

**WORDS**

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## **A. Definition of “word”**

- Words are genuine linguistics units.
- In written texts, words are recognized by the white spaces between them.
- In linguistic analysis, we are interested in spoken words.
- **“A word’ is a free morpheme or a combination of morphemes that together form a basic segment of speech” .**

Norman C. Stageberg

**cont.,**

## **Definition of “word”**

**“A word is...any segment of a sentence bounded by successive point at which pausing is possible”**

Charles F. Hockett

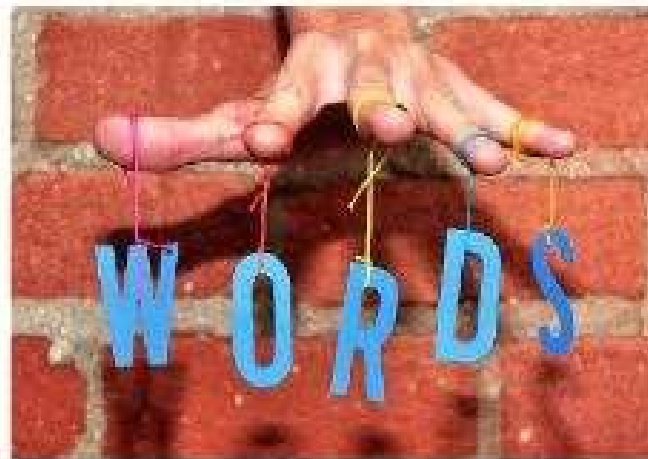


Words can be identified by the pauses  
between them:

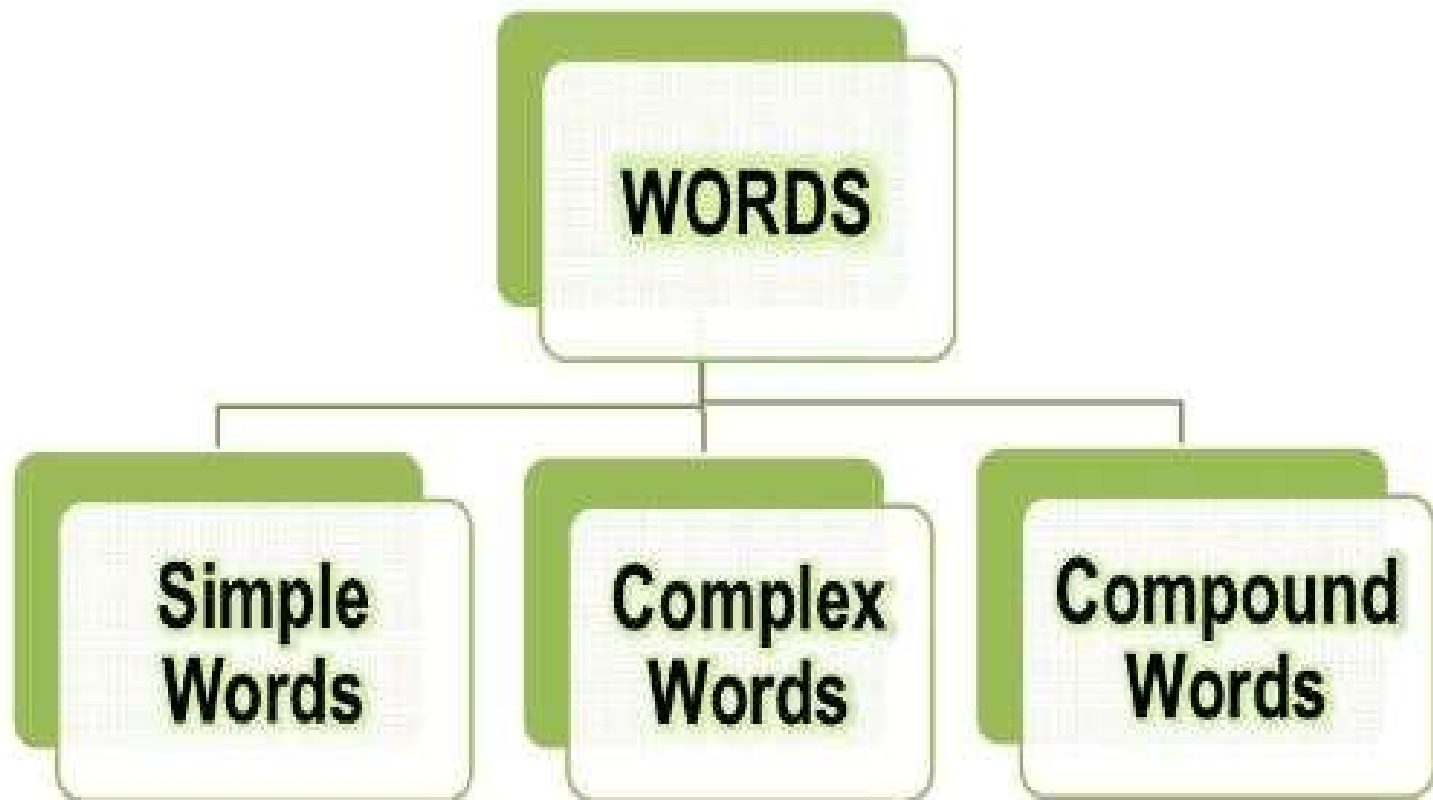
**p p p p p p**  
**Since the streetlamp is out, I must**  
**p p p p**  
**call up our councilman.**

## **B. Simple and Complex Words**

- English words may be classified on the basis of the kinds and combinations of morphemes of which they are composed.



# **Classification of English Words**



1. Simple words consist of a single free morpheme.

**EXAMPLES:** flea, long, spirit

2. Complex words contain, as their immediate constituents **(ICs)**, either **two bound forms** or **a bound and a free form**.

**EXAMPLES:** televise ,telephone

# Complex Words Examples

**Complex Words contain two Bound Forms:**

tele | vise

ex | clude

**Complex Words contain Bound and free Forms:**

tele | phone

eras | er



## C. Compound Words

- Compound words have free forms, usually two as their ICs:

➤ green | house

➤ out | side

- A small number of compound words have three or four free forms as coordinate ICs.

**Example:** happy|-go|-lucky  
spic|and|span

**cont.,**

## **Compound Words**

Compound words resemble grammatical structures in that they imply, though they do not state, a grammatical relationship.



# Implied Grammatical Structure Sample

No.	Implied Grammatical Structure	Examples
1.	Subject + verb	earthquake (...earth quakes)
2.	Verb + object	killjoy (kills joy)
3.	Verb + adverbial	stopover (stops over)
4.	Subject + be + adjectival	highchair (chair is high)
5.	Adjective modified by prepositional phrase	carefree (... free from care)

## **cont., Compound Words**

Compound words can be distinguished from grammatical structures in three ways:

**1. Compound words cannot be divided by the insertion of intervening materials between the two parts**, but grammatical structures can be so divided.

### **COMPARE:**

- She is a **sweetheart**.
- She has a **sweet heart**.

## **cont., Compound Words**

2. A member of a compound word cannot participate in a grammatical structure. **COMPARE:**

**hard ball**      to      **base | ball**

**modifier noun**

**compound word**

'**very**' can be added:

➤ It was a **very hard ball**.



**but not**

➤ \* It was a **very baseball**.



## cont., Compound Words

3. Some compound nouns have different stress patterns than grammatical structures.

### Example:

**Blúebird**

Compound Word

**blûe bírd**

Grammatical Structure



