noun+adjective *sky-high (adj), fire-retardant*
  - adjective+verb: *ready-made, double-park*



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## English words and word formation



- Word formation
  - inflection
  - derivation
  - compounding

- blends
  - breakfast+lunch > brunch, wireless+fidelity > wi-fi
- clipping
  - advertisement > ad, hamburger > burger, telephone > phone
- acronyms
  - Scuba (Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus),
- back-formation
  - editor > edit, television > televise
- eponyms
  - biro, Braille, Hoover, sandwich




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## English words and word formation Review



### Task

Identify the process of word formation

1. influenza > flu
2. girl+friend > girlfriend
3. severe acute respiratory syndrome > SARS
4. garden+s > gardens
5. sad+ly > sadly
6. motor+hotel > motel
7. Jacques Nicot > nicotine




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## English words and word formation Review and extension



- Clipping is a feature of Australian English in particular. Look at the following full and clipped versions – can you work out the missing words?

- afternoon > arvo
- ? > aussie
- barbeque > barbie
- journalist > ?
- present > pressie
- mosquito > ?




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## English words and word formation

### Word classes



- Lexical word classes
  - open - can be added to e.g. *to text, emoticon, msn...*
  - Noun
  - Verb
  - Adjective
  - Adverb
- Grammatical word classes
  - Closed
  - Pronoun
  - Determiner
  - Preposition
  - Conjunction

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## English words and word formation

### Lexical word classes



- Noun
  - One of the largest word classes in English
  - Head of noun phrase. *Determiner + (adjective) + noun*
  - countable nouns
    - *child(ren), idea(s), bike(s)*
  - mass nouns (uncountable)
    - *air, water, peace, information, money, sugar*
  - proper nouns
    - *Charlotte, Madrid, India*
  - But there are exceptions...
    - *How many sugars do you want in your coffee?*
    - *All Charlottes are the same*

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## English words and word formation

### Lexical word classes



- Verb
  - non-finite:
    - *dancing* (progressive form),
    - *woken* (perfective form),
    - *to sit* (infinitive form)
    - require auxiliaries to establish aspects of meaning
  - finite:
    - *catch* (present tense),
    - *sings* (third person present tense form),
    - *went* (past tense)
  - intransitive: *I'm walking*
  - transitive: *She hates you*
  - ditransitive: *They gave me a beautiful present*
  - intensive verbs:
    - *he was tired* (subject complement)
    - *you make me happy* (object complement)

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## English words and word formation

### Lexical word classes



- Adjectives
  - Gradable: *big, smart, ferocious*
    - *bigger, smartest*
    - *incredibly ferocious*
  - Non-gradable: *Chinese, wooden*
- Functions:
  - Premodifier to the head noun in a noun phrase
    - A brilliant artist
  - Following an intensive verb as the complement
    - The artist is brilliant

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## English words and word formation

### Lexical word classes



- Adverbs
  - Least unified of the classes
  - Consists of a number of sub-classes e.g.
    - *proudly, stupidly, hungrily, angrily*
    - *completely exhausted, rather tired*
    - *sometimes, often, rarely*
    - *here, behind, between*
    - *tomorrow, yesterday*

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## English words and word formation

### Word classes



- Lexical word classes
  - open - can be added to e.g. *to text, emoticon, msn...*
  - Noun
  - Verb
  - Adjective
  - Adverb
- Grammatical word classes
  - Closed
  - Pronoun
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  - Preposition
  - Conjunction

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## English words and word formation

### Grammatical word classes



- Closed systems
  - *thee, thou, thy, thine*
- Pronoun: *me, my...*
- Determiner: *the, these...*
- Preposition: *in, on...*
- Conjunction:
  - Coordinating: *and, or, but*
  - Subordinating: *although, when...*

which set is complete?

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## English words and word formation

### Grammatical word classes



Task: Complete the sets (where possible)

- Pronoun
  - Subject: *I, we...*
  - Object: *me, us...*
  - Possessive: *mine, ours*
- Determiner
  - Articles: *the...*
  - Demonstrative adjectives: *this...*
  - Possessive adjectives: *my, our...*
- Preposition: *in, on, as well as...*
- Conjunction
  - Coordinating: *and...*
  - Subordinating: *although...*
- Auxiliary verbs: *be, must...*

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## English words and word formation

### Grammatical word classes



- Pronoun
  - Subject: *I, we, you, you, he, she, it, they*
  - object: *me, us, you, you, him, her, it, them*
  - Possessive: *mine, ours, yours, yours, his, hers, its, theirs*
- Determiner
  - Articles: *the, a(n)*
  - Demonstrative adjectives: *this, these (proximal), that, those (distal)*
  - Possessive adjectives: *my, our, your, your, his, her, its, their*
- Preposition
  - *in, on, under, over, through, by, near, far, to, of...*
  - *as well as...*
- Conjunction
  - Coordinating: *and, but, or*
  - Subordinating: *although, when, after, unless...*
- Auxiliary verbs: *be, have, may, must, might, can, could, will, would*

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## English words and word formation word classes - review



Task. Read the following extract and identify the word classes (parts of speech). You can check your results in your dictionary.

The study of morphology is the study of the structure of words in a language and it considers the individual parts of the word, commonly called morphemes, as the smallest unit of meaning in the language.

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## English words and word formation word formation - review



The study of morphology **is** the study of the structure of words in a language **and** it **considers** the **individual** parts of the word, **commonly** called morphemes, as the **smallest** unit of meaning in the language.

Task. Identify  
6 inflectional morphemes  
2 derivational morpheme

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## English words and word formation word formation - review



The study of morphology is the study of the structure of words in a language and it considers the individual parts of the word, commonly called morphemes, as the smallest unit of meaning in the language.

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## English words and word formation

### References



- Essential reading
  - Chapter 3. Discovering Language: The Structure of Modern English. Lesley Jeffries. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Further reading and practice
  - <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/stylistics/topic2a/begin2a.htm>
- Additional practice
  - Parts of speech
    - <http://depts.gallaudet.edu/englishworks/exercises/main/grammar.html>
    - <http://www.llas.ac.uk/materialsbank/mb061/2/9.htm>
  - Word formation
    - [http://www.bbc.co.uk/apps/dll/worldservice/quiznet/quizengine?ContentType=sext.html;quiz=1433\\_word\\_formation](http://www.bbc.co.uk/apps/dll/worldservice/quiznet/quizengine?ContentType=sext.html;quiz=1433_word_formation)

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