

Bound Morphemes

Inflectional Morphemes in PDE

Suffix	Use	Example	Allomorphs
-s	plural	lamps	/s/, /z/, /ɪz/, /ən/, /ɛn/, Ø, front mutation
-s	third person singular	sings	/s/, /z/, /ɪz/
's	possessive	house's	/s/, /z/, /ɪz/
-ing	progressive/pres. participle	seeing	
-ed	preterite	walked	ablaut, /t/, /d/, /ɪd/
-en	past participle	driven	ablaut, /t/, /d/, /ɪd/
-er	comparative	greater	front mutation, other stems
-est	superlative	cheapest	front mutation, other stems

Common Derivational Morphemes in PDE

Affix	Use	Example
a-	negative	amoral
*e(x)-	ablative	extract
*de-	ablative/privative	deemphasize
*dis-	privative	disembark
mis-	wrongfulness	misplace
un-	negative	undo
-dom	nominal	fandom
-er	nominal (agent)	doer
-ful	adjectival	wistful
-hood	nominal	motherhood
-ify	verbal	nullify
-ing	gerund	running
-ion	nominal	tension
-ize	verbal	terrorize
-ly	adjectival/adverbial	fairly
-ness	nominal	fairness
-wise	adjectival/adverbial	lengthwise
-y	adjectival	funny

Asterisked elements are hardly productive in Present-Day English.

Common Derivational Morphemes in OE

Affix	Use	Example
ā-	ablative	ādrīfan “drive away”
be-	privative/transitive/proximal	beniman “take away”
for-	intensifying/negative	fordōn “destroy”
ge-	completing	geāscian “learn by asking”
on-	allative	onfeallan “attack”
tō-	separative	tōdrīfan “drive apart”
un-	negative	unmiht “powerlessness”
wiþ-	adversative	wiþstandan “withstand”
ymb-	circumferential	ymbgangan “surround”
-an	verbal	hātan “call”
-aþ	nominal	mōnaþ “month”
-dōm	nominal	wisdōm “wisdom”
-e	adverbial	ēaþe “easily”
-end	nominal (agent)	scyppend “creator”
-ettan	verbal	lāþettan “hate”
-hād	nominal	cildhād “childhood”
-ian	verbal	bodian “announce”
-ig	adjectival	ānig “any”
-lic	adjectival	gāstlic “spiritual”
-lice	adverbial	gāstlice “spiritually”
-nes	nominal	hēanes “highness”
-rian	verbal	ārian “honour”
-sian	verbal	clānsian “cleanse”
-sum	adjectival	wynsum “pleasant”
-þu	nominal	mærþu “fame”
-ung	nominal	āxung “inquiry”