

Homework 3 – Morphological analysis and tree drawing

Due Friday, February 23

1. Ungrammatical morpheme combinations

1.1. Most of the following words are not actual words of English; some are not even possible grammatical words of English.

- Mark the words that you think are ungrammatical in English with an asterisk, like this: **redeskly*.
- Circle the real English words (i.e. those that you've heard or used).

speakhood	misspeak	exspeak	speaking	spoken
childhood	mischild	exchild	childing	children
parrothood	misparrot	exparrot	parroting	parrotten
softhood	missoft	exsoft	softing	soften

1.2. Choose two of the ungrammatical words, and explain why they are ungrammatical for you. In your answer, talk about how particular morphemes can and cannot combine grammatically; refer to the morpheme properties listed in section 1.4 of the book.

a. Word: _____
Why is it ungrammatical?

b. Word: _____
Why is it ungrammatical?

1.3. If you think any of the words from 1.1 are possible in English, despite the fact that they're not actual English words (that is, if you left any words both unstarred and uncircled), explain what they would mean, and why they're possible English words (talk again about how morphemes can combine).

a. Word: _____ Meaning: _____
Why is this a possible word?

b. Word: _____ Meaning: _____
Why is this a possible word?

2. Morphological trees

2.1. For each of the following words, draw a tree diagram that represents the word's morphological structure. Don't forget to include part of speech labels where appropriate.

a. *resolidify*

b. *unfriendly*

2.2. There are at least two possible trees that could be drawn for the word *overreaction*. Draw both of them below.

Tree #1

Tree #2

2.3. Do the structures represented by the two trees in 2.2 represent different meanings? Why or why not?

3. Parts of speech

In the following sentences, a **root** which usually has one part of speech (noun, verb, etc.) is used as another. For each sentence, use the properties of parts of speech in section 1.5 of the course packet to determine the part of speech of the root of the underlined word; explain which property you used. Also give an example sentence where the root acts like its usual part of speech.

Example Our buddies seemed down with the plan.

How is it used here? Part of speech: adjective

How do you know? Adjectives follow “seemed”.

How is it normally used? Part of speech: preposition

Example sentence: My mom lives down the street.

How do you know? In the list of prepositions; appears before a noun phrase.

a. The platoon was tasked with destroying the bunker.

How is it used here? Part of speech: _____

How do you know?

How is it normally used? Part of speech: _____

Example sentence: _____

How do you know?

b. The red has a nice bouquet, but the white smells like somebody’s armpit.

How is it used here? Part of speech: _____

How do you know?

How is it normally used? Part of speech: _____

Example sentence: _____

How do you know?

c. They call New Orleans “The Big Easy”.

How is it used here? Part of speech: _____

How do you know?

How is it normally used? Part of speech: _____

Example sentence: _____

How do you know?