

GRAPHEMES AND MORPHEMES

GRAPHEMES

The English language is made of different abstract characters (or symbols) called graphemes which represent different sounds (what we call, phonemes). We call these characters or graphemes the “English alphabet,” although other writing systems have alphabets as well.

Example:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

While the premise for our language comes from early Germanic forms of language, our writing system and its graphemes come from Latin and share many similarities with early Latin characters.

MORPHEMES

Morphemes are the smallest parts of language that have meaning.

Morphemes are usually root words and their affixes (i.e., their prefix or suffix)

To clarify, Root Words are the most basic form of a word and the smallest unit of meaning. Affixes are the elements placed at the beginning or end of the root which change the meaning.

Common Affixes:

Prefixes (the beginnings to words, such as: re-, dis-, un-, mis-, out-, a-, in-, etc.)

Suffixes (the endings of words, such as: -ing, -ism, -fy, -ation, -able, itis, -ise, -en, -ate, etc.)

Example:

Un- (prefix: meaning “not”)

Yield (root: meaning “stopping/pausing”)

-Ing (suffix: meaning “in a constant progression”)

Thus,

Unyielding

Free Morphemes appear as roots alone.

Example: stop

Bound Morphemes are roots with an affix.

Example: unstoppable