



# phonological and morphological conditioning

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# Phonological and Morphological Conditioning

The allomorphs of one morpheme are not interchangeable which means that we cannot put one in the position of the other, because the occurrence of each one is determined by specific environment (phonological or morphological).



# Phonological Conditioning

- When the allomorphs of a specific morpheme are selected according to the phonological environment (the preceding or the following sounds), this means that this selection is phonologically conditioned.
- Ex1: the (-s pl) morpheme has three phonemic forms, these forms are not interchangeable which means that the occurrence of each one is determined by the phonological environment (the preceding sound), so the replacement of one in the position of another is not possible:

/-s/ is pronounced after voiceless consonants except /s, ʃ, tʃ/    cats, books, roofs...

/z/ is pronounced after voiced sounds except /z, ʒ, dʒ/    dogs, rooms, toys...

/ɪz/ is pronounced after /s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/    branches dishes buses fridges...

- Ex2: the selection of the three allomorph of the (-ed pt): / t, d, or ɪd/ is phonologically conditioned because the phonological environment (the preceding sound) determines which allomorph is used.



# Morphological Conditioning

- Morphological conditioning refers to the environment in which the selection of allomorphs is determined by identifying specific morphemes.
- The (-s pl) morpheme has further allomorphs which are not phonologically conditioned.
  - ox      oxen (-en pl)
  - child   children (-en pl)
  - Sheep   sheep (∅ pl)
  - deer     deer (∅ pl)
  - Foot     feet (replacive allomorph)
- The use of (-en) as the plural of (ox) is determined by the specific morpheme ox. Likewise, the occurrence of the (∅ pl) allomorph in swine, deer, sheep, trout, pike, quail, grouse, etc, means that these special morphemes require a (∅ pl) allomorph.
- These allomorphs (-en pl, ∅ pl, replacive allomorph) of the (-s pl) morpheme are in complementary distribution with the other allomorphs of the (-s pl) morpheme which are /-s, -z, and ɪz/.



- An example of both phonologically and morphologically conditioned allomorphs can be found within (-s pl) morpheme:

• (-s pl) =

/s/, /z/, /ɪz/

(-en pl), (∅ pl), (replacive allomorph)

• Phonologically conditioned

morphologically conditioned

