

Worksheets: morphology and word-formation

1. Which of the following words cannot be segmented into prefix + root, although their spelling suggests that they can? (please tick the appropriate boxes!)

a)	<i>miscellaneous</i>		<i>mislead</i>		<i>mispronounce</i>	
b)	<i>missile</i>		<i>misquote</i>		<i>mischief</i>	
c)	<i>rebel</i>		<i>rebate</i>		<i>reborn</i>	
d)	<i>reclaim</i>		<i>record</i>		<i>rearm</i>	
e)	<i>industrious</i>		<i>innocent</i>		<i>insane</i>	
f)	<i>inorganic</i>		<i>influenza</i>		<i>inexpensive</i>	

(cf. Aarts/Aarts 1987: 7)

2. Which of the following words is not a suffixation? Underline the word! Explain the meanings of the suffixes by giving a paraphrase!

a) *trickster, roadster, lobster, punster, gangster*

b) *blacken, harden, widen, redden, heaven*

c) *hatter, hammer, prisoner, potter, banker*

d) *hostess, prowess, waitress, Jewess, princess*

e) *employee, trainee, goatee, interviewee, examinee*

f) *career, mountaineer, profiteer, engineer, racketeer*

g) *windward, wayward, leeward, homeward, upward*

h) *action, creation, election, completion, passion*

i) *comment, development, achievement, government*

j) *scarlet, starlet, droplet, piglet*

(cf. Welte ²1996: 179 f.)

3. Say whether the following words exemplify cases of

a) inflection

b) derivation

c) both inflection and derivation!

<i>girls</i>		<i>foreigners</i>		<i>essential</i>	
<i>syntactic</i>		<i>player</i>		<i>enable</i>	
<i>promising</i>		<i>maladjusted</i>		<i>father's</i>	
<i>unproblematic</i>		<i>contained</i>		<i>criteria</i>	
<i>doing</i>		<i>usually</i>		<i>fatalistic</i>	
<i>earlier</i>		<i>additional</i>		<i>relationship</i>	
<i>modernize</i>		<i>children's</i>		<i>governmental</i>	
<i>distortion</i>		<i>systematic</i>		<i>greatest</i>	
<i>inexcusable</i>		<i>categories</i>		<i>complexity</i>	

(cf. Aarts/Aarts 1987: 8)

4. In which of the following words is the prefix or suffix added to a word to which a word formation rule has already applied?

<i>absentee</i>		<i>establishment</i>		<i>preference</i>	
<i>selfishly</i>		<i>honourable</i>		<i>librarianship</i>	
<i>oppressively</i>		<i>habitually</i>		<i>novelties</i>	
<i>complexities</i>		<i>gunner</i>		<i>similarity</i>	

(cf. Aarts/Aarts 1987: 49)

5. What are the roots in the following words?

<i>disinterested</i>		<i>unforgettable</i>		<i>estrangement</i>	
<i>bystanders</i>		<i>spaciousness</i>		<i>triumphantly</i>	
<i>revitalization</i>		<i>bejewelled</i>		<i>suitability</i>	

(cf. Aarts/Aarts 1987: 49)

6. Which types of morphemes can be found in the following sentences? Classify the morphemes into 'free/bound' and 'lexical/grammatical'!

a) *The foreman gives the workers their instructions.*

b) *The nation's constitution provided a model that other countries followed.*

c) *They called Shakespeare England's greatest writer.*

7. Complete the matrix, which shows possible connections of formerly Latin prefixes and formerly Latin roots! Which combinations are possible in today's English? (please tick!) In which cases can you find processes of (regressive or progressive) assimilation?

<i>de-</i>	<i>re-</i>	<i>con-</i>	<i>per-</i>	<i>sub-</i>	<i>in-</i>	<i>ex-</i>	<i>pre-</i>	<i>ob-</i>	
									<i>-ceive</i>
									<i>-clude</i>
									<i>-cur</i>
									<i>-duce</i>
									<i>-flect</i>
									<i>-form</i>
									<i>-pose</i>
									<i>-sist</i>
									<i>-sume</i>

(cf. Welte²1996: 57f.)

8. In the following rows of words there is always one 'odd man out' that behaves differently from the others in a morphological or semantic way.

a) Find the 'odd man out' and underline the word!

b) Explain the feature of word-formation that the other words have in common!

a) *unhappy, untruth, unmarried, unable, undo*

b) *fifth, ninth, sixth, growth, twentieth*

c) *boyish, bookish, longish, slavish, childish*

d) *flowery, bravery, bribery, slavery*

e) *accusation, condemnation, alteration, alternation*

f) *booklet, streamlet, piglet, ringlet*

g) *certainty, sporty, cruelty, safety*

h) *trainee, employee, bootee, payee, addressee*

i) *novelette, leaderette, usherette, kitchenette*

j) *stately, steely, timely, motherly, manly*

(cf. Welte ²1996: 180)

Bibliography

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Welte, Werner. ²1996. *Englische Morphologie und Wortbildung*. Frankfurt/Main: Lang.