# 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 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.

## Word Families



#### ab cab grab crab lab dab nab drab tab

#### ad lad bad mad dad pad glad tad had

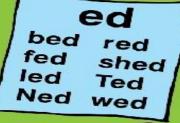
#### ag bag nag brag rag drag tag gag wag

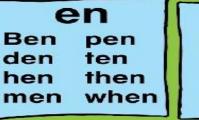
#### am Sam am slam ham spam jam Pam yam



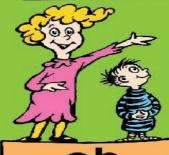
#### ap map cap gap nap lap tap flap trap





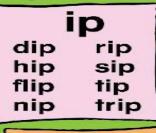






big pig dia rig fig twig jig wig

#### in pin bin chin tin grin twin fin win



it	
bit	quit
fit	sit
hit	split
pit	wit
725	8

## ob

blob mob rob Bob glob slob job snob









## ub

rub cub club scrub grub sub hub tub

#### ug lug bug dug mug hug rug jug tug

un bun run fun shun stun nun pun sun

but nut cut rut gut Shut hut strut



### -ap Word Family List

cap nap tap

chap rap\* trap

clap sap wrap

lan coran

flap scrap

gap slap

lap snap

map strap

## Word families

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

# Thank you for your attention