

The rather neat chart presented here conceals a number of outstanding problems in the analysis of English morphology. Consequently, there is no derivational relationship between the noun law and the adjective legal in English, nor between the noun mouth (from Old English) and the adjective oral (a Latin borrowing). Consequently, a full description of English morphology will have to take account of both historical influences and the effect of borrowed elements. So far, we have only considered examples of English words in which the different morphemes are easily identifiable as separate elements. And if -al is the derivational suffix added to the stem institution to give us institutional, then can we take -al off the word legal to get the stem leg?