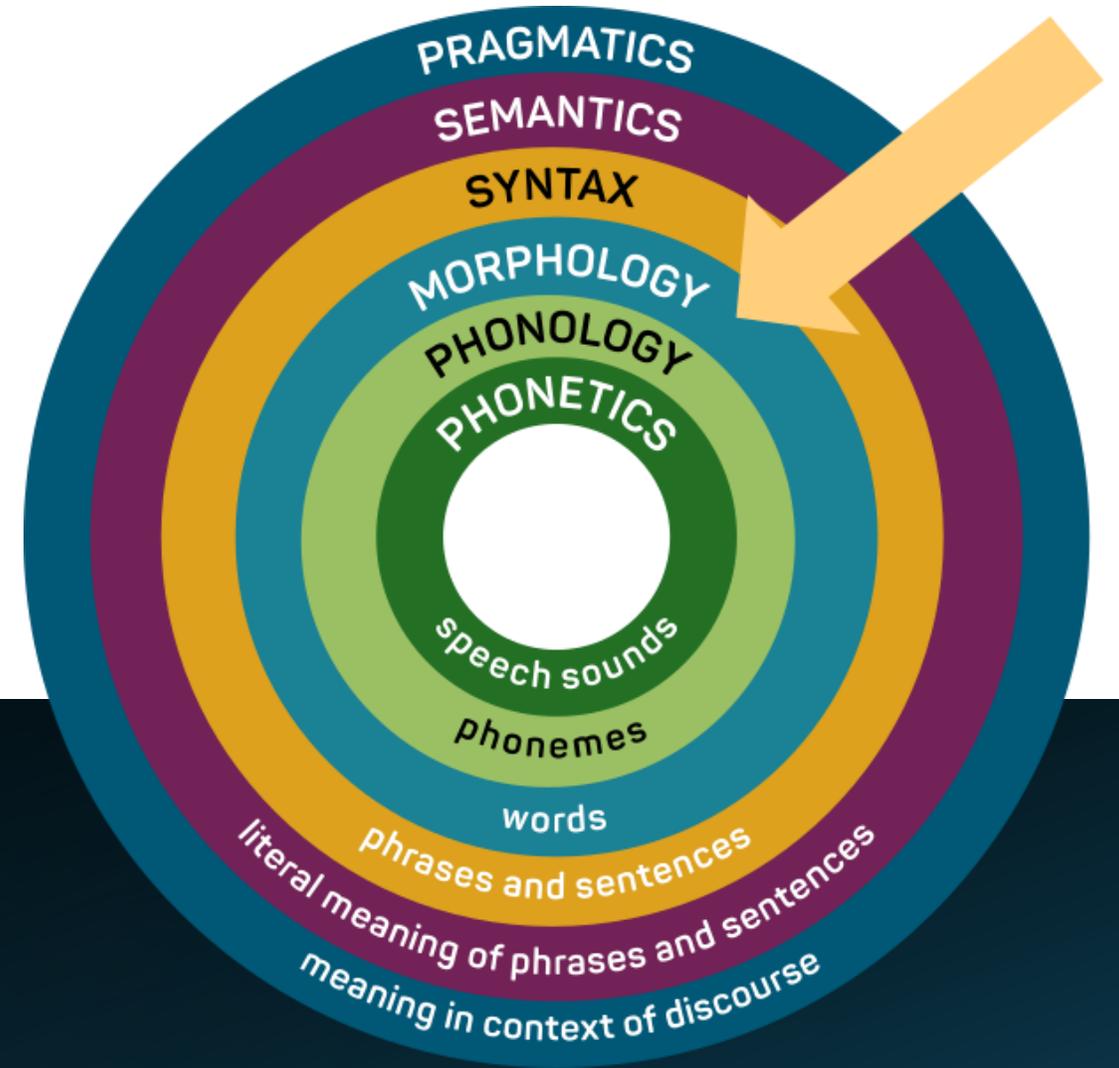


English Morphology



Week 1: The Building Blocks –
Morpheme Definition

Dr. Pashew Nuri

What is Morphology?

The study of the internal structure of words.

How words are built from smaller pieces.

Focus: The 'Morpheme' – the basic unit of meaning.

Definition: What is a Morpheme

Stageberg's Three Criteria (The 3 Rules):

- It is a word or part of a word that has meaning.
- It cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts.
- It recurs (appears again) in different words with a stable meaning.



Analyzing 'Straight' /stret/

01

Rule 1: It has meaning ('not curved').

02

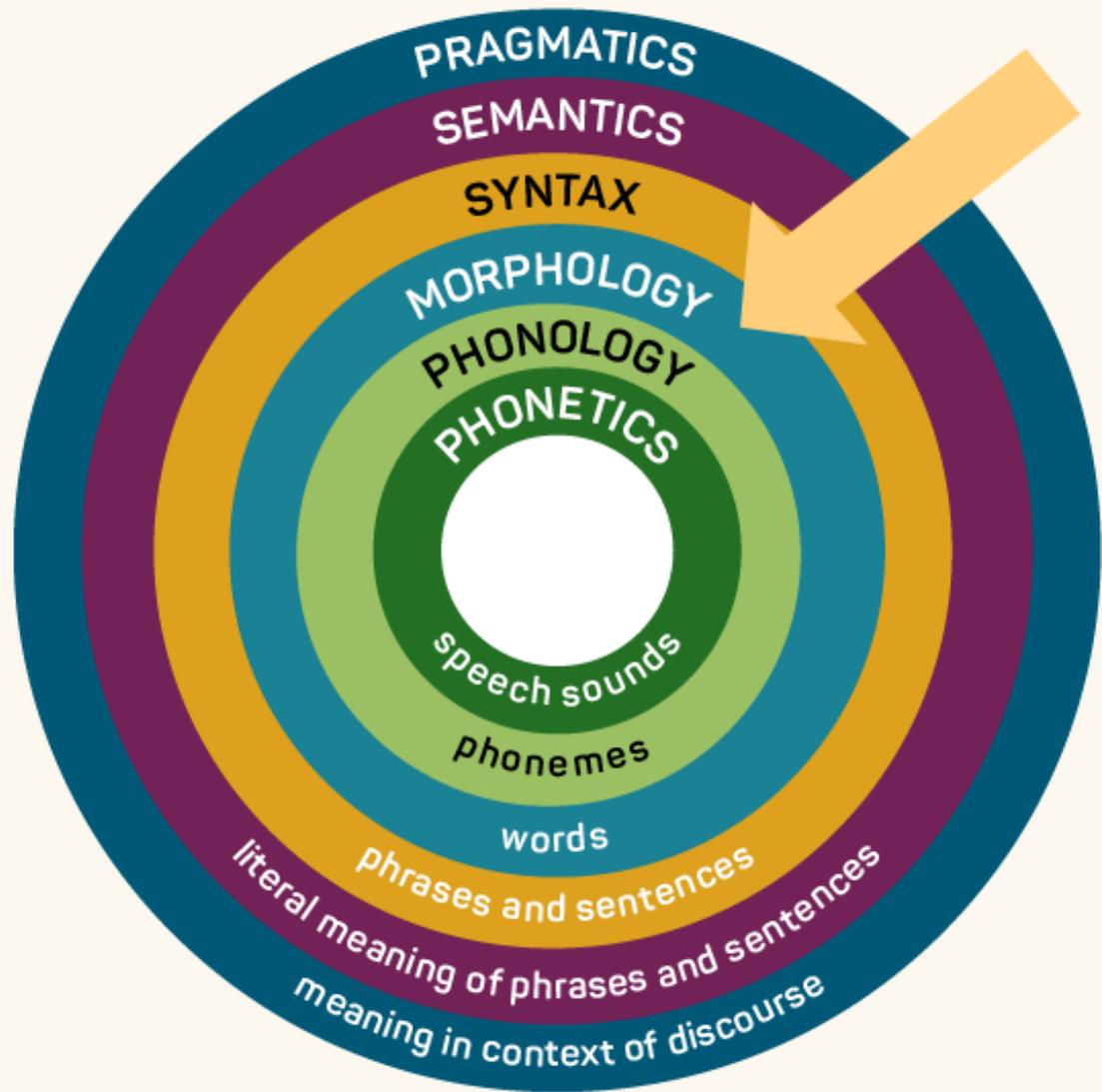
Rule 2: Breaking it (s-traight) destroys the meaning.

03

Rule 3: Appears in 'straighten' and 'straightedge'.

So, it is ONE morpheme.

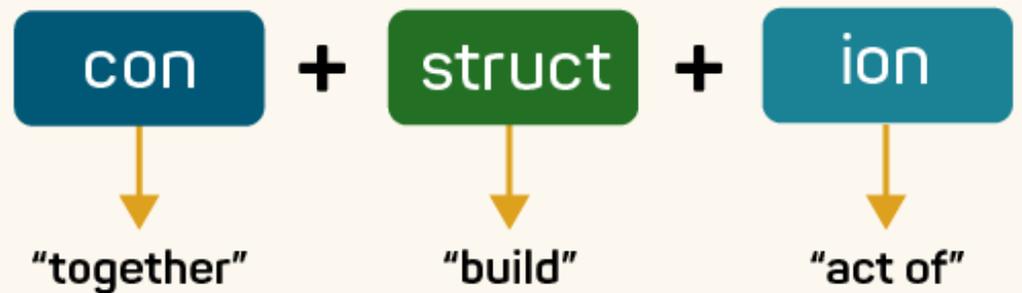
Morphology



Words are made up of **morphemes**



Each morpheme carries meaning.



Construction means the act of building things together.

Types of Morphemes

- **FREE Morphemes:** Can stand alone as words (e.g., 'play', 'man').
- **BOUND Morphemes:** Must be attached to another morpheme (e.g., '-en', 're-', '-ly').
- Example: In 'REPLAY', 'play' is free and 're-' is bound.

Analyzing 'Brighten'

Word: Bright + -
en

Bright (Free) =
'filled with light'

-en (Bound) =
'to make'

So, it is TWO morphemes.

Practice: Counting Morphemes

Play

Replay

Weak

Weaken

Man

Manly

Homework

- Exercises 8-1 and 8-2 (pp. 87-88).
- Read Pages 88-91 for next week.