

Corpus Assignment

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Assignment, slide 1

the prefix *out-*

Consider the prefix *out-*, which attaches to verbs and produces a verb. Restrict your attention to cases in which the resulting verb is transitive, and in which the meaning of the prefixed verb involves comparing the subject and object on some scale relevant to the verb. Here are some examples:

- i. *This bell outweighs that one.*
- ii. *The Jets outscored the Patriots.*
- iii. *The Texans outlasted Santa Anna.*

We call the prefix morpheme in these examples *comparative out-*.

Find more examples of this morpheme by doing a BNC web search to find all instances of verbs forms beginning with *out-*. Answer the questions on

Assignment, slide II

the following slides. Whenever making a claim about the data, give the entire example and the **Filename** of the example.

- 1 What was your query?
- 2 How many examples did your search return?
- 3 In some of examples returned, the highlighted *out-* word is not in fact a verb. Find one such part of speech error. (Note: There are errors within the first 500 examples returned).
- 4 In all the sentences returned, was *out-* a morpheme? If not give examples.
- 5 In the cases in which *out-* is a morpheme, is it always comparative *out-*? That is, is it the same morpheme as in examples (i)-(iii) above? If not, give examples. If multiple examples exist, give at least three.

Assignment, slide III

- 6 Evaluate the following claim: Comparative *out-* attaches to verbs which inherently involve something being measured and its measurement on some scale. We'll call the thing being measured the OBJECT and we'll call the result of the measurement the MEASUREMENT. [inspired by some Framenet examples]. Here are some examples of inherent measurement verbs:

<i>Some bells</i>	<i>weigh</i>	<i>more than a ton</i>
OBJECT		MEASUREMENT
<i>The Jets</i>	<i>scored</i>	<i>30 points</i>
OBJECT		MEASUREMENT
<i>The trip</i>	<i>lasted</i>	<i>4 hours</i>
OBJECT		MEASUREMENT

The comparison described by the prefixed verb is always on this scale

Assignment, slide IV

(*outweigh*, *outscore*, *outlast*). If you think this hypothesis is wrong, give 3 counterexamples from the data.

- 7 If the previous hypothesis is wrong, try to make some generalizations about where the scale used by *out-* is coming from. Give examples.