

# Inflectional Systems

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# Quiz #3 Review

1. Which of the following is an example of an exocentric compound?

movie-lover

hotdog

greenhouse

blue bird

# Quiz #3 Review

2. Which of the following is true?

Derivation and compounding don't create new lexemes.

Affixation is an example of compounding.

Over time, a lexeme can sometimes develop into an affix.

Everyone who speaks a given language has the same lexicon.

# Quiz #3 Review

3. In an exocentric compound, the head:

Endocentric compounds have no head

is usually the rightmost element

is usually the leftmost element

determines the lexical category of the compound

determines what the compound is a “kind” of (e.g a bluebird is a kind of bird)

# Quiz #3 Review

4. Give the template for the following synthetic compounds: man-eating, tub-thumping, churchgoing, God fearing. You should write only **one** template that will encompass all four of those words.

# Quiz #3 Review

5. In your own words, what do derivation and compounding have in common, and what sets them apart from one another?

# Writing Assignment #2 Review

Find five compound words that name foods [...] and identify whether they are endocentric or exocentric. There must be at least one of each type. [...] Then, show the structure for all five words in bracket notation.

First, let's review the difference between endocentric and exocentric compounds.

# Nominal inflectional systems

- Number

In many languages, the singular is usually assumed by default and unmarked. The plural (or any other non-singular number) is then marked somehow.

Is this true of English?

- Number hierarchy: singular > plural > dual > trial
- What's "paucal"?
- Are all nouns marked for number?

"I ate tons of rice."

"That's a lot of juice."

"Cement is very heavy."

"I saw three fish."

"I ate three rices."

"I bought three juices."

"I weighed five cements."

"I saw three fishes."

'N'

'Kind(s) of N'



What is weird about this, vis-a-vis English?

A second typological dimension of number marking is that languages may differ as to which nouns are marked for number. A language may mark number on animate nouns only, or only on nouns that denote human beings. The cross-linguistic variation involved obeys the **Animacy Hierarchy** (Corbett 2000: 56):

(4) speaker > addressee > 3PERS > kin > human > animate > inanimate

# Nominal inflectional systems

- What's another way that nouns are inflected?
- (Case and gender. We'll first talk about whichever one you'd like.)

# Gender and Noun Classes

- English
- German
- Dutch
- Swahili (pp.130–131)

Gender is highly arbitrary



die Gabel (F)

el tenedor (M)

de vork (C)



der Löffel (M)

la cuchara (F)

de lepel (C)



das Messer (N)

el cuchillo (M)

het mes (N)

English *fork*, *spoon*, and *knife* all have no gender.

French has two genders, masculine and feminine. The following French noun phrases illustrate gender agreement between the head noun and the following attributive adjective:

un            père            excellent  
a.MASC.SG father.MASC.SG excellent.MASC.SG  
"an excellent father"

une          mère            excellent-e  
a.FEM.SG mother.FEM.SG excellent-FEM.SG  
"an excellent mother"

une          mère            et    une          sœur            excellent-e-s  
a.FEM.SG mother.FEM.SG and a.FEM.SG sister.FEM.SG excellent-FEM-PL  
"an excellent mother and sister"

un père            et    une mère            excellent-s  
a father.MASC.SG and a mother.FEM.SG excellent-MASC.PL  
"an excellent father and mother"

Formulate the rule of 'gender resolution' that is needed to compute the gender feature of the attributive adjective when the head of the phrase is formed by two conjoined nouns.

# Case

- One way to think of this: Grammatical role the noun plays vis-a-vis the verb.
- Meaning can be inconsistent even here: see the genitive in Latin.

# For next time...

- Have a wonderful Spring Break!
- Submit WA3 by 11:59pm on Friday if you've not yet done so. (We're gonna go over how to do this in a few minutes.)
- Our next meeting will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Read the remainder of the “Inflectional Systems” chapter, and, optionally, complete the extra credit quiz which will be posted on Blackboard this weekend.

Help with writing assignment #3