Objectives

• Develop a basic understanding of morphology as it relates to reading
• Discuss how knowledge of morphology can help students read and comprehend text
• Apply knowledge of morphology to instruction
prehistoric chylomicrons
Do students... guess or give up?
Morphology

• Morphology is the study of meaningful units of language (base words, roots, prefixes, suffixes, derivatives).

• An understanding of morphology can help students read words.
State Standards

English Language Arts and Reading Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (ELAR TEKS) Reading:

- **Kindergarten (3)(C):**
  Recognize that new words are created when letters are changed, added, or deleted

- **Grade 1 (3)(E):**
  Read base words with inflectional endings (e.g., plurals, past tenses)

- **Grade 1 (3)(F):**
  Use knowledge of the meaning of base words to identify and read common compound words (e.g., football, popcorn, daydream)
State Standards (cont.)

ELAR TEKS Reading:

• **Grade 2 (2)(D):**
  Read words with common prefixes (e.g., *un-, dis-*) and suffixes (e.g., *-ly, -less, -ful*)

• **Grade 3 (1)(A):**
  Decode multisyllabic words in context and independent of context by applying common spelling patterns…

• **Grades 4–8 (2)(A):**
  Determine the meaning of grade-level academic English words derived from Latin, Greek, or other linguistic roots and affixes
State Standards (cont.)

ELAR TEKS Reading:

• **English I, II, III (1)(A):**
  Determine the meaning of grade-level technical academic English words in multiple content areas (e.g., science, mathematics, social studies, the arts) derived from Latin, Greek, or other linguistic roots and affixes

• **English IV (1)(A):**
  Determine the meaning of technical academic English words in multiple content areas (e.g., science, mathematics, social studies, the arts) derived from Latin, Greek, or other linguistic roots and affixes
State Standards (cont.)

ELAR TEKS Oral and Written Conventions (spelling):

• Grades 1 (22)(D) and 2 (23)(D):
  Spell base words with inflectional endings

• Grade 3 (24)(E):
  Spell single syllable homophones (e.g., bear/bare; week/weak; road/rode)

• Grade 4 (22)(B):
  Spell base words with roots and affixes (e.g., -ion, -ment, -ly, dis-, pre-)

• Grade 4 (22)(C):
  Spell commonly used homophones (e.g., there, they’re, their; two, too, to)
State Standards (cont.)

ELAR TEKS Oral and Written Conventions (spelling):

• **Grade 5 (22)(B):**
  Spell words with:
  – Greek roots (e.g., *tele*, *photo*, *graph*, *meter*);
  – Latin roots (e.g., *spec*, *scrib*, *rupt*, *port*, *ject*, *dict*);
  – Greek suffixes (e.g., *-ology*, *-phobia*, *-ism*, *-ist*); and
  – Latin derived suffixes (e.g., *-able*, *-ible*, *-ance*, *-ence*)

• **Grade 5 (22)(C):**
  Differentiate between commonly confused terms (e.g., *its*, *it’s*; *affect*, *effect*)
Decoding-Spelling Continuum

K
Phonological awareness
Alphabet Sounds
Anglo Saxon consonants and vowels

1
Compound words
Prefixes and suffixes

2
Latin roots
Syllable and syllable division patterns

3
Review of all previous material

4

5...

…8
Greek combining forms

(Henry, 2010)
Morpheme

• A morpheme is a meaningful unit of language, such as a base word, root, prefix, or suffix.

• Examples:
  – The word *prehistoric* has four syllables and three morphemes (**pre**-, **history**-, **-ic**).
  – The word *chylomicrons* has four syllables and three morphemes (**chylo**-, **micron**-, **-s**).
Identifying Morphemes

Ask the following questions:

1. Can meaningful linguistic units be identified and defined?
2. Can other words be recalled in which that morpheme seems to be used?
3. What is the sense of the whole word in the context in which it is used?

(Moats, 2010)
How Many Syllables and Morphemes?

• salamander
• helpfulness
• predetermined
• baker
• pointless
• address
• humming
Types of Morphemes

- Base words
- Roots
- Prefixes
- Suffixes
Greek
Specialized words used mostly in science and math.
Examples: hypnosis, agnostic, catatonic, agoraphobic, chlorophyll

Latin
Multisyllabic words with prefixes, roots, and suffixes Content words found in social studies and literature
Examples: firmament, contemplate, maternity, audience, corruption, preventive, retract, disruptive

Anglo-Saxon
One-syllable words, vowel digraphs, silent letters, everyday things, irregular spellings
Examples: sky, earth, horse, arm, heart, pants, coat, mother, love, been, would, do, shirt

(Adapted from Henry, 2010)