

7.1 Identifying Morphemes Worksheet

In the following words, identify the individual morphemes, stating whether they are root (R), inflectional (I) or derivational (D). Give the root in its most usual form (the form it occurs in when uninflected, or the form you would look up in a dictionary). Finally, for each morpheme other than the root, give an approximate meaning or description of its function. It is worth noting, though you do not have to identify this, that there is an internal 'order' to the affixation (see example)

Example:

Internationalism = inter (D 'between') + nation (R) + al (D noun→adjective) + ism (D adjective→noun 'philosophy of being Adj').

By 'internal order' consider in what order the word is constructed:

nation→national→international→internationalism, not (for example) nation→internation→...

1. Friendliness
2. Unhappier
3. Childishly
4. Purifying
5. Clinician
6. Zoologist
7. Bookmaker's
8. Impracticalities
9. Impressions
10. Resignation (difficult!)

Solutions 7.1 Morphology worksheet and Discussion

1. Friendliness = friend (R) + ly (D noun→adjective) + ness (D adjective→noun 'the quality of being an N')
2. Unhappier = un (D 'opposite') + happy (R) + er (I 'more')
3. Childishly = child (R) + ish (D noun→adjective 'like a N') + ly (D adjective→adverb)
4. Purifying = pure (R) + ify (D adjective→verb 'to make A') + ing (I, present participle)
5. Clinician = clinic (R) + ian (D 'person who does N') Actually 'clinic' comes from the Greek meaning 'bedside' where 'bed' is *kline*, so it is a D in Greek. But an English speaker would not be expected to know this.
6. Zoologist = zoo (bound R 'life') + (o)logy (bound R 'study') + ist (D 'person doing N')
7. Bookmaker's = book (R) + make (R) + er (D verb→noun 'person who does V') + 's (I 'possessive'). Worth noting that this is a special meaning of 'make a book'!
8. Impracticalities = in (D 'negative') practice (R) + al (D noun→adjective) + ity (D adjective→noun) + s (I 'plural')
9. Impressiveness = in (D 'inwards') + press (R) + ive (D verb→adjective) + ness (D adjective→noun 'quality of being A')
10. Resignation = ? re (D usually means 'again' but here means 'to undo', so perhaps 'resign' is the root?) + sign (R) + ation (D verb→noun 'act of V-ing') ... Alternatively ate ('cause to V') + ion (D verb→noun 'act of V-ing')