



Emnekode : EN-211

Kandidatnr. : 1109

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Ark nr. : 1 av 11

Question 1

Verbs in present-day standard English are inflected for present tense 3rd person singular '-s', present participle 'ing', past tense '-ed¹' and past participle 'ed²'.

Inflection in English is a grammatical function used in all the lexical word-classes: nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. In verb inflection or ^{verb} conjugation all the morphemes used for inflection are bound, which means that they cannot stand alone or function on ~~their~~ own, they to be attached to a stem to be of function. E.g. the present tense morpheme '-s' denoting the 3rd person singular in verbs, will never be seen alone in writing but will have to attach to a verb stem, e.g. 'smile': 'smile' + '-s' → 'smiles'. Here the free morpheme 'smile' combines with the bound morpheme '-s', to ~~construct~~ denote the third person singular.

She smiles. ← inflected form
present tense
3rd p. sing.
free morpheme / morph
bound morpheme / morph

Similarly, the present participle '-ing' inflects a word to denote the progressive aspect in verbs. The past tense suffix '-ed' is inflected for past tense, e.g. to express ~~say~~ something that happened yesterday. For example:

I wrote a book yesterday

irregular allomorph of -ed past participle
(internal vowel change)



Emnekode : EN-211
 Kandidatnr. : 1109
 Dato : 21/11-12
 Ark nr. : 2 av 11

I will come back to irregular past tense verbs.
~~The verb~~ The past participle '-ed' is used to express something that has happened.

I have visited my grandmother many times.

stem free morpheme inflected for past participle bound morpheme

The '-ed' past participle ^{does not} function without the auxiliary verb 'have/has'.

Verb inflection is either regular or irregular. I am first going to give an account for the regular verb inflections. The present tense '-s' denoting the 3rd person singular in verbs, is either realized as /s/, /z/ or /ɪz/, which is phonologically conditioned. /s/ comes after a voiceless sound, e.g. quotes /kwɒts/, /z/ is added to verbs which ends in voiced ^{unvoiced + unvoiced} sounds, e.g. raids /reɪdz/, and lastly /ɪz/ is added to after sibilant ^{voiced + voiced} sounds (/s, z, ʒ, tʃ, ʒ, dʒ/), e.g. freezes /fri:zɪz/ or manages /mænədʒɪz/.

The present participle '-ing' is always realized as /ɪŋ/, and has no allomorphs in that same function, denoting the progressive aspect in verbs. '-ent', is an adjective ending (coming from the progressive -ing).

The past participle or past tense '-ed' is either realized as /d/, /t/ or /ɪd/. /d/ before voiced sounds, e.g. called /kɑ:lɪd/ (AME), /t/ before voiceless sounds e.g. faced /feɪst/ and /ɪd/ ~~before~~ after words ending in /d/ or /t/, to make it easier to pronounce. All the regular verb inflections are phonologically conditioned.



Emnekode : EN-21
Kandidatnr. : 1109
Dato : 21/11-12
Ark nr. : 3 av 1

There are many types of irregular allomorphy in the English verb system, by that I mean that the endings or suffixes differ from regular '-ed'-ending. For example, the zero-allomorph is evident in many English verbs, like 'put-put-put', 'hurt-hurt-hurt' and so on. Here one has to see the context the verb is put in to see if it expresses present tense, past tense or past participle. 'Zero-allomorph' or 'zero-suffixation', means that ^{there} is no suffix attached to the verb stem. Had 'put' been regular, it would have been 'put *putted-^{*}putted' which of course one cannot write.

Suppletion is also a case of ^{irregular} special allomorphy in English. Here a whole form has been suppleted with another form, which cannot be explained. For instance, 'go-went-gone', here the past tense 'went' does not at all look like 'go' and 'gone'.

Internal vowel change or stem vowel change happens to ~~many~~ verbs in English, like 'sing-sang-sung', ~~run~~ 'run-ran-ran' and 'hide-hid-hid' / 'hard-hid-hid'. As you can see here the stem vowel has been replaced by another vowel to express the past tense and past participle.

Also, stem consonant change + stem vowel change can happen in some verbs. For instance, in 'seek-sought-sought', the /k/ has changed to /t/ 'ght' and the /i:/ in 'seek' has changed to /ɔ:/ in 'sought'. The same thing happens in 'buy-bought-bought' where the vowel /ɔ:/ in 'buy' is changed to /ɔ:/ in 'bought'. In 'buy' there is no suffix, but in 'bought' a suffix has been added which is irregular ('not -ed) /t/, which can be called consonant change.

*1 to denote the past tense and the past participle.



Emnekode : EN-211
Kandidatnr. : 1109
Dato : 21/11-12
Ark nr. : 4 av 11

There are some ~~single~~ words that are irregular too, like 'pay-paid-paid' and 'say-said-said' where the 'y' is changed to 'i' orthographically but the same sound is heard in 'pay' as well as in 'paid'. These verbs are grammatically conditioned. All the other irregular verbs mentioned above are lexically conditioned, which means that if you haven't seen the word before you must look it up in a dictionary to know that is irregularly inflected.

In addition, the (t) in spelt 'spell-spelt-spelt' is irregular in that a (t) is added, not '-ed'. This is also lexically conditioned.

Furthermore, English is a complex language and for example the verb 'to be' is extremely irregular. It has different forms in the present tense namely 'am, are, is, are, are, are' where all are cases of suppletion because none of them look like the infinitive 'to be'. Also the past tense is irregular. The allomorphs 'was/were' are used to express the past tense instead of the regular '-ed' endings. This is also suppletion. The past participle 'been' is more normal than the former examples ^{'cause it goes back to 'be'} ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ending but the '-en' is irregular. This is also lexically conditioned.

The modals in the English language are also irregular ~~and some~~ ~~for~~ for instance they cannot be used in the progressive aspect and must always be used as the first verb in a VP. Plus they have irregular forms like 'will-would'. The modals are also lexically conditioned.



Emnekode : EN-211
Kandidatnr. : 1109
Dato : 21/11-12
Ark nr. : 5 av 11

All the irregular verb inflections are lexically conditioned.

Question 2:

Suffixation can effect the form of the base in several ways. Spelling alternations in the base happens when a suffix starting in a vowel is attached to a base ending in a vowel. Thus we have: 'love' + 'able' becoming 'lovable', and 'live' + 'ing' becomes 'living'. In both these examples the final -e in the base is dropped. This is called final e deletion. As we can see in the other two examples from Appendix 2: a) 'love' + 'ly' and 'live' + 'ly' is not changed, because the suffix 'ly' starts with a consonant.

In the 5 next examples in Appendix 2: a) 'offered', 'credited', 'regrettable', 'preferred' and 'rebellion' there is a doubling of the final consonant in the stem when the suffix is added in those words which the syllable before the suffix is stressed. Thus 'offered' and 'credited' the final consonant before the suffix is not doubled because the stress is on the first syllable in the word. 'regrettable', 'preferred' and 'rebellion' is stressed on the syllable before the suffix and the last consonant before the suffix is therefore doubled.



Emnekode : EN-21
Kandidatnr. : 1109
Dato : 21/11-12
Ark nr. : 6 av 11

Words ending in '-y' like 'lively', 'try' and 'stay', the '-y' is changed to '-i' when a suffix is added. Thus: 'lively' + 'est' becomes 'liveliest', 'lively' + 'ness' becomes 'liveliness', 'try' + 'ed' becomes 'tried'. ~~'stay' + 'ed' becomes 'stayed' etc.~~ 'Stay' is an exception because the '-y' does not change to '-i' when a suffix is added. (Also 'shy - shyer')

The pronunciation in b) is changed when the non-neutral suffix '-ity' is added to the adjective 'same' /sɛm/ becoming 'sanity' /sænəti/. The vowel sound /ɛ/ is changed to /e/. '-ity' is a Latin noun-forming suffix. In 'modernity' 'modern' + '-ity' the vowels are changed: /modern/ → /mɒ'dɜ:rnəti/, because the stress is shifted requiring strong vowels in that syllable. The stress is shifted from 'modern' to 'modernity', closer to the suffix. The stress is also shifted in 'generous' → 'generosity', so consequently the pronunciation of the vowels change from /dʒenərəs/ to /dʒenə'rositi/. Also the spelling in this word is changed: the '-v' disappears in 'generosity'. (generous + ity ⇒ generosity).

The noun-forming suffix '-ism' is neutral, which means it does not change the stress or the vowels. Thus 'modern' keeps the stress on the first syllable when '-ism' added, 'modernism'. The same is true in 'alcohol' → 'alcoholism', where the first syllable is stressed both words. Similarly, the stress does not change in 'parliamentarian' → 'parliamentarianism'.

The noun-forming suffix '-ness' is also non-neutral. It does not affect the stress or vowels in 'generous' → 'generousness'. '-ness' is a native suffix.



Emnekode : EN-211
Kandidatnr. : 1109
Dato : 21/11-12
Ark nr. : 7 av 11

'-ary' is ~~also~~ an ^{adjective} ~~adjective~~-forming suffix from Latin which is non-neutral, it changes the stress in 'parliament' → to 'parliamentary'. ~~'-ary' wants the stress to come in the syllable before itself~~ Allomorphs: -ery

'-ian' is a suffix which can form both nouns and adjectives. It is a non-neutral Latin suffix. '-ian' changes the stress in 'parliamentary' to 'parliamentarian', which can be a 'parliamentarian man (adj)' or a parliamentarian (noun), a person working in parliament. The vowels are changed to strong vowels where the stress is moved: /pa:liamən'təri/ → /pa:liamən'tæriən/. Similarly, /bræn/ is changed to /'ri:ənəriən/ when '-ian' is added, ~~causing~~ resulting in stress shift and vowel change. The same happens in 'pediatric' → pedia'tricians and 'Ghana' → Gha'noians.

The noun-forming suffix -er, denoting the agent, is ~~strong~~ in neutral. The only thing that happens in 'manage (verb) + er → manager (noun) is a final e-deletion in 'manage', the base. The suffix -er always comes in an unstressed syllable.

The suffix (-ic) is also noun- and adjective-forming. One can say that 'I have an alcoholic sister' or 'my sister is an alcoholic'. The stress is shifted in 'alcohol' → ~~alcoholic~~ alcoholic and there is a change of vowels too: /ælkə'hɒl/ → /ɒlkə'hɒlɪk/.

The suffix -ial is also non-neutral and changes the stress in 'manager' to mana'gerial when added to the word. The stress is put on the syllable before the suffix itself. '-ial' is a Latin suffix, with the allomorphs '-eal' and '-al'.

'-ous' is an adjective-forming suffix meaning "full of". It attaches to noun-bases. The stress changes



Emnekode : EN-21
Kandidatnr. : 1109
Dato : 21/11-12
Ark nr. : 8 av 11

when added to 'advantage' (noun) → advantageous (vowel change too) but not when added to 'mountain's' / 'mountainous'. I'm not sure why, but it could be that it is because 'mountain' is a concrete noun, whereas 'advantage' is an abstract noun.

The suffix -ee/ree is a non-neutral suffix which demands to have the stress put on itself. Thus we have 'pay' → payee, 'detain' → detainee and 'mountain' → mountaineering. It is of French origin, denoting the 'patient' in semantic function.

'-ese' is also a strong suffix which changes the stress ~~to~~ in 'Vietnam' → Vietnamese, 'legal' → legalese. This suffix too demands the stress on itself.

'-ette' is a diminutive suffix which also demands the stress on itself: 'kitchen' → kitchenette. It is of French origin (Noun-formation).

'-ual' is an allomorph of -ial, so it too is non-neutral: 'contract (noun)' → contractual (adj). It is an adjective-forming Latin suffix.

~~Almost all~~

The general rule is that all suffixes are derivational, which means that a new word is derived, with a new meaning.



Question 3

1) pre-CURS-or
 PHON: /,pri'kɜ:sər/

NOUW

Affix	BASE/ROOT	Affix
pre-	CURS-/CUR-	-or
in front, before	to go, run	→ Noun

SEM: forerunner, coming before
 (so the happens before an earthquake so you know the earthquake will come).

2) ex-PIR-ed ← GRAPH.
 PHON: /eks'paɪə(r)əd/

VERB

Affix	BASE/ROOT	Affix/Inflection
ex-	SPIR(E)-	-ed
out, from	die breathe	Past tense

SEM: out of breath → to die
 /no breath left

~~Phon~~ Orthographic change: the prefix ex- merges with the BASE: SPIR(E)-, so the prefix is /ek-/ phonologically.
 Also the suffix/inflection -ed merged with expire, so there is final e-deletion.



Emnekode : EN-211
 Kandidatnr. : 1109
 Dato : 21/11-12
 Ark nr. : 10 av 11

3) SEPT. ENNI-al
 Phon: /septenwəl/

BASE <u>BASE/ROOT</u> SEPT- seven	<u>BASE/ROOT</u> ENNI- (allomorph of ANNU) year	<u>Affix</u> -al → Adjective pertaining to
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SEM: elections every seven years.

4) at. TENU. at-ed
/

<u>Affix</u> at to, towards	<u>Allomorph</u> at- (assilation of t/d)	<u>BASE/ROOT</u> TENU- thin, stretched	<u>Affix</u> -at(e) → Verb cause to be	<u>Affix/ Inflection</u> -ed
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SEM: cause to be towards thin

5) <u>BASE/ROOT</u> ALIEN- of other, another	<u>Affix</u> -at(e) → verbal cause to be	ALIEN-at(e) <u>lection/et/</u>
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→ make foreign / be foreigners



Emnekode : EN-2U
 Kandidatnr. : 1109
 Dato : 21/11-12
 Ark nr. : 11 av 11

6) in-FIRM-ary

Affix	BASE/ROOT	Affix
in not, in, inside	FIRM- strong	-ary → noun

SEM: → small hospital / Place for "not strong" people

7) PEDiCAB

BASE/ROOT	CAB BASE/ROOT
PED i foot ↑ combining vowel	CAB taxi ← abbreviation/ clipping

SEM → taxi on foot

8) se-CESS-ion
løse seg /

Affix	BASE/ROOT	Affix
se- away, from	CESS- to go, yield	-ion → Noun

SEM → to go away from / yield from.