

Words

A word has been defined by Bloomfield as a *minimum free form*. This means that a word may be one or more morphemes. The word *a* is a minimum free form, since it is made up of one sound, which can stand alone, so it is a minimum free form. The same thing applies to *an*, *the*, *five*, each of which has a different number of phonemes /ən/, /ðə/ and /fayv/.

But, generally, a word in English has a number of morphemes; one of them is the base and the others are affixes, as we have in these examples:

- 1) driver: /drayv/ the base morpheme and /-ər/ a derivational morpheme which changes the verb *drive* into a noun.
- 2) weaken: /wiyk/ the base morpheme and /-ən/ the derivational morpheme, changing the adjective *weak* into a verb
- 3) famous: /feym/ the base morpheme + /-əs/ the derivational morpheme that changes the *noun* *fame* into an adjective.

Derivational Suffixes

In English there are three types of derivational suffixes:

- 1) Suffixes that come with *nouns*.
- 2) Suffixes that occur with *adjectives*.
- 3) Suffixes coming with *adverbs*.

Noun suffixes:

There are many noun derivational suffixes in English from verbs:

Accept	acceptance
Govern	government

Assist	<i>assistant</i>
Arrive	<i>arrival</i>
inform	<i>information</i>
Depart	<i>departure</i>
Visit	<i>visitor</i>
Help	<i>helper</i>

Other derivational suffixes making nouns from adjectives:

Brave	<i>bravery</i>
Pure	<i>purity</i>
Wise	<i>wisdom</i>
Ideal	<i>idealism</i>
Special	<i>specialist</i>

Other derivational suffixes making nouns from nouns:

Coward	<i>cowardice</i>
Friend	<i>friendship</i>
Murder	<i>murderer</i>
Priest	<i>priesthood</i>

Derivational suffixes making verbs are not many:

Short	<i>shorten</i>
Civil	<i>civilise</i>
Solid	<i>solidify</i>

Derivational suffixes making adjectives from nouns are also many:

Child	<i>childish</i>
Cloud	<i>cloudy</i>
Culture	<i>cultural</i>

Economy	<i>economic</i>
Friend	<i>friendly</i>
Courage	<i>courageous</i>

English adverbs usually have the suffix *-ly*:

Quick	<i>quickly</i>
Slow	<i>slowly</i>

Here we have to observe that, in English, the adverb is a part of speech, a class by itself, and is generally considered more related to the verb than to the noun:

He came quickly (بسرعة).

He returned hastily (عادَ عاجلاً في عجلة)

But in Arabic, the adverb is looked upon as part of the noun class, in the same way that the adjective in Arabic is also part of the noun class.

Some derivational suffixes may come with nouns and adjectives:

<i>Assistant</i> (noun)	<i>reluctant</i> (adj)
<i>Library</i> (noun)	<i>Voluntary</i> (adj)

Again we have:

<i>Likely</i> (adj)	<i>immediately</i> (adverb)
<i>Lovely</i> (adj)	<i>only</i> (adverb).

Exercises

Exercise One

Show whether the following words are *nouns* or *adjectives*, and write down the derivational suffix in each:

Vacation- royal- examination- favorable publicity, occasional – loyal- library- diplomatic- diplomacy- friendship- lovely- lonely- pacific- public- assistant- constant- attendant- attentive

Exercise Two

Analyze the following words to show whether they are *nouns*, *verbs*, *adjectives* or *adverbs*:

Pronunciation, foolish, economize, realistic realization- slowly- careful- carelessly- stationery- possible- needles, terrify- terrific- usual- faithfully.

Exercise Three

Make *adjectives* of the following words:

Shake- like- power- cloud- fortune- science- sense- play cheer- care- result- health- bone- taste.