

Name: _____

Word Formation & Morphology

1. What is a morpheme? Explain the distinction between ‘free morpheme’ and ‘bound morpheme’.

2. Divide the following words into their component morphemes and decide for each if it is free or bound, what kind of affix (root, prefix or suffix) is involved (if any), and (where applicable) if the affix is inflectional or derivational.

Example: globalize

Morpheme	Free or Bound	Type of Affix	Inflectional / Derivational or N/A
globe	free	root	N/A
-al	bound	suffix	derivational
-ize	bound	suffix	derivational

comfortable

Morpheme	Free or Bound	Type of Affix	Inflectional / Derivational or N/A

misspelling

Morpheme	Free or Bound	Type of Affix	Inflectional / Derivational or N/A

undecided

Morpheme	Free or Bound	Type of Affix	Inflectional / Derivational or N/A

3. In each group of words that follow, two words have the same morphological structure, one has different suffix from those two, and one has no suffix at all. Your task is to tell which two words have the same suffix (mark it with S for same) which one has different suffix (mark it with #), and which has no suffix at all (mark it with x). In the last column, indicate what type of suffix it is and define it (to the best of your ability).

Example		Type of suffix
a. rider	S	-er is a derivational suffix meaning 'one who ...'
b. colder	#	-er is an inflectional suffix marking the comparative.
c. silver	x	no suffix
d. smoker	S	This is the same -er as in rider

a. clocks		
b. Nick's		
c. hearts		
d. glass		

a. given		
b. maven		
c. wooden		
d. taken		

4. What are the inflectional morphemes in the following phrases?

Example: It's raining

inflectional morphemes	- 's -ing
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b) the newest style

inflectional morphemes	
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a) the singer's songs

inflectional morphemes	
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c) the horse jumped over a wall

inflectional morphemes	
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5. Form a new word from each of the following words:

to love → (noun)

to change → (adjective)

mad → (abstract – noun)

civil → (verb)

child → (adjective)

absolute → (adverb)

6. Identify the type of word-formation process(es) by which the following words have been created. Explain in detail how they are derived, keeping in mind there may have been more than one process involved. Feel free to use outside sources.

saltwater

Process: _____

sitcom

Process: _____

to narrow

Process: _____

laser

Process: _____
