

The Suffixal Homophones

(-er)

Course Instructor: Ethar N. Jameel
University of Basra
College of Education for H. Scs.
English Department

Definition

A homophone is a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning.

Two-too-to

Flower- flour

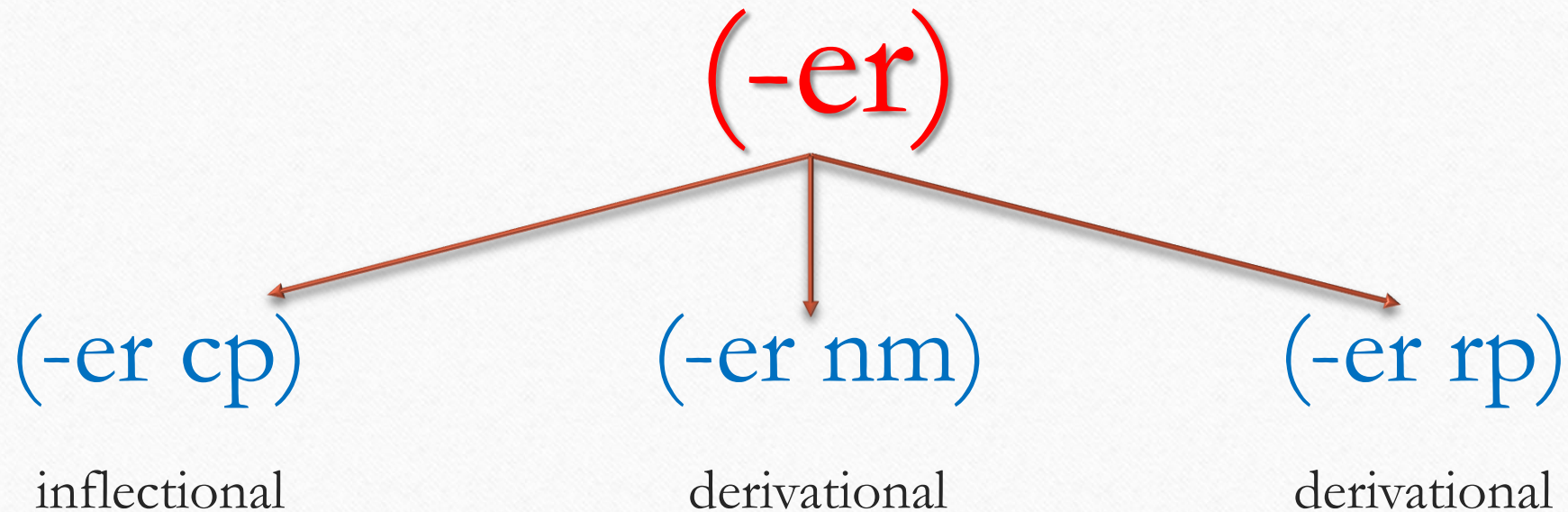
Right-wright-write

A suffixal homophone is a suffix that is pronounced the same as another suffix but differs in meaning.

Ex: (-er cp) (-er nm) (-er rp)



**There are three (-er) which are homophonous
(pronounced the same but have different meanings)**



1.(-er cp)

- ❑ This is an inflectional suffix
- ❑ It is attached to adjectives to make a degree of comparison
- ❑ It has the grammatical meaning of (comparison)
- ❑ Examples : clever – cleverer / tough- tougher / deep- deeper



2.(-er nm)

There are two types of (-er nm). Each one has a different meaning according to the part of speech it is attached to. These types are:



a verb+(-er nm)

It is derivational

- ✓ It has the meaning of (the doer of the action)
- ✓ It changes the verb into a noun that is why it is called (-er nm)
- ✓ e.g. work → worker / send → sender / paint → painter / act → actor



a noun+ (-er nm)

✓ It is derivational

- ✓ It has the meaning of (that which is related to)
- ✓ It doesn't change the noun into another part of speech, the noun remains a noun
- ✓ e.g. teenage → teenager / New York → New Yorker



3-(-er rp)

- ❖ It is **derivational**
- ❖ It has the meaning of (repetition)
- ❖ It is questionable whether it is part of the word or it is a suffix added to a base because **sometimes** after taking it out of the word what remains is not a base, however; in all of the words containing this (-er), one can see the meaning of repetition
- ❖ e.g. chatter (continuous trivial talk or a series of quick high- pitched sounds)
- ❖ jabber (fast, excited talk ...)
- ❖ glimmer (to shine faintly with a wavering light)
- ❖ See other examples on p.97

