**Derivational Morphology**

**What is this resource and what is it f*o*r?**

This resource contains lists of words that fit the patterns of derivational morphology as detailed in the new [GCSE Subject Content](https://resources.ncelp.org/concern/resources/t148fj60d?locale=en) grammar annexes. Pairs of base and derived words are listed together for each pattern, where *either* the base *or* the affixed word is in a list of the 2,000 most frequent words. ([See here for a rationale for the choice of frequency list.)](https://resources.ncelp.org/concern/resources/t722h880z?locale=en)

**Why is this resource important?**

Developing an understanding of affixes (e.g., -ment, -tion, -eur, -able) is much less work than learning members of the same word family (e.g., *porter, porteur, portable*) as separate items, and is particularly useful for receptive use of the language. The MFL GCSE Subject Content includes several derivational affixes which are frequent, regular, productive and predictable (Bauer & Nation, 1993), which can be tested in reading exams only. This means that a derived form (e.g., *porteur – wearer*) of any word listed in the Vocabulary List (e.g., *porter – to wear*) that follows one of the patterns listed may be included in reading texts (or, if only the affixed form is listed, then the base form may be included in reading texts).

The grammar annexes and Annex E include illustrative examples of each pattern. For each derivational pattern, the grammar annexes a) describe how the affixed words are derived from the base word (e.g., *add -los to German nouns to create adjectives*) and b) stipulate the English meaning of the derived word (e.g., *adjectives with the English equivalent ‘-less’ or meaning ‘without’*). Following these rules, this current ‘Derivational Morphology’ resource provides a master list of all base and derived forms of words, organised by pattern, from which awarding organisations, publishers, and teachers can choose words for teaching and assessment.

**How was this resource made?**

To identify all examples of highly frequent words that could follow the derivational patterns specified in the subject content, we computationally applied each rule to all base words with frequency <2001, and stripped affixes from all words with frequency <2001 which are derived forms of a base. We checked the outputs against the Wiktionary databases for each of the three languages ([French](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/French), [German](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/German), and [Spanish](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Spanish)) to find out if the forms existed. To reduce the number of results that looked like derivatives, but were not (e.g., *couleur* (colour) from *couler* (to flow), we restricted the search by part of speech.

The results were manually checked by native speakers and resource developers to ensure that:

1) the words are in current usage (additional online reference resources were used as necessary: French – [Wiktionary](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/French); German - [Duden](https://www.duden.de/woerterbuch), [Wiktionary](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/German); Spanish – [Wiktionary](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Spanish)).

2) the English meanings provided in Wiktionary align with the English stipulated in the grammar annex (e.g., ensuring that theEnglish equivalent has ‘ *-less*’ or the meaning ‘*without*’). Where a meaning did not align, we removed it and, where possible, replaced it with an appropriate synonym. For example, for the computer-generated pair *actual* (*current*) and *actualmente* (*now, at present*) we changed the definition to *currently* to align with the stipulation for the English equivalent to contain ‘-ly’. If suitable synonyms were not available, the derived words were not included in this Derivational Morphology resource.

3) the relationship between the base word and affixed word was transparent in terms of meaning. Where this was not the case, the word was removed. For example, we judged that *hospitalidad* (hospitality) did not share a sufficiently transparent meaning with the base word *hospital* (*hospital*), despite being regularly formed.

**References**[Bauer, L. & Nation, P. (1993).](https://oasis-database.org/concern/summaries/rv042t58r?locale=en) Word families. *International Journal of Lexicography, 6*(4), 253-279.

**Links**

<https://www.duden.de/woerterbuch>

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/French>

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/German>

<https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Spanish>