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ENG 235: *Morphology and Syntax of English* — Spring 2008: TUE & FRI 09.00-10.30  
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## EXERCISES 1: MORPHOLOGY I

**1. Consult a large dictionary**, such as *The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* or *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, that gives the date when each word was first recorded. Find five words that were first used in the twentieth century. How many of them have meanings that would have been guessable by an adult English speaker on first encounter, and how many do not? Cite your source(s).

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

Source(s):

2. Can you think of a reason why *-en* may attach to some adjectives but not to others?

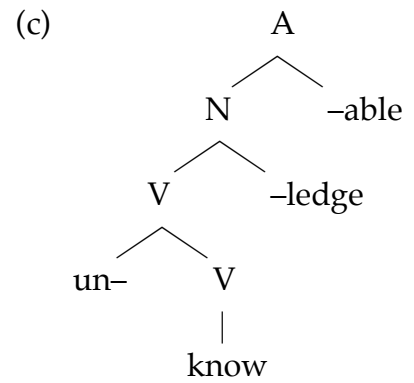
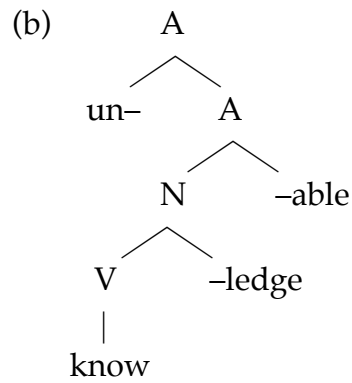
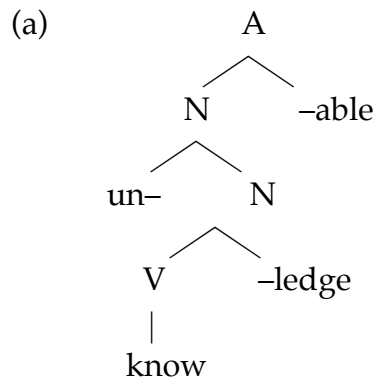
*blacken*  
*deafen*  
*\*thin*  
*\*nearen*

*broaden*  
*tighten*  
*\*longen*  
*\*slowen*

*stiffen*  
*soften*  
*\*slimen*  
*\*narrowen*

*ripen*  
*loosen*  
*\*highen*  
*\*noblen*

3. Which is the proper derivation of *unknowledgeable*? Explain.



**4. Consider the following words:**

<i>disbelief</i>	<i>dishonorable</i>	<i>dislike</i>	<i>discharge</i>
<i>discomfort</i>	<i>dispassionate</i>	<i>disconnect</i>	<i>disobey</i>
<i>disharmony</i>	<i>dismissive</i>	<i>disclose</i>	<i>distrust</i>
<i>disorder</i>	<i>disgraceful</i>	<i>disinfect</i>	<i>dishonest</i>
<i>displeasure</i>	<i>disorderly</i>	<i>disown</i>	<i>discontinuous</i>

- (a) What kinds of bases does the prefix *dis-* attach to? Give an example of each.
- (b) What kinds of roots does the prefix *dis-* attach to? Explain.
- (c) Is *dis-* a category-maintaining or category-changing prefix?
- (d) What are the two meanings of the prefix *dis-*? Name and give an example from the list above of each of the two meanings.
- (e) In addition to derivation, what process of word formation is involved in the formation of the following words?

<i>disarm</i>	<i>distrust</i>	<i>dismember</i>	<i>disfigure</i>
<i>disband</i>	<i>discolor</i>	<i>discourage</i>	<i>disbar</i>

- (f) Draw a tree diagram showing the derivation of the word *disreputable*.

**5. Consider the following words:**

<i>illegal</i>	<i>ineligible</i>	<i>inactive</i>	<i>imbibe</i>
<i>irrelevant</i>	<i>intolerant</i>	<i>indeterminate</i>	<i>immature</i>
<i>impossible</i>	<i>insecure</i>	<i>illogical</i>	<i>irregular</i>
<i>immoral</i>	<i>infamous</i>	<i>imbalance</i>	<i>injudicious</i>
<i>impatient</i>	<i>injury</i>	<i>ingrate</i>	<i>incongruous</i>

- (a) Determine the allomorphs of this derivational prefix.
- (b) Determine the conditioning factors for each of the allomorphs.
- (c) Decide on the underlying (or “elsewhere”) form of this morpheme from which the other allomorphs are derived. Justify the base form.
- (d) State the meaning of the morpheme.
- (e) Why are the forms *ignoble* and *ignominious*, which presumably contain the same prefix, a problem? Try to account for this problem. (Hint: Look up the etymologies of these words.)