

The eight English inflectional morphemes

	MORPHEME	GRAMMATICAL FUNCTION	EXAMPLES
NOUNS	Plural	Marks as more than one	<i>regular</i> : dogs, cats, horses <i>irregular</i> : sheep, cacti, phenomena, children
	Possessive	Marks for ownership	Bart's, Homer's, Marge's
ADJECTIVES	Comparative	Marks for comparison (usually accompanied by <i>than</i>).	closer, whiter, quicker
	Superlative	Marks as superlative (sometimes accompanied by <i>of</i>).	closest, whitest, quickest
VERBS	3rd-singular Present Agreement	Marks to agree with singular third person (his, her, it), in the present tense.	runs, waits, pushes
	Past Tense	Marks (roughly) for past action.	<i>regular</i> : dragged, backed, baited <i>irregular</i> : hit, ran, swam
	Past Participle	Marks past participle (follows <i>be</i> or <i>have</i>): "Bart was chosen" "I have chosen Bart).	" <i>regular</i> ": chosen, proven, woken <i>irregular</i> : drunk, hung; waited (same as past tense)
	Present Participle	Marks present participle (follows <i>be</i> : "Bart was walking").	walking, jumping, swinging