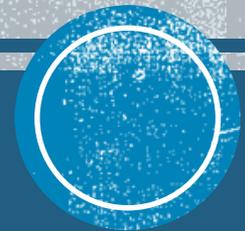


# What is a morpheme?

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# The Definition of a morpheme

- A "morpheme" is the smallest meaningful unit of language that meets three basic criteria:
- **1. It is a word or a part of a word that has meaning.**
- Play = (1 morpheme)----- a word
- Player = play + er (2 morphemes)----- part of a word
- Players = play + er+ s (3 morphemes)..... part of a word
- Light = (1 morpheme) .....a word
- Unenlivened = un+en+ live+ en+ ed (5 morphemes) .....part of a word



- 2. It cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts without changing its meaning or leaving a meaningless remainder.

- Bright= b+ right

b: Meaningless part.....right: meaningful part but not related to the meaning of (bright).. So (bright) consists of one morpheme only

- brighten= bright+ en

correct: two meaningful parts= 2 morphemes

- Address= add+ ress

- add: meaningful part but not related to the meaning of (address), ress: Meaningless part..... So (adress) consists of one morpheme only



- 3. It has relatively the same stable meaning in different verbal environments.
- cheaper**er**, sooner**er**, simpler**er**, greater**er**, cuter**er**...
- Simple, simplicity, simplification, simpler
- Reactivate, reenter, redefine, reconsider
- Impossible, impolite, immature

