

INFLECTIONAL AND DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY

Neeraj Aggarwal
Dept of English
HMV, Jalandhar

Module-5

M.A. ENGLISH (SEMESTER-II)
PAPER-IX: ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND WRITING

Time: 3 Hours Max.

Marks: 80

The question paper shall consist of Parts-A and B having 24 and 56 marks respectively.

Part-A: Eight (8) short questions (two from each unit) will be set. Students will be required to answer six (6) of them. As far as possible, the questions should be direct and pointed. Questions may relate both to theory and English speech in practice. The narrower the question, the better it is. The students shall answer these questions within 150 words each. Each question will carry 4 marks (4x6=24)

Part-B: Four (4) questions (one from each Unit) will be set. The students will be required to attempt all. Each question will have internal choice. If required, the examiner may also have sub-parts of a question. For Unit IV, the students will be required to write an essay on any one of the four given topics of literary and social interest (not requiring special or technical knowledge). Students must demonstrate the use of development techniques and produce a coherent and complete write up. The students shall answer these questions in not more than 800 words. Each question will carry 14 marks. (14x4=56).

UNIT-I

Words and Morphemes
Morphemes and **affixes**
Free and bound morphemes
Word formation processes in English

UNIT-II

Parts of speech
Form and Function
Verb and Verb phrase; Verbal forms, regular and irregular verbs
Auxiliaries: Tense and aspects
Noun and Noun Phrase
Determiners and sequence of determiners, Reference
Adjective: Attributive and predicative; Comparison and intensification
Adverb and adverbials, Place relation, time relation
Adjunct, Disjunct and Conjunct
Preposition and prepositional phrase
The Simple sentence: basic sentence patterns; concord.

UNIT-III

Co-ordination; conjunctions
The complex sentence; subordination
Finite and non-finite clauses
Relative clauses; Apposition; restrictive and non-restrictive clauses, Adverbial

clauses and its types

Complement clauses and the complex noun phrases

Cohesion in text; Sentence / clause connectors, ellipsis, substitution, discourse

Reference.

UNIT-IV

Applied Grammar and Composition

Basic Sentence Faults (Section 6-14)

Effective Sentences (Section 33-36)

The Whole Composition (Section 31)

Effective Paragraphs (Section 32)

Recommended Text:

1. Quirk, R. and S.A. Greenbaum. *University Grammar of English*, Longman, 1973.
2. Huddleston, Rodney, *English Grammar: An Outline*, CUP, 1996
3. Singh, Sukhdev and Balbir Singh, *Grammar of the Modern English Language*, Foundation Books, CUP, 2012.
4. McCrimmon, J.M., *Writing with a Purpose*, NY: Houghton Mifflin, 1957
5. Halliday, M.A.K. and R. Hasan, *Cohesion in English*, Longman, 1976
Legget, Glen et. al. *Essentials of Grammar and Composition*, Prentice Hall of India, 1988

Inflectional and Derivational Morphology

Most standard dictionaries follow the tradition of considering 'speak', 'spoke', 'spoken', 'speaks', and 'speaking' as different forms of the same word, i.e. 'speak'; whereas 'speaker' is considered to be a new word with its own set of different forms like 'speaker', 'speakers', and 'speaker's'. Similarly, 'write', 'wrote', 'written', 'writes', and 'writing' are considered different forms of the same word, i.e. 'write'; whereas 'writer' is considered to be a new word with its own set of forms like 'writer', 'writers', and 'writer's'. This kind of distinction is based on the distinction between inflection and derivation. Word-forms like 'speak', 'spoke', 'spoken', 'speaks', and 'speaking' are created by the morphological process of inflection; whereas new words like 'speaker', 'speakers', and 'speaker's' are created by the morphological process of derivation. This shows that suffixes in English, as in many other languages, are of two types: inflectional and derivational. By adding an inflectional suffix to a root or base or stem, we create different grammatical forms of the same word; and by adding a derivational suffix to a root or base, we create a new word.

There are eight inflectional suffixes in English. These can be schematized as followed:

1. The {PLURAL} suffix. For example,

books	→	{book} + {PLURAL}
oxen	→	{ox} + {PLURAL}
children	→	{child} + {PLURAL}
sheep (pl.)	→	{sheep} + {PLURAL}

2. The {GENITIVE} suffix. For example,

boy's	→	{boy} + {GENITIVE}
boys'	→	{boy} + {PLURAL} + {GENITIVE}
judge	→	{judge} + {GENITIVE}

3. The {THIRD PERSON-SINGULAR-PRESENT} suffix. For example,

runs	→	{run} + {TSP}
goes	→	{go} + {TSP}

4. The {PAST} suffix. For example,

played _{v2}	→	{play} + {PAST}
went	→	{go} + {PAST}
rang	→	{ring} + {PAST}
cut _{v2}	→	{cut} + {PAST}

5. The {PAST PARTICIPLE} suffix. For example,

played _{v3}	→	{play} + {PAST PARTICIPLE}
gone	→	{go} + {PAST PARTICIPLE}
rung	→	{ring} + {PAST PARTICIPLE}
sprung	→	{spring} + {PAST PARTICIPLE}
written	→	{write} + {PAST PARTICIPLE}
cut _{v3}	→	{cut} + {PAST PARTICIPLE}

6. The {PRESENT PARTICIPLE} suffix. For example,

playing	→	{play} + {PRESENT PARTICIPLE}
going	→	{go} + {PRESENT PARTICIPLE}
running	→	{run} + {PRESENT PARTICIPLE}

7. The {COMPARATIVE} suffix. For example,

nicer	→	{nice} + {COMPARATIVE}
cleverer	→	{clever} + {COMPARATIVE}
better	→	{good} + {COMPARATIVE}
worse	→	{bad} + {COMPARATIVE}

8. The {SUPERLATIVE} suffix. For example,

nicest	→	{nice} + {SUPERLATIVE}
cleverest	→	{clever} + {SUPERLATIVE}
best	→	{good} + {SUPERLATIVE}
worst	→	{bad} + {SUPERLATIVE}

All the other types of suffixes in English are derivational suffixes. The words to which the above eight types of suffixes are attached are called stems. The stem includes the base or bases and all the derivational affixes. Thus the stem of 'playboys' is 'playboy' and that of 'beautified' is 'beautify'.

The inflectional suffixes differ from derivational suffixes in the following ways, to which there are very few exceptions.

1. Inflectional suffixes do not change the part of speech. They create the paradigm¹ of a word, i.e. either a noun, a verb, or an adjective.

¹ **paradigm** - /'pærədəɪm/ a set of all the different forms of a word creating its family, for example of a verb, i.e. *go*, *went*, *gone*, *goes*, and *going* is a family of the word 'go'.

Examples: boy, boys (both nouns)
 go, went (both verbs)
 cold, colder (both adjectives)

Note:- Derivational suffixes may or may not change the part of speech.

2. Inflectional suffixes are marginal in a word, i.e. they come last in a word.

Examples: establishes, established, establishments, friends, men, boys.

3. Inflectional suffixes go with all stems of a given part of speech, i.e. they occur regularly.

Examples: He eats/drinks/dreams/entertains/motivates/runs/plays.

4. Inflectional suffixes do not pile up; only one ends a word and its productivity.

Examples: flakes, working, higher, written.

The exception here is the plural genitive of a noun, as in 'boys' hostel'.