



# INFLECTION

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**INFLECTION**



# INFLECTION

- 
- What is Inflection ?
  - Forms of Pronouns & Determiners
  - Regular & Irregular Inflection
  - Forms of Verbs
  - Forms of Nouns
  - Forms of Adjectives

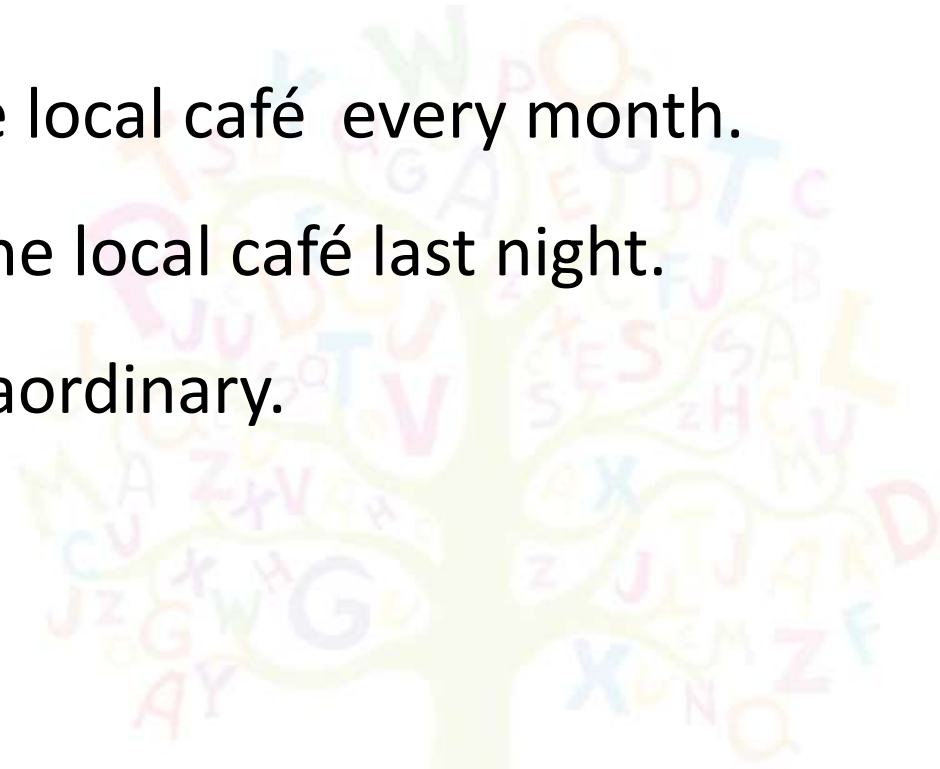
- What is Inflection ?



# What is Inflection?

## Let's Examine the following sentence

1. The pianist performs in the local café every month.
2. The pianist performed in the local café last night.
3. The performance was extraordinary.



# What is Inflection?

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# What is Inflection?

1. The pianist **performs** in the local café every month.
2. The pianist **performed** in the local café last night.
3. The **performance** was extraordinary.

- The words *performs*, *performed* & *performance* belong to the same root which is *perform*.
- However, the word *performs* & *performed* in sentence (1) & (2) belong to the same word class i.e. verb.
- The word *Performance* in sentence (3), on the other hand, belongs to the different word class i.e. noun.



# What is Inflection?

1. The pianist **performs** in the local café every month.
  2. The pianist **performed** in the local café last night.
- What happens in sentence (1) and (2) is the process of word formation called **inflection**.
  - **Inflection** does not change the word class (parts of speech) and meaning of a word
  - Instead, **Inflection** is grammatically conditioned (McCarthy, 2002), or expresses grammatical categories like tense, mood, voice, aspect, person, number, gender and case.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Inflection*. (2013, September 12). Retrieved November 24, 2013, from [www.wikipedia.org: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflection)



# What is Inflection?

1. The pianist **performs** in the local café every month.
2. The pianist **performed** in the local café last night.

Grammatically condition or expresses grammatical categories like tense, mood, voice, aspect, person, number, gender and case.

- In sentence (1) the suffix -s is added to the root because of being grammatically conditioned by third-person singular subject *the pianist*.
- In sentence (2) the suffix -ed is added to the root to express past tense.



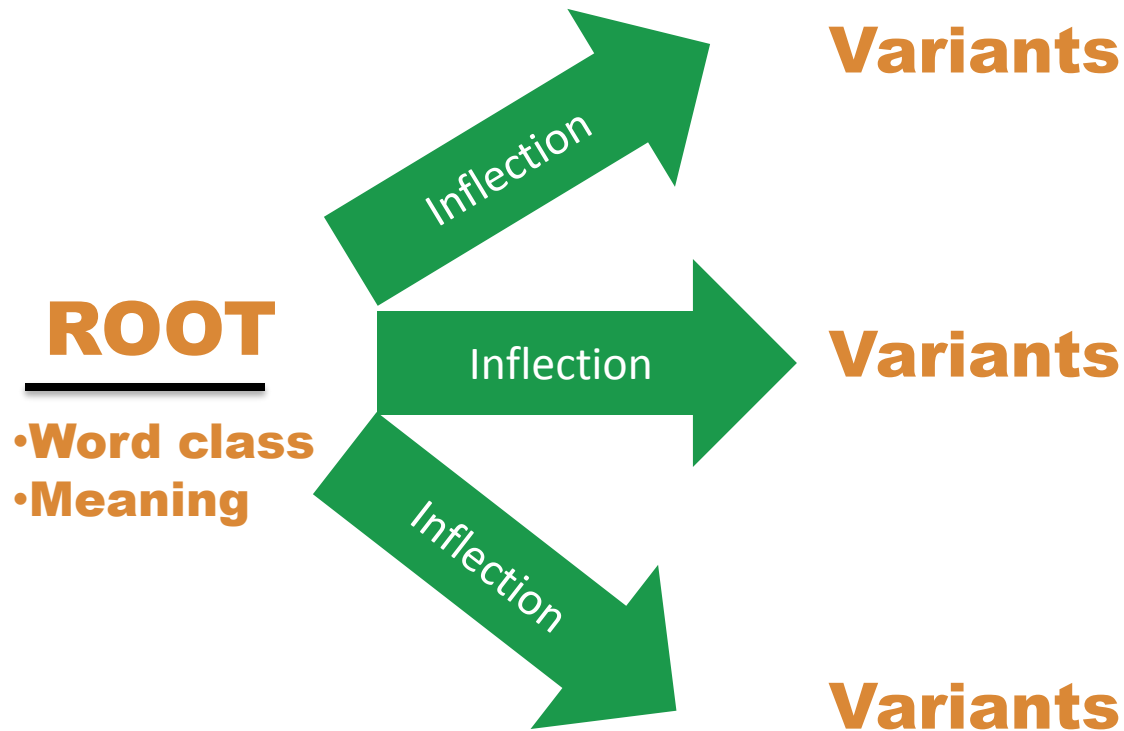
# What is Inflection?

3. The **performance** was extraordinary.

- What happens in sentence (3), on the other hand, is the process of word formation called **derivation**.
- **Derivation** is the process of “*constructing new words by adding affixes to existing words.*” (Trask, 2007).
- **Derivation** changes the word class and/or meaning of the root.



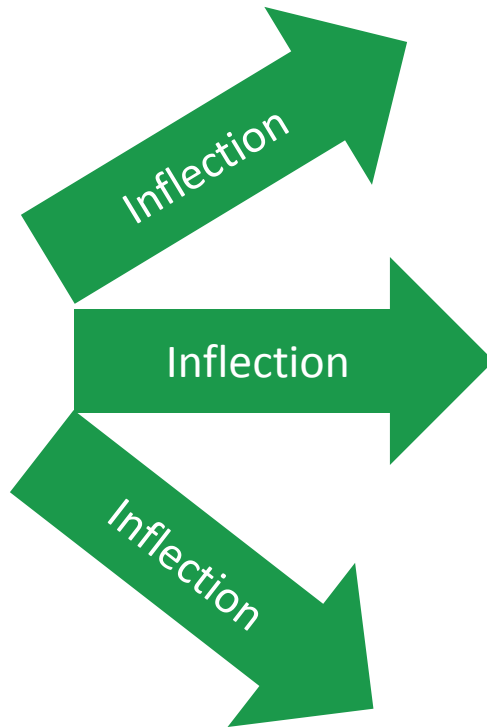
# What is Inflection?



# What is Inflection?

## **PERFORM**

- **Verb**
- **To execute**



## **Performs**

grammatically conditioned by third-person singular subject

## **Performing**

Expressing continuous and progressive aspects

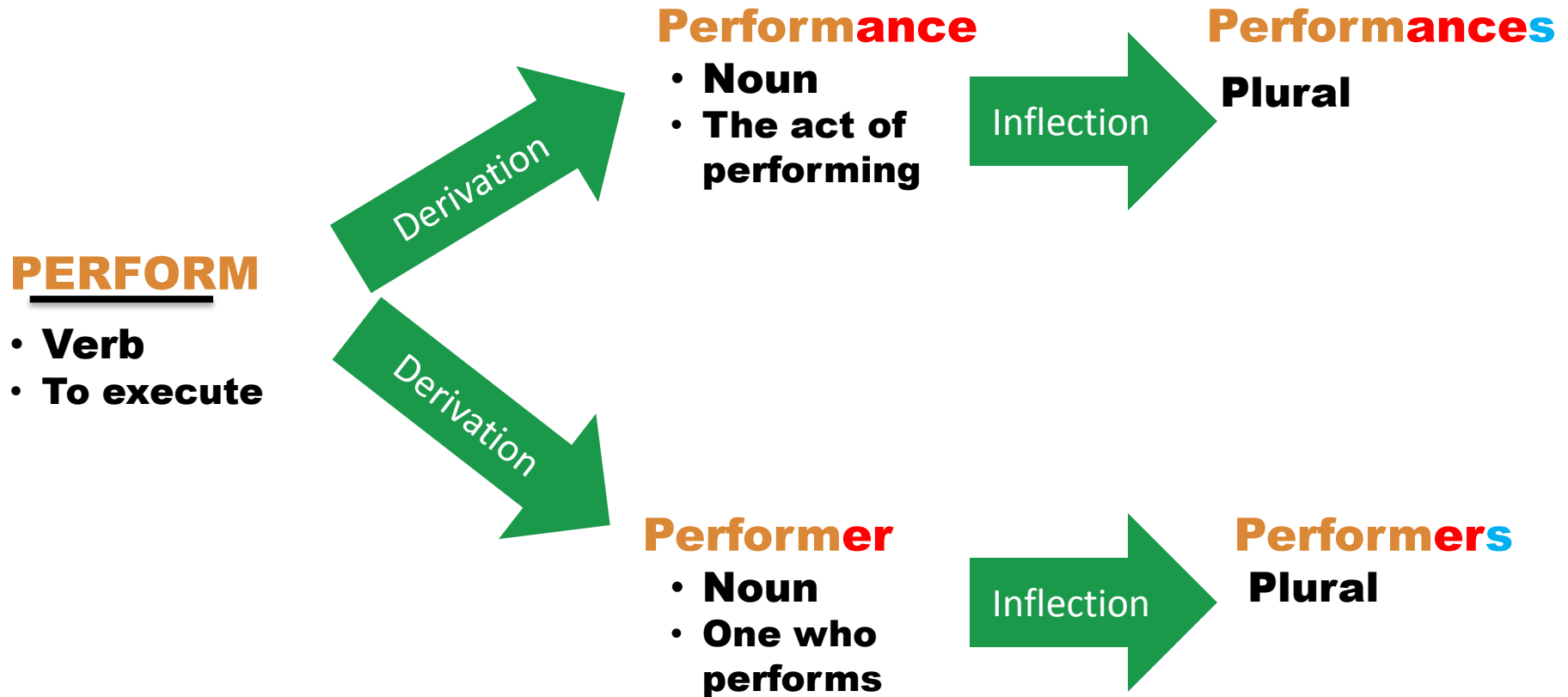
## **Performed**

Expressing past tense

- The variants still belong to the same word class (verb), and have the same meaning

- However, they are grammatically conditioned, or express certain grammatical category

# What is Inflection?



# Regular & Irregular Inflection

Cats

Guitars

Hats

Tables

Chairs

Doors

Windows





# Regular & Irregular Inflection

Cat**s**

Guitar**s**

Hat**s**

Table**s**

Chair**s**

Door**s**

Window**s**



# Regular & Irregular Inflection

Cat**s**

Guitar**s**

Hat**s**

Table**s**

Chair**s**

Door**s**

Window**s**



- Adding suffix -s to a noun root is the regular method of forming plural.



# Regular & Irregular Inflection

Mice

Children

Women

Teeth

Oxen

Men

Knives

are irregular plural forms of

Mouse

Child

Woman

Tooth

Ox

Man

Knife

are allomorphs of



# Regular & Irregular Inflection

Went  
Better  
Worse

are irregular inflection forms of

Allomorphs ???

Go  
Good  
Bad



# Regular & Irregular Inflection

## Suppletion

Went  
Better  
Worse



Go  
Good  
Bad



# Regular & Irregular Inflection

## **Suppletion vs. Allomorph**

Root	Allomorph
------	-----------

Mouse	Mice
-------	------

Child	Children
-------	----------

Woman	Women
-------	-------

Tooth	Teeth
-------	-------

Ox	Oxen
----	------

Man	Men
-----	-----

Knife	Knives
-------	--------





# Regular & Irregular Inflection

## Suppletion vs. Allomorph

Root	Allomorph
------	-----------

<b>M</b> ouse	<b>M</b> ice
<b>C</b> hild	<b>C</b> hildren
<b>W</b> oman	<b>W</b> omen
<b>T</b> ooth	<b>T</b> eeth
<b>O</b> x	<b>O</b> xen
<b>M</b> an	<b>M</b> en
<b>K</b> nife	<b>K</b> nives

An allomorph has similar phoneme(s) as its root



# Regular & Irregular Inflection

## Suppletion vs. Allomorphy

Root	Suppletion
------	------------

Went	Go
------	----

Better	Good
--------	------

Worse	Bad
-------	-----

Suppletion and its root does not have any similar phoneme.



# Forms of Nouns

- Inflection in nouns expresses grammatical category which is number.
- Regular forms (adding the suffix -s)
- Irregular forms (Allophones, zero suffix like *deer, fish, sheep*)



## 4.4 Forms of Pronouns And Determiners

**Open classes:** Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs,  
Adverbs

**Determiners:**

- nouns, display a singular-plural contrast
- Pro-nouns combine a singular-plural contrast with contrast unique to them, between subject and non-subject forms.

- The distinction between this and these.
- These are the singular and plural forms of the determinist lexeme this.
- The determiners THAT and THIS demonstrate that number contrasts can have a grammatical effect inside noun phrase as well as between subject noun phrases and their accompanying verbs.

- In English, the same technique is used for one small closed class of lexemes, namely personal pronouns.
- If one replaces John and Mary with the appropriate pronouns in these two examples, the outcome is as in:
  1. He loves her.
  2. She loves him.



- He and him are sometimes said to contrast in case.
    1. **He** belonging to the nominative case
    2. **Him** belonging to the accusative case.
  - It is striking that the relationship between nominative and accusative forms is consistently suppletive.
- >> I/me, she/her, we/us, and they/them.

- Corresponding words with a possessive meaning: his and our, as well as my, her, your and their.
- Syntactically and semantically, these words fulfill just the same role as noun phrases with the apostrophe-s:
  1. **His bicycle** means the bicycle belonging to him.
  2. **That man's** bicycle means the bicycle belonging to that man.

## 4.5 Forms of Verbs

- In English, a verb lexeme has at most five distinct forms, as illustrated here with GIVE.
- **Third person singular present tense**  
e.g. Marry **gives** a lecture every year.
- **Past tense**  
e.g. Marry **gave** a lecture last week.
- **Progressive participle**  
e.g. Mary is **giving** a lecture today.
- **Perfect or passive participle**  
e.g. Mary has **given** a lecture today.
- **Basic form (used everywhere else)**  
e.g. Mary wants to **give** a lecture.

## 4.6 Forms of Adjectives

- Many English adjectives exhibit three forms, for example GREEN here:
  1. Grass is **green**.
  2. The grass is **greener** now than in winter.
  3. The grass is **greenest** in early summer.

## Other adjectives with similar forms:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
Happy	happier	happiest
Long	longer	longest
Pure	purer	purest
Untidy	untidier	untidiest
Good	better	best

All these exhibit a regular pattern of suffixation with –er and –est, except for better and best, which are **suppletive**.