

# **Inflectional Morphology Vs Derivational Morphology**

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# INFLECTION(AL)

A term used in MORPHOLOGY to refer to one of the two main CATEGORIES or processes of WORD FORMATION (Inflectional Morphology), the other being DERIVATION(AL).

These terms also apply to the two types of AFFIX involved in word formation.

Inflectional affixes signal GRAMMATICAL relationships, such as plural, past tense and possession, and do not change the grammatical CLASS of the STEMS to which they are attached; that is, the words constitute a single PARADIGM, e.g. talk, talks, talking, talked.

**Inflectional affixes do not change a word from one word class to another but instead provide certain grammatical information about a word such as whether it is singular or plural,**

**whether it functions as the subject or object of a sentence or whether (for verbs) the event took place in the past or present.**

Now let's try to describe inflectional affixes in terms of word class, function, productivity, position and meaning.

	<b>Inflectional Affixes</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Word Class</b>	Do not change class of a word	Teacher --> teachers	Both words are nouns; the suffix makes the noun plural
<b>Function</b>	Indicate relations between words	Teacher --> teacher's [book]	The suffix relates the noun to something that is possessed.
<b>Productivity</b>	Normally very productive	Teacher-s Tree-s Idea-s	The plural suffix can be added to most nouns.
<b>Position (in relation to root)</b>	Typically at edges of word	Teach-er-s	The plural suffix must occur at the end after any derivational affixes.
<b>Meaning</b>	Regular (the meaning of the affix remains the same for every word it appears on)	Walk-ed Talk-ed Yield-ed	The '-ed' suffix always indicates the past tense on any verb to which it attaches.

# DERIVATION(AL)

A term used in MORPHOLOGY to refer to one of the two main categories or processes of WORD FORMATION (derivational morphology), the other being INFLECTION(AL).

These terms also apply to the two types of AFFIX involved in word formation. Basically, the result of a derivational process is a new word (e.g. nation → national), whereas the result of an inflectional process is a different form of the same word.

There are two types of affixes - **derivational affixes** are those that when added to a word can change it from one word class to another word class.

These affixes can change verbs into nouns, etc.

We will be able to see the common root that the words share but notice how adding a prefix or suffix to the word can change its meaning slightly.

Let's try to describe derivational affixes in terms of word class, function, productivity, position and meaning.

	Derivational Affixes	Example	Comment
<b>Word Class</b>	Typically change class of a word	Believe --> believer	By adding '-er' to a verb we change it from a verb to a noun.
<b>Function</b>	Indicate relations within the word	To x --> one who x	We can define the affix, in this case "one who x" or "one who believes"
<b>Productivity</b>	Typically limited	*hope --> hoper	It does not work for every verb in the language.
<b>Position (in relation to root)</b>	Typically close to the root	Believe -er -s root      derivation inflection	The derivational affix '-er' is closer to the root 'believe' than the inflectional pluralizing suffix '-s.'
<b>Meaning</b>	Irregular (the meaning of the affix can change in accordance with the semantics of the word it is attached to)	Cook --> cooker	A 'cooker' is not 'one who cooks' but rather a machine that cooks so we cannot always define the suffix '-er' as 'one who does x'

# The difference between Derivation and Inflection

Derivation	Inflection
1. They can be found in dictionaries.	1. They cannot be found in dictionaries.
2. Derivational is irrelevant to syntax.	2. Inflectional is relevant to syntax.
3. It is optional.	3. It is obligatory.
4. Expresses a new concept.	4. Expresses the same concept as the base.
5. Derivational is semantically irregular.	5. Inflectional is semantically regular.

**Any Questions?**

For example,

– citṛam (Lexeme)

– Noun (Category)

## 1. ചിത്രം- citṛam ‘picture’

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	citṛam	citra-ṅgaḷ
Accusative	ciṭṛa-t-e	citra-ṅgaḷ-e
Sociative	ciṭṛa-t-ooṭu	citra-ṅgaḷ-ooṭu
Dative	ciṭṛa-tti-nu	citra-ṅgaḷ-kku
Instrumental	ciṭṛa-tt-aal	citra-ṅgaḷ-aal
Genitive	ciṭṛa-tt-inṭe	citra-ṅgaḷ-uṭe
Locative	ciṭṛa-tt-il	citra-ṅgaḷ-il
Vocative	citṛam-ee	citra-ṅgaḷ-ee

