Exercise: Identifying Morphemes

Count the number of morphemes in each word. Underline the bound morphemes. Example: *unpresentable* -- 3 morphemes; *un-* and *–able* are bound morphemes.

1. alligator
2. calmly
3. running
4. blindness
5. stapler
6. bargain
7. regrouping
8. undeniable
9. assertion
10. certainly
11. corner
12. prepay
13. tighten
14. staying
15. dislocation
16. smarten
17. ladylike
18. suddenly
19. purposeful
20. dislocate
Answers

1. alligator  1
2. calmly    2
3. running   2
4. blindness 2
5. stapler   2
6. bargain   1
7. regrouping 3
8. undeniable 3
9. assertion 2
10. certainly 2
11. corner   1  (the –er here is not the same as the the –er of stapler)
12. prepay    2
13. tighten   2
14. staying   2
15. dislocation 3
16. smarten   2
17. ladylike  2
18. suddenly  2
19. purposeful 2
20. dislocate 2