

Outline

A phonological rank scale
for English

Morphophonology (1):
the phonology of flexional
morphology

Morphophonology (2):
the phonology of
derivational morphology
(1)

Further reading,
additional exercises,
homework, whatever ...

Unit 11

Syllables & Rhythm (2):

morphophonology and stress

Slides for the session of

Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)

held on

25 June 2024

Robert Spence
English Department
Saarland University

<English Phonetics: Unit 11:>

/'ɪŋ.gɫɪ/ /fə.'net.ɪks/ /'ju:n.ɪt/ /ɪ'lev.n/

['ɪŋ.gɫəf.fə.'net.əks.'ju:n.ət. ə'lev.n] (AusE, broad)

<Syllables & Rhythm (2)>

/'sɪl.əb.əlz/ /ə'n/ /'rɪð.əm/ /tu:z/

['sɪl.əb.əlz.n. 'ɪwɪð.n. | 'tʰu:] (AusE, broad)

/,mɔ:f.əʊ.fəʊ.'nɒl.ədʒ.i/ /ənd/ /'stres/

[,mɔ:f.ɛ:ʊ.fə.'nɒl.ədʒ.i ən 'stɹɛs] (AusE, broad)

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- 2 Morphophonology (1): the phonology of flexional morphology
- 3 Morphophonology (2): the phonology of derivational morphology (1)
- 4 Further reading, additional exercises, homework, whatever ...

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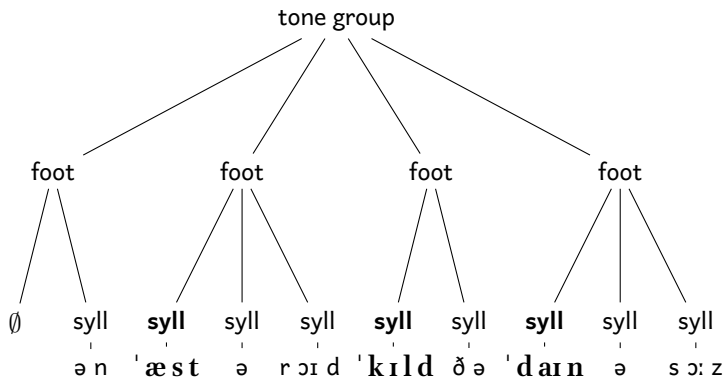
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(Context: 'What happened 65 million years ago?')

tone group → foot → syllable → phoneme

This is the most minimalistic description of English phonological units that actually works.

Flexional morphophonology: plural and/or genitive

- The regular plural morpheme (typical spelling: <s>) is realized phonologically in three different ways:

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 - /ɪz/ after a 'sibilant' (/s z ʒ ʒ tʃ dʒ/), e.g.
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- The same applies to the <'s> genitive of nouns, and to the third person singular present indicative of verbs <walks> /s/, <hugs> /z/, <teaches> /ɪz/.

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- Note: the American and Australian pronunciation of the plural morpheme after a sibilant is more like [əz] than [ɪz].

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- Note:
 - <Governors-General> (plural)
 - <Governor-General's> (genitive singular).

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Flexional morphophonology: past tense

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- The following remarks refer to the spelling conventions for libretti (e.g. Handel's *Messiah*) written a few centuries ago; these often contain past tense endings that have to be pronounced /ɪd/ for purely metrical reasons:

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- In earlier forms of English, <ed> and <'d> were used to spell /ɪd/ and /d/ (or /t/) respectively.

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 - In earlier forms of English, <ed> and <'d> were used to spell /ɪd/ and /d/ (or /t/) respectively.
 - In today's English, <èd> and <ed> are used instead.
 - "His work was soon in rehearsal
Because he always usèd Purcell" (Flanders and Swann).

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Here are two of the most important ways in which words in English can be 'derived' from simpler words via the use of affixes:

- The Anglo-Saxon way:
fear → 'fearless → 'fearlessness
- The French-Latin-Greek way:
'**grammar** → gram'**matical** → grammati'**cality**

It is even possible to mix the two strategies:

- A mixture:
'**grammar** → gram'**matical** → gram'**maticalness**

Note what happens to the position of the stress!

Here is another way in which one word can be ‘derived’ from another in English – this time by a change in the stress pattern alone, without any change to the structure of the word as a sequence of morphemes:

- in'**sult** (verb) → '**insult** (noun)
- con'**vert** (verb) → '**convert** (noun)

and even

- in'**vite** (verb) → '**invite** (noun)

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Note:

(adjective)

(verb)

<separate>

<separate>

/ˈsepəɾət/

/ˈsepəɾeɪt/

(adjective)

or

(noun)

(verb)

<degenerate>

<degenerate>

/diˈdʒenəɾət/

/diˈdʒenəɾeɪt/

Word Stress Patterns from Sauer's *Drillbook* (1)

Monday ballet famous

'mʌndeɪ 'bæleɪ 'feɪməs

cigar hotel prefer

sɪ'gɑ: həʊ'tel prɪ'fɜ:

violin Chinese canteen

vaiə'lɪn tʃaɪ'ni:z kæn'ti:n

energy Catholic communist Arabic

'enədʒɪ 'kæθə'lɪk 'kɒmjʊnɪst 'ærəbɪk

suspicious strategic Arabian

sə'spɪʃəs strə'ti:dzɪk ə'reɪbjən

cigarette engineer refugee

ˌsɪgə'ret ˌendʒɪ'nɪə ˌrefju'dʒi:

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Word Stress Patterns from Sauer's *Drillbook* (2)

admirable comfortably personally

'ædmərəbl 'kʌmfətəblɪ 'pɜ:sənəlɪ

philosophy ridiculous catastrophe

fɪ'lɒsəfɪ rɪ'dɪkjʊləs kə'tæstrəfɪ

scientific disproportion politician

'saɪən'tɪfɪk ,dɪsprə'pɔ:ʃn ,pəlɪ'tɪʃn

Protestantism criticizable

'prɒtəstəntɪzəm 'krɪtɪsaɪzəbl

Catholicism considerable particularly

kə'θɒlɪsɪzəm kən'sɪdərəbl pə'tɪkjʊləɪ

aristocracy mathematical possibility

'æɪrɪ'stɒkrəsi ,mæθə'mætɪkl ,pɒsə'bɪlətɪ

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Word Stress Patterns from Sauer's *Drillbook* (3)

pasteurization characteristic

ˌpɑːstʃʊərəɪˈzeɪʃn ˌkærəktəˈrɪstɪk

pronunciation consideration

prəˌnʌnsɪˈeɪʃn kənˌsɪdəˈreɪʃn

transformationally photographically

ˌtrænsfəˈmeɪʃənəlɪ ˌfəʊtəˈgræfɪkəlɪ

nationalization characterization

ˌnæʃənəlɪˈzeɪʃn ˌkærəktərəɪˈzeɪʃn

inferiority bacteriologist

ɪnˌfɪəriˈɒrɪti bæktɪəriˈɒlədʒɪst

Note: Sauer transcribes a slightly old-fashioned form of RP in a slightly old-fashioned way.

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- See Eckert and Barry, pages 239 to 243 – scans of these pages are in this week's folder:

http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/phoneticswithlistening/unit11_20241

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- Pay particular attention to those cases where there is a systematic difference between English and German!
- We can only skim the surface of lexical stress. Although it is important, especially from a contrastive point of view (“English is different from German!”), many of the examples given in Eckert and Barry on pages 197 to 212 are specific to one variety of British English and/or antiquated
http://www.spence.saar.de/phonetics/unit11_20241

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- We will examine some of these issues from a different perspective in Unit 13. If you want to take a peek in advance, check Halliday 1970 §5.3 pp44-47:
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phonetics/Halliday1970/The_Book/2192_001.pdf
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phonetics/Halliday1970/Halliday1970_45/ http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phonetics/Halliday1970/Halliday1970_45/
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phonetics/Halliday1970/Halliday1970_46/
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phonetics/Halliday1970/Halliday1970_47-49/

- There are more exercises in Sauer:
§33 pp104-109
[http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phonetics/
pronunciation/pronunciation_25-33.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phonetics/pronunciation/pronunciation_25-33.pdf)
[http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phonetics/
pronunciation/pronunciation_25-33.mp3](http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phonetics/pronunciation/pronunciation_25-33.mp3)