

ROOT, BASE, AND STEM IN MORPHOLOGY

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Module-6

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

Root, Base, and Stem in Morphology

What is a ROOT?

A root is that part of a word which remains after all the affixes have been removed. A root, in other words, cannot be analysed further either in terms of inflectional morphology or in terms of derivational morphology. The word 'cigarettes' has two affixes attached to it. These two affixes are '-ette', which is a derivational suffix and '-s', which is an inflectional suffix. If these two affixes are removed, the part of the word which will remain is 'cigar' which cannot be analysed further in terms of morphemes. It can, therefore, be taken to be a root.

The word 'establishments' has two affixes attached to it. These two affixes are '-ment', a derivational suffix and '-s', an inflectional suffix. The part of the word which will remain after the two affixes have been removed is 'establish'. It cannot be further analysed morphologically and thus is a root.

What is a BASE?

A base is a form to which a rule of word-formation is applied. In other words, a base is any part of a word to which a derivational affix has been added. For example, 'unanswerable' consists of the negative prefix 'un-', the root 'answer', and the suffix '-able'. But we do not normally come across a word 'unanswer'*. Thus, 'answer' is the base for 'answerable' and 'answerable' is the base for 'unanswerable'. Once a base has undergone a rule of word-formation, the derived word itself may become the base for another derivation. So by reapplication, it is possible to derive words of considerable length. An example is the word 'unfriendliness', the derivation of which is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) friend | NOUN |
| 2) friendly | NOUN → ADJECTIVE |
| 3) unfriendly | ADJECTIVE → ADJECTIVE |
| 4) unfriendliness | ADJECTIVE → NOUN |

* asterisk indicates that the word is not acceptable.

What is a STEM?

A stem is that part of a word which remains after all the inflectional suffixes have been taken away. In other words, a stem is any part of a word to which an inflectional suffix can be added. For example, if we remove the inflectional suffix '-s' from the word 'establishments', the remaining part 'establishment' is the stem. Since inflectional suffixes are word-final, they stop the productivity of otherwise productive words. The concept of stem is used to retain their

productivity by removing the inflectional suffixes from them. Thus, we cannot attach any further affix to the word 'establishments'. But if we remove the inflectional suffix '-s' from it, the word 'establishment' again gets its productivity and we can produce or derive other words like 'establishmentarian', 'establishmentarianism', 'disestablishmentarianism', 'antidiseestablishmentarianism', etc from it.

A classical word – in relation to root, base and stem – is 'antidiseestablishmentarianism' in which 'anti-' and 'dis-' are prefixes; 'establish' is root, base and/or stem; '-ment', '-arian', and '-ism' are suffixes.