

CAMBRIDGE TEXTBOOKS IN LINGUISTICS

Word-Formation in English

Ingo Plag

Word-formation in English

by

Ingo Plag

Universität Siegen

in press

Cambridge University Press

Series 'Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics'

Draft version of September 27, 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
1. Basic concepts	4
1.1. What is a word?	4
1.2. Studying word-formation.....	12
1.3. Inflection and derivation.....	18
1.4. Summary.....	23
Further reading.....	23
Exercises.....	24
2. Studying complex words.....	25
2.1. Identifying morphemes.....	25
2.1.1. The morpheme as the minimal linguistic sign.....	25
2.1.2. Problems with the morpheme: the mapping of form and meaning	27
2.2. Allomorphy.....	33
2.3. Establishing word-formation rules	38
2.4. Multiple affixation.....	50
2.5. Summary.....	53
Further reading.....	54
Exercises.....	55
3. Productivity and the mental lexicon.....	55 ¹
3.1. Introduction: What is productivity?.....	55 ¹
3.2. Possible and actual words.....	56 ¹
3.3. Complex words in the lexicon.....	59
3.4. Measuring productivity.....	64

¹ Pages 55-57 appear twice due to software-induced layout-alterations that occur when the word for windows files are converted into PDF.

3.5. Constraining productivity.....	73
3.5.1. Pragmatic restrictions.....	74
3.5.2. Structural restrictions.....	75
3.5.3. Blocking.....	79
3.6. Summary.....	84
Further reading.....	85
Exercises.....	85
4. Affixation.....	90
4.1. What is an affix?.....	90
4.2. How to investigate affixes: More on methodology.....	93
4.3. General properties of English affixation.....	98
4.4. Suffixes.....	109
4.4.1. Nominal suffixes.....	109
4.4.2. Verbal suffixes.....	116
4.4.3. Adjectival suffixes.....	118
4.4.4. Adverbial suffixes.....	123
4.5. Prefixes.....	123
4.6. Infixation.....	127
4.7. Summary.....	130
Further reading.....	131
Exercises.....	131
5. Derivation without affixation.....	134
5.1. Conversion.....	134
5.1.1. The directionality of conversion.....	135
5.1.2. Conversion or zero-affixation?.....	140
5.1.3. Conversion: Syntactic or morphological?.....	143
5.2. Prosodic morphology.....	145
5.2.1. Truncations: Truncated names, -y diminutives and clippings.....	146
5.2.2. Blends.....	150

5.3. Abbreviations and acronyms	160
5.4. Summary	165
Further reading	165
Exercises	166
 6. Compounding	 169
6.1. Recognizing compounds	169
6.1.1. What are compounds made of?	169
6.1.2. More on the structure of compounds: the notion of head	 173
6.1.3. Stress in compounds	175
6.1.4. Summary	181
6.2. An inventory of compounding patterns	181
6.3. Nominal compounds	185
6.3.1 Headedness	185
6.3.2. Interpreting nominal compounds	189
6.4. Adjectival compounds	194
6.5. Verbal compounds	197
6.6. Neo-classical compounds	198
6.7. Compounding: syntax or morphology?	203
6.8. Summary	207
Further reading	208
Exercises	209
 7. Theoretical issues: modeling word-formation	 211
7.1. Introduction: Why theory?	211
7.2. The phonology-morphology interaction: lexical phonology	212
7.2.1. An outline of the theory of lexical phonology	212
7.2.2. Basic insights of lexical phonology	217
7.2.3. Problems with lexical phonology	219
7.2.4. Alternative theories	222
7.3. The nature of word-formation rules	229

7.3.1. The problem: word-based versus morpheme-based morphology.....	230
7.3.2. Morpheme-based morphology.....	231
7.3.3. Word-based morphology.....	236
7.3.4. Synthesis.....	243
Further reading.....	244
Exercises	
References.....	246