

Grammar 1

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The lexicon: what speakers know about words

If you look up the spelling of a word in a good dictionary, then you will find some information about the **phonology**, the **syntax**, and the **semantics** of the word.

We might draw together this information about words as follows:

<i>word</i>	
PHONOLOGY	⟨ <i>kim</i> ⟩
SYNTAX	<i>noun</i>
SEMANTICS	<i>person</i>

<i>word</i>	
PHONOLOGY	⟨ <i>robin</i> ⟩
SYNTAX	<i>noun</i>
SEMANTICS	<i>person</i>

<i>word</i>	
PHONOLOGY	⟨ <i>smokes</i> ⟩
SYNTAX	<i>verb</i>
SEMANTICS	<i>event</i>

<i>word</i>	
PHONOLOGY	⟨ <i>likes</i> ⟩
SYNTAX	<i>verb</i>
SEMANTICS	<i>event</i>

Web Grammar 1

Exercises:

- 1 Go to Web Grammar 1.
- 2 Click on each of the four words in the lexicon and study what that grammar “knows about” this word.
- 3 You can also enter text into the text entry box and hit the *Parse*-button. Note: use only lower-case letters in the text entry box!
- 4 Enter a word that is not in the lexicon (for example your first name). Then hit RETURN and see what happens. Explain the result!
- 5 What you just did is called *parsing*: giving a string to a grammar and “asking” the grammar to return the information it has for that string.
- 6 When you parse a word that is not in the lexicon, then the parser responds with the output “The given sentence is not recognized.”
- 7 Try to parse the string “kim smokes”!
- 8 How does the parser respond?
- 9 Why does the parser behave that way?