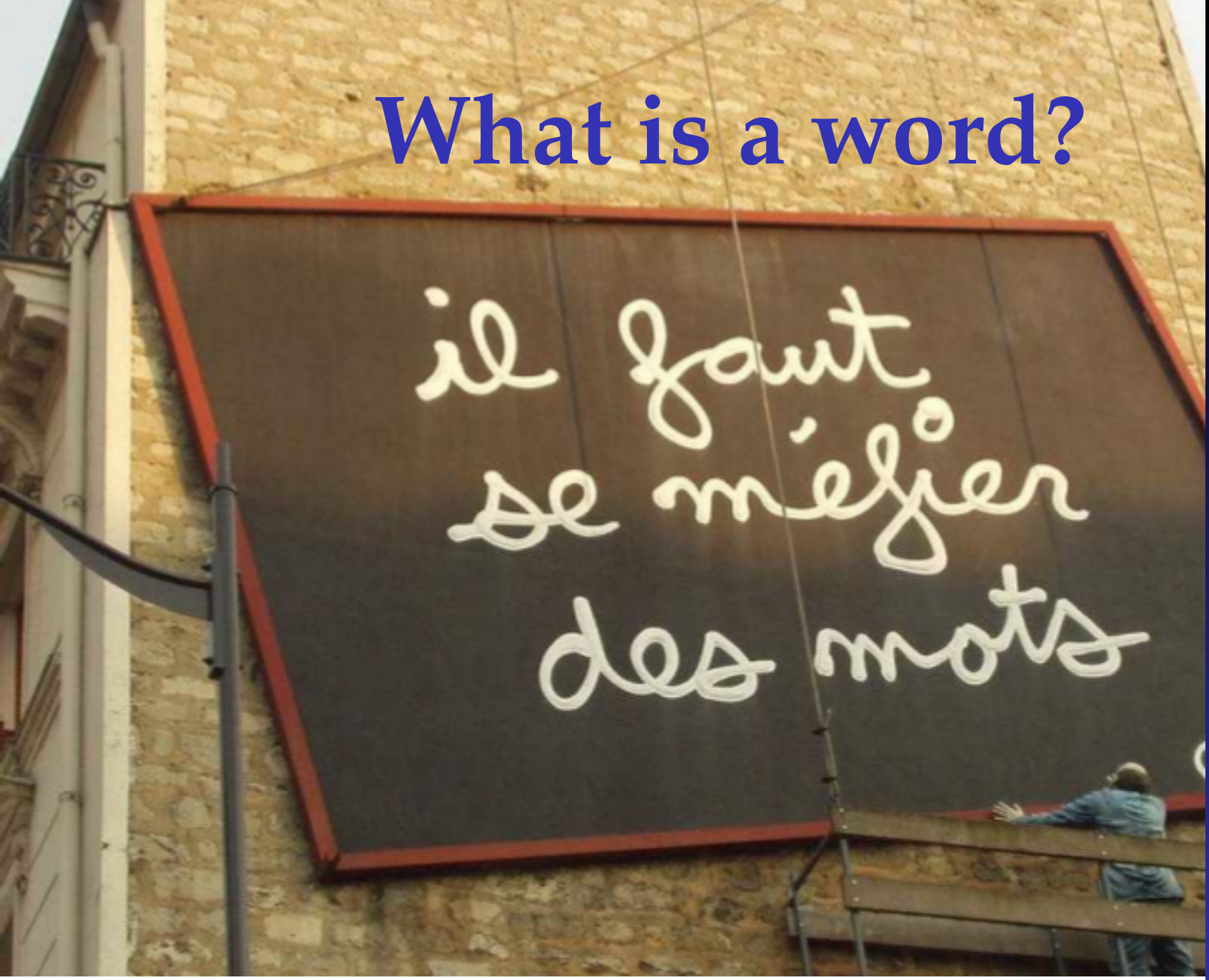
What is a word?



(I'll bet you thought you knew)

Defining the problem
- Using orthography

Inflectional paradigms and lexemes

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- Borrowings
- Compounds
- Germanic affixes
- Affixes from Latin and Greek
- New affixes
- Irregularity with affixes
- Clippings
- New verb-particle combinations
- Sound blends, word blends
- Syntactic phrases
- Change in category

Conclusion

Outline

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What is a word? Why do you ask?

1. Do you mean, can you give me a definition that will allow me to determine what should count as a word in any language that I come upon?

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2. Or do you mean just for one language (like English) or familiar European languages?

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4. Do you want some guidelines to follow when you are writing and you are not sure whether something should count as a word?

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Related questions:

1. How many *different* words are there? Are two words the same if and only if they are spelled the same way?

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Related questions:

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Main points

- Words form patterns that we call *paradigms*. Each member of the paradigm is a *word-form*, and each separate paradigm expresses a *lexeme*
- English has taken on about a dozen different ways of making new words.

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Orthography

Definition

A word is a written sequence which has a white space at each end but no white space in the middle.

Questions:

- Are hyphens punctuation?
  No: *Afro-American*
  Yes: *She seemed to radiate a come-hither look.*
  Uncertain: *abso-bloody-lutely*

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Questions:

- Are hyphens punctuation?
  No: *Afro-American*
  Yes: *She seemed to radiate a come-hither look.*
  Uncertain: *abso-bloody-lutely*
- Are apostrophes punctuation?
  Uncertain: You're OK, he's OK.
  No: John's dad.

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Another related question:

Is a word a string of letters?

- This relates to a different sort of answer to our question.

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  - *To know what something is* typically requires us to be able to recognize one when we see it, and also to be able to say if it is one (a word) that we have already seen.

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  - *To know what something is* typically requires us to be able to recognize one when we see it, and also to be able to say if it is one (a word) that we have already seen.
  - So re-identification (the ability to re-identify) is a something we should worry about, in the sense that it is part of what we are responsible for when we ask what a *word* is.

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  - So re-identification (the ability to re-identify) is a something we should worry about, in the sense that it is part of what we are responsible for when we ask what a *word* is.
  - This is not the type/token distinction: In *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times*, there are 12 word tokens and 7 word types.

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- The answer *A word is a string of letters* leads to potential problems:

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Another related question:

Is a word a string of letters?

- The answer *A word is a string of letters* leads to potential problems:
  - 1. There are cases where two different words have the same string of letters:
    bank, Polish, lead, wind, bass

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  - Can we distinguish between one word that has several meanings or uses ('body', 'stomach') and two words that are spelled the same way?

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  - Can we distinguish between one word that has several meanings or uses ('body', 'stomach') and two words that are spelled the same way?
  - Dictionaries try very hard to do this.

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- There are cases where one word corresponds to more than one string of letters: Words with multiple spellings (cigaret/cigarette, jail/gaol, honor/honour).
- How about the two occurrences of *fish* in: *One fish was caught in the stream, but all the rest of the fish were caught in the bay.* We say these are cases where the plural is the same as the singular (which is unusual in English). Is it the same word?
- Similarly with *man* or *cook*, noun and verb: *A cook will cook.*
- Are *book* and *books* the same word? Our first definition says No, but dictionaries only have one entry for both items.

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Paradigms

This leads us to the notion of an **(inflectional) paradigm**. We observe that in English (and in most languages) there are multiple ways of expressing the same word/core idea, and these differences are sometimes (often) used just as marks of agreement in a sentence. Typically this is limited to the big classes of words: nouns, verbs, adjectives.

Such a **word** is associated with a pattern which is common to all words of the same *category* or *part of speech*.

In English, we have such patterns for verbs:

	Present tense		Past tense	
	singular	plural	singular	plural
1st person	sing	sing	sang	sang
2nd person	sing	sing	sang	sang
3rd person	sings	sing	sang	sang

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lexeme

We use two technical terms, now:

- Word-form: Each item in a paradigm is a *word-form*.
- Lexeme: each paradigm expresses a single *lexeme*.

A *word-form* is a combination of a spelling plus the specifications of its box. *sings* is a word-form for the lexeme SING, 3rd person singular present.

Nouns in modern English: 4 lexemes

singular	plural
book	books
dog	dogs
man	men
fish	fish

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Stick

lexeme or many?

Usually a lexeme will cover several related meanings: *head on a body, head of a household*. Sometimes it is hard to know whether a word has several meanings, or we are looking at two lexemes spelled the same way.
Wiktionary suggests: STICK (third-person singular simple present *sticks*, present participle *sticking*, simple past and past participle *stuck* or (archaic) *sticked*)

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Stick

Wiktionary: *Stick*

- (intransitive) To become or remain attached; to adhere.
  The tape will not stick if it melts.
- (intransitive) To jam; to stop moving.
  The lever sticks if you push it too far up.
- (intransitive) To tolerate, to endure, to stick with.
- (intransitive) To persist.
  His old nickname stuck.
- (intransitive) Of snow, to remain frozen on landing.

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Stick 2

Wiktionary: *Stick*

- (intransitive) To remain loyal; to remain firm.
  Just stick to your strategy, and you will win.
- (intransitive) To hesitate, to be reluctant; to refuse.
- (dated, intransitive) To cause difficulties, scruples, or hesitation.
- (transitive) To attach with glue or as if by gluing.
  Stick the label on the jar.
- (transitive) To place, set down (quickly or carelessly).

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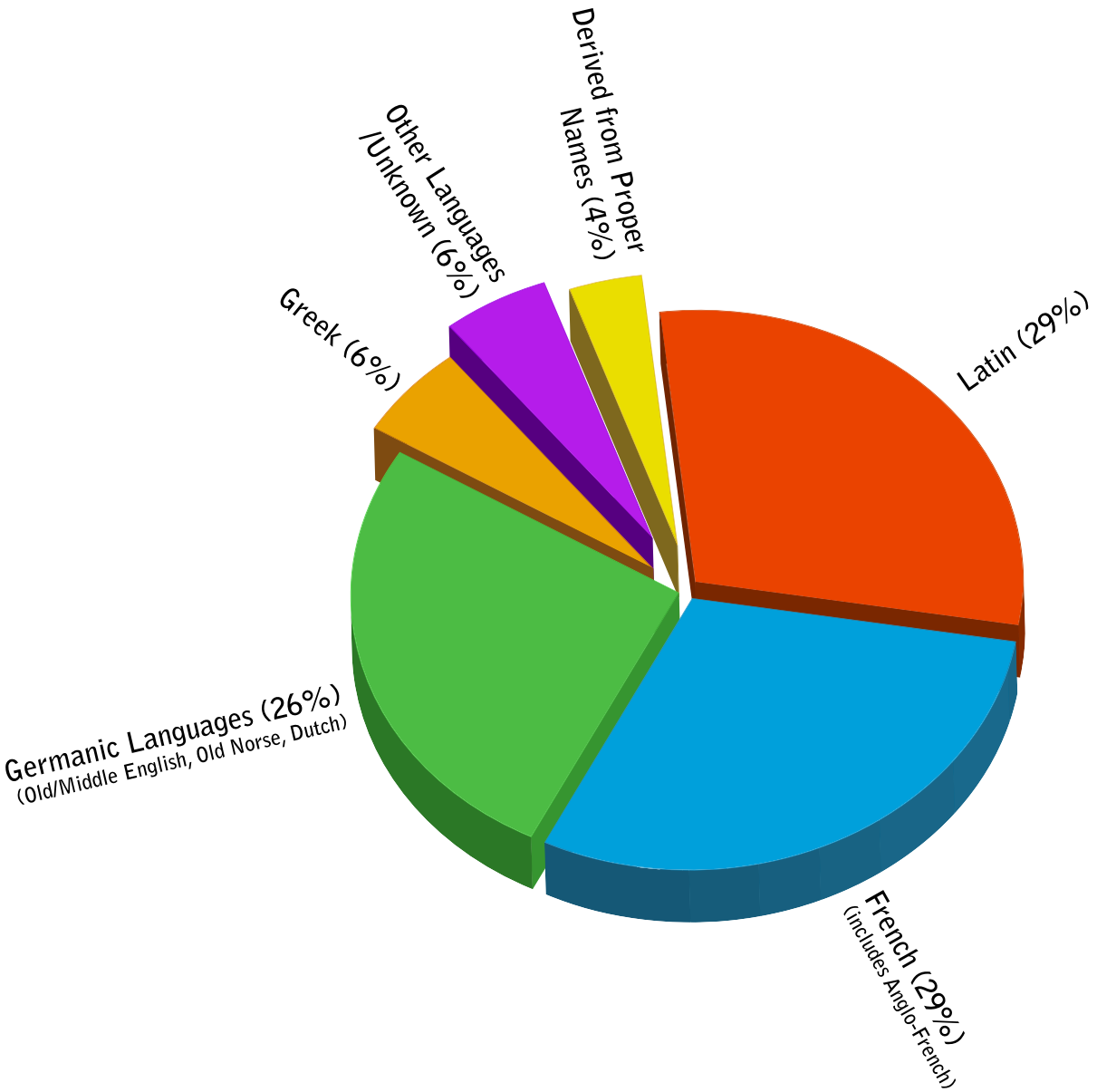

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Borrowings

1. *impala* Zulu i-m-pala
2. *bizarre* comes from Basque (for the word for *beard*)
3. *jungle* from Hindi
4. *juggernaut* from Sanskrit

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Compounds

Noun + noun compouds are a very old Germanic form of word formation

1. *woman* comes from *wif* + *man*
2. *husband* comes from *hus* + *bondi* house + bondi ‘dweller, occupier’
3. *Christmas* comes from *Christ* + *mass*
4. *breakfast* comes from *break* + *fast* . Compare with *brunch* 1896, *granola* 1970.
5. Shakespeare continued this pattern of formation: *lackluster*

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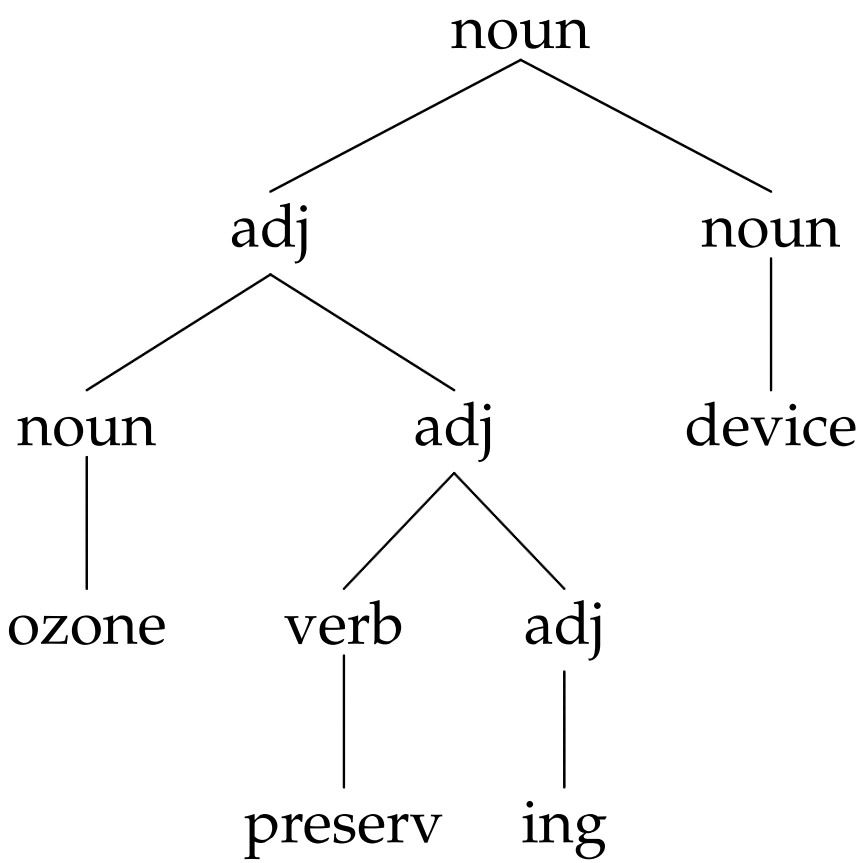

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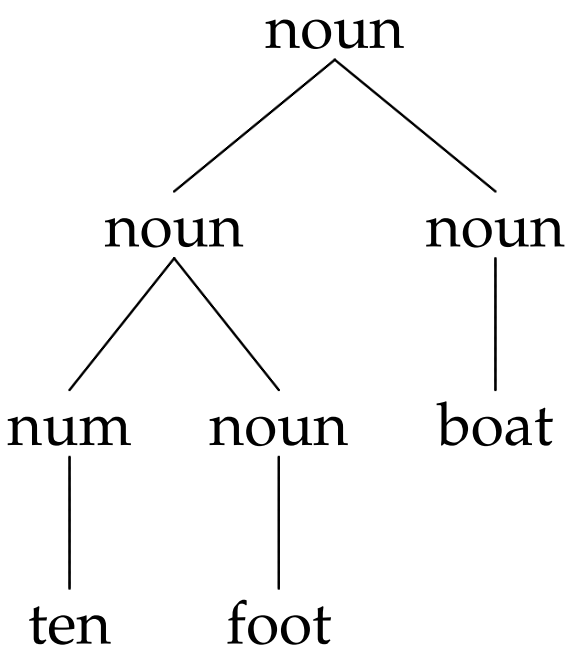

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Compounds

French (Romance, Indo-European)

porte-	clé
carry	key
key holder	

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Roots and affixes

Roots tend to belong to a **lexical category**: noun, verb, preposition, adverb, etc.

Affixes include both **prefixes** and **suffixes**

prefixes	*suffixes*
de-active	faith-*ful*
re-play	govern-*ment*
il-legal	hunt-*er*
in-accurate	kind-*ness*

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Two classes of suffixes in English

English has two sets of affixes: one from its Germanic heritage, and one from its Latinate heritage.

- Group 1: stress affecting: *-ic, -al, -ity, -ion, -y (nominalizing), -al, -ate, -ous, -ive, -ation*
- Group 2 stress neutral *-hood, -ful, -ly, -ize, -ness, -less, -y* (adj.)

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- Group 1 easily attaches to non-word roots (e.g., *paternal*), while Group 2 almost always attaches to existing words.
- Group 1, when it attaches to words, is stress-changing. *telephone, telephonic* Group 2 is stress-neutral *govern, government*
- Group 1 make the resultant word look as much as possible like a (simple) word.

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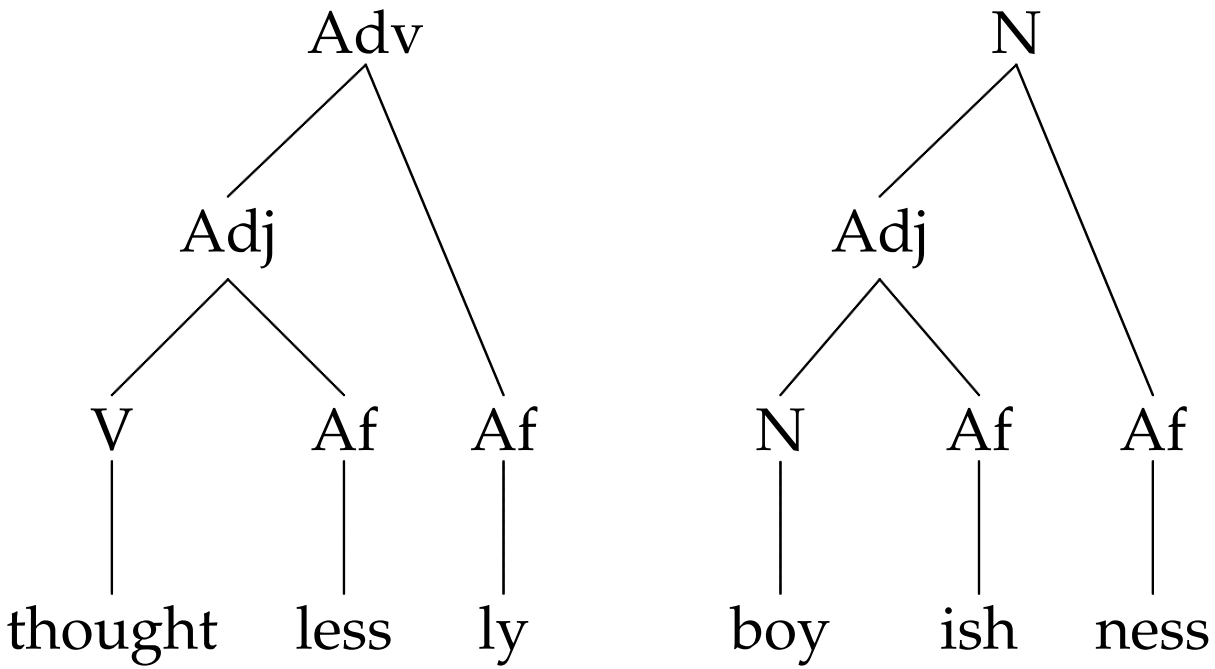
More English infixation?

What about words like *thoughtlessly, boyishness*?
What is the status of *-less-, -ish-*?



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affix	*root*	*derived form*
-ation	is added to a verb	to give a noun
	finalize	finalization
	confirm	confirmation
un-	is added to a verb	to give a verb
	tie	untie
	wind	unwind
un-	is added to an adjective	to give an adjective
	happy	unhappy
	wise	unwise
-al	is added to a noun	to give an adjective
	institution	institutional
	universe	universal

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Morphology: the internal structure of words

1. English has hundreds of prefixes and suffixes (affixes): far more suffixes than prefixes.
2. For each affix, we usually find that a majority of the words it appears in can be associated with a particular meaning. But for most affixes, that "majority" is far from "all".
3. Typical example: prefix out-. A verb formed with the prefix *out-* is a transitive verb, with an animate subject and object, who compete with respect to the activity described by the stem.
4. *Out-shoot, out-run, out-think, out-do, out-trade*; but: *out-smart, out-fox*.

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Merriam Webster:

outachieve	outact	outbargain	outbid
outbitch	outbluff	outbox	outbrag
outbrawl	outbulk	outbuy	outcatch
outcharge	outclimb	outcoach	outcompete
outdance	outdazzle	outdebate	outdeliver
outdesign	outdrag	outdress	outdrink
outdrive	outduel	outearn	outeat
outfight	outfigure	outfish	outfly
outfumble	outgain	outglitter	outgross
outhit	outhomer	outhunt	outhustle
outjump	outkick	outkill	outlast
outleap	outlearn	outman	outmaneuver
outmanipulate	outmarch	outmuscle	outorganize
outpass	outperform	outpitch	outplay

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Merriam Webster:

outplot	outpoll	outpopulate	outpower
outpray	outpreach	outprice	outproduce
outpromise	outpunch	outrate	outrebound
outreproduce	outrival	outroar	outrow
outrush	outsail	outscheme	outscoop
outscore	outshout	outsing	outsit
outskate	outsoar	outsparkle	outspeed
outsprint	outstride	outswear	outswim
outtalk	outthink	outthrow	outtrade
outvie	outvote	outwait	outwalk
outwatch	outwrestle	outwrite	outyell

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Other out-'s

outage	outback	outboard	outbreak
outcast	outcome	outcry	outdoors
outgrow	outlandish	outlet	outnumber ?
outpour	output	outright	outstanding
outward			

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The case of -nik

kibbutznik	member of a kibbutz	1949
(cf. kolkhoznik)	kolkhoz member	
nogoodnik		1944
nudnik	tedious person	1947 (Yiddish, Russian root)
sputnik		4 October 1957
flopnik		
kaputnik		
stayputnik		
whatnik		
sputnik burger		
beatnik		2 April 1958
peacenik		
protestnik		
draftnik		
Vietnik		

Every dognik has its daynik (after death of Russian dog in space)

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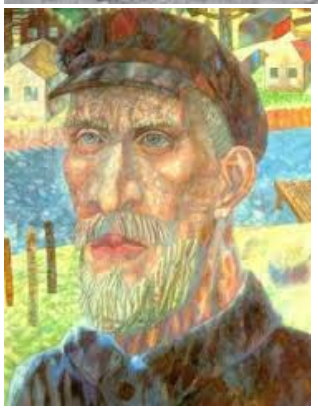

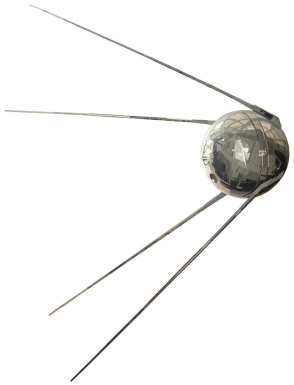

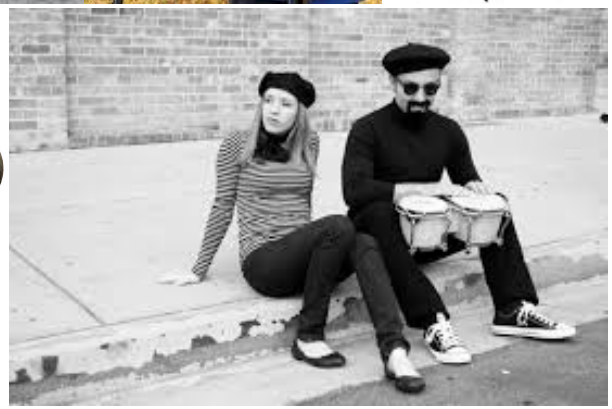

Nominal (i.e., noun-forming); denotes a person, or sometimes a thing. Ironic or critical connotation.

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Expletive infixation

English expletive infixation (McCarthy 1982):

togéther	to-**bloody**-gether
enóugh	e-**bloody**-nougFh
Kalamazóo	Kalama-**goddam**-zoo
absolútely	abso-**goddam**-lutely
fantástic	fan-**friggin**-tastic
unbelíevable	un-**friggin**-believable

Note that this has something to do with phonology...

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Homeric infixation (Yu 2004)

'A hundred bucks? For a comic book? Who drew it, Micha-ma-langelo?'

oboe	oba-**ma**-boe
opus	opa-**ma**-pus
tuba	tuba-**ma**-ba
violin	vio-**ma**-lin
Alabama	Ala-**ma**-bama
educate	edu-**ma**-cate
complicated	compli-**ma**-cated

(cf. 'diddly' infixation: Elfner & Wimpner 2008)

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Thomas Jefferson, amateur philologist

Letter to John Adams, 1820

"But if Dictionaries are to be the Arbiters of language, in which of them shall we find *neologism*? No matter. It is a good word, well sounding, obvious, and expresses an idea which would otherwise require circumlocution...

I am a friend to *neology*. It is the only way to give to a language copiousness and euphony. Without it we should still be held to the vocabulary of Alfred or of Ulphilas; and held to their state of science also: for I am sure they had no words which could have conveyed the ideas of oxygen, cotyledons, zoophytes, magnetism, electricity, hyaline, and thousands of others expressing ideas not then existing, nor of possible communication in the state of their language."

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"What a language has the French become since the date of their revolution, by the free introduction of new words! The most copious and eloquent in the living world; and equal to the Greek, had not that been regularly modifiable almost ad infinitum. Their rule was that whenever their language furnished or adopted a root, all its branches, in every part of speech were legitimated by giving them their appropriate terminations: *adelphos* "brother", *adelphe* "sister", *adelphidion* "little brother", *adelphotes* "brotherly affection", *adelphixis* "brotherhood", *adelphidoys* "nephew", *adelphikos* "brotherly," adj., *adelphizo* "to adopt as a brother", *adelphikos* "brotherly," adv. And this should be the law of every language."

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Letter to John Adams, 1820

"Thus, having adopted the adjective *fraternal*, it is a root, which should legitimate *fraternity*, *fraternation*, *fraternisation*, *fraternism*, *to fraternate*, *fraternise*, *fraternally*. And give the word *neologism* to our language, as a root, and it should give us its fellow substantives, *neology*, *neologist*, *neologisation*; its adjectives *neologous*, *neological*, *neologistical*, its verb *neologise*, and adverb *neologically*."

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"**Dictionaries are but the depositories of words already legitimated by usage.** Society is the work-shop in which new ones are elaborated. When an individual uses a new word, if illformed it is rejected in society, if wellformed, adopted, and, after due time, laid up in the depository of dictionaries. And if, in this process of sound neologisation, our transatlantic brethren shall not choose to accompany us, we may furnish, after the Ionians, a second example of a colonial dialect improving on its primitive."

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Idiosyncracy in the derivational lexicon

–ist	–ism	–ize
baptist	baptism	baptize
exorcist	exorcism	exorcize
terrorist	terrorism	terrorize

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exorcist	exorcism	exorcize
terrorist	terrorism	terrorize
violinist	*violinism	*violinize

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exorcist	exorcism	exorcize
terrorist	terrorism	terrorize
violinist	*violinism	*violinize
organist	!organism	!organize
publicist	*publicism	publicize

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organist	!organism	!organize
publicist	*publicism	publicize
?womanist	?womanism	womanize
materialist	materialism	!materialize

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organist	!organism	!organize
publicist	*publicism	publicize
materialist	materialism	!materialize
?womanist	?womanism	womanize
atheist (1568)	atheism	!atheize
linguist (1588)	*linguism	*linguize

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organist	!organism	!organize
publicist	*publicism	publicize
?womanist	?womanism	womanize
materialist	materialism	!materialize
atheist (1568)	aetheism	!atheize
linguist (1588)	*linguism	*linguize
humanist (1589)	humanism	?humanize
rationalist (1627)	rationalism	!rationalize

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exercise

How many words in *-ize* can you think of that do not have *-ist*, *-ism* siblings? And likewise for *-ist* and *-ism*?

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More idiosyncracy in the derivational lexicon

–ese	Bhutanese, Chinese, Vietnamese Japanese, Lebanese, Maltese Taiwanese, Portuguese
–an	African, Alaskan, American Angolan, Cuban, Jamaican Mexican, Nicaraguan
–ian	Argentinian, Armenian, Canadian Ethiopian, Bolivian, Serbian Jordanian, Palestinian
–ish	Scottish, British, Flemish Swedish, Polish, Danish Irish
–i	Iraqi, Israeli, Pakistani
–?	French, German, Greek, Thai

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What is the meaning of an affix?

un-	con-
untie	*constitution*
unshackle	*confess*
unharness	*connect*
unhappy	*contract*
untimely	*contend*
unthinkable	*conspire*
unmentionable	*complete*

outshoot	outthink	outtrade	outfox
outrun	outdo	outsmart	outpatient

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Radar, gaydar, etc.

From the internet (downloaded May 8 2012) `http://askasexywomananything.tribe.net/m/thread/f80c1fda-331d-40d6-9d4e-dc58964d6f5c` Note that this is dated 2006.

- I have excellent crazy-dar, I also have very good ass-dar. Great-for-a-straight-girl T-dar(transgender)...hmm good alt-dar, pretty good lie-dar.
  Bad drinker-dar. I don't pick up on who is a big drinker, or if someone is drunk or stoned.
  So what are you good at picking up on? and what are you terrible at picking up on?
- Re: dar Lei Sat, May 13, 2006 - 11:02 PM by Lei
  I have a brilliant emotional radar..I can tell how someones feeling quicker than I can say lickety split!

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- Re: dar MsMary Sat, May 13, 2006 - 11:04 PM by MsMary
  As you already know, SV, I've got pretty good "drinker-dar" .... but I *suck* at crazy-dar, unless it's really blatant .... and by that, I mean bad crazy ... I *do not* lump chemical imbalances and depression as "crazy" - soooo not the same!!!
- Re: dar SV Sat, May 13, 2006 - 11:35 PM by SV
  yes not the same. I also can feel bi-polar from people sometimes. but not always.
- Re: dar SV Sat, May 13, 2006 - 11:38 PM by SV
  I am good at feeling people's feelings sometimes too. But I bet you're feeling-dar is excellent!
- Re: dar Blue Sun, May 14, 2006 - 4:51 AM by Blue
  good– gay-dar, emotion-dar, lie-dar (well honed even if I choose to ignore it)
  bad – love-dar, integrity-dar, caring-dar

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Radar, gaydar, etc.

- Re: dar IceStormRed Sun, May 14, 2006 - 6:56 AM by IceStor...
  I've got REALLY good gay-dar. I've known it even before they're willing to accept it. I've also got pretty good **poor-integrity**-dar and **pass-the-buck**-dar. I get a pretty good sense when some one's full of shit. My drinker-dar is good as well.
  My ass-dar equipment is in the shop for repairs currently - I hope to have it up to par soon.
  I also don't have good **he's-into-me**-dar. I'm thick as a box of rocks when it comes to picking up on the romantic interest of a good guy. I'm oblivious. That probably is strongly connected to the poor functioning ass-dar.
- Re: dar firemermaid Sun, May 14, 2006 - 9:32 AM by firemer...
  When I open myself up to it, I've got so much emotion-dar that it can be overwhelming.

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Affixes become words occasionally

- Famous cases: **-ism, -ish**
- From a review of *Solar* (2010), by Ian McEwan: Michael is a 50-something former Nobel laureate, resting on his fleshy laurels from twenty-two years ago, where he stood on the shoulders of Einstein and proposed a scientific "Conflation Theory" that was trailblazing at the time. Now, he tours around the globe giving lectures and consults for a large fee, and he sits idly as a member of a board at a center for renewable energy in the UK. His main pursuit is women, and he pursues them with **-aholic** depravity. As the novel opens, his fifth marriage is falling apart due to his infidelities. But this time, his wife got the last word by having some side dishes for herself and leaving him labeled as the cuckold.

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oid

It's an oid-y world out there. Tabloids run factoids about humanoids on steroids. *Time Magazine*, August 1990.

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Why is this funny?

It had been a rough day, so when I walked into the party I was very chalant, despite my efforts to appear gruntled and consolate.

I was furling my wieldy umbrella for the coat check when I saw her standing alone in a corner. She was a descript person, a woman in a state of total array. Her hair was kempt, her clothing shevelled, and she moved in a gainly way.

I wanted desperately to meet her, but I knew I'd have to make bones about it, since I was travelling cognito. Beknownst to me, the hostess, whom I could see both hide and hair of, was very proper, so it would be skin off my nose if anything bad happened. And even though I had only swerving loyalty to her, my manners couldn't be peccable. Only toward and heard-of behavior would do.

Fortunately, the embarrassment that my maculate appearance might cause was evitable. There *were* two ways about it, but the chances that someone as flappable as I would be ept enough to become persona grata or a sung hero were slim. I was, after all, something to sneeze at, someone you could easily hold a candle to, someone who usually aroused bridled passion.

So I decided not to risk it. But then, all at once, for some apparent reason, she looked in my direction and smiled in a way that I could make heads or tails of.

Defining the problem
- Using orthography

Inflectional paradigms and lexemes

Where do new words come from?
- Borrowings
- Compounds
- Germanic affixes
- Affixes from Latin and Greek
- New affixes
- Irregularity with affixes
- Clippings
- New verb-particle combinations
- Sound blends, word blends
- Syntactic phrases
- Change in category

Conclusion

clippings

memo	. . . randum	phone	telephone
mike	. . . rophone	plane	airplane
lab	..oratory	bus	omnibus
photo	. . . graph	flu	influenza
exam	. . . ination	ad	. . . vertisement

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clippings

o

accro	. . . ché (hooked, addicted)	ado	. . . lescent
alcoolo	alcoolique	apéro	apéritif (cocktail)
biblio	. . . thèque (library)	bio	. . . logique*
catho	. . . lique	chimio	. . . thérapie
coco	communiste	collabo	. . . borateur
cono	connard	crédit conso	...mmateur
cuisto	cuistance ¡ cuisine		
éco	. . . nomie	diapo	. . . sitive
diplo	. . . docus	*dirlo*	directeur
écolo	. . . gique	facho	fasciste
franco	franchement (adv.)	frigo	refrigérateur
géo	. . . graphie		
gynéco	. . . logue	hebdo	. . . madaire
hélico	. . . ptère	hétéro	. . . sexuel
homo	. . . sexuel	immo	. . . bilier

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clippings

o

intello	intellectuel	interro	. . . gation	labo
Langues O	. . . rientales	lino	. . . léum	maskéto
maso	. . . chite	mayo	. . . nnaise	McDo
mécano	mécanicien	mégalo	. . . mane	métallo
météo	. . . logique	micro	. . . phone	négo
nympho	. . . mane			
ophthalmo	. . . logique	parano	. . . iaque	perso
philo	. . . sophie	photo	. . . graphie	poto
pro	. . . fessionnel			
prolo	prolétariat	promo	. . . tion	promo
proprio	propriétaire	proxo	proxénète (pimp)	psycho
radio	. . . graphie	réglo	(legit)	resto
sado	sadiste	saxo	. . . phone	sciences po
socio	. . . logie	spéléo	. . . logie	stylo
texto	texte (SMS)	toxico	. . . logique(test)	transfo

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clippings

o

texto	texte (SMS)	toxico	. . . logique(test)	transfo
travelo	travestie	vélo	. . . cipède	ventilo
végétalo	(salade) végétarien	véto	vétérinaire	sono
hémorro		illico	. . . presto	marjo
perfecto	parfait, perfection	directo	directement	(ex-)trotsko
sono	. . . risation	calmo	calme	
loco	. . . motive			

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blends

- chortle (Lewis Carroll)
- nerd (Dr. Seuss)
- cruft “code, data, or software of poor quality”

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Syntactic phrases

- When she sat down with the coffee, he told her about the robberies, about the no-tell money. [Money that was stolen, but that was illicit, and so the theft cannot be officially reported.]*Wicked Prey*, John Sandford.
- right to life protesters
- has-been, an also-ran.
- stay-at-home mom. stay-at-home husband, dad, pets, artist, health care. Stay at home working mothers. the stay at home lifestyle. opposite: working moms. The Chicago Stay at Home Moms meet-up group. Stay at home senior care. Stay at home calculator. SaH jobs. Stay at work moms.

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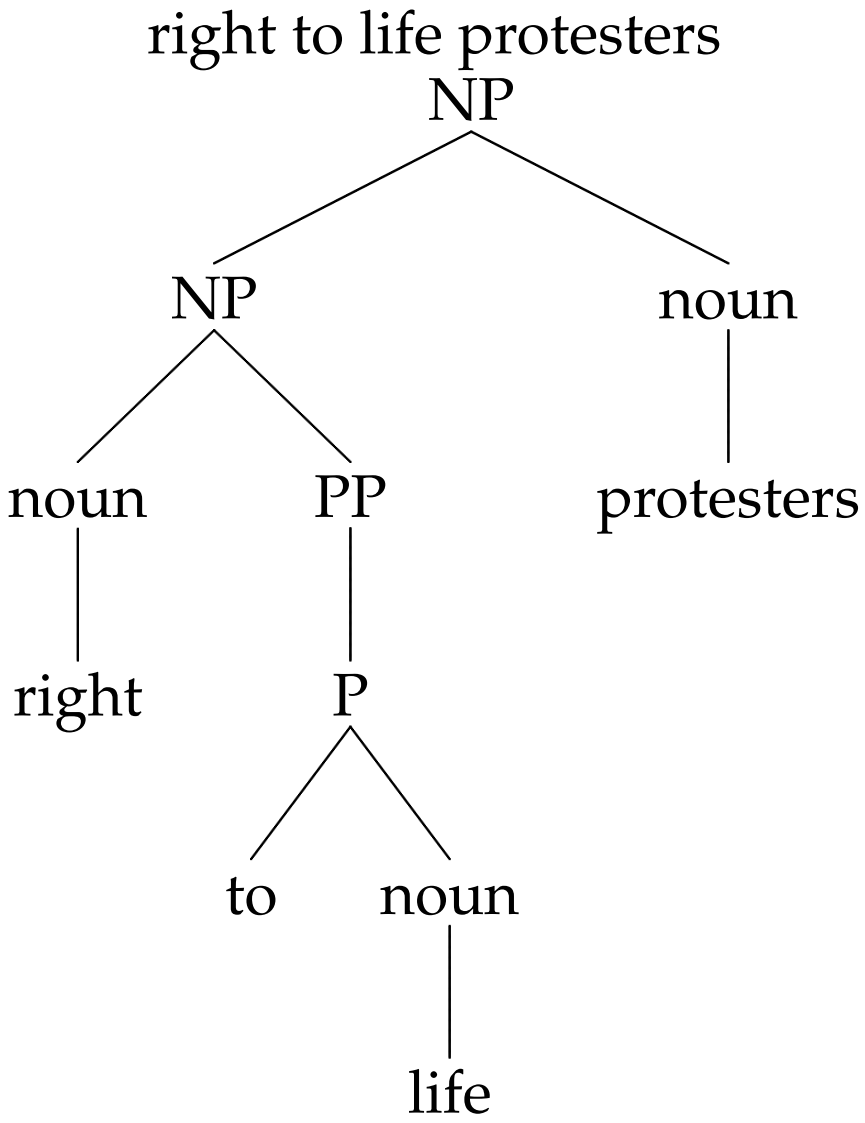
Syntactic phrases



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Syntactic phrases

Mother of all examples, from the *New York Times*, July 4, 2014.

In recent weeks, Airbnb, the online lodging site and popular Silicon Valley emblem of the **sharing-loving-trusting-hugging-anyone-can-be-Conrad-Hilton** economy, unveiled a promotional campaign in New York aimed at getting doubters to see what a valuable social function the company performs.

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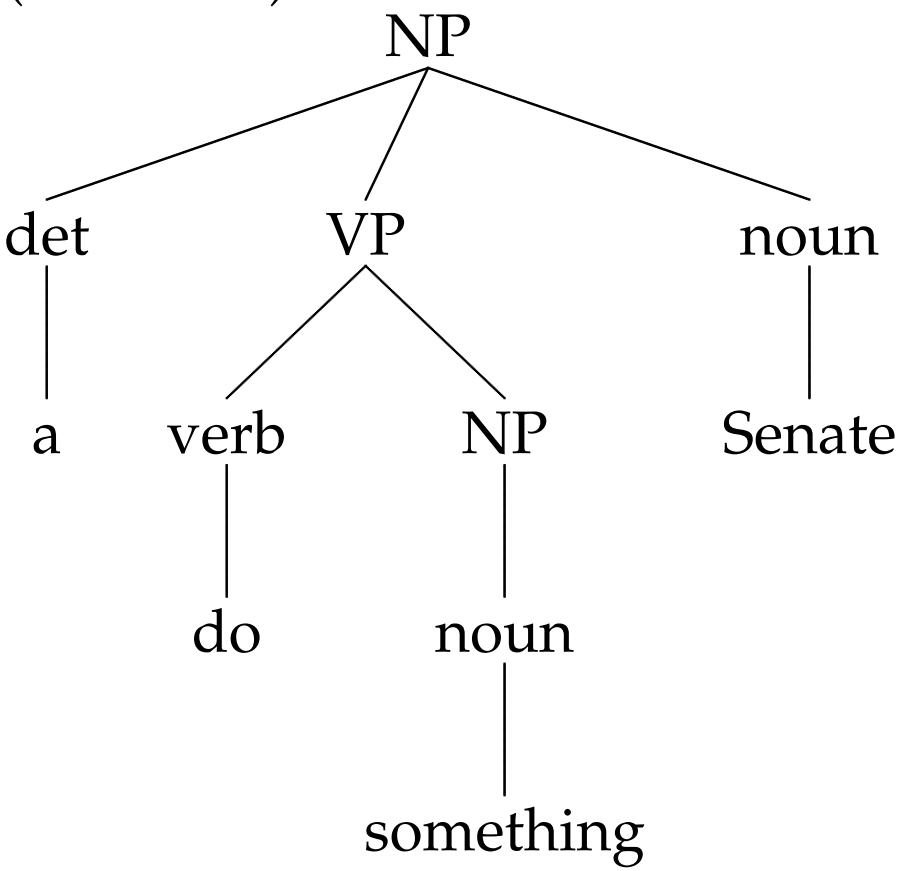
Syntactic phrases

New York Times: "... becoming a do-something Senate." (Headline)



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Syntactic phrases

- Michael Connelly, *The Fifth Witness*: *That doesn't matter. The trial is about the state's evidence against Trammel. It's not about who else might have committed the crime. Might've*s *don't count.*
- *I am tired of excuses — All these might've*s *and/or should've*s. Also: http://www.memoriesofmystical.com/lyrics/arthur.html. Many more examples of this sort on the internet, notably using *if* as a noun in this context.)
- Woulda-Coulda-Shoulda, by Shel Silverstein
  All the Woulda-Coulda-Shouldas
  Layin' in the sun,
  Talkin' bout the things
  They woulda-coulda-shoulda done...
  But those Woulda-Coulda-Shouldas
  All ran away and hid
  From one little did.

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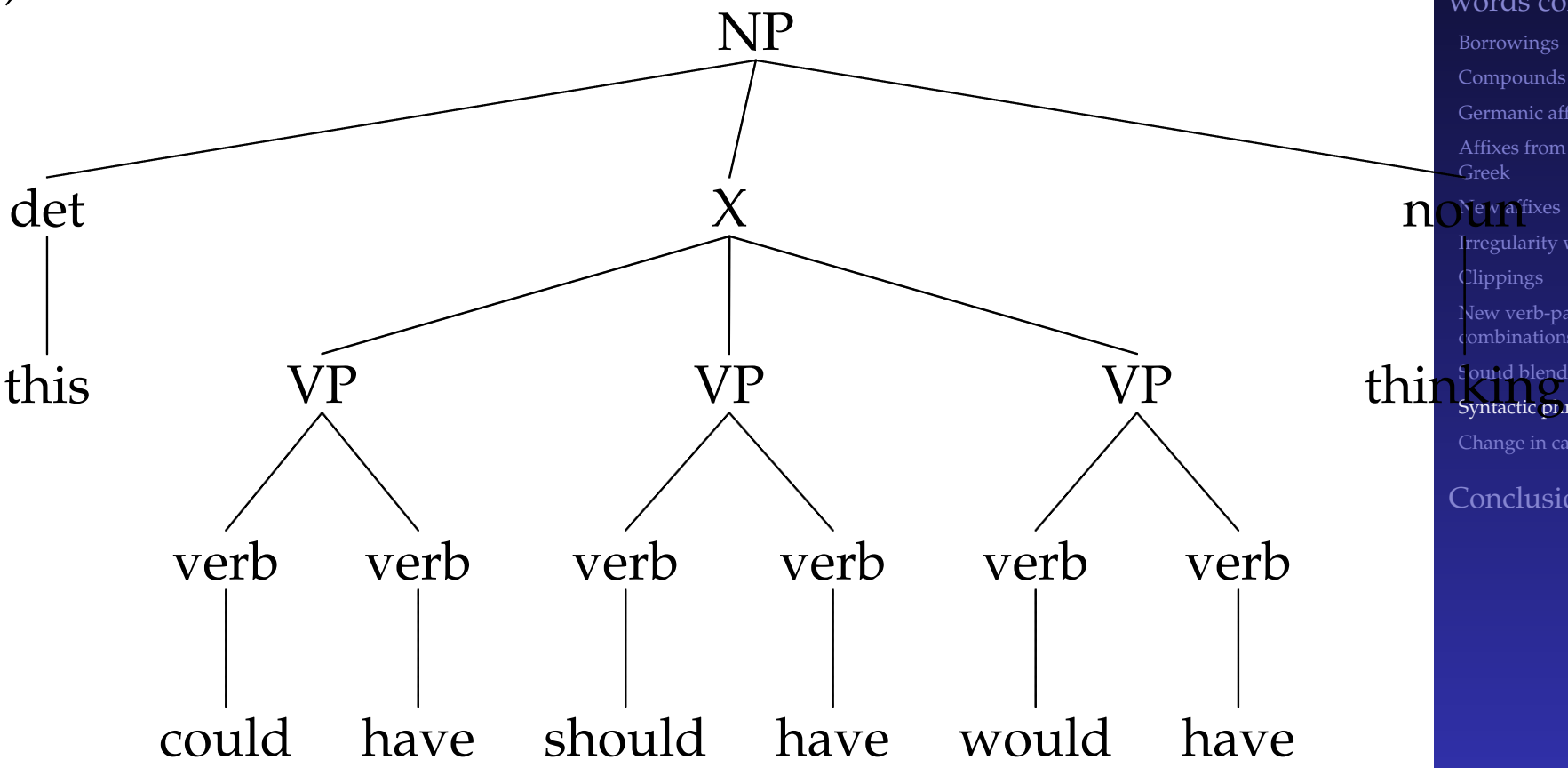
Syntactic phrases

This coulda, shoulda, woulda thinking is dangerous and debilitating (source: http://www.live-happier.com/2012/02/coulda-shoulda-woulda-will-kill-ya.html
)



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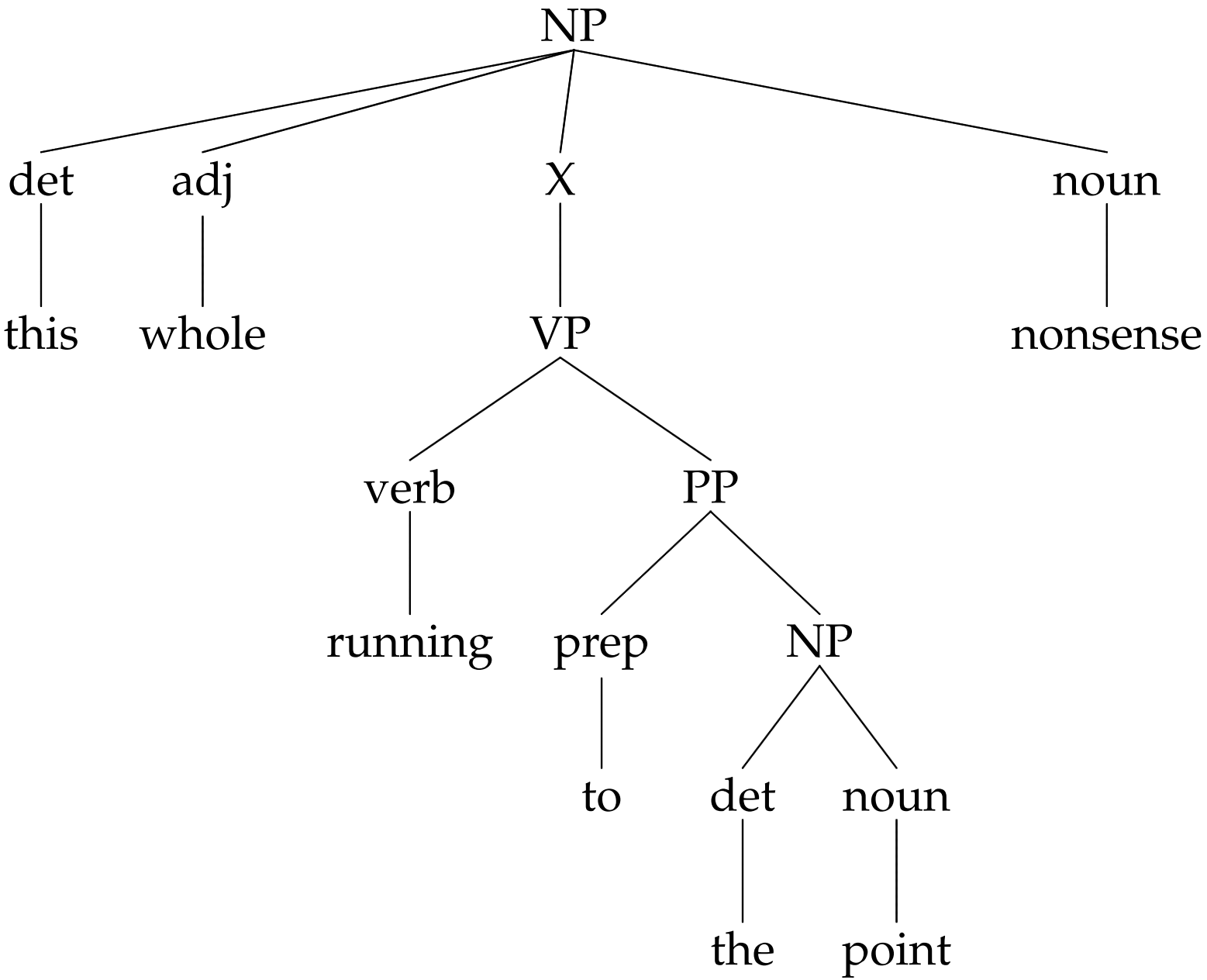

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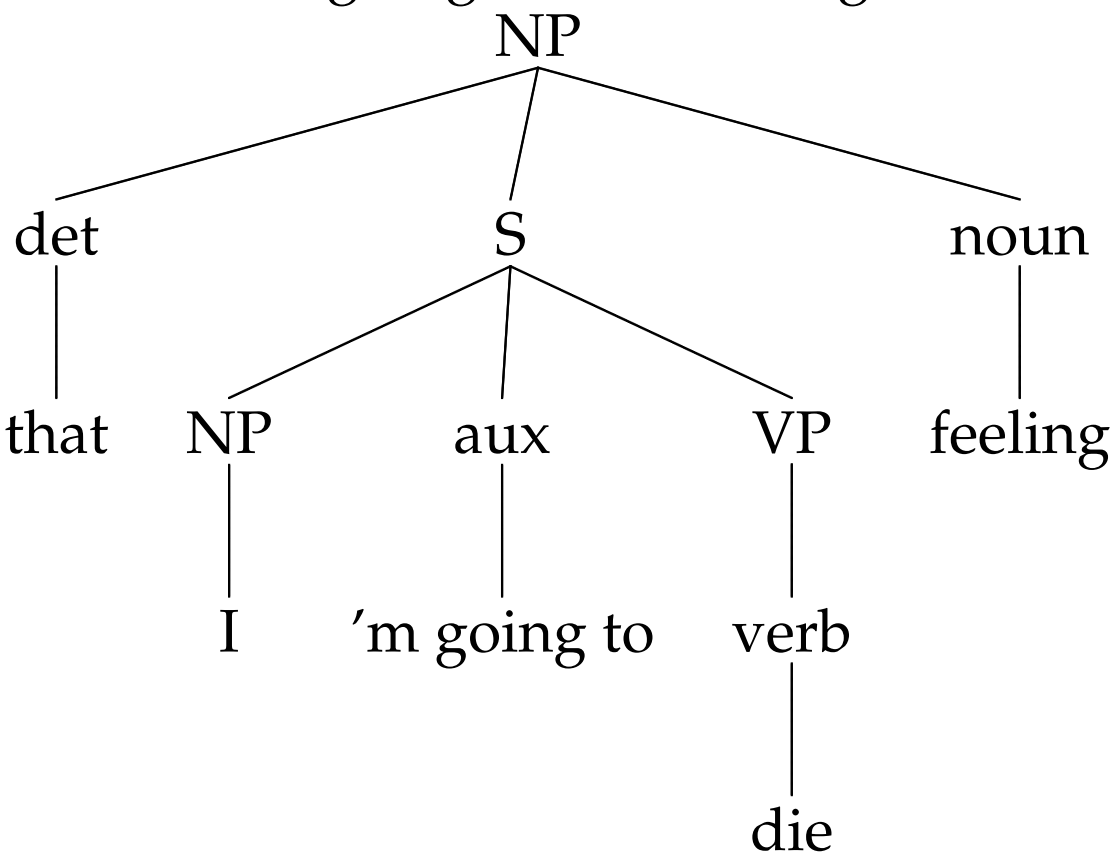
Syntactic phrases

At least when when I don't sleep well, exercising gets rid of that "I'm going to die" feeling.



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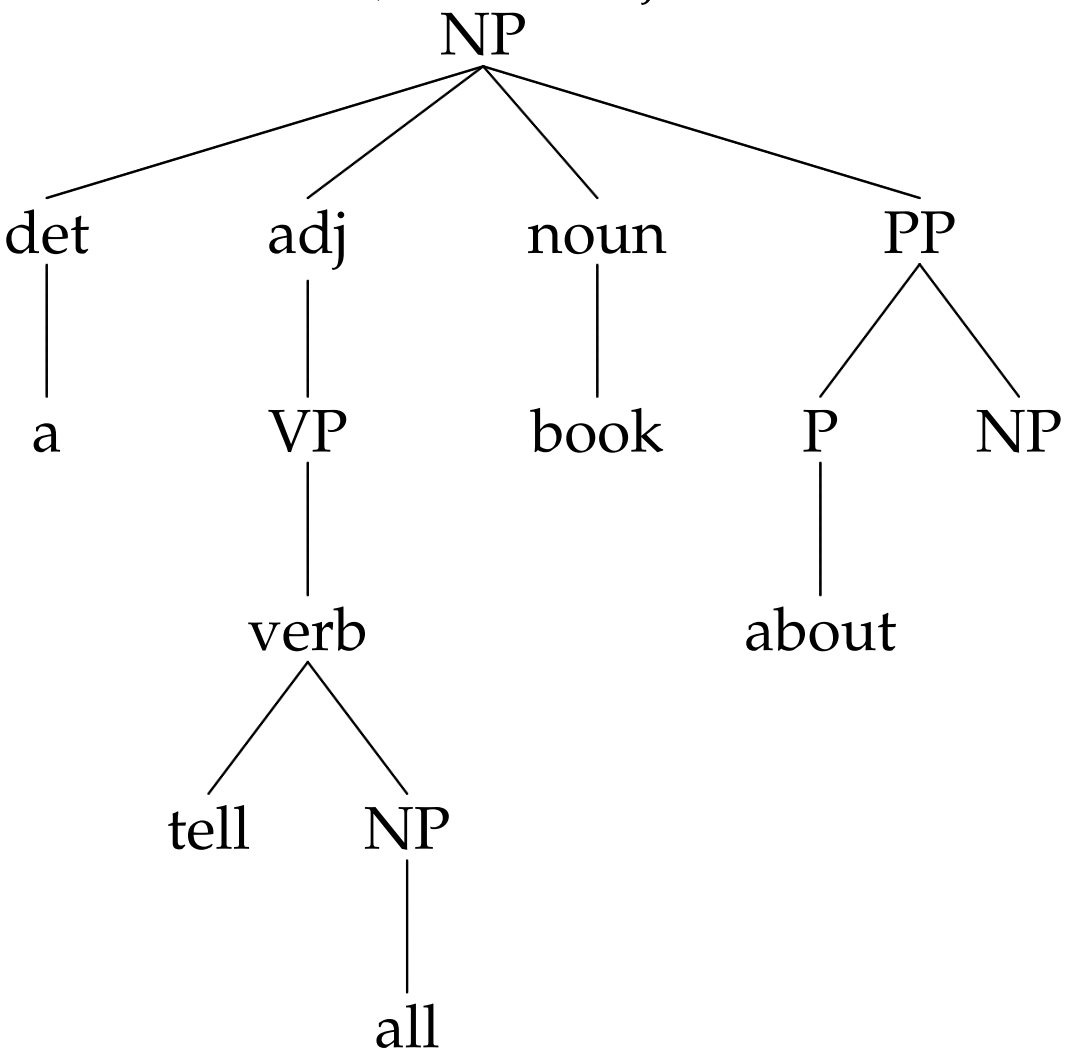
Syntactic phrases

A tell-all book about what it's really like to work as a black maid... (from dustjacket of *The Help*)



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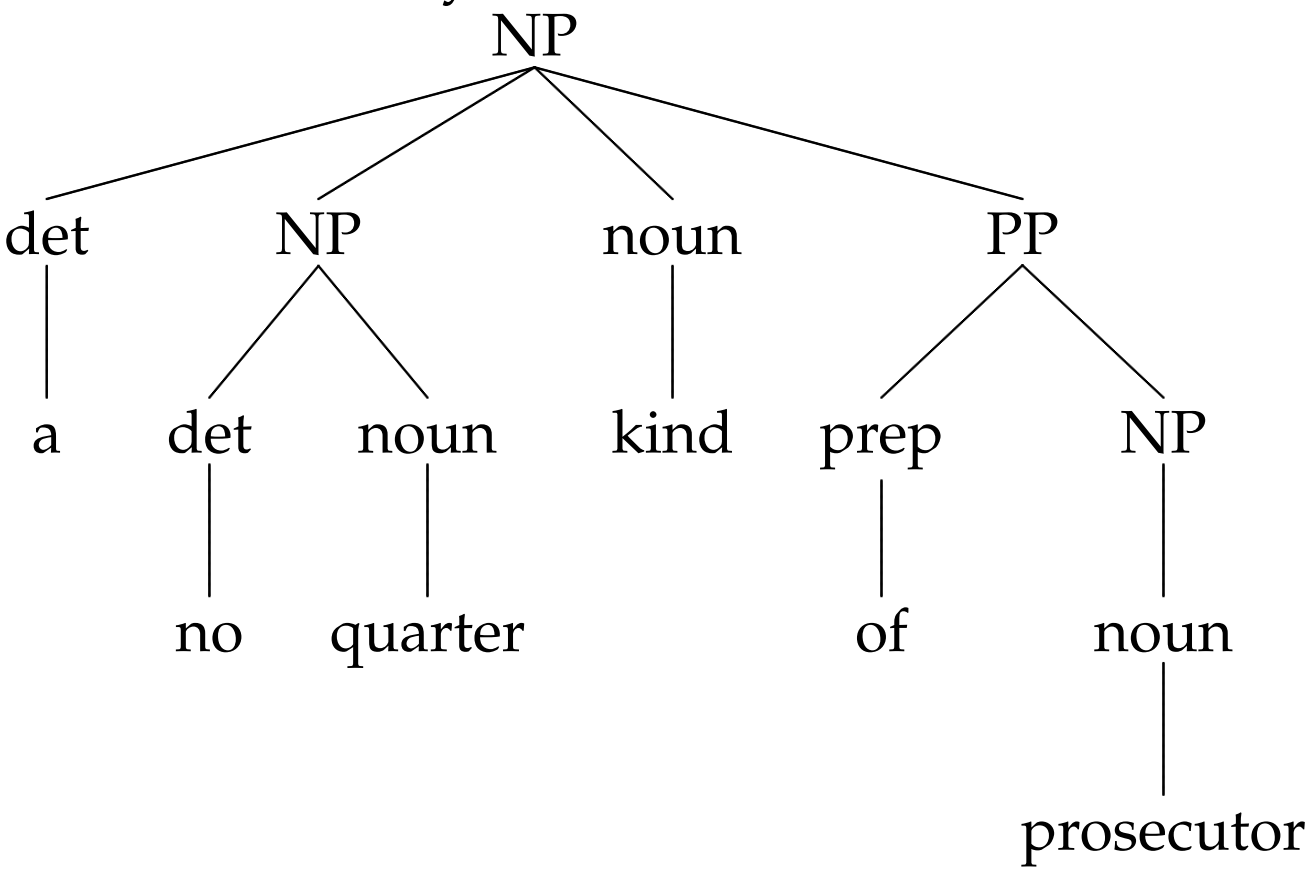
Syntactic phrases

She's a no quarter kind of prosecutor. The Fifth Witness, Michael Connelly.



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Syntactic phrases

1. Il a haussé un peu les épaules, méfiant, genre ça ne te regarde pas. *La belle de Fontanay*, p. 193.
2. décrochez-moi-ça: From Mémoires d'un linguiste (Martinet), p. 51:
   ma femme d'alors qui avait accepté d'être vendeuse à la librairie allemande . . . puis un **décrochez-moi-ça.** (Can also mean: second-hand clothes).
   Les élèves faisaient du troc, de la braderie, du **décrochez-moi-ça.**

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Some French examples

1. *sa stratégie de j'y-suis-j'y-reste* (referring to Copé's strategy vis-a-vis Fillon, November 2012)
2. *car je me méfie du qu'en-dira-t-on, bref, des autres.*
3. *Casimir a encore fait quelques va-et-vient…*

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1991

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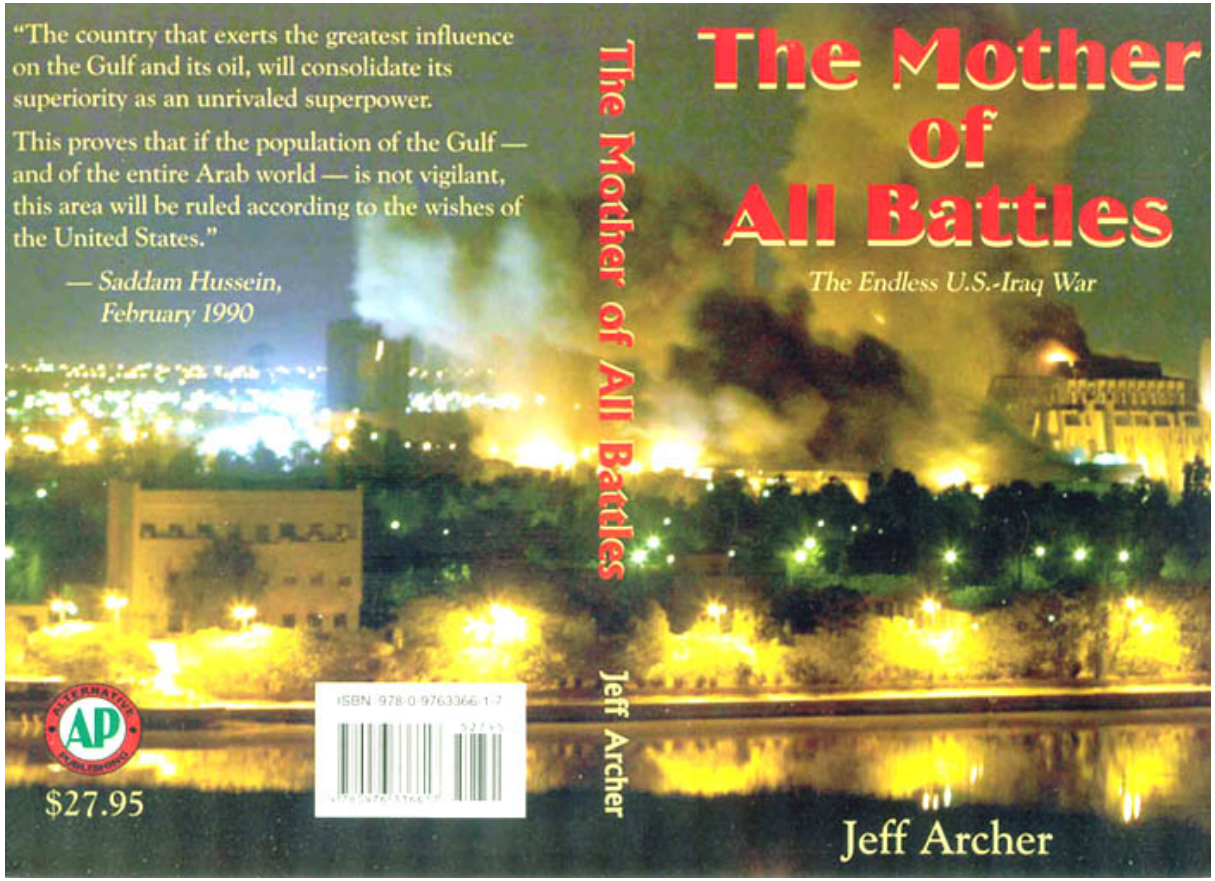
1991



mother of all (not actually a word, right...)

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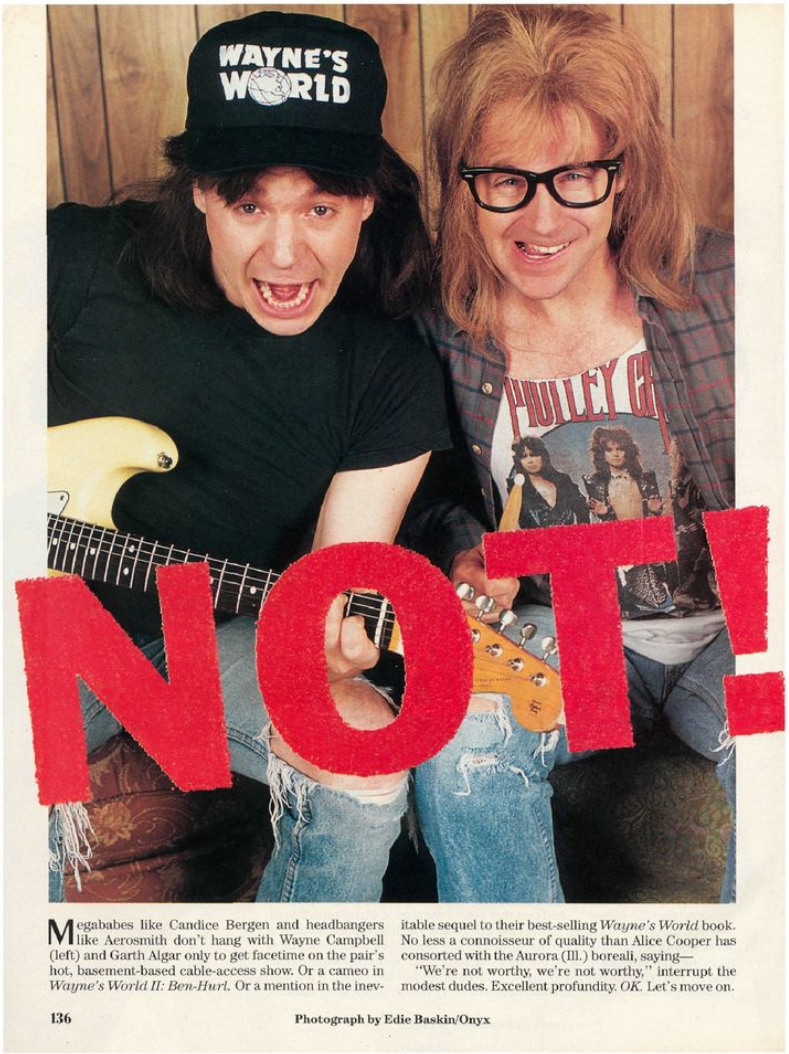
1992



Megababes like Candice Bergen and headbangers like Aerosmith don't hang with Wayne Campbell (left) and Garth Algar only to get facetime on the pair's hot, basement-based cable-access show. Or a cameo in *Wayne's World II: Ben-Hurl.* Or a mention in the inevitable sequel to their best-selling *Wayne's World* book. No less a connoisseur of quality than Alice Cooper has consorted with the Aurora (Ill.) boreali, saying—

"We're not worthy, we're not worthy," interrupt the modest dudes. Excellent profundity. *OK.* Let's move on.

136 Photograph by Edie Baskin/Onyx

not (as in 'just kidding'. What was the innovation here?)

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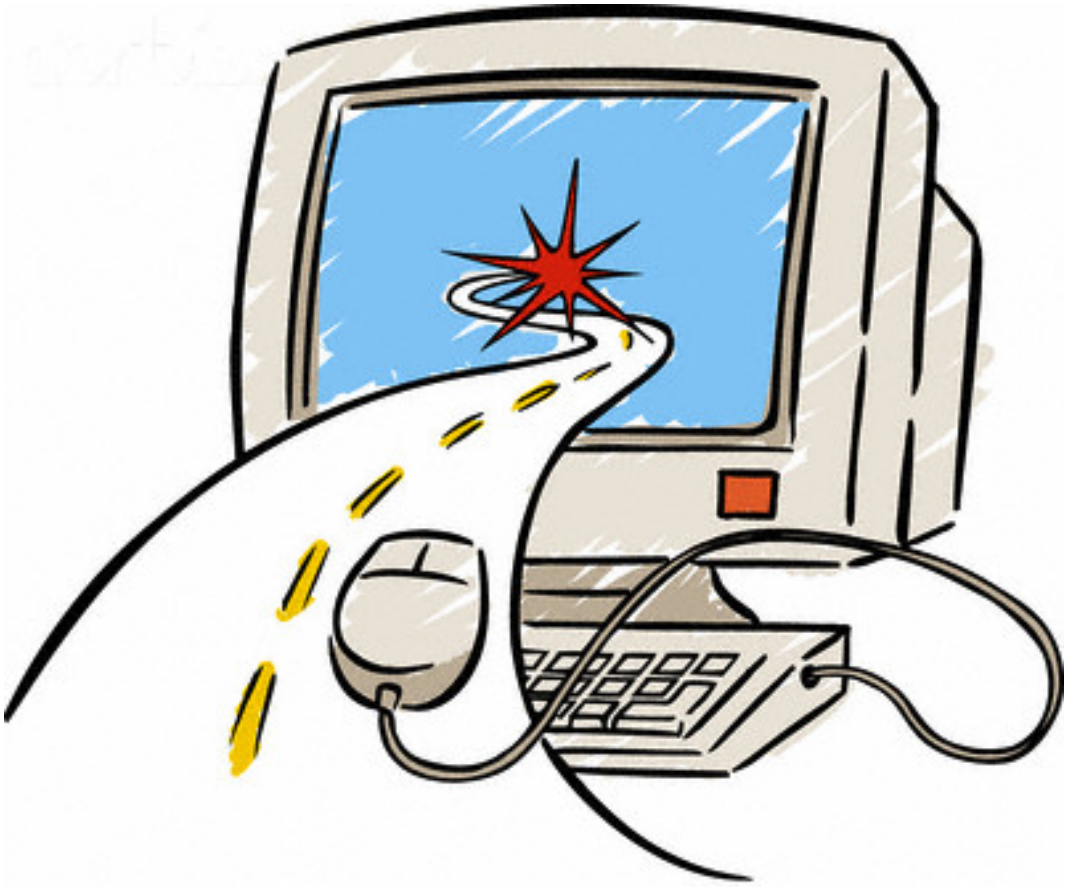
Conclusion

1993



information superhighway

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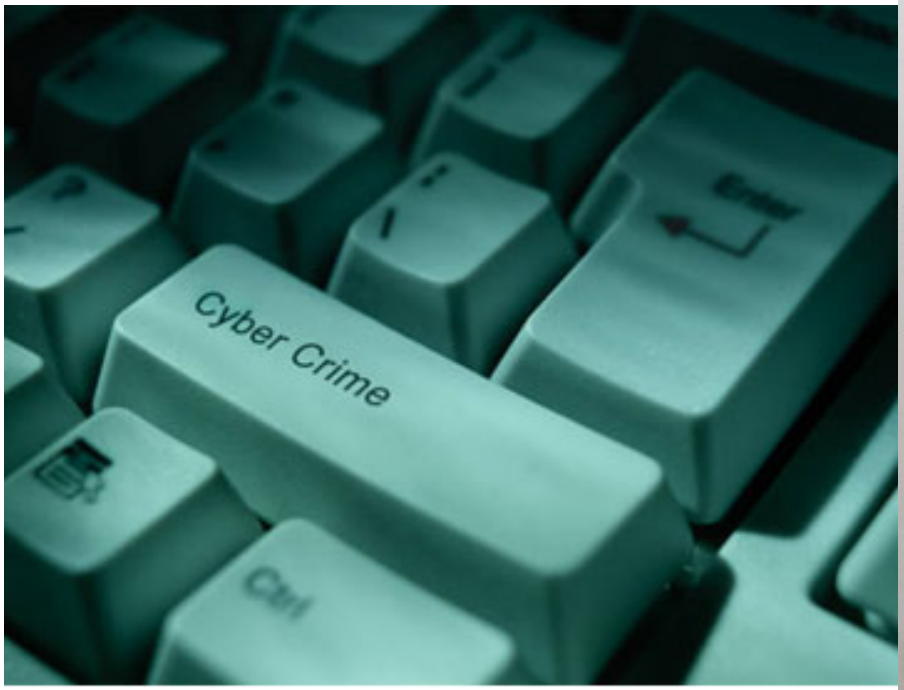
Conclusion

1994

cyber, morph (as in 'to change form')
This spawned all sorts of children...



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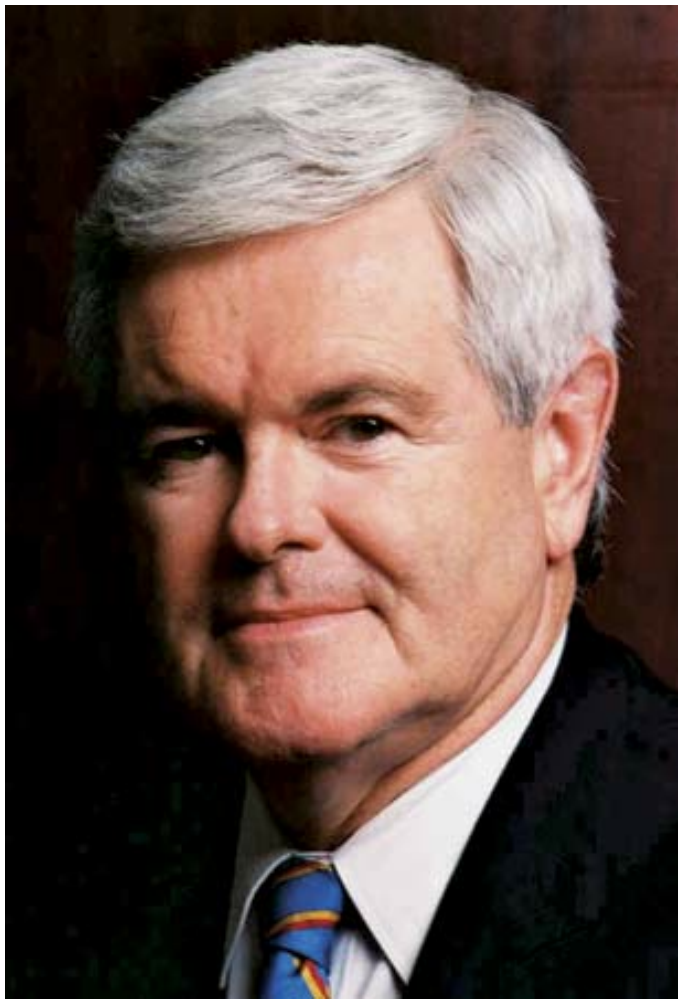
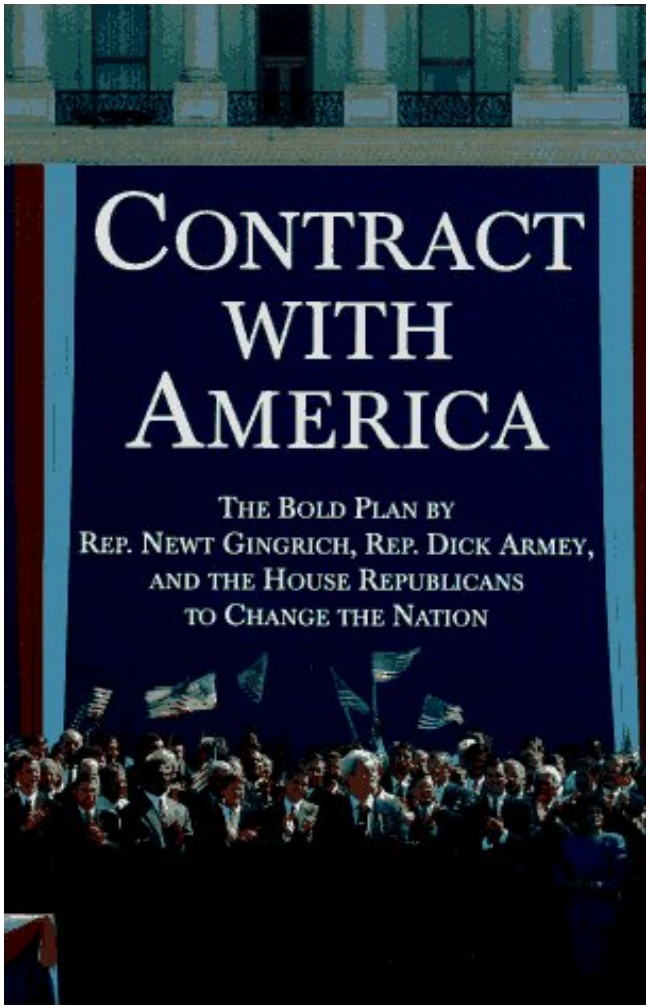
1995





(to) newt

('act aggressively as a newcomer')

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Conclusion

1998

e-

(*i-* hadn't been invented yet...)

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2003

metrosexual

- *n.* a fashion-conscious heterosexual male, or, as coiner Mark Simpson put it, a man who ”has clearly taken himself as his own love object.”
- a *portmanteau* (or *blend*):
  - *smog*
  - *brunch*
  - *spork*
  - *Brangelina*
  - ...etc.

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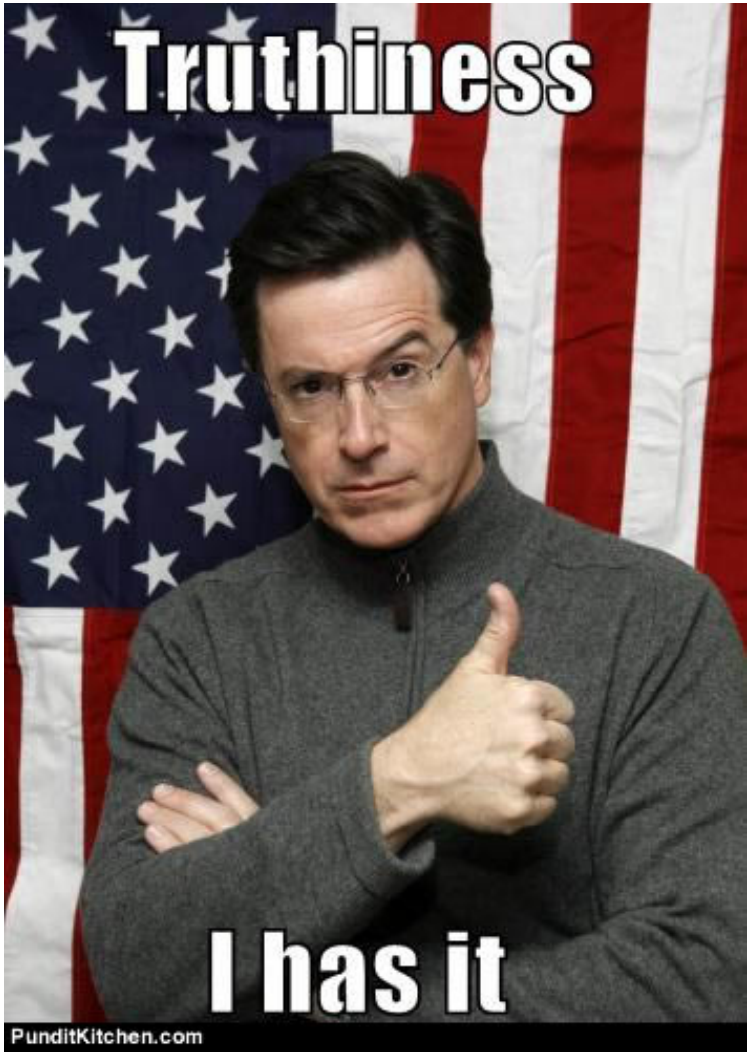
2005



1. truthiness (noun)

1 : "truth that comes from the gut, not books" (Stephen Colbert, Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report," October 2005)

2 : "the quality of preferring concepts or facts one wishes to be true, rather than concepts or facts known to be true" (American Dialect Society, January 2006)

truthiness

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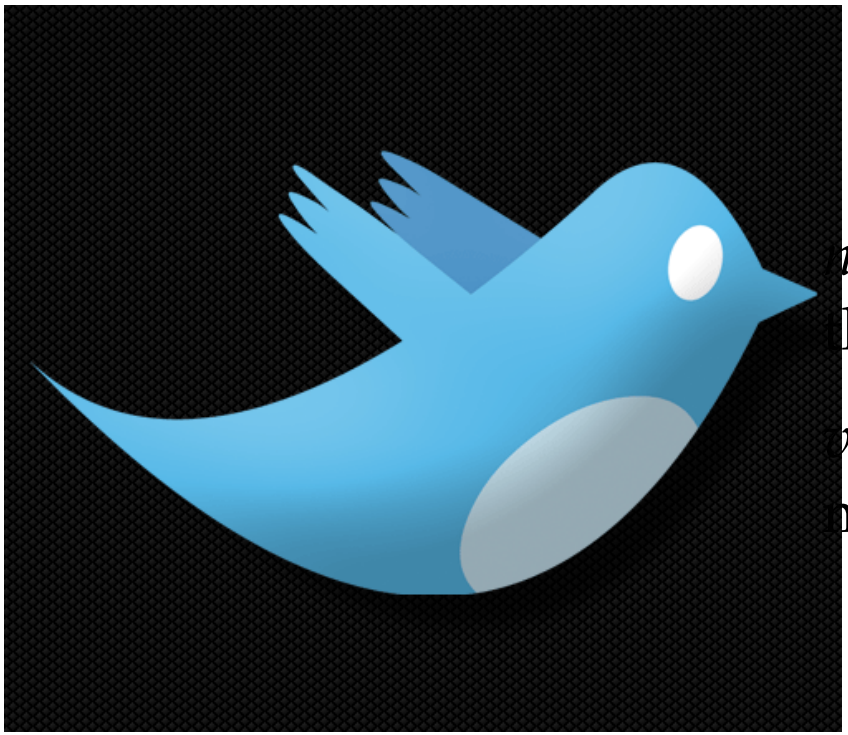
2009



n. a short message sent via the Twitter.com service

v. the act of sending such a message.

tweet

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Conclusion

Word of the Decade

google

('to search the internet'. Cf. *Xerox*, *Kleenex*, etc.)

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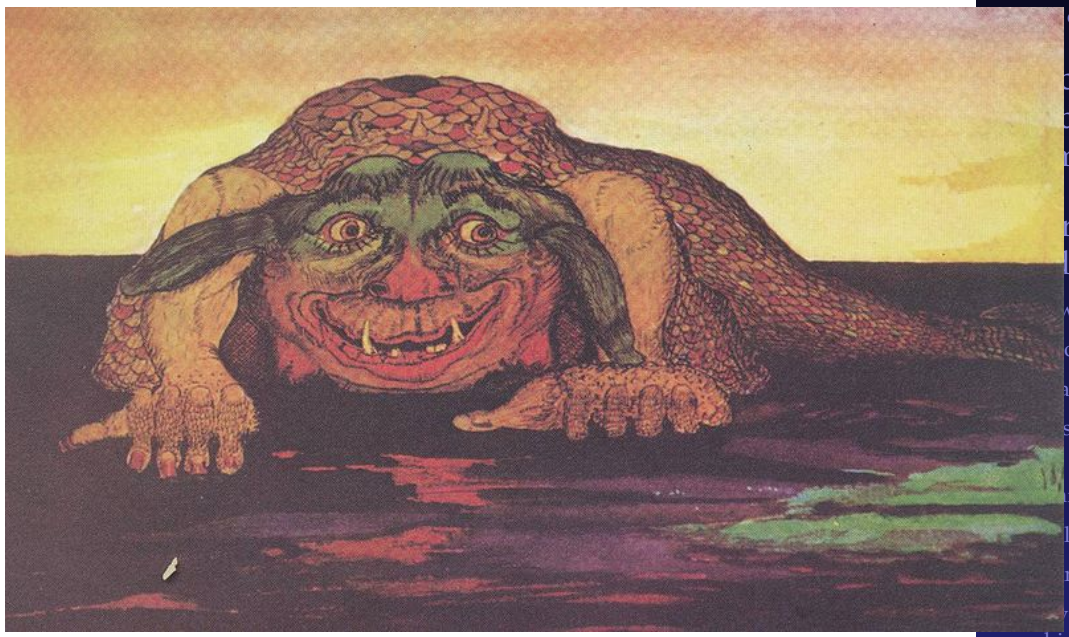
A century earlier...

The sun is setting
Can't you hear
A *something* in the distance
Howl!!?
I wonder if it's
Yes!! it *is*
That horrid Google
On the prowl!!!



V. C. Vickers, *The Google Book* (1913)

`http://blogoscoped.com/googlebook/`

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larity with affixes
ngs
erb-particle combinations
Sound blends, word blends
Syntactic phrases
Change in category
Conclusion

because

“This past year, the very old word because exploded with new grammatical possibilities in informal online use,” Zimmer said. “No longer does because have to be followed by of or a full clause. Now one often sees tersely worded rationales like ‘because science’ or ‘because reasons.’ You might not go to a party ‘because tired.’ As one supporter put it, because should be Word of the Year ‘because useful!’

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Clippings
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Top Ten Favorite Words (Not in the Dictionary)

- 1. ginormous (adj): bigger than gigantic and bigger than enormous
- 2. confuzzled (adj): confused and puzzled at the same time
- 3. woot (interj): an exclamation of joy or excitement
- 4. chillax (v): chill out/relax, hang out with friends
- 5. cognitive displaysia (n): the feeling you have before you even leave the house that you are going to forget something and not remember it until you're on the highway
- 6. gription (n): the purchase gained by friction: "My car needs new tires because the old ones have lost their gription."
- 7. phonecrastinate (v): to put off answering the phone until caller ID displays the incoming name and number
- 8. slickery (adj): having a surface that is wet and icy
- 9. snirt (n): snow that is dirty, often seen by the side

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Conclusions

1. **Word-forms** have a spelling and grammatical specifications.
2. Noun word-forms and verb word-forms in English are organized into **paradigms**. Each paradigm describes a single **lexeme**.
3. **Inflectional morphology** describes the variation within a paradigm.
4. Creating one word from another involved **derivational morphology**.
5. In addition: we have seen **compounding** and **clipping**.

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