Handout 2: Morphological analysis

1. Morpheme vs morph
   - The **morpheme** is defined as the smallest meaningful unit in a language
   - disagreement and/or inconsistency concerning the exact characterization
     (i) a formal unit
     (ii) an abstraction from the concrete forms
   - the term ‘morph’ only refers to (i)

2. Morphological vs morphemic analysis
   - the relation one morpheme = one morph doesn’t always hold (cf. Brinton 79-82):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Morpheme</th>
<th>Morphs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. fish</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. cars</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. smaller</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. better</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. worked</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. we</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   - fish, 1 morph: fish
   - car, 2 morphs: car + s
   - small + er, 2 morphs: small + comp
   - better, 1 morph: better
   - worked, 2 morphs: work + ed
   - we, 1 morph: we

   Exercise 1: Give morphological and morphemic analyses of the type in (1) for the following words: mice, considered, worse, you, best, helplessly, went.

   - we speak of **zero morphs** if a given morpheme has no concrete phonetic realization
   - we speak of **portm anteau morph(eme)s** if two or more morphemes are expressed by a single morph (e.g. –s on verbs expresses both present tense, third person, and singular)

   Exercise 2: Is the word form oxen an example of two morphemes being realized by one morph? Give arguments for and against such a statement!

3. Types of morpheme
   - See Handout 1 for differences between inflection and derivation
   - Roughly, inflection produces word forms and derivation (as other types of word formation) produces new lexemes

   NB: As with words and phonemes ‘morpheme’ can refer to both types and tokens
4. Types of morph

- Are roots always free? No! Consider (2):

(2) a. leg-ible
   b. audi-ence
   c. magn-ify
   d. rend-ition
   e. clar-ity
   f. obfuse-ate
   g. applie-ant

- The underlined morphs in (1) cannot occur independently, i.e. they are bound. They are all borrowed from Latin (directly or via French); cf. also audible, auditory, audition, audience, magnitude, render, renderable, magnific, magnificate, magnificence, clarify, claritude, applicable, application, applicative etc.

- cranberry morphemes as an extreme case – these morphs occur only in one word: cran-, huckle- and gorm- in cranberry, huckleberry and gormless

- combining forms (words containing two or more bound roots): mainly technical terms such as electrolysis, electroscopy, microscopy, microcosm, biography, democracy, microscope etc. (borrowings from Greek)

- Enclitics are bound forms which derive from independent forms and must be attached to the word preceding them:

(3) a. will, shall > ‘ll
   b. would, had > ‘d
   c. is, has > ‘s
   d. are > ‘re
   e. have > ‘ve
   f. am > ‘m
   (4) not > –n’t (hasn’t, isn’t, mustn’t, shouldn’t etc)

Exercise 3
(a) Can you think of a reason why -en may attach to some adjectives, but not to others, as shown below?
blacken, broaden, stiffen, ripen, deafen, tighten, soften, loosen

(b) Can you think of a reason why -ed may attach to some nouns, but not to others, as shown below?
brown-haired, kind-hearted, low-spirited, left-handed, narrow-minded, strong-headed

Reading for next week: Carstairs-McCarthy ch. 5 + 6 (obligatory); Brinton 94-109 (optional; see Basismodul Reader)