What is a word?

(I’ll bet you thought you knew)
Outline

Defining the problem
  Using orthography

Inflectional paradigms and lexemes

Where do new words come from?
  Borrowings
  Compounds
  Germanic affixes
  Affixes from Latin and Greek
  New affixes
  Irregularity with affixes
  Clippings
  New verb-particle combinations
  Sound blends, word blends
  Syntactic phrases
  Change in category

Conclusion
What is a word? Why do you ask?

1. Do you mean, can you give me a definition that will allow me to determine what should count as a word in any language that I come upon?
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3. Will an easy answer suffice, like one based on writing (which we call orthography), or do you want to know what the writing system’s decision was based on?
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4. Do you want some guidelines to follow when you are writing and you are not sure whether something should count as a word?
What is a word?

Related questions:

1. How many different words are there? Are two words the same if and only if they are spelled the same way?
What is a word?

Related questions:

1. How many different words are there? Are two words the same if and only if they are spelled the same way?
2. Where do new words come from?
Main points

- Words form patterns that we call paradigms. Each member of the paradigm is a word-form, and each separate paradigm expresses a lexeme.
- English has taken on about a dozen different ways of making new words.
Orthography

Definition
A word is a written sequence which has a white space at each end but no white space in the middle.

Questions:
- Are hyphens punctuation?
  No: Afro-American
  Yes: She seemed to radiate a come-hither look.
  Uncertain: abso-bloody-lutely
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Questions:

► Are hyphens punctuation?
  No: Afro-American
  Yes: She seemed to radiate a come-hither look.
  Uncertain: abso-bloody-lutely

► Are apostrophes punctuation?
  Uncertain: You’re OK, he’s OK.
  No: John’s dad.
Another related question:

Is a word a string of letters?
  - This relates to a different sort of answer to our question.
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  - To know what something is typically requires us to be able to recognize one when we see it, and also to be able to say if it is one (a word) that we have already seen.
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- This relates to a different sort of answer to our question.
  - To know what something is typically requires us to be able to recognize one when we see it, and also to be able to say if it is one (a word) that we have already seen.
  - So re-identification (the ability to re-identify) is a something we should worry about, in the sense that it is part of what we are responsible for when we ask what a word is.
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- This relates to a different sort of answer to our question.
  - *To know what something is* typically requires us to be able to recognize one when we see it, and also to be able to say if it is one (a word) that we have already seen.
  - So re-identification (the ability to re-identify) is a something we should worry about, in the sense that it is part of what we are responsible for when we ask what a *word* is.
  - This is not the type/token distinction: In *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times*, there are 12 word tokens and 7 word types.
Another related question:

Is a word a string of letters?

- The answer *A word is a string of letters* leads to potential problems:
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  - 1. There are cases where two different words have the same string of letters:
      bank, Polish, lead, wind, bass
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  - Can we distinguish between one word that has several meanings or uses (‘body’, ‘stomach’) and two words that are spelled the same way?
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  - 1. There are cases where two different words have the same string of letters: bank, Polish, lead, wind, bass
  - Can we distinguish between one word that has several meanings or uses (‘body’, ‘stomach’) and two words that are spelled the same way?
  - Dictionaries try very hard to do this.
There are cases where one word corresponds to more than one string of letters: Words with multiple spellings (cigaret/cigarette, jail/gaol, honor/honour).

How about the two occurrences of fish in: One fish was caught in the stream, but all the rest of the fish were caught in the bay. We say these are cases where the plural is the same as the singular (which is unusual in English). Is it the same word?

Similarly with man or cook, noun and verb: A cook will cook.

Are book and books the same word? Our first definition says No, but dictionaries only have one entry for both items.
Defining the problem

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Paradigms

This leads us to the notion of an (inflectional) paradigm. We observe that in English (and in most languages) there are multiple ways of expressing the same word/core idea, and these differences are sometimes (often) used just as marks of agreement in a sentence. Typically this is limited to the big classes of words: nouns, verbs, adjectives.

Such a word is associated with a pattern which is common to all words of the same category or part of speech. In English, we have such patterns for verbs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense</th>
<th>Past tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st person</td>
<td>sing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd person</td>
<td>sing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd person</td>
<td>sings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We use two technical terms, now:

- **Word-form**: Each item in a paradigm is a *word-form*.
- **Lexeme**: each paradigm expresses a single *lexeme*.

A *word-form* is a combination of a spelling plus the specifications of its box. *sings* is a word-form for the lexeme *SING*, 3rd person singular present.

### Nouns in modern English: 4 lexemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>book</td>
<td>books</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dog</td>
<td>dogs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man</td>
<td>men</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fish</td>
<td>fish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stick
lexeme or many?

Usually a lexeme will cover several related meanings: *head on a body, head of a household*. Sometimes it is hard to know whether a word has several meanings, or we are looking at two lexemes spelled the same way. Wiktionary suggests: **STICK** (third-person singular simple present *sticks*, present participle *sticking*, simple past and past participle *stuck* or (archaic) *sticked*)
Stick

Wiktionary: Stick

► (intransitive) To become or remain attached; to adhere.
*The tape will not stick if it melts.*

► (intransitive) To jam; to stop moving.
*The lever sticks if you push it too far up.*

► (intransitive) To tolerate, to endure, to stick with.

► (intransitive) To persist.
*His old nickname stuck.*

► (intransitive) Of snow, to remain frozen on landing.
Stick 2

Wiktionary: *Stick*

- (intransitive) To remain loyal; to remain firm.
  
  *Just stick to your strategy, and you will win.*

- (intransitive) To hesitate, to be reluctant; to refuse.

- (dated, intransitive) To cause difficulties, scruples, or hesitation.

- (transitive) To attach with glue or as if by gluing.
  
  *Stick the label on the jar.*

- (transitive) To place, set down (quickly or carelessly).
Patterns of new word formation in English

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- syntactic phrases
- change in category: because
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Borrowings

1. *impala* Zulu i-m-pala
2. *bizarre* comes from Basque (for the word for *beard*)
3. *jungle* from Hindi
4. *juggernaut* from Sanskrit
Compounds

Noun + noun compounds are a very old Germanic form of word formation

1. woman comes from wif + man
2. husband comes from hus + bondi house + bondi ‘dweller, occupier’
3. Christmas comes from Christ + mass
5. Shakespeare continued this pattern of formation: lackluster
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Compounds

**French** (Romance, Indo-European)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>porte- clé</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>carry key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>key holder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Roots and affixes

Roots tend to belong to a **lexical category**: noun, verb, preposition, adverb, etc.

Affixes include both **prefixes** and **suffixes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>prefixes</th>
<th>suffixes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>de</em>-active</td>
<td><em>faith</em>-ful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>re</em>-play</td>
<td><em>govern</em>-ment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>il</em>-legal</td>
<td><em>hunt</em>-er</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>in</em>-accurate</td>
<td><em>kind</em>-ness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two classes of suffixes in English

English has two sets of affixes: one from its Germanic heritage, and one from its Latinate heritage.

- Group 1: stress affecting: -ic, -al, -ity, -ion, -y (nominalizing), -al, -ate, -ous, -ive, -ation
- Group 2 stress neutral -hood, -ful, -ly, -ize, -ness, -less, -y (adj.)
Group 1 easily attaches to non-word roots (e.g., *paternal*), while Group 2 almost always attaches to existing words.

Group 1, when it attaches to words, is stress-changing. *telephone, telephonic* Group 2 is stress-neutral *govern, government*

Group 1 make the resultant word look as much as possible like a (simple) word.
More English infixation?

What about words like *thoughtlessly, boyishness*? What is the status of *-less-, -ish-*?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>affix</th>
<th>root</th>
<th>derived form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-ation</td>
<td>is added to a verb</td>
<td>to give a noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>finalize</td>
<td>finalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>confirm</td>
<td>confirmation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un-</td>
<td>is added to a verb</td>
<td>to give a verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tie</td>
<td>untie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wind</td>
<td>unwind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un-</td>
<td>is added to an adjective</td>
<td>to give an adjective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>happy</td>
<td>unhappy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wise</td>
<td>unwise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-al</td>
<td>is added to a noun</td>
<td>to give an adjective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>institution</td>
<td>institutional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>universe</td>
<td>universal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Morphology: the internal structure of words

1. English has hundreds of prefixes and suffixes (affixes): far more suffixes than prefixes.

2. For each affix, we usually find that a majority of the words it appears in can be associated with a particular meaning. But for most affixes, that “majority” is far from “all”.

3. Typical example: prefix out-. A verb formed with the prefix out- is a transitive verb, with an animate subject and object, who compete with respect to the activity described by the stem.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Verbs from Merriam Webster:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>outachieve</td>
<td>outact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outbitch</td>
<td>outbluff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outbrawl</td>
<td>outbulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outcharge</td>
<td>outclimb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outdance</td>
<td>outdazzle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outdesign</td>
<td>outdrag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outdrive</td>
<td>outduel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outfight</td>
<td>outdazzle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outfumble</td>
<td>outgain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outhit</td>
<td>outfish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outjump</td>
<td>outfigure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outleap</td>
<td>outfigure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outmaneuver</td>
<td>outkick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outorganize</td>
<td>outlearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outpitch</td>
<td>outmarch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outplay</td>
<td>outperform</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Merriam Webster:

outplot  outpoll  outpopulate  outpower
outpray  outpreach  outprice  outproduce
outpromise  outpunch  outrate  outrebound
oultreproduce  outrival  outroar  outrow
outrush  outsail  outscheme  outscoop
outscore  outshout  outsing  outsit
outsink  outsoar  outsparkle  outspeed
outsprint  outstride  outswear  outswim
outtawk  outset  outtrow  outtrade
outvieve  outvote  outwait  outtrade
outwatch  outwrestle  outwrite  outyell
Other out-’s

outage outback outboard outbreak
outcast outcome outcry outdoors
outgrow outlandish outlet outnumber
outrigger outstanding
The case of -nik

kibbutznik   member of a kibbutz   1949
(cf. kolkhoznik)  kolkhoz member
nogoodnik  1944
nudnik    tedious person   1947 (Yiddish, Russian root)
sputnik   4 October 1957
flopnik
kaputnik
stayputnik
whatnik
sputnik burger
beatnik   2 April 1958
peacenik
protestnik
draftnik
Vietnik

Every dognik has its daynik (after death of Russian dog in space)
The case of -nik

Nominal (i.e., noun-forming); denotes a person, or sometimes a thing. Ironic or critical connotation.
Expletive infixation

English expletive infixation (McCarthy 1982):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>to\tiny{gether}</th>
<th>to-bloody-gether</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>en\tiny{ough}</td>
<td>e-bloody-nougFh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamaz\little{o}</td>
<td>Kalama-goddam-zoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>absolut\tiny{ely}</td>
<td>abso-goddam-lutely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fant\tiny{ástic}</td>
<td>fan-friggin-tastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unbel\tiny{í}evable</td>
<td>un-friggin-believable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that this has something to do with phonology...
Homeric infixation (Yu 2004)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Infixed Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oboe</td>
<td>oba-ma-boe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opus</td>
<td>opa-ma-pus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuba</td>
<td>tuba-ma-ba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>violin</td>
<td>vio-ma-lin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Ala-ma-bama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>educate</td>
<td>edu-ma-cate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>complicated</td>
<td>compli-ma-cated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(cf. ‘diddly’ infixation: Elfner & Wimpner 2008)
“But if Dictionaries are to be the Arbiters of language, in which of them shall we find neologism? No matter. It is a good word, well sounding, obvious, and expresses an idea which would otherwise require circumlocution...

I am a friend to neology. It is the only way to give to a language copiousness and euphony. Without it we should still be held to the vocabulary of Alfred or of Ulphilas; and held to their state of science also: for I am sure they had no words which could have conveyed the ideas of oxygen, cotyledons, zoophytes, magnetism, electricity, hyaline, and thousands of others expressing ideas not then existing, nor of possible communication in the state of their language.”
“What a language has the French become since the date of their revolution, by the free introduction of new words! The most copious and eloquent in the living world; and equal to the Greek, had not that been regularly modifiable almost ad infinitum. Their rule was that whenever their language furnished or adopted a root, all its branches, in every part of speech were legitimated by giving them their appropriate terminations: *adelphos* “brother”, *adelphe* “sister”, *adelphidion* “little brother”, *adelphotes* “brotherly affection”, *adelphixis* “brotherhood”, *adelphidoys* “nephew”, *adelphikos* “brotherly,” adj., *adelphizo* “to adopt as a brother”, *adelphikos* “brotherly,” adv. And this should be the law of every language.”
“Thus, having adopted the adjective *fraternal*, it is a root, which should legitimate *fraternity, fraternation, fraternisation, fraternism, to fraternate, fraternise, fraternally*. And give the word *neologism* to our language, as a root, and it should give us its fellow substantives, *neology, neologist, neologisation; its adjectives neologous, neological, neologistical, its verb neologise, and adverb neologically.*”
“Dictionaries are but the depositories of words already legitimat[ed by usage]. Society is the work-shop in which new ones are elaborated. When an individual uses a new word, if illformed it is rejected in society, if wellformed, adopted, and, after due time, laid up in the depository of dictionaries. And if, in this process of sound neologisation, our transatlantic brethren shall not choose to accompany us, we may furnish, after the Ionians, a second example of a colonial dialect improving on its primitive.”
### Idiosyncracy in the derivational lexicon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>–ist</th>
<th>–ism</th>
<th>–ize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>baptist</td>
<td>baptism</td>
<td>baptize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>exorcist</td>
<td>exorcism</td>
<td>exorcize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>terrorist</td>
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<table>
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## Idiosyncracy in the derivational lexicon

<table>
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<td>!organize</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>publicist</td>
<td>*publicism</td>
<td>publicize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Defining the problem
- Using orthography

Inflectional paradigms and lexemes

Where do new words come from?
- Borrowings
- Compounds
- Germanic affixes
- Affixes from Latin and Greek
- New affixes
- Irregularity with affixes
- Clippings
- New verb-particle combinations
- Sound blends, word blends
- Syntactic phrases
- Change in category

Conclusion
Idiosyncracy in the derivational lexicon

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<td>womanize</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>humanist (1589)</td>
<td>humanism</td>
<td>?humanize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rationalist (1627)</td>
<td>rationalism</td>
<td>!rationalize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How many words in -ize can you think of that do not have -ist, -ism siblings? And likewise for -ist and -ism?
More idiosyncracy in the derivational lexicon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>–ese</th>
<th>Bhutanese, Chinese, Vietnamese Japanese, Lebanese, Maltese Taiwanese, Portuguese</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>–an</td>
<td>African, Alaskan, American Angolan, Cuban, Jamaican Mexican, Nicaraguan</td>
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<tr>
<td>–ian</td>
<td>Argentinian, Armenian, Canadian Ethiopian, Bolivian, Serbian Jordanian, Palestinian</td>
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<tr>
<td>–ish</td>
<td>Scottish, British, Flemish Swedish, Polish, Danish Irish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–i</td>
<td>Iraqi, Israeli, Pakistani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–?</td>
<td>French, German, Greek, Thai</td>
</tr>
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</table>
What is the meaning of an affix?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>un-</th>
<th>untie</th>
<th>unshackle</th>
<th>unhappy</th>
<th>unharness</th>
<th>unthinkable</th>
<th>unmentionable</th>
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<td>con-</td>
<td>constitution</td>
<td>confess</td>
<td>connect</td>
<td>contract</td>
<td>contend</td>
<td>conspire</td>
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<td></td>
<td>outshoot</td>
<td>outthink</td>
<td>outtrade</td>
<td>outfox</td>
<td>outrun</td>
<td>outdo</td>
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</table>
Radar, gaydar, etc.

From the internet (downloaded May 8 2012)
http://askasexywomananything.tribe.net/m/thread/
f80c1fda-331d-40d6-9d4e-dc58964d6f5c

Note that this is dated 2006.

- I have excellent crazy-dar, I also have very good ass-dar. Great-for-a-straight-girl T-dar(transgender)...hmm good alt-dar, pretty good lie-dar. Bad drinker-dar. I don’t pick up on who is a big drinker, or if someone is drunk or stoned. So what are you good at picking up on? and what are you terrible at picking up on?
- Re: dar Lei Sat, May 13, 2006 - 11:02 PM by Lei I have a brilliant emotional radar..I can tell how someones feeling quicker than I can say lickety split!
Radar, gaydar, etc.

- Re: dar MsMary Sat, May 13, 2006 - 11:04 PM by MsMary
  As you already know, SV, I’ve got pretty good “drinker-dar” .... but I *suck* at crazy-dar, unless it’s really blatant .... and by that, I mean bad crazy ... I *do not* lump chemical imbalances and depression as ”crazy” - soooo not the same!!!

- Re: dar SV Sat, May 13, 2006 - 11:35 PM by SV
  yes not the same. I also can feel bi-polar from people sometimes. but not always.

- Re: dar SV Sat, May 13, 2006 - 11:38 PM by SV
  I am good at feeling people’s feelings sometimes too. But I bet you’re feeling-dar is excellent!

- Re: dar Blue Sun, May 14, 2006 - 4:51 AM by Blue
  good- gay-dar, emotion-dar, lie-dar (well honed even if I choose to ignore it)
  bad – love-dar, integrity-dar, caring-dar
Radar, gaydar, etc.

▲ Re:  dar IceStormRed Sun, May 14, 2006 - 6:56 AM by IceStor...
I’ve got REALLY good gay-dar. I’ve known it even before they’re willing to accept it. I’ve also got pretty good **poor-integrity**-dar and **pass-the-buck**-dar. I get a pretty good sense when some one’s full of shit. My drinker-dar is good as well. My ass-dar equipment is in the shop for repairs currently - I hope to have it up to par soon. I also don’t have good **he’s-into-me**-dar. I’m thick as a box of rocks when it comes to picking up on the romantic interest of a good guy. I’m oblivious. That probably is strongly connected to the poor functioning ass-dar.

▲ Re:  dar firemermaid Sun, May 14, 2006 - 9:32 AM by firemer...
When I open myself up to it, I’ve got so much emotion-dar that it can be overwhelming.
Famous cases: -ism, -ish

From a review of *Solar* (2010), by Ian McEwan: Michael is a 50-something former Nobel laureate, resting on his fleshy laurels from twenty-two years ago, where he stood on the shoulders of Einstein and proposed a scientific “Conflation Theory” that was trailblazing at the time. Now, he tours around the globe giving lectures and consults for a large fee, and he sits idly as a member of a board at a center for renewable energy in the UK. His main pursuit is women, and he pursues them with -aholic depravity. As the novel opens, his fifth marriage is falling apart due to his infidelities. But this time, his wife got the last word by having some side dishes for herself and leaving him labeled as the cuckold.
Defining the problem
Using orthography
Inflectional paradigms and lexemes
Where do new words come from?
  Borrowings
  Compounds
  Germanic affixes
  Affixes from Latin and Greek
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  Irregularity with affixes
  Clippings
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  Sound blends, word blends
  Syntactic phrases
  Change in category

Conclusion

Why is this funny?

It had been a rough day, so when I walked into the party I was very chalant, despite my efforts to appear grunted and consolate.

I was furling my wieldy umbrella for the coat check when I saw her standing alone in a corner. She was a descript person, a woman in a state of total array. Her hair was kempt, her clothing shevelled, and she moved in a gainly way.

I wanted desperately to meet her, but I knew I'd have to make bones about it, since I was travelling cognito. Be-knownst to me, the hostess, whom I could see both hide and hair of, was very proper, so it would be skin off my nose if anything bad happened. And even though I had only swerving loyalty to her, my manners couldn’t be peccable. Only toward and heard-of behavior would do.

Fortunately, the embarrassment that my maculate appearance might cause was evitable. There were two ways about it, but the chances that someone as flappable as I would be ept enough to become persona grata or a sung hero were slim. I was, after all, something to sneeze at, someone you could easily hold a candle to, someone who usually aroused bridled passion.

So I decided not to risk it. But then, all at once, for some apparent reason, she looked in my direction and smiled in a way that I could make heads or tails of.
Defining the problem

Using orthography

Inflectional paradigms and lexemes

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Conclusion

clippings

memo  ...random  phone  telephone
mike  ...rophone  plane  airplane
lab  ..oratory  bus  omnibus
photo  ...graph  flu  influenza
exam  ...ination  ad  ...vertisement
**Defining the problem**

**Using orthography**

**Inflectional paradigms and lexemes**

**Where do new words come from?**

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- **New verb-particle combinations**
- **Sound blends, word blends**
- **Syntactic phrases**
- **Change in category**

**Conclusion**

<table>
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<th>clippings</th>
<th>o</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>accro</td>
<td>...ché (hooked, addicted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alcoolo</td>
<td>alcoolique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biblio</td>
<td>...thèque (library)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catho</td>
<td>...lique</td>
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<td>coco</td>
<td>communiste</td>
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<td>cono</td>
<td>connard</td>
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<td>cuisto</td>
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<tr>
<td>éco</td>
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<td>diplo</td>
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<td>franco</td>
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<td>géo</td>
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<td>gynéco</td>
<td>...logue</td>
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<td>...ptère</td>
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<tr>
<td>homo</td>
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<tr>
<td>ado</td>
<td>...lescent</td>
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<tr>
<td>apéro</td>
<td>apéritif (aperitif, aperitif)</td>
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<tr>
<td>bio</td>
<td>...logique</td>
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<td>chimio</td>
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<td>collabo</td>
<td>...borateur</td>
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<td>crédit conso</td>
<td>...mmateur</td>
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<td>diapo</td>
<td>...sitive</td>
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<td>refrigérateur</td>
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<td>...madaire</td>
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<tr>
<td>hétéro</td>
<td>...sexuel</td>
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<tr>
<td>immo</td>
<td>...bilier</td>
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<td>Using orthography</td>
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<td>…rientales</td>
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<td>…graphie</td>
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<td>socio</td>
<td>…logie</td>
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<td>texte (SMS)</td>
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clippings

labo
métallo
négo

Borrowings
Compound roots
Germanic affixes
Affixes from Latin and Greek
Irregularity with affixes
Clippings
New verb-particle combinations
Sound blends, word blends
Syntactic phrases
Change in category

Conclusion
<table>
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<td>travestie</td>
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<td>parfait, perfection</td>
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<td>sono</td>
<td>...risation</td>
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<td>Irregularity with affixes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loco</td>
<td>...motive</td>
<td></td>
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### Conclusion

- **Clippings**
- **Orthography**
- **Inflectional paradigms and lexemes**
- **Where do new words come from?**
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blends

- chortle (Lewis Carroll)
- nerd (Dr. Seuss)
- cruft “code, data, or software of poor quality”
Syntactic phrases

- When she sat down with the coffee, he told her about the robberies, about the no-tell money. [Money that was stolen, but that was illicit, and so the theft cannot be officially reported.] *Wicked Prey*, John Sandford.

- right to life protesters

- has-been, an also-ran.

Syntactic phrases

right to life protesters

NP

noun

NP

noun

PP

Protesters

right

P

to

noun

life
Syntactic phrases
Mother of all examples, from the *New York Times*, July 4, 2014.

In recent weeks, Airbnb, the online lodging site and popular Silicon Valley emblem of the sharing-loving-trusting-hugging-anyone-can-be-Conrad-Hilton economy, unveiled a promotional campaign in New York aimed at getting doubters to see what a valuable social function the company performs.
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Syntactic phrases

New York Times: “... becoming a do-something Senate.”
(Headline)

NP

det

a

verb

do

noun

NP

something

noun

Senate

NP

VP

noun

 Verb

something
Syntactic phrases

- Michael Connelly, *The Fifth Witness*: That doesn’t matter. The trial is about the state’s evidence against Trammel. It’s not about who else might have committed the crime. Might’ves don’t count.

- I am tired of excuses — All these might’ves and/or should’ves. Also: http://www.memoriesofmystical.com/lyrics/arthur.html. Many more examples of this sort on the internet, notably using *if* as a noun in this context.)

- Woulda-Coulda-Shoulda, by Shel Silverstein
  All the Woulda-Coulda-Shouldas
  Layin’ in the sun,
  Talkin’ bout the things
  They woulda-coulda-shoulda done...
  But those Woulda-Coulda-Shouldas
  All ran away and hid
  From one little did.
This coulda, shoulda, woulda thinking is dangerous and debilitating (source: http://www.live-happier.com/2012/02/coulda-shoul da-woulda-will-kill-ya.html)
Syntactic phrases

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Syntactic phrases

At least when I don’t sleep well, exercising gets rid of that “I’m going to die” feeling.

```
NP
  det
  that
  NP
  I
  aux
  ’m going to
  VP
  verb
  feeling
  die
```
Syntactic phrases

A tell-all book about what it’s really like to work as a black maid... (from dustjacket of *The Help*)

```
NP
   det  adj  noun  PP
      a    VP  book  P  NP
         verb  about
            tell  NP
            all
```
Syntactic phrases

She’s a no quarter kind of prosecutor. The Fifth Witness, Michael Connelly.
1. Il a haussé un peu les épaules, méfiant, genre ça ne te regarde pas. *La belle de Fontanay*, p. 193.

2. décrochez-moi-ça: From Mémoires d’un linguiste (Martinet), p. 51:
ma femme d’alors qui avait accepté d’être vendeuse à la librairie allemande . . . puis un décrochez-moi-ça. (Can also mean: second-hand clothes).
Les élèves faisaient du troc, de la braderie, du décrochez-moi-ça.
Some French examples

1. *sa stratégie de j’y-suis-j’y-reste* (referring to Copé’s strategy vis-a-vis Fillon, November 2012)
2. *car je me méfie du qu’en-dira-t-on, bref, des autres.*
3. *Casimir a encore fait quelques va-et-vient.*
Defining the problem
Using orthography
Inflectional paradigms and lexemes
Where do new words come from?
Borrowings
Compounds
Germanic affixes
Affixes from Latin and Greek
New affixes
Irregularity with affixes
Clippings
New verb-particle combinations
Sound blends, word blends
Syntactic phrases
Change in category
Conclusion
mother of all  (not actually a word, right...)
not  (as in ‘just kidding’. What was the innovation here?)
cyber, morph (as in ‘to change form’) This spawned all sorts of children...
(to) newt

(‘act aggressively as a newcomer’)
e-
(i- hadn’t been invented yet...)
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2003

metrosexual

n. a fashion-conscious heterosexual male, or, as coiner Mark Simpson put it, a man who “has clearly taken himself as his own love object.”

a portmanteau (or blend):

- smog
- brunch
- spork
- Brangelina
- ...etc.

metrosexual
1. truthiness (noun)

1: “truth that comes from the gut, not books” (Stephen Colbert, Comedy Central’s “The Colbert Report,” October 2005)

2: “the quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true” (American Dialect Society, January 2006)
tweet

t. a short message sent via the Twitter.com service

t. the act of sending such a message.
Word of the Decade

**google**

(‘to search the internet’. Cf. *Xerox, Kleenex, etc.*)
A century earlier...

The sun is setting
Can’t you hear
A *something* in the distance
Howl!!?
I wonder if it’s
Yes!! it *is*
That horrid Google
On the prowl!!!

http://blogoscoped.com/googlebook/
because

“This past year, the very old word because exploded with new grammatical possibilities in informal online use,” Zimmer said. “No longer does because have to be followed by of or a full clause. Now one often sees tersely worded rationales like ‘because science’ or ‘because reasons.’ You might not go to a party ‘because tired.’ As one supporter put it, because should be Word of the Year ‘because useful!’
Top Ten Favorite Words (Not in the Dictionary)

1. ginormous (adj): bigger than gigantic and bigger than enormous
2. confuzzled (adj): confused and puzzled at the same time
3. woot (interj): an exclamation of joy or excitement
4. chillax (v): chill out/relax, hang out with friends
5. cognitive displaysia (n): the feeling you have before you even leave the house that you are going to forget something and not remember it until you’re on the highway
6. gription (n): the purchase gained by friction: ”My car needs new tires because the old ones have lost their gription.”
7. phonecrastinate (v): to put off answering the phone until caller ID displays the incoming name and number
8. slickery (adj): having a surface that is wet and icy
9. snirt (n): snow that is dirty, often seen by the side of roads and parking lots that have been plowed
10. lingweenie (n): a person incapable of producing neologisms
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Conclusions

1. **Word-forms** have a spelling and grammatical specifications.

2. Noun word-forms and verb word-forms in English are organized into *paradigms*. Each paradigm describes a single *lexeme*.

3. **Inflectional morphology** describes the variation within a paradigm.

4. Creating one word from another involved *derivational morphology*.

5. In addition: we have seen **compounding** and clipping.