

**Morphology** is the study of words.

**Morphemes** are the minimal units of words that have a meaning and cannot be subdivided further. There are two main types: **free and bound**.

**Free morphemes** can occur alone and bound morphemes must occur with another morpheme. An example of a free morpheme is "bad", and an example of a bound morpheme is "ly." It is bound because although it has meaning, it cannot stand alone. It must be attached to another morpheme to produce a word.

**Free morpheme: bad**

**Bound morpheme: -ly**

**Word: badly**

There are two groups of words: lexical (or content) and function (or grammatical) words.

Lexical words are called open class words and include nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

Function words, or closed class words, are conjunctions, prepositions, articles and pronouns.

**Affixes** are often the bound morpheme. This group includes prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and circumfixes. There are two categories of affixes: **derivational and inflectional**.

The other type of bound morphemes are called bound **roots**. These are morphemes (and not affixes) that must be attached to another morpheme and do not have a meaning of their own.

# English Morphemes

- A) Free
  - 1/Open Class
  - 2/Closed Class
- B) Bound
  - 1/Affix
    - a) Derivational
    - b) Inflectional
  - 2/Root