

**Figure 9.2 Morphology Terms Used in This Module**

Morphemes fall into two broad categories: **free morphemes** and **bound morphemes**.

**Free morphemes** can stand alone as a word (e.g., *duck*, *do*, *farm*) and many can be altered by an affix (e.g., *duckling*, *redo*, *farmer*).

**Bound morphemes** cannot stand alone. Prefixes and suffixes are bound morphemes.

**Affixes** is a collective term used to describe both prefixes and suffixes.

Component	Definition	Example
Prefix	Prefixes are bound morphemes that appear at the beginning of a word and cannot stand alone (e.g., <i>un-</i> , <i>dis-</i> , <i>re-</i> ).  A prefix is added to the beginning of a base word to create a new meaning.	<i>Hypo-</i> means “under,” as in <i>hypodermic</i> (under the skin).
Suffix	Suffixes are bound morphemes that appear at the ends of words and cannot stand alone (e.g., <i>-ed</i> , <i>-s</i> , <i>-es</i> ).  A suffix is added to the end of a root or base word to create a new meaning.	<i>-est</i> creates a superlative word, as in <i>tallest</i> .
Root	Often Latin or Greek in origin, these are bound morphemes that cannot stand alone as words. Prefixes and suffixes are also roots.	<i>Aqua-</i> , <i>mal-</i> , and <i>-spect</i> are examples of roots. They form words when affixes are added, such as <i>aquatic</i> , <i>malady</i> , and <i>inspect</i> .
Base Word	These are free morphemes that can stand alone as words. Base words can be added to other bases or affixes to make a new word.	<i>Act</i> meaning “to do” can be changed to <i>action</i> . <i>Act</i> can also stand by itself as a word.
Cognate	Two words having a shared ancestral language meaning.	<i>Rehabilitation</i> and <i>rehabilitación</i> both mean “to restore or improve.”
Word Family	A group of words sharing a common morphemic element.	<i>Judge</i> , <i>judgment</i> , <i>adjudicate</i> , <i>adjudication</i>