Unit 11: Inflectional Paradigm

A set of related forms having the same stem

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NOUN PARADIGM

Forms:	Stem	Plural	Possessive	Plural+Possessive
Inflectional suffixes:		{s- pl}	{-s ps}	{-s pl ps}
Models:	doctor	doctors	doctor's	doctors'
	woman	women	woman's	women's

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PRONOUN PARADIGM

Singular

	Subject	Object	Prenominal Possessive	Substitutional Possessive
1st	I	me	my	mine
2nd	you	you	your	yours
3rd M	he	him	his	his
F	she	her	her	hers
N	it	it	its	its

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			Plural	
1st	we	us	our	ours
2nd	you	you	your	yours
3rd	they	them	their	theirs
Interr. Relative	who	whom	whose	whose

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- **Noun Plurals:**
- Three useful tests for judging singular and plural nouns:-

1. A noun is singular if it can take one of these substitutes: he/him, she/her, it, this or that. For example: the beach is covered in white sand. 'The beach' can be substituted with 'it'.

2. The number of noun can be signaled by a modifier like several, many, this, that, these, those, fifteen, or by a pronoun reference like his/her/its, their.

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- **Noun Plurals:**

3. When the noun functions as the subject of a verb, its number is sometimes shown by the form of the verb. For example

   Measles *is* a contagious disease.

   The good *are* on the way.

- **Collective nouns** can function as singular or plural depending on the context. For example, family, tribe, team.

- Example sentences:-
  - The family is sitting at the table. (singular)
  - The family have gathered from many parts of the country. (plural)

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- **Plural in the English language can take several forms:-**

- We have regular nouns that take the –s plural: for example cars, tables, chairs.

- There are nouns that have a zero suffixal plural as plural and singular take the same form: for example deer, sheep, information.

- There are nouns that signal plurality by changing the middle vowel of the word: for example woman, mouse, lice, goose, foot

- There are nouns when adding the –s plural can change the final sound of the noun. Such nouns end in /-s/, /-f/, and /ϴ/.

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- **Noun possessives:**

Relationship	Example
1. Possession or belongingness	John's hat
	Judy's home
2. Characterization or description	a cowboy's walk
	men's coats
3. Origin	Raphael's paintings
	Cary's novels
4. Measure (time, value, space)	an hour's wait
	a dollar's worth
	a stone's throw
5. Subject of act	John's flight (John flew)
	the judge's decision (the judge decided)
6. Object of act	Jane's punishment was deserved. (Someone punished Jane.)
	Eliot's critics were many. (They criticized Eliot.)

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- **Verb Paradigm:**

Forms: Inflectional suffixes:	Stem	Present Third-Person Singular {-s 3d}	Present Participle {-ING vb}	Past Tense {-D pt}	Past Participle {-D pp}
Models:	learn choose set	learns chooses sets	learning choosing setting	learned chose set	learned chosen set

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- **Verb Paradigm:**

1. **Stem**: the "stem" of a verb refers to the core or root form of the verb, to which various affixes (prefixes, suffixes, infixes, etc.) can be added to create different grammatical forms. The stem is the part of the verb that carries the essential meaning.

- For example, consider the verb "talk." The stem of this verb is "talk," and you can add different endings to create various forms:
  - Talk (base form): I talk, you talk, he/she talks.
  - Talked (past tense): I talked, you talked, he/she talked.
  - Talking (present participle): I am talking, you are talking, he/she is talking.

- In this example, the stem "talk" remains constant, while different suffixes (-ed, -ing) are added to convey tense or aspect.

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- **Verb Paradigm:**
2. **Present third-person singular**: In English, when forming the present third person singular of most verbs, you typically add the suffix "-s" or "-es" to the base form of the verb. Here are the general rules:
   - For verbs ending in a consonant + y: Change the "y" to "ies."
     - Example: study becomes studies (He studies).
   - For verbs ending in a vowel + y: Add "-s."
     - Example: play becomes plays (She plays).
   - For most other verbs: Add "-s."
     - Example: eat becomes eats (She eats).

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- **Verb Paradigm:**

3. **Present participle:** The present participle of a verb in English is often formed by adding the suffix "-ing" to the base form of the verb. The present participle is used to create verb tenses, such as the present continuous (e.g., "I am walking") or the past continuous (e.g., "She was singing").

- Here are some examples of the present participle for regular verbs:

- Walk (base form) → Walking (present participle)
  - Example: I am walking to the store.

- Sing (base form) → Singing (present participle)
  - Example: She enjoys singing in the choir.

- Eat (base form) → Eating (present participle)
  - Example: They are eating dinner right now.

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- **Verb Paradigm:**
4. **Past tense:** the past tense in English is often marked by inflectional morphemes, specifically by adding the suffix "-ed" to the base form of regular verbs.
- **Regular Verbs:**
  - The addition of the "-ed" suffix is a morphological change to the base form of the verb. The -ed has three allomorphs /-t/, /-d/, /əd/ in passed, pleased, and parted.
  - Morphological rule: Base form + "-ed" → Past tense form
- **Irregular Verbs:**
  - Irregular verbs undergo morphological changes unique to each verb. The past tense forms are not predictable based on a consistent morphological rule like adding "-ed."
  - Morphological irregularities are often seen in the stem or the entire verb form.
  - Examples:
  - Go (base form) → Went (past tense)

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- **Verb Paradigm:**

5. Past Participle: The past participle is a verb form used in English to indicate a completed or finished action. It is often used in the formation of verb tenses such as the present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect. In regular verbs, the past participle is typically formed by adding the suffix "-ed" to the base form of the verb. For irregular verbs, the past participle can vary and must be memorized.

- Here are examples of past participles for both regular and irregular verbs:
- **Regular Verbs**:
  - Walk (base form) → Walked (past tense) → Walked (past participle)
  - I have walked to the store.
  - Play → Played → Played
  - She has played piano for years.
- **Irregular Verbs:**
  - Go (base form) → Went (past tense) → Gone (past participle)
  - They have gone to the beach.
  - Eat → Ate → Eaten

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- **Suppletion:** Suppletion in English grammar refers to a phenomenon where an irregular form is used instead of the regular form for certain grammatical categories, such as tense, number, or comparison. In other words, suppletion involves the use of an entirely different word, often with a different root, to express a certain grammatical feature. This is in contrast to regular inflectional patterns.

- A common example of suppletion in English is the verb "to be":
  - Present tense: I am, you are, he/she/it is, we are, you are, they are
  - Past tense: I was, you were, he/she/it was, we were, you were, they were

- Here, the past tense forms "was" and "were" are completely different from the present tense forms "am," "are," and "is." This is a case of suppletion because there is no consistent rule or regular morphological change connecting the forms.