MORPHEMES ARE WORD PARTS THAT CARRY MEANING

How many morphemes are in the following?

- True
- Truthful
- Truest
- Truthfulness
- Untruthfulness
MORPHEMES ARE WORD PARTS THAT CARRY MEANING

• Some morphemes can stand alone such as (House and Tree)

• Some morphemes cannot stand alone and must be bound to other words (un, er, ness)
Inflections and Inflectional Morphemes

What is an inflection?

Inflections are morphemes that change the meaning of the word in some way.

- Example in a verb: Walk → Walked (past tense)
- Example in a noun: Book → Books (plural)
- Example of possessive: Student → Student’s
Some languages like **Latin** are considered **inflectional** languages. That means the meaning in a sentence is conveyed by endings on verbs, nouns, and adjectives.

**Example:** The sentences below all mean the same thing. Word order is not relevant. The endings (inflections) convey the meaning.

*Agricol*a *vidit* *lupum*

*Lupum* *vidit* *agricola*   *The farmer saw the wolf.  
(All say this regardless of word order)*

*Agricol*a *lupum* *vidit*
Unlike Latin, meaning in English is achieved through **WORD ORDER**.

English contains both inflectional and derivational morphemes.
**English Inflections**

English inflections or inflectional morphemes
- Past Tense for verbs
- 3rd person singular for verbs
- Plural noun (s, es)
- Possessives for nouns (‘s, s’)
- Past participle of verb (ed)
- Present Participle (ing)
- Adjective Inflections (er/est)

**Note:** Inflectional morphemes in English do not change the lexical category of a word. A verb is still a verb.

(Walk/Walks/Walked)
MORE ABOUT INFLECTIONAL MORPHEME

• Inflectional morphemes can be characterized as affixes.

• Each inflectional affix may be attached to many stems.

• Inflectional affixes are generally suffixes. They are never prefixes.

• A few are “infixes” such as goose/geese, and foot/feet.
Derivational Morphemes

While inflectional morphemes **DO NOT CHANGE THE LEXICAL CATEGORY** of a word, **DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMES CHANGE THE CATEGORY OF A WORD OR CHANGE THE MEANING OF A WORD.**

- English has a limited number of inflectional morphemes.

- English has many derivational endings/morphemes
DERIVATIONAL AFFIXES

• There are many different derivational affixes. (ment, ness, ize pre)

• Each derivational affix may be attached to relatively few stems.

• A derivational affix derives a NEW PART OF SPEECH
EXAMPLES OF DERIVATIONAL MORPHEMEs

• Making verbs from other parts of speech
  pure → purify  glory → glorify  wide → widen
  (Note these are suffixes)

• Making nouns from verbs
  Enjoy → Enjoyment
  Activate → Activation
  Abbreviate → Abbreviation