

# **Types of morphemes: inflectional, word-forming, root, affixal.**

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ЭАБ-41

# **Morpheme. What does it mean?**

Morpheme is the smallest language unit that has essential features of a language, so it has both external (sound) and internal (meaning) sides.

# Types of morpheme:

- Root morpheme is a root morpheme is a morpheme that conveys a specific real meaning that is common to a group of related words, for example:

to teach, teacher, teaching, etc.

Morphemes that have a more abstract categorical meaning are called affixes. Affixes relate a word to larger word categories. For example, in the word driver, the specific meaning is passed by the root drive, while the affix-er is abstract and includes this word in the lexical class with the general meaning "activist" and the grammatical class "noun".  
**driver**: the root - **drive**, affix - **er**;

**helpless** - the affix refers this word to a class of adjectives with the General meaning "devoid of any quality or attribute".

**Affixes by place in the word** are divided into:

1. Prefixes (they precede the root)
2. Suffixes (they follow it).
3. Interfixes (serve to connect the roots of complex word):

**-s-** in the word **sportsman**

# **Affixes divides into:**

1. Word-forming (formation of new words):

**paint - painter**

1. Inflectional (changing the grammatical forms of the same word):

**boy - boys, boy's, boys'**

**The root and wor-forming affixes are distinguished in a word:**

rest-less; cloud-y; black-ness; London-er

**The root is more clearly distinguished if the language has a word that externally combines with it (homonymous):**

pleas-ant/un-please-ant, to please/ to displease, please-ure

## **Connected root:**

the root of *scrip/scrib* in the words:

de-scribe, pre-scribe, in-scribe, in-scrip-tion, pre-scrip-tion

So, morphemes can be independent units (roots), while affixal morphemes are always connected.



The ability to divide words into morphemes has a practical meaning: it helps correct understanding of words and their spelling, for example:

*disease / deceased.*

If we analyze the above pair of words (paronyms), we can clearly see that the word *disease* has a negative prefix **dis** - and the root **ease**, where in *deceased* the root is etymologically related to the verb cease, the prefix **de** - has the meaning of inclusion, as in the word enclose.