

make successive divisions into two parts, each of which is called an immediate constituent, abbreviated IC. The process is continued until all component morphemes of a word, the ultimate constituents, have been isolated.

Here are three recommendations on IC division that will assist you in the exercise to follow:

3 Recommendations:

1. If a word ends in an inflectional suffix, the first cut is between this suffix and the rest of the word. So:

pre conceiv | ed mal formation | s

2. One of the IC's should be, if possible, a free form. A free form is one that can be uttered alone with meaning, e.g., *enlarge*, *dependent*, *supportable*. Here are examples of wrong and right first cuts:

Wrong: en | large ment
 in depend | ent
 in support | able

Right: en large | ment
 in | depend ent
 in | support able

3. The meanings of the IC's should be related to the meaning of the word. It would be wrong to cut *restrain* like this:

rest | rain

because neither *rest* nor *rain* has a semantic connection with *restrain*. Nor would a division of *starchy* as

star | chy

be right because this would give an unrelated morpheme and a meaningless fragment. The two examples are properly cut in this way:

re | strain starch | y

The ultimate constituents are the morphemes of which the word is composed.

Exercise 8-27

One of the following IC diagrams showing the layers of structure is wrong. Which one is it and why?

1. help | less

2. em | bodi | ment

3. in | suffer | abl | y

4. re | im | burse | ment | s

5. re | fertil | ize

6. start | ed

7. life | less | ness

8. anti | cler | ic | al

9. favor | it | ism

10. un | law | ful

law base
 law | ful adj
 unlawful
 The correct IC's
 un | law | ful

✓ + adj