

Content Words

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS ...

- words from different perspectives:
- ORTHOGRAPHIC W.: i.e. written words (typed, handwritten)
- GRAMMATICAL W.: aka (= also known as) WORD CLASSES aka PARTS OF SPEECH
- LEXEMES: a lexeme is an underlying DICTIONARY ENTRY WORD (i.e. leaves, left, leaving >> all under the same verb lexeme LEAVE)

- in Corpus Linguistics: TOKEN vs. TYPE
- a token is an actually occurring instance of a certain word (type): We are, what we are. = 5 tokens, 3 types

CONTENT WORDS

- aka LEXICAL WORDS: are main carriers of information and meaning; most numerous word classes, such as:
 - nouns, lexical verbs, adjectives, adverbs
- can have complex structure >> often consisting of more than 1 morpheme
- aka OPEN (WORD) CLASSES: as their number is growing >> open to new additions every year

WORD FORMATION

- word formation processes:

1. **INFLECTION**: a change in the form of a word by adding inflections in order to indicate grammatical differences of tense, number, gender, case, etc.

- verb, noun + -s >> pigs, swims
- verb + -ing >> singing
- verb + -ed >> worked
- adj. + -er >> faster
- adj. + -est >> richest

2. **DERIVATION**: the formation process of forming a new lexeme by adding an affix to an existing lexeme

- adj. to noun: -ness >> happiness
- noun to adj.: -ful >> hopeful
- verb/noun to verb: de- >> decode, defrost

3. **COMPOUNDING**: the word formation process of forming compound words by joining at least two independent words (bases, lexemes) together

- noun+noun >> life style, chambermaid
- verb+noun >> cook book, guesswork

NOUNS

... words that describe a person, thing, or a place.

- concrete or abstract >> tangible, intangible things

- **CONCRETE NOUNS:**

- **COMMON NOUNS** = name people, places, animals, or things we can see or touch, or that have some physical properties.
- **PROPER NOUNS** = used for an individual person, place, or organisation (e.g. Mary, Europe, London) and which are spelled with capital letters.

- **ABSTRACT NOUNS** = refer to concepts, ideas, feelings, characteristics, attributes, and generally all things you cannot see or touch (e.g. love, envy, peace).

(LEXICAL) VERBS

- indicate actions, processes, conditions, or states that happen or exist in time.
- essential role in the structure of a sentence; without a verb the sentence is incomplete = ungrammatical.
- **FINITE VERB** = marked for person, tense, number
 - >> *He **was** exhausted, so he went to bed.*
- **NON-FINITE VERB** = unmarked for the above
 - >> ***Being** exhausted, he went straight to bed.*

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

- **ADJ** are describing words; they assign certain attributes (qualities, features) to nouns
- **GRADABILITY** of the majority of adjectives = existence of **COMPARATIVE** and **SUPERLATIVE FORMS** (both regular and irregular)
 - rich > richer > the richest
 - good > better > the best
- **ADV** words that modify other words, or larger units
- often, adverbs are formed by adding -ly to nouns, and adjectives; some gradable
 - coward > cowardly
 - high > highly