ENG 235: Morphology and Syntax of English — Fall Semester 2003: MON & THU 1.30-3.00*
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CLASS 4: DERIVATIONAL MORPHOLOGY

PREAMBLE: MORE DEFINITIONS

Negative definition of "**derivational**": *Suffixes that are not inflectional must be derivational.*

The **base** is *a partially complete word form to which a suffix attaches*.
• one result is an **inflected word form**, the other a **new lexeme** (derivational)
• the base for an affixation process is what remains when an affix is **removed**

word class (C-McC) = **part of speech** (traditional) = **lexical category** (generative)

DERIVATIONS: THE BASICS

Derivational morphology deals with **word formation** (often resulting in a **new word class**):

(1) a. happy, *un*happy, happi*ness*, *un*happi*ness*
b. care, care*less*, care*less*ness, *care*ness*less
c. educate, educat*ion*; generate, generat*ion*
d. custom, custom*ize*, custom*iz*ation

Affixes attach to roots or stems and form new words; better to say: they **attach to bases**. Sometimes we may not see an overt morpheme (*zero-derivation*). This is called **conversion**:

(2) cut (N) – cut (V); fish (N) – fish (V)

Morphemes seem to come in a **fixed order**, so for example we have *prefixes*, *suffixes* etc. However, they also seem to **care *what* they attach to**:

(3) a.	quick – quick*ly*; soft – soft*ly*; care – *care*ly*	*-ly*:	Adj ⇨ Adv
b.	quick – quick*ness*; soft – soft*ness*; care – *care*ness*	*-ness*:	Adj ⇨ N
c.	care – care*less* – careless*ness* (*quick*less*, *soft*less*)	*-less*:	N ⇨ Adj
d.	joy – *en*joy; danger – *en*danger	*en-*:	N ⇨ V

So *-ly* attaches to adjectives and forms adverbs, *-ness* attaches to adjectives and forms nouns, *en-* attaches to nouns and gives us verbs. In all the above examples the meaning of the whole is determined by the meaning of the parts, **compositionality** (but this is not always the case…).

(4) a. amuse – amuse*ment*, enjoy – enjoy*ment* b. cure – cur*able* – *in*cur*able*

• **N ⇨ N**: 'small X', 'female X', inhabitant of X', 'state of being an X', 'devotee of/expert on X'
• **X ⇨ N**: *-ity*, *-ness*, *-ism* — *-ance/ence*, *-ment*, *-ing*, *-ion/tion/ation*, *-al*, *-er* — stress, final C, V
• **A ⇨ A**: *un-* + *-able*, *-ful* (English/Germanic) — *in-* + *-ible*, *-al* (Latinate/Romance)
• **X ⇨ A**: passive/participle *-ed*, *-en*, *-ing* (test: *very*) — *-able*, *-ent/ant*, *-ive* — *-ful*, *-less*, *-al*, *-ish*
• **V ⇨ V**: *re-*, *un-*, *de-*, *dis-* (all through prefixation!) — V-change: transitivity (causativity)
• **X ⇨ V**: *de-*, *-ise/ize*, *-fy/ify* — final voicing/V-change — *en-*/*em-* (plus others, e.g. *-en*)