

Chapter 8

Morphology and Syntax

Engl 423

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Grammar



What do we mean by GRAMMAR?

The term GRAMMAR refers to the system and patterns of the language as well as their description.

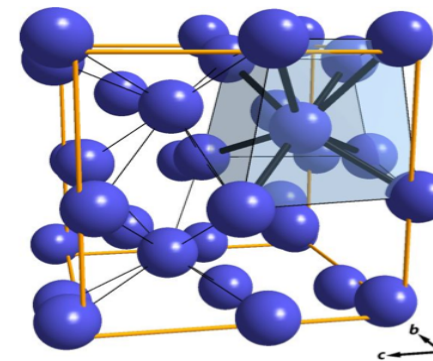
In other words, the word GRAMMAR tells us about:

The word ordering and sentence structure → syntax

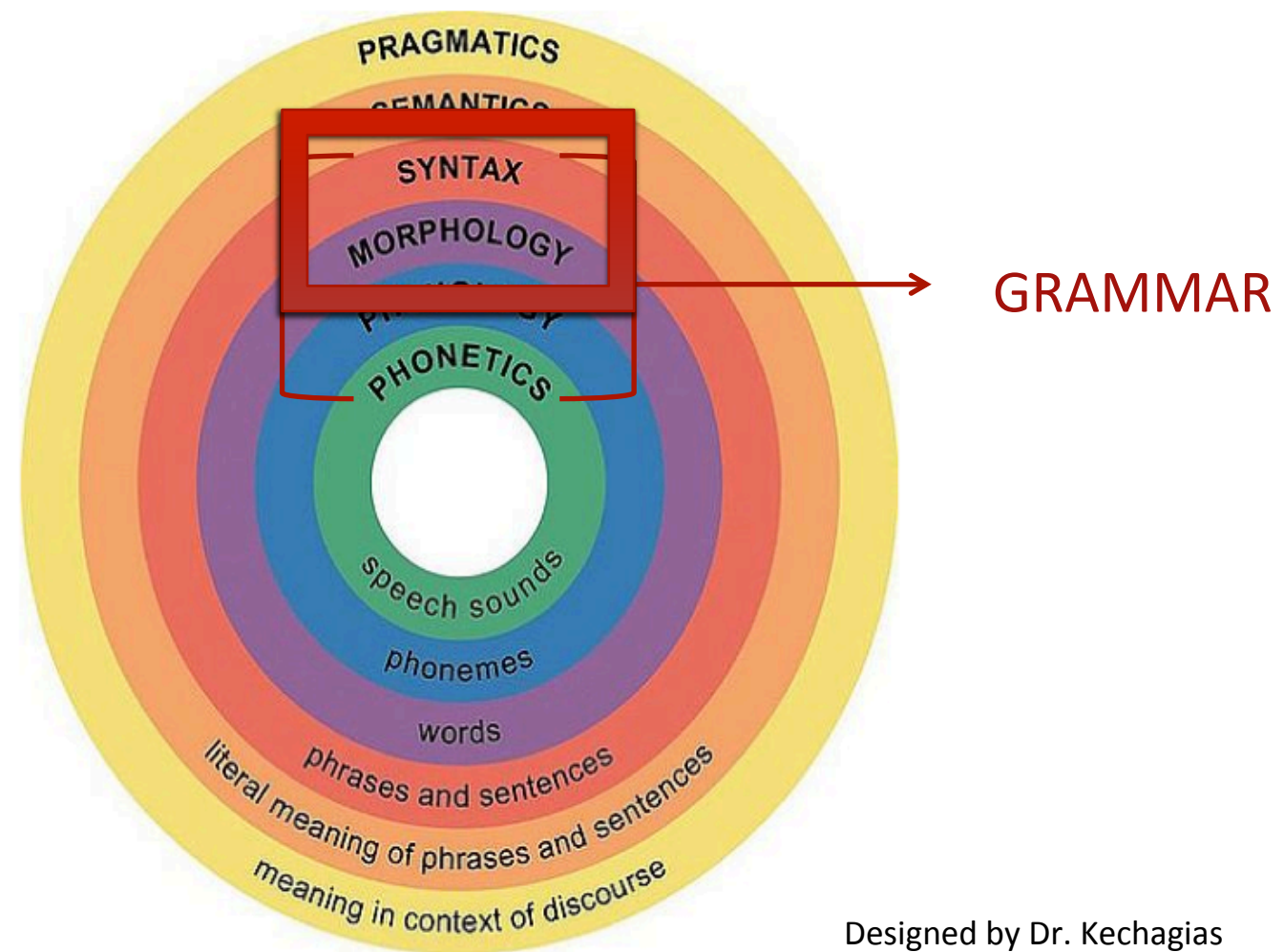
The structure of meaningful units of a word → morphology

And how sounds are produced and formed → phonology

So, GRAMMAR = structure



Levels of Grammar



Designed by Dr. Kechagias

Morphology

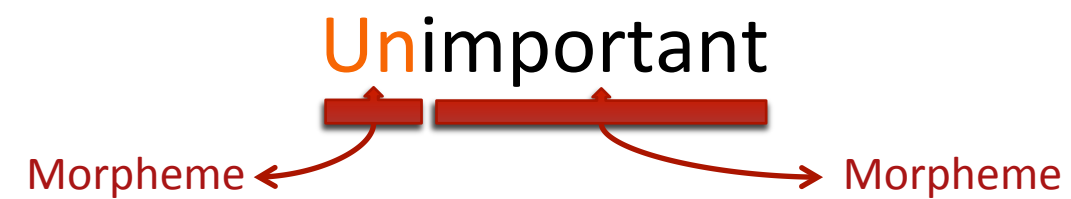
➔ What do we mean by morphology?

The study of the internal structure of words.

E.G.

Writeable, Comfortable, Unimportant

We name the smallest meaningful unit in the word “morpheme”



Morphemes

➤ How can we determine the morphemes?

1- A word or a part of a word that has a **meaning**

e.g. unimportant = not important

So, un= not

2- It **cannot** be divided into smaller meaningful parts without changing other morphemes' meaning or leaving other meaningless parts.

e.g. impossible = not possible

So, im= not

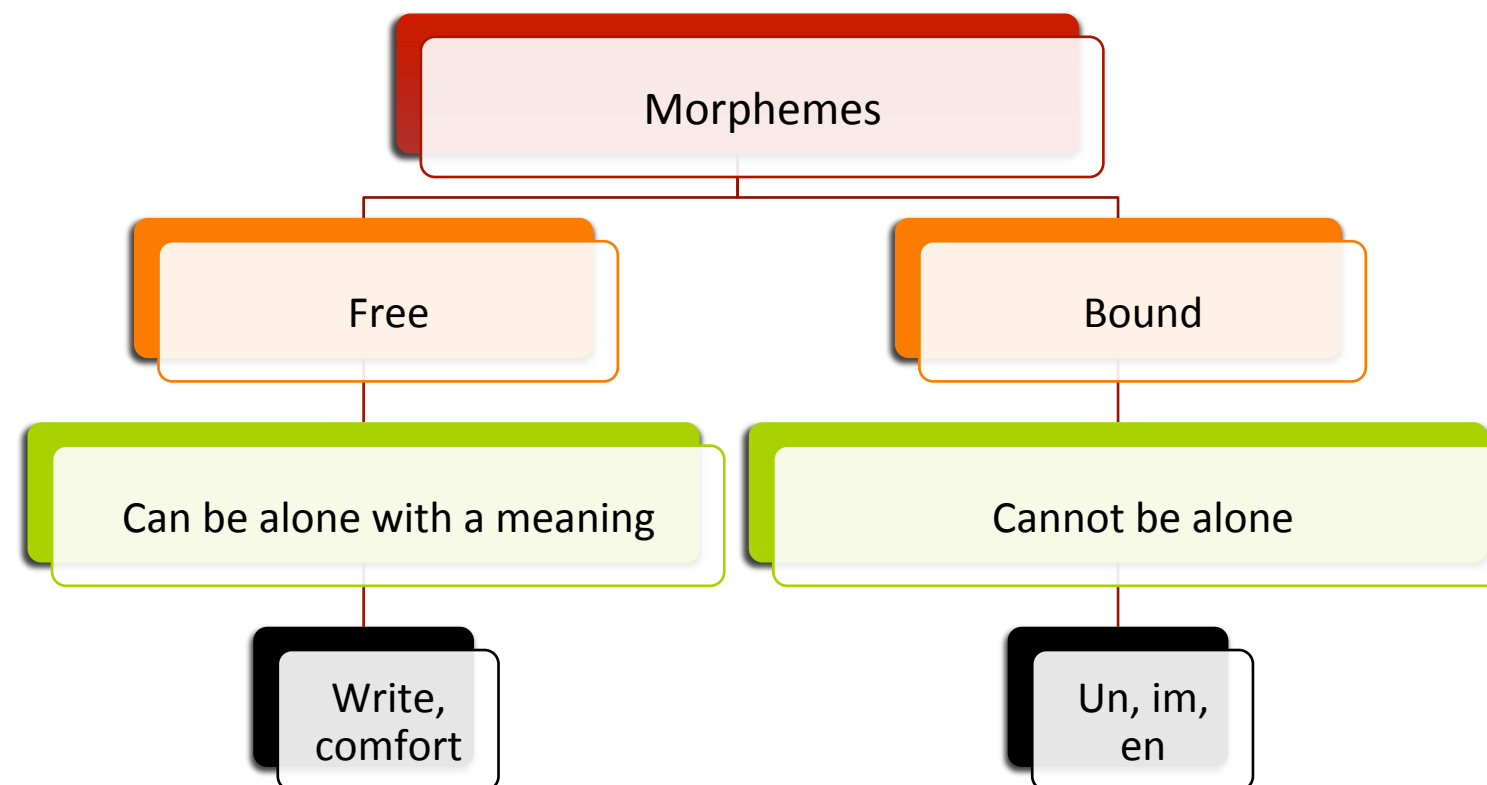
Possible= capable of happening → cannot be divided into poss and ible because poss has **NO** meaning.

3- It can be found in different words with **similar** meanings

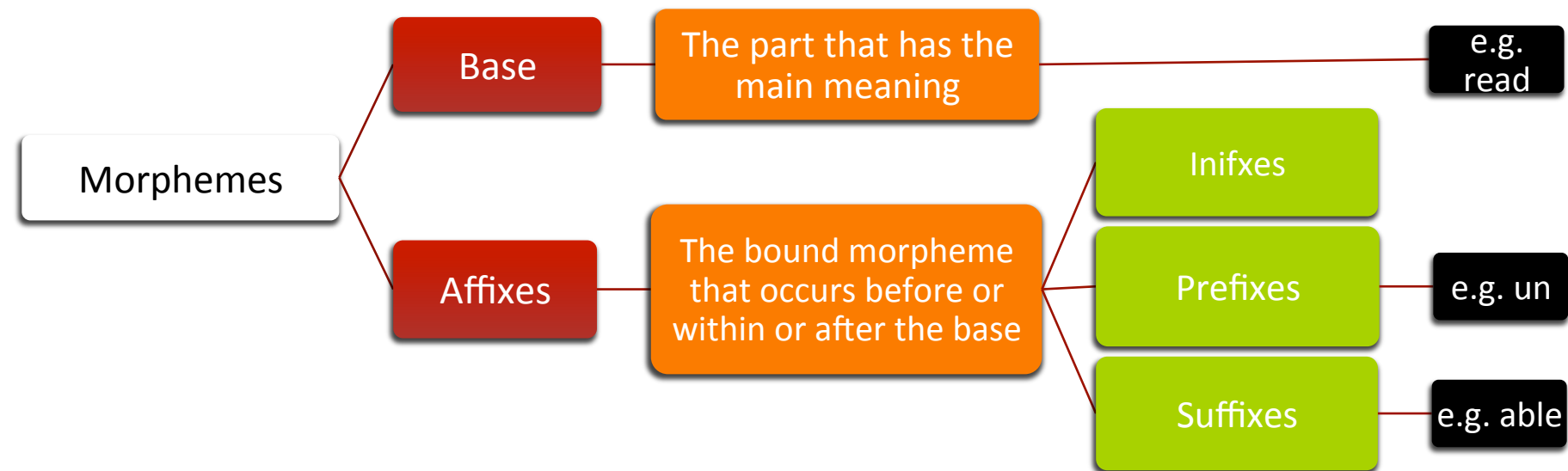
e.g. unimportant, uncomfortable, unreasonable → un = not

darken, cheapen, brighten, soften → en = make

Kinds of Morphemes

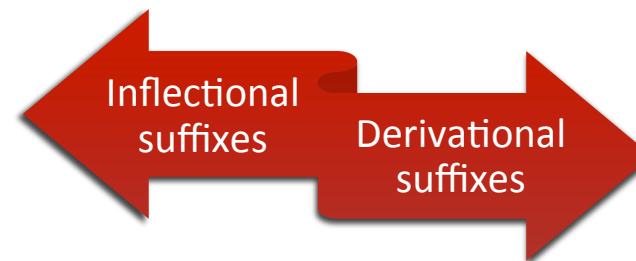


Another classifications of morphemes



- Most of the bases are free morphemes but some are bound, such as *-sent* in *consent*, *dissent*, and *assent*.
- The prefixes in English are about 75 prefix, and their meanings usually are similar to those of prepositions and adverbials.
- One word might have up to three or four suffixes, whereas prefixes are commonly single except the prefix *un*.

Types of Suffixes



➤ What is the difference between the inflectional and derivational suffixes?

1- Inflectional suffixes do not change the parts of speech.

e.g. walk – walks → both are verbs./ girl – girls → both are nouns/ big – bigger → both are adjectives.

2- Inflectional suffixes come last in a word.

e.g. talked, writing, smaller

3- Inflectional suffixes go with any given part of speech.

e.g. changed (v), boys (n), happiest (adj)

4- We do not have more than one inflectional suffix in a word, except for {s pl ps}.

e.g. writes, cat's, smarter

Inflectional suffixes

Inflectional suffix	Example	Name
1- {-S pl}	Dogs, bushes	Noun plural
2- {-S sg ps}	Boy's	Noun singular possessive
3- {-S pl ps}	Boys', men's	Noun plural possessive
4- {-S 3d}	Runs, catches	Present third-person singular
5- {-ING vb}	Discussing	Present participle
6- {-D pt}	Chewed	Past tense
7- {-D pp}	Chewed, eaten	Past participle
8- {-ER cp}	Bolder, sooner, nearer	Comparative
9- {-EST sp}	Boldest, soonest, nearest	Superlative

We call the words to which these suffixes are attached *stems*. The stem includes the base and all the derivational affixes.

Derivational suffixes

The derivational suffixes have bigger number in English than the inflectional suffixes. They have some noticeable characteristics:

1- They are arbitrary, which means there is no rule to govern the way we combine the word with the suffix.

e.g. To change the two verbs (achieve and fail) into nouns, we add *ment* to the first (achievement) and *ure* to the second (failure)

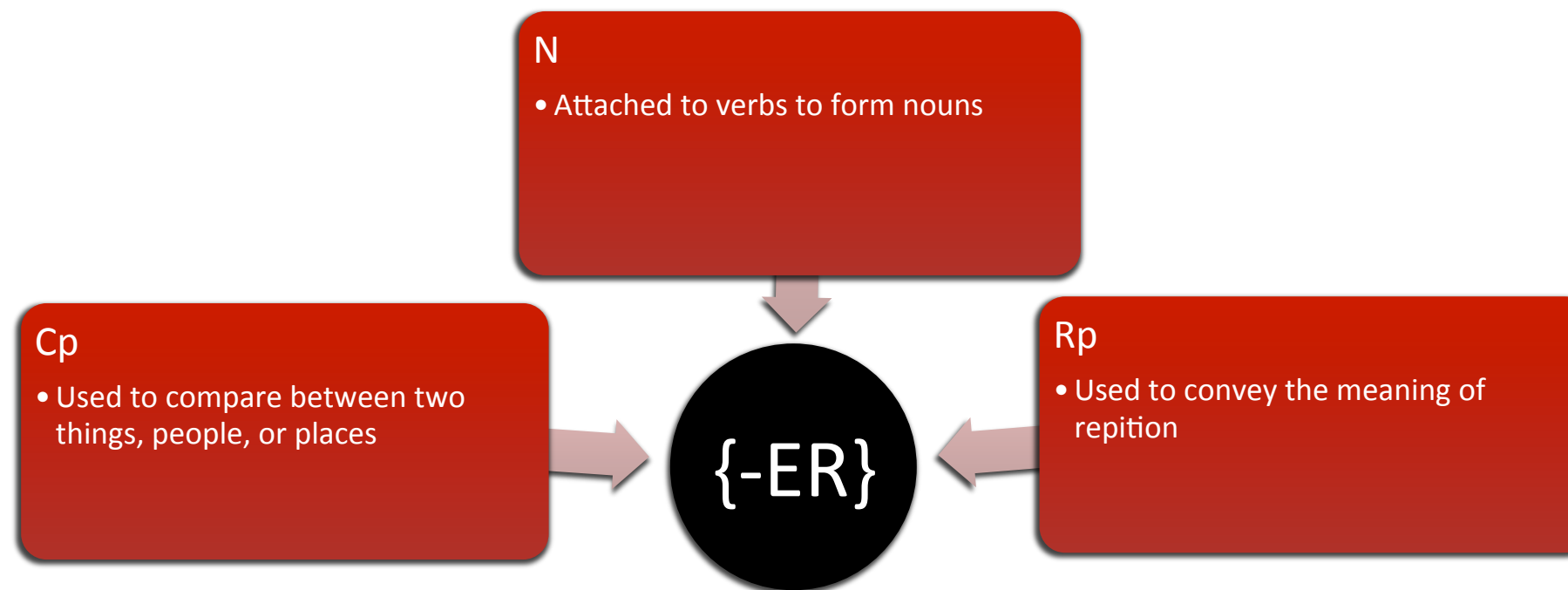
2- Sometimes, the derivational suffixes change the part of the speech of the words they are combined to.

e.g. act (n) → active (adj) → activate (v).

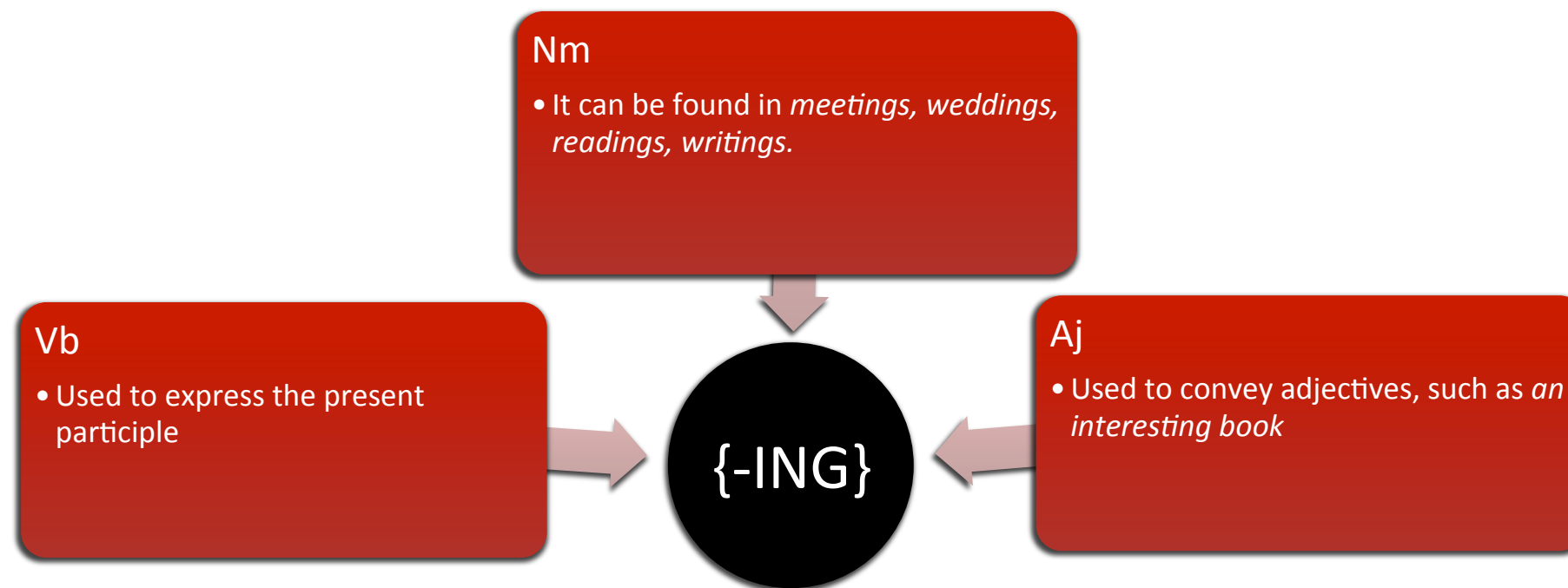
3- The derivational suffixes do not necessarily close off the word, i.e. we can add more than one derivational suffix and/or an inflectional suffix.

e.g. norm → normal → normalize → normalizer → normalizers

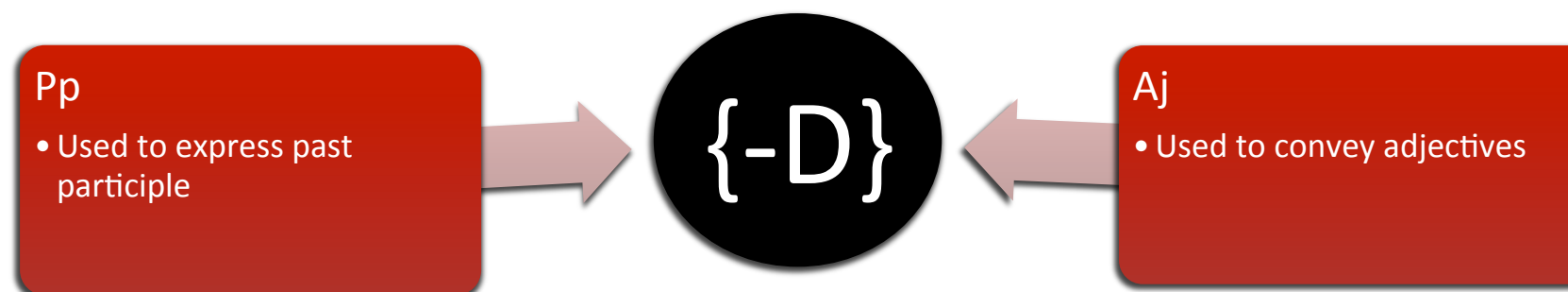
Suffixal homophones



Suffixal homophones

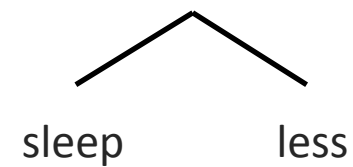


Suffixal homophones



Immediate constituents

- A word of one morpheme, like *sleep*, has only one unitary part.
- A word with two morphemes, like *sleepless*, has two unitary parts and is presented like:



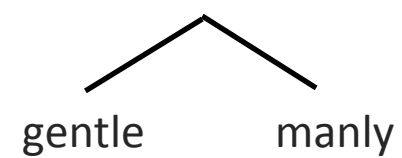
- Words with three or four morphemes, would not have three or four unitary parts, instead, it will have two parts divided into smaller parts. For example the word *gentlemanly*

Immediate constituents

➤ For example the word *gentlemanly*

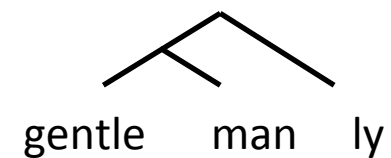


OR



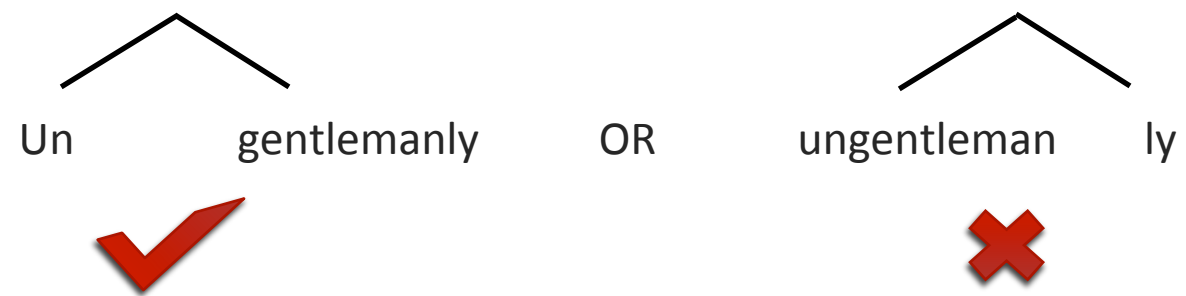
WHY?! Because the meaning of *gentle* and *manly* is not close to the meaning of *gentlemanly*, whereas the meaning of *gentleman* and the suffix *ly* is closer to the whole meaning of the word *gentlemanly*

As a result, the division will be like:



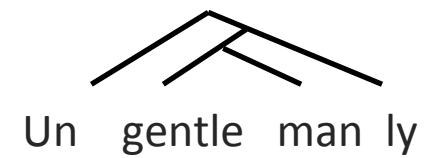
Immediate constituents

➤ Another example: *ungentlemanly*



WHY?! Because the word *ungentleman* has no meaning in English, whereas *un* and *gentlemanly* both have meanings which are close to the meaning of the whole word.

As a result, the division will be like:

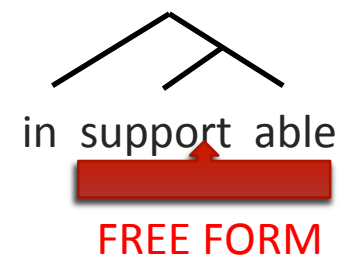
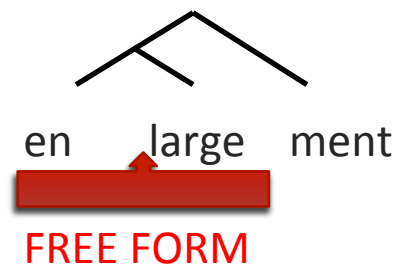


How to do a word diagram

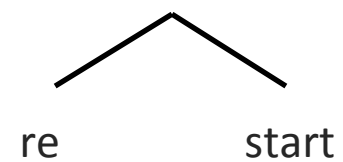
1. If a word ends in an inflectional suffix, the first cut is between this suffix and the rest of the words. So:



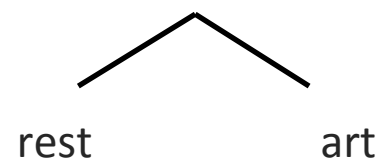
2. One of the immediate constituents (IC) should be, if possible, a free form.



3. The meaning of the ICs should be related to the meaning of the word.



NOT



This is all for today

Your homework

Exercise 8-6 p. 90

Exercise 8-8 p.93

Exercise 8-11 p.96

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK 😊