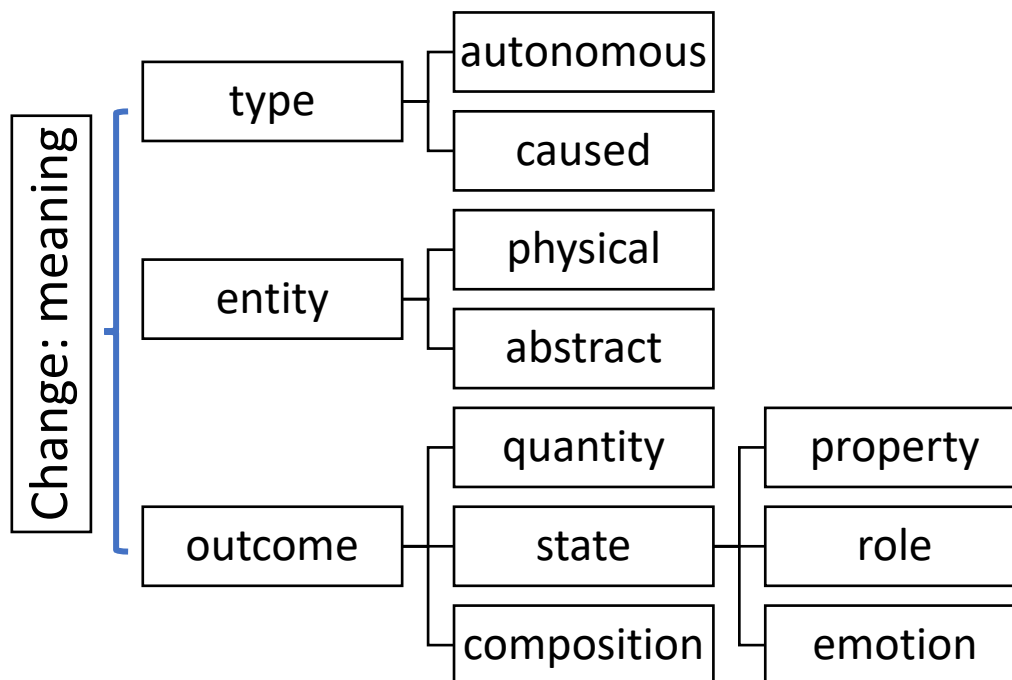# Change Description

The term 'Change' refers to those constructions which indicate that an entity changes in some way, so that there is an end-point that is different from the start point.

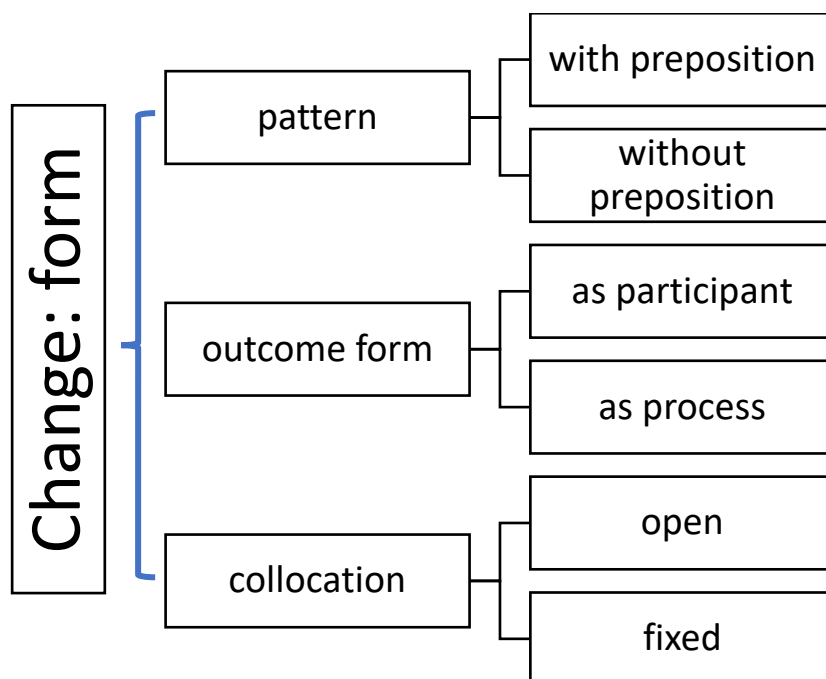There are 44 constructions that express this meaning, drawing on 11 verb complementation patterns.

The Systemic Network. The Systemic Network shows simultaneous choices between meaning and form. Three main meaning distinctions are identified, and the choice between them is simultaneous. The most important of these is the distinction between constructions where the cause of change is expressed ('caused') and those where it is not ('autonomous'). This is the difference between 'Joe pushed the door open' and 'The door slammed shut'. Then, the entity that is changed can be physical or abstract. This is the difference between 'Joe repaired the bicycle' and 'Maria solved the problem'. Finally, there is a distinction between the type of outcome to the process: whether the change results in a different quantity, state, or composition. This is the difference between 'The price increased to £10' ('quantity'), 'The magician turned the watch into a dove' ('state'), and 'Joe divided the cake into three parts' ('composition'). In turn, 'state' can be divided into three types: 'property' (e.g. 'fade into darkness'), 'role' (e.g. 'progress to sainthood'), and 'emotion' (e.g. 'burst into tears').

The 'meaning' part of the network looks like this:

Three form distinctions are identified, with the choices between them simultaneous One is the pattern used. Another whether the collocation is relatively open or relatively fixed. This is the difference between 'make something different' and 'wipe something clean': in the second of these, the collocation between 'wipe' and 'clean' is relatively fixed. Finally, there is a distinction between the expression of the outcome as a participant or as a process. The is the difference between 'Joe divided the cake into three parts', where the outcome (there are three pieces of cake) is expressed as the participant: 'three parts', and 'Joe repaired the car', where the outcome (a repaired vehicle) is expressed in the verb.

The 'form' part of the network looks like this:

The Meaning Network. The Meaning Network combines choices from 'meaning' and 'form'. The primary distinction made is between 'autonomous' and 'caused' change. The network is shown in the document 'Change Meaning Network'. Below are the main distinctions, with examples. These are shown under the headings 'Autonomous' and 'Caused'.

The 'Autonomous Change' Meaning Network: choices and examples

- Outcome as participant
  - V adj
    - Cx8 e.g. 'The door slammed shut.'
    - Cx9 e.g. 'The prisoner broke free.'
    - Cx10 e.g. 'The next athlete jumped higher.'
    - Cx11 e.g. 'The stock marked closed higher.'
    - Cx12 e.g. 'The lake froze solid.'
  - V into n
    - Property. Cx7 e.g. 'The tadpole turned into a frog.' and Cx8 e.g. 'The apparition faded into shadow.'
    - Composition. Cx9 e.g. 'The road divided into two lanes.'
    - Emotion. Cx12 e.g. 'The child burst into tears.' and Cx13 e.g. 'They lapsed into gloom.'
  - V to n
    - Open collocation
      - Cx1 e.g. 'She converted to Buddhism.'
      - Cx3 e.g. 'He progressed to a leadership position.'
      - Cx4 e.g. 'They switched to solar energy.'
    - Fixed collocation
      - Cx38 e.g. 'The victim bled to death.'
      - Cx39 e.g. 'The vehicle ground to a halt.'
      - Cx40 e.g. 'The child dropped off to sleep.'

- Cx41 e.g. 'Our candidate coasted to victory.'
- Outcome as process
  - V pron-refl Cx2 e.g. 'She killed herself.' and Cx10 e.g. 'They disguised themselves.'
  - V in n Cx15 e.g. 'Crimes have increased in quantity.'
  - V to n Cx2 e.g. 'Prices increased to their highest level.'

The 'Caused Change' Meaning Network: choices and examples

- Outcome as participant
  - V n adj
    - Open collocation. Cx7 e.g. 'She made the stew spicy.'
    - Fixed collocation
      - Cx8 e.g. 'He pushed the door shut.'
      - Cx9 e.g. 'He wiped the table clean.'
      - Cx11 e.g. 'She cranked the volume higher.'
      - Cx12 e.g. 'The child coloured the trees blue.'
      - Cx15 e.g. 'The gangsters shot him dead.'
  - V in n Cx1 e.g. 'She divided the loaf into three.' and Cx10 e.g. 'He drilled a hole in the wall'. (Note: The wall is changed by this action. This construction also appears as an instance of 'Creation', because the hole is created.)
  - V in into n
    - Outcome is the state of the entity
      - Cx1 e.g. 'He changed the frog into a princess.'
      - Cx2 e.g. 'They condensed the gas into liquid.'
      - Cx3 e.g. 'She translated the book into Spanish.'
    - Outcome is the composition of the entity
      - Cx5 e.g. 'She amalgamated the departments into one.'
      - Cx6 e.g. 'He chopped the onions into small pieces.'
  - V n to n
    - Outcome is the quantity of the entity. Cx8 e.g. 'He increased the concentration of the liquid to 80%.'
    - Outcome is the state of the entity. Cx9. 'He changed the princess to a frog.' and Cx11 e.g. 'The ghost frightened him to death.'
- Outcome as process
  - V n (Material)
    - Entities are physical.
      - Cx4 e.g. 'Joe broke the mirror.'
      - Cx5 e.g. 'Joe repaired the car.'
      - Cx6 e.g. 'Joe decorated the room.'
      - Cx11 e.g. 'The polluted air affected his lungs.'
    - Entities are abstract
      - Cx8 e.g. 'He controlled the network.'
      - Cx9 e.g. 'She solved the problem.'
      - Cx10 e.g. 'They ended the affair.'
  - V n with n
    - Entities are physical
      - Cx13 e.g. 'She decorated the windows with stickers.'
      - Cx14 e.g. 'They coated the walls with creosote.'
      - Cx16 e.g. 'He sweetened the tea with honey.'

- Cx17 e.g. 'He peppered the steak with spices.'
  - Entities are abstract. Cx19 e.g. 'His character imbued the situation with menace.' and Cx21 e.g. 'She tempered the announcement with kindness.'
- V n by n Cx5 e.g. 'They lowered the price by a few pounds.'