- **Morphology:
The structure of words**

- So far in our investigation of mental grammar, we have looked at

  - *phonetics* — the articulation (and acoustics and perception) of **speech sounds**

  - *phonology* — how **speech sounds** are represented and altered by the mental grammar

1. Morphology in the mental grammar

- So far in our investigation of mental grammar, we have looked at

  - *phonetics* — the articulation (and acoustics and perception) of **speech sounds**

  - *phonology* — how **speech sounds** are represented and altered by the mental grammar

- Now we will turn to *morphology*

  - the part of the mental grammar (and the mental lexicon) that is responsible for **words** and **word structure**

1. Morphology in the mental grammar

- Some words contain smaller meaningful parts

  restandardizing → re-standard-iz(e)-ing

- and some do not

  cinnamon

1. Morphology in the mental grammar

- Some words contain smaller meaningful parts

  restandardizing → *re-standard-iz(e)-ing*

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- The meaningful parts of words are **morphemes**

2. Morpheme: sound+meaning

- What's a precise definition of **morpheme**?
  - Our textbook (*CL*, p 123) says that a morpheme is "the smallest unit of language that carries information about meaning or function"

- A useful way to understand this better:

  A **morpheme**
  - shows a **systematic sound-meaning correspondence**
  - **cannot be further divided** without losing this sound-meaning correspondence

2. Morpheme: sound+meaning

- A **morpheme**

    - shows a **systematic sound-meaning correspondence**

restandardizing → re-standard-iz(e)-ing

    re-   'do … again'

    standard   'model, basis for comparison'

    -ize   'make into …'

    -ing   (shows ongoing action)

2. Morpheme: sound+meaning

- A **morpheme**
  - **cannot be further divided** without losing this sound-meaning correspondence

cinnamon 'a spice'

→ cannot be broken down into meaningful parts

3. Analysis: How to find morphemes

- What strategy were you using when you solved the Swahili verb puzzle?

    - How did you figure out which **sequences of speech sounds** were associated with which **meanings**?

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- What strategy were you using when you solved the Swahili verb puzzle?

  - How did you figure out which **sequences of speech sounds** were associated with which **meanings**?

  → You found the **sound-meaning correspondences**!

Swahili verb	*Gloss (i.e., translation/definition)*
[ata**ni**penda]	's/he will like **me**'
[ata**ku**penda]	's/he will like **you**'
[ata**wa**penda]	's/he will like **them**'

- We can look for what is **different** in *sound and meaning* among otherwise similar forms

3. Analysis: How to find morphemes

Swahili verb   *Gloss (i.e., translation/definition)*

[nita**ku**penda]   'I will like **you**'

[ata**ku**piga]   's/he will beat **you**'

[tuli**ku**lipa]   'we paid **you**'

- We can look for what is **the same** in *sound and meaning* across multiple forms

3. Analysis: How to find morphemes

- We can apply these same principles to morphological analysis in English

- Remember: We are looking for the **rules** of the **mental grammar**
  - Always use **language data** to look for linguistic rules, even in your own language
  - Use the principle of **systematic sound-meaning correspondence** when looking for morphemes

3. Analysis: How to find morphemes

- Remember: We are looking for the **rules** of the **mental grammar**

- Don't be **fooled** by **spelling**
  - Does *caterpillar* have the morphological structure *cat-er-pillar*?

3. Analysis: How to find morphemes

- Remember: We are looking for the **rules** of the **mental grammar**

- Don't be **fooled** by **spelling**
  - Does *caterpillar* have the morphological structure *cat-er-pillar*? **No!**
  - The meanings 'feline animal', 'one who does an action', and 'column in architecture' are not part of the meaning of *caterpillar*
  - This word has *only one morpheme*

3. Analysis: How to find morphemes

- Remember: We are looking for the **rules** of the **mental grammar**

- *Morphology* is not the same as *etymology*
  - Does a child acquiring a mental grammar of English have evidence that 'transfer' is from Latin *trans* + *fer*?

3. Analysis: How to find morphemes

- Remember: We are looking for the **rules** of the **mental grammar**

- *Morphology* is not the same as *etymology*!
  - Does a child acquiring a mental grammar of English have evidence that *transfer* is from Latin *trans* + *fer*? **No!**
  - In a word like *transatlantic*, we do have *trans*- 'across' + *Atlantic*
    - But what is *fer*? → A word like *transfer* is not divided into morphemes **in English**

4. Word-structure puzzle: English

- Try these **flash cards** on Quizlet:
  (also linked from the LING 101 "Learning Activities" page)

  How many morphemes are in each English word?