



MORPHOLOGY (LINGUISTICS)

WHAT'S MORPHOLOGY?

- a) **Morphology is the study of the structure of words.**

-Paradoxically, however, the concept of *word* itself defies simple definition. In English, for example, words tend to be smaller than the sentence, and we combine words to form sentences. One tricky thing, however, is that in many languages, a single word can have "sentence" meaning



SUMMING UP THE TOPICS :

- Morphology is the study of word structure and word formation.
- Words, though impossible to define in absolute terms, can be thought of as the units that are combined to form sentences in a language such as English.
- Just as sentences can be broken down into smaller units (words), we can break words down into smaller, meaningful parts.
- The smallest meaningful part of a word is called a morpheme.
- Note: not all words have more than one morpheme. Words that have only one morpheme are also called monomorphemic words (e.g. pig). Words with more than one morpheme are called polymorphemic words, as in *foolishness* (fool + ish + ness).



A. Definition of “word”

- Words are genuine linguistics units.
- In written texts, words are recognized by the white spaces between them.
- In linguistic analysis, we are interested in spoken words.
- **“A word’ is a free morpheme or a combination of morphemes that together form a basic segment of speech” .**

Norman C. Stageberg

cont.,

Definition of “word”

“A word is...any segment of a sentence bounded by successive point at which pausing is possible”

Charles F. Hockett



Words can be identified by the pauses
between them:

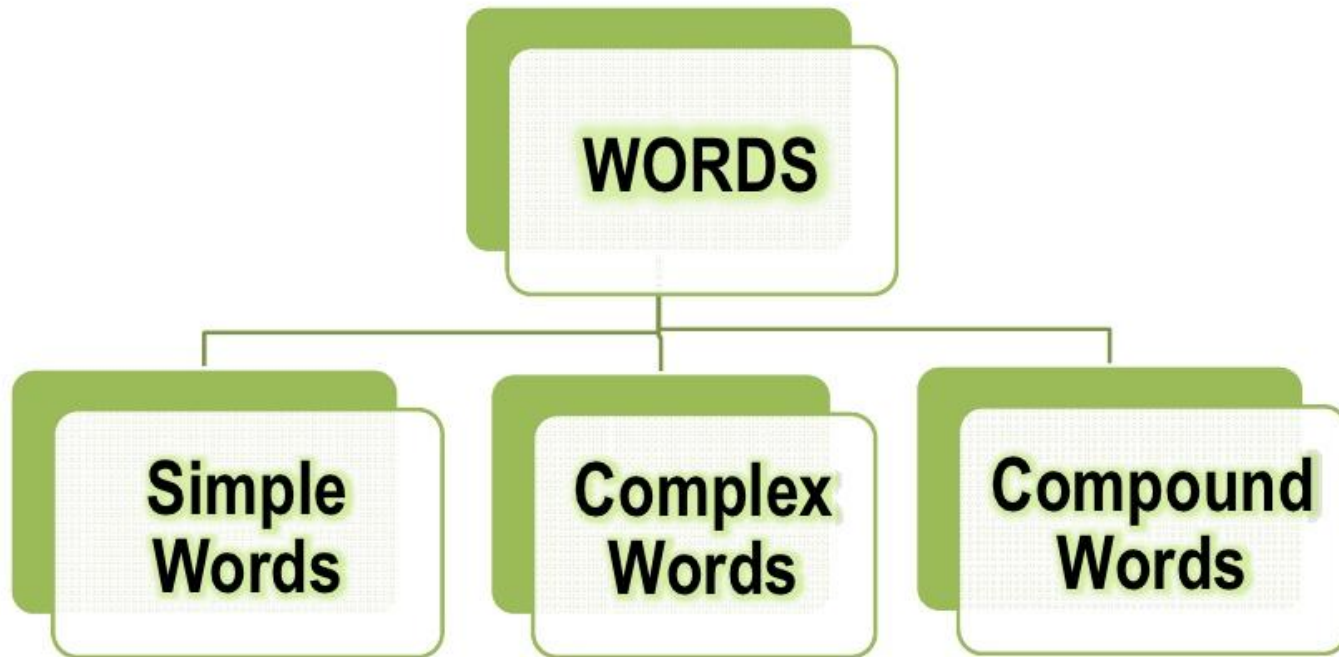
p p p p p p
Since the streetlamp is out, I must
p p p p
call up our councilman.

B. Simple and Complex Words

- English words may be classified on the basis of the kinds and combinations of morphemes of which they are composed.



Classification of English Words



1. Simple words consist of a single free morpheme.

EXAMPLES: flea, long, spirit

2. Complex words contain, as their immediate constituents **(ICs)**, either **two bound forms** or **a bound and a free form**.

EXAMPLES: televise ,telephone

C. Compound Words

- Compound words have free forms, usually two as their ICs:

➤ green | house

➤ out | side

- A small number of compound words have three or four free forms as coordinate ICs.

Example: happy|-go|-lucky
spic | and | span

Implied Grammatical Structure Sample

No.	Implied Grammatical Structure	Examples
1.	Subject + verb	earthquake (...earth quakes)
2.	Verb + object	killjoy (kills joy)
3.	Verb + adverbial	stopover (stops over)
4.	Subject + be + adjectival	highchair (chair is high)
5.	Adjective modified by prepositional phrase	carefree (... free from care)

cont.,

Compound Words

2. A member of a compound word cannot participate in a grammatical structure. **COMPARE:**

hard ball

to

base | ball

modifier noun

compound word

'**very**' can be added:

➤ It was a **very hard ball**.



but not

➤ * It was a **very baseball**.



