

Some more fun with morphology! (leading into syntax)

A. Derivations

(1) ous/nominals/ity/ness; Aronoff (1976:44)

<i>Xous</i>	<i>Nominal</i>	<i>+ity</i>	<i>#ness</i>
various	*	variety	variousness
curious	*	curiosity	curiousness
glorious	glory	*gloriosity	gloriousness
furious	fury	*furiousity	furiousness
specious	*	speciosity	speciousness
precious	*	preciosity	preciousness
gracious	grace	*graciosity	graciousness
spacious	space	*spaciosity	spaciousness
tenacious	*	tenacity	tenaciousness
fallacious	fallacy	*fallacity	fallaciousness
acrimonious	acrimony	*acrimoniosity	acrimoniousness
laborious	labor	*laboriosity	laboriousness
bilious	bile	*biliosity	biliousness
pious	*	piety	piousness

- Do you see anything systematic here?
- Which of the two morphemes, *-ity* or *-ness*, would you consider the “elsewhere” one? Why?
- What is the restriction for inserting *-ity*? Describe it derivationally.

B. Compounding

(2) Philosophy of mind reading group (from the Language Log)

- This compound is ambiguous. What are the two possible meanings it has?
- Draw a tree structure for the following compounds:

(3) mind reading

(4) reading group

(5) mind reading group (two possibilities)

C. More ambiguity

For each phrase, try to draw tree diagrams that can disambiguate them. A phrase will have as many different tree diagrams as there are different meanings for it (e.g., 2 meanings = 2 different trees).

(6) Hershey Bars Protest

(7) Child teaching expert to speak

(8) Hospitals are sued by seven foot doctors

(9) Jumping bean prices affect poor

(10) Lawmen from Mexico barbecue guests

(11) Lawyers give poor free legal advice

(12) Squad helps dog bite victim

(13) Teacher strikes idle kids

from the staff of the *Columbia Journalism Review*, reported in *The Language Instinct*