

# English Lexicology. Part 1.

## Word-Building

Lecture 2. Types of lexical units.  
Definitions of the word.

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# Types of lexical units.

- The **word**, the basic unit forming the bulk of the vocabulary, e.g. *monkey, alligator, llama, herd, lair, hop, fix, headquarters*
- **Morphemes**, parts of words, into which they may be analyzed, e.g. *in-vis-ible, point-y, prune-y, expect-ant-ly, safe-ly*
- **Set-expressions**, groups of words into which words may be combined, e.g. *be in bed, in no time, take a moment, put a stop (to), go wrong*

# Words

- the central elements of language system
- the biggest units of morphology and the smallest of syntax
- marked off by solid spelling
- represent integer concepts, feelings or actions or have a single referent

# Distinctive features of words:

- Semantic, orthographic and morphological integrity
- Capacity of being used in speech in isolation
- Indivisibility (cf. *alive, a lion*), or uninterruptability
- Positional mobility

# Definitions of the word

- The minimum sentence (H. Sweet); the minimum free form (L. Bloomfield)
- One of the smallest completely satisfying bits of isolated 'meaning' into which the sentence resolves itself (E. Sapir)
- The association of a particular meaning with a particular group of sounds capable of a particular grammatical employment (A. Meillet)

# The word

- is a dialectal unity of **form** and **content**, in which the form is the spoken or written expression which calls up a specific meaning and the content is the meaning rendering the emotion or the concept in the mind of the speaker which he intends to convey to his listener (I.V. Arnold)

# Morphemes

- cannot be divided into smaller meaningful units
- are functioning in speech only as constituent parts of words; less autonomous than words
- the meaning of morphemes is more abstract and general than that of words, e.g. *un-interrupt-abili-ty*, *in-divis-ibili-ty*

# Set-expressions

- are word-groups consisting of two or more words whose combination is integrated; they are introduced in speech ready-made; have a specialized meaning
- phraseology, idioms
- e.g. *for love or money, up to the mark, it goes without saying, red tape, calf love, to gild the pill, meet the demand, small hours*



# Домашнее задание

- Домашнее задание 1 (раздел 1. Лексикология как лингвистическая дисциплина); 1) Повторить материал лекции; 2) прочитайте: Антрушина Г.Б. Лексикология английского языка; главу 1, с. 6-11 и ответить на вопросы (с.11); Арнольд И.В. Лексикология современного английского языка; с. 9-25.