

Homework Assignment II

Due: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 (beginning of class)

1. *Russian*

1. atom	'atom'	atomščik	'atomic-warmonger'
2. baraban	'drum'	barabanščik	'drummer'
3. pulemyot	'machine-gun'	pulemyotčik	'machine-gunner'
4. mebel'	'furniture'	mebel'ščik	'furniture maker'
5. beton	'concrete'	betonščik	'concrete worker'
6. lom	'scrap'	lomščik	'salvage collector'
7. derevo	'tree'	derevščik	'craftsman'
8. gazeta	'newspaper'	gazetčik	'journalist'
9. lyot	'flight'	lyotčik	'pilot'

The Russian words in the right column are derived from those in the left.

Notes 1: The two symbols šč stand for the one letter щ in written Russian. The apostrophe (') after consonants indicates that the preceding consonant is palatalized. This isn't crucial to the answers though ☺

Notes 2: The *-o* suffix on *derevo* indicates that it is a neuter noun; the *-a* suffix on *Gazetta* indicates that it is a feminine noun. Ignore these suffixes for the purpose of this exercise and assume that the suffix under study attaches to *derev-* and *gazet-*

a. The suffix that attaches to the words in the left column to form the words in the right column has two allomorphs. What are they?

b. Given examples 1-9, say under which circumstances a word seems to combine with one allomorph rather than the other, that is, state what might be the relevant difference between the words on the left that determines which form of the suffix they go with.

c. The suffix attaches to a noun to create a noun with a new meaning. How is the meaning of the derived word related to the meaning of the basic word in the left column? (Obviously, unless you know Russian, you will have to base your guess on the English translations.)

d. Given the base *apparat-*, what would you predict to be the derived Russian word that results from the rule you have investigated above.

2. *More English Suffixes*

2.1 *-able*

fix	fixable
do	doable
understand	understandable

a. Which lexical category (Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives) does the suffix *-able* attach to (for instance the words in the left column)? Show at least one representative example of each category that illustrates that *-able* can or cannot attach.

b. Which lexical category does the resulting word belong to (for instance the words in the right column)? Illustrate how you got to your result with at least one of our tests.

c. Paraphrase the meaning that *-able* seems to contribute.

2.2 *-less*

penny	penniless
brain	brainless

Answer the questions a.–c. that you answered for the suffix *-able* above, for *-less*.