

Exercise 8-28

Diagram these words to show the layers of structure.

The rest from the end
answer keys

1. item | ize | d

Past

9. Ice | land | ic

2. pre | pro | fess | ion | al

10. super | natur | al

3. news | paper | dom

11. un | com | fort | able

4. counter | de | clar | ation

12. fest | iv | al

5. mal | con | struc | tion

13. en | gag | ing

6. contra | dict | ory

adj

14. ex | press | ion | ism

7. dis | en | throne

15. mis | judg | ment

8. mid | after | noon

bad
pressboth
are
cannot
stand
alone

L. Allomorphs

It is now time to sharpen and extend our understanding of the morpheme. So far we have been treating the morpheme as if it were invariable in phonemic form, that is, in the way it is pronounced. But in the preceding exercises you may have noticed occasional variations in phonemic form. In exercise 8-16 (page 96), for instance, the morpheme {press} of *pressure* ends in an /s/, whereas the same morpheme standing alone as the word *press* ends in /s/. Likewise, the first morpheme in *depth* is pronounced /dep/, but the same morpheme occurring as the word *deep* has the phonemic form of /dip/. So we see that a morpheme may have more than one phonemic form.

Next we'll go back to the past-tense ending, the morpheme {-D pt}. We learned in exercise 2-3 of the phonology section that this morpheme has three phonemic forms, the choice depending on the preceding sound. After an alveolar stop, /t/ or /d/, the sound is /əd/, as in *parted* /partəd/ and *faded* /fedəd/. After a voiceless consonant other than /t/ it is /t/, as in *passed* /pæst/ and *laughed* /læft/. After a voiced sound other than /d/ it is /d/, as in *seemed* /si:md/ and *begged* /begd/. Furthermore, these three

vowel
+
semi
vowel
vowel