This talk looks at the locality conditions that affect a number of different types of alternations involving morphemes, syntactic structures, and their phonological realization. The main argument is that the highly complex patterns of alternations seen on the surface in natural languages are the result of the interaction of several independent systems, each with its own (simple) locality conditions. Some of these systems are "deep" and syntactic (as in the theory of phases), while others are interface-specific, and derive from the way in which PF operates.

While in some cases the independent systems interact in a way that restricts possible interactions, there is also evidence that properties of the PF interface allow for syntactic locality conditions to be overridden in limited ways. A series of case studies are presented to illustrate these main points.