

# Morphology

- In linguistics, **morphology** is the identification, analysis and description of the structure of a given language's morphemes and other linguistic units, such as root words, affixes, parts of speech, intonations and stresses, or implied context.

- The history of morphological analysis dates back to the ancient Indian linguist Pāṇini, who formulated the 3,959 rules of Sanskrit morphology.

*The term "morphology" was coined  
by August Schleicher in 1859.*



WORD FAMILIES

ate  
ake  
ale  
eat  
ashed  
ail  
og  
uck  
unk  
ank  
ump  
ame  
ink  
ack  
ide  
ip  
old  
ain  
ill  
oke  
et  
ice  
ayell  
um  
aw  
ine  
ock  
agore  
ight  
ig  
ar  
open  
ot

***Word families*** are groups of words that have a common feature or pattern - they have some of the same combinations of letters in them and a similar sound.

The 37 most common word families in English (according to Wylie and Durrell) are: ack, ain, ake, ale, all, ame, an, ank, ap, ash, at, ate, aw ay, eat, ell, est, ice, ick, ide, ight, ill, in, ine, ing, ink, ip, it, ock, oke, op, ore, ot, uck ,ug, ump, unk.





## ab

cab grab  
crab lab  
dab nab  
drab tab

## ad

bad lad  
dad mad  
glad pad  
had tad

## ag

bag nag  
brag rag  
drag tag  
gag wag

## am

am Sam  
ham slam  
jam spam  
Pam yam

## an

can plan  
fan ran  
man tan  
pan than

## ap

cap map  
gap nap  
lap tap  
flap trap

## at

bat mat  
cat pat  
hat sat  
flat that

## ed

bed red  
fed shed  
led Ted  
Ned wed

## en

Ben pen  
den ten  
hen then  
men when

## et

get net  
jet pet  
let set  
met yet

## ig

big pig  
dig rig  
fig twig  
jig wig

## in

bin pin  
chin tin  
grin twin  
fin win

## ip

dip rip  
hip sip  
flip tip  
nip trip

## it

bit quit  
fit sit  
hit split  
pit wit

## ob

blob mob  
Bob rob  
glob slob  
job snob

## og

bog hog  
dog jog  
fog log  
frog smog

## op

cop pop  
drop shop  
hop stop  
mop top

## ot

cot jot  
dot not  
got plot  
hot tot

## ub

cub rub  
club scrub  
grub sub  
hub tub

## ug

bug lug  
dug mug  
hug rug  
jug tug

## un

bun run  
fun shun  
nun stun  
pun sun

## ut

but nut  
cut rut  
gut shut  
hut strut





## -ap Word Family List

cap

chap

clap

flap

gap

lap

map

nap

rap\*

sap

scrap

slap

snap

strap

tap

trap

wrap



# Word families

```
graph TD; A[Word families] --> B[similar in form]; A --> C[meanings are related];
```

similar in form

meanings are  
related

# 1.

- ⊙ word - wordy - word (verb) - wording - word-list ... (but not: worth, worry)
- ⊙ family - familiar - unfamiliar - familiarity - familiarise ... (but not: famine, famous)

# 2.

- ⦿ big - little - size
- ⦿ dog - puppy - kennel

# Why are word families important?

**Form-based families** are important because they reveal sometimes hidden patterns of spelling in words that children already know

for example, the verb root pronounced '*seev*' is spelt ***ceive*** (receive, deceive, conceive), and always corresponds to ***ception*** in the corresponding noun (reception, deception, conception).



- ◎ **Meaning-based** families are important because they reveal links and patterns of meaning in words that children already know
- ◎ for example, many adjectives and nouns are related as in the trio **big - little - size.**

## Reference:

Richard E. Wylie and Donald D. Durrell, 1970. "Teaching Vowels Through Phonograms." *Elementary English* 47, 787-791.

[www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/tta/wf/wf.htm](http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/tta/wf/wf.htm)

Thank you for  
your attention