



## Structural features of lexical units related to Paralympics in English

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**Abstract:** This article is mainly written about the structural features of words that related to the Paralympic Games. Firstly, it is described what the lexical unit is, before skipping to the Paralympics because it is helpful to define and understand better what the Paralympic lexical units are. Then, there is some information about Paralympic Games which are held for the athletes who have disabilities every two years. Morphology is the branch of linguistics that studies the structure of words. A word is the smallest unit of morphology. Words can be root words, words with suffixes or prefixes and the compound words. After that, when it comes to separating the lexical units of Paralympics into groups, it is used the table which will show them in three different categories.

**Key words:** lexicography, lexical unit, Paralympic Games, Olympic Games, morphology, word, morpheme, free and bound morphemes, root words, compound words.

First of all, it is necessary to understand what a lexical unit is in **lexicography**. before moving to Paralympics.

**A lexical unit** is not only a single word, but it can also be a part of a word, a chain of words. Examples of words include puppy, rose, and children. Lexical units can represent one single lexeme. However, lexical units are not limited to words. Lexical units can be divided into the following types.



1. Words: tree, cat (simple and compound words);
2. Suffixes: -s (plural suffix tree- trees);
3. Phrasal verbs: take off, put on;
4. Idioms: break a leg (meaning good luck);
5. Collocations: inside out.

Now Paralympic lexical units include simple, compound words, phrases and other units used in the Paralympic Games. So what is Paralympics? Let's define the word Paralympics.

**The Paralympics or Paralympic Games** are a very large set of international competitions in which athletes with disabilities try their best. Compared to the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games are divided into Winter and Summer Paralympic Games. The Paralympic Games are held alternately every two years. Most of the Olympic Games include Alpine skiing, cross country skiing, biathlon, and Winter sports include cycling, archery and swimming. Apart from that the sports equipment will be changed according to the athletes' disabilities in Paralympic Games. The Paralympic Games have been held since the 20th century and the number of participants is increasing every year. So, it is clear that Paralympic lexical units mean sports' names and other units used in Paralympic games.

The names of games that commonly appear in Paralympic Games:

1. Archery
2. Athletics
3. Boccia
4. Cycling Road
5. Cycling Track



6. Equestrian
7. Judo
8. Power lifting
9. Rowing
10. Sailing
11. Shooting
12. Swimming
13. Table tennis
14. Wheelchair basketball
15. Wheelchair rugby
16. Wheelchair fencing

**Morphology** is a branch of language that studies the structure of words. Morphology is the study of the internal structure of words and forms a core part of linguistic studies today. The term morphology is Greek and is a makeup of morph-meaning 'shape, form', and -ology which means 'the study of something'. Morphology as a sub-discipline of linguistics was named for the first time in 1859 by the German linguist August Schleicher who used the term for the study of the form of words.

What is a word? Word is the smallest independent units of language.

Independent:

do not depend on other words.

can be separated from other units



can change position.[2]

Example:

The man looked at the horses.

-s is the plural marker, dependent on the noun horse to receive meaning

Horses is a word: can occur in other positions or stand on its own

**eg:** The horses looked at the man.

- What is the man looking at? - Horses.

Words are thus both independent since they can be separated from other words and move around in sentences, and the smallest units of language since they are the only units of language for which this is possible.

**Morphemes** – the building blocks of morphology.

Words have an internal structure built of even smaller pieces

**SIMPLE WORDS:** Don't have internal structure (only consist of one morpheme) e.g., work, build, run. They can't be split into smaller parts which carry meaning or function.

**COMPLEX WORDS:** Have internal structure (consist of two or more morphemes) e.g., worker: affix -er added to the root work to form a noun.

Morphemes are the smallest meaning-bearing units of language.

### **FREE VS BOUND MORPHEMES**

Free morpheme: a simple word, consisting of one morpheme e.g., house, work, high, chair, wrap. They are words in themselves.

Bound morpheme: morphemes that must be attached to another morpheme to receive meaning.



## EG: UNKINDNESS

UN- and -NESS are the bound morphemes, requiring the root KIND to form the word.

These are also called affixes as they are attached to the stem. There are two types as outlined below:

Prefix (front of the base) = Un-

Suffix (end of the base) = -ness

## STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF PARALYMPIC GAMES

Root words	Words with suffixes	Compound words
1.Judo	1.Cycling	1.Wheelchair basketball
2.Boccia	2.Swimming	2.Blind football
3.Equestrian	3.Archery	3.Powerlifting
4.Taekwondo	4.Athletics	4.Sitting volleyball
5.Biathlon	5.Rowing	5.Wheelchair fencing
6.Badminton	6.Shooting	6.Alpine skiing
	7.Skiing	7.Para Ice Hockey
		8.Para Table Tennis
		9.Snowboarding
		10.Wheelchair Rugby

1.Root words or called base words can stand alone and has meaning (for example, support). In this article, we take badminton judo and boccia as the examples of root words because they do not have any affixes that we can divide into other parts.



2. A suffix is a word part added to the end of a word (for example, -ful). If you add the suffix -ful to the base word, help, the word is helpful. In the table we can see most of Paralympic Games are formed with the suffix -ing. For example: swim-swimming, shoot-shooting, cycle-cycling. Archery is the type of sport, practice, or skill of using a bow to shoot arrows. The word comes from the Latin arcus, meaning bow. We can divide this word into the root-archer (the person who uses a bow and arrow) and the suffix -y (which forms a type of sport). Archery is the simple word.

3. A compound word is a word formed from two or more smaller words. The meaning of a compound word is related to the meaning of the smaller words within it. There are three types of compound words:

1. -closed: the smaller words form one whole word (baseball, snowboarding)
2. -open: the smaller words are separated by a space (blind football, Alpine skiing)
3. hyphenated: the smaller words are joined by a hyphen (forty-four, ninety-nine)

To sum up, the lexical units related to the Paralympics are understood as all words, suffixes and other units related to the Paralympics. In their structural analysis, the morphological analysis helps, because in morphology, the word is constructed and structured. Names of sports related to the Paralympics were given in the form of a table.

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