

Homework Assignment III
Due: Wednesday, September 27, 2006 (beginning of class)

I. Structure and Ambiguity

I.1 Affixes

We've seen that sometimes complex words can be created in more than one way. Take *unfoldable* for instance. It has two meanings, as you can see in the following scenarios (each brings out one meaning):

- (1) Oh man, you got lacquer all over the sheets I had put out. Now they're hard as a piece of wood. I don't know how to even store them anywhere. They're totally *unfoldable*.
- (2) Of course you can open that up. Just lift up the sides. It's *unfoldable*.

a. Paraphrase the two meanings that *unfoldable* has and say which scenario each corresponds to.

b. Given what we've discussed in class, *unfoldable* can have two different structures.

Show the structure that corresponds to the reading in scenario (1).

Show the structure that corresponds to the reading in scenario (2).

c. We decided in class that there were two versions of the *un-* prefix. Which version did you use in the structure corresponding to (1), and which in the structure corresponding to (2)?

d. Why do you think *unstoppable* only has one of the two meanings? Which one is it?

I.2 Compounds

We've seen that in compounds with more than two parts, we also find ambiguities. Describe the two structures and what they might mean for *computer furniture design*.

3. English Consonants

Explore the English consonants. For each of the following obstructions you create in your mouth, find the number of different consonant sounds given in parenthesis that you can make at that position. Give a word as an example for each sound, and underline the letter(s) corresponding to the sound in your example.

Example:

Bilabial: [b] as in 'belly'

Bilabial: Made with the two lips (at least 3 (including [b]))

Labiodental: Lower lip and other front teeth (2)

Interdental: Tongue tip or blade and upper front teeth. (2)

Alveolar: Tongue tip or blade and the alveolar ridge. (7)

Palatal: Front of the tongue and hard palate (4)

Velar: Back of the tongue and soft palate (at least 2)