



# SPAU133

Lecture 15/ Morphology

# Morphology

Morphology as a subfield of linguistics studies the internal structure of words. It tries to describe which meaningful pieces of language can be combined to form words and what the consequences of such combinations are on the meaning or the grammatical function of the resulting word. For example, the addition of *re-* to *wind* modifies the meaning of *wind* in a certain way, and in fact, it does so in the same way when added to *unite* (*reunite*), or *play* (*replay*).

# What is a lexicon?

- It is a number of words that speakers of a language internalized as part of acquiring a certain language. You can think of it as a mental dictionary!

- Are *cat* and *dog* the same word?
- Are *cat* and *catalog* the same word?
- Are *cat* and *catty* the same word?



Are *cat* and *cats* the same word?

- Inflection VS Derivation

### (3) Inflectional affixes of English<sup>3</sup>

<b>Function</b>	<b>Affix(es)</b>	<b>Attaches to</b>	<b>Example</b>
3rd per. sing. present	<i>-s</i>	verbs	She waits <b>s</b> there at noon.
past tense	<i>-ed</i>	verbs	She waited <b>d</b> there yesterday.
progressive aspect	<i>-ing</i>	verbs	She is waiting <b>ing</b> there now.
past participle	<i>-en, -ed</i>	verbs	Jack has eaten <b>en</b> the cookies. Jack has tasted <b>ed</b> the cookies.
plural	<i>-s</i>	nouns	The chairs <b>s</b> are in the room.
comparative	<i>-er</i>	adjectives, adverbs	Jill is taller <b>er</b> than Joe. Joe runs faster <b>er</b> than Jill.
superlative	<i>-est</i>	adjectives, adverbs	Ted is the tallest <b>est</b> in his class. Michael runs fastest <b>est</b> of all.