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# ALLOMORPHS

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## What is an Allomorph?

- An allomorph is : *the phonemic form of a morpheme.*

➤ For example, the (-ed) morpheme has three allomorphs /t/, /d/, and / Id/.

The allomorph /t/ occurs after voiceless consonants except /t/ ... smasheded /t/

The allomorph /d/ occurs after voiced sounds except /d/... cleaned /d/

The allomorph /id/ occurs after /t/ and /d/ ..... painted /Id/      added /Id/

(each one of these phonemic forms (allomorphs) can never occur in the position of each other and that what is called Complementary Distribution CD)

*Complementary distribution (CD) means that each one of the different phonemic forms of the same morpheme can never occur in a position or positions where the other form(s) can occur.*

*So Allomorphs are defined as (the different phonemic forms of the same morpheme which are in complementary distribution. )*



## MORE EXAMPLES



- **deep** **depth** .... Two allomorphs of one morpheme(deep)  
/di:p/ /dep-/
- **Press** **pressure** two allomorphs of one morpheme (press)  
/pres/ /pref-/
- **Cats** **dogs** **pages** three allomorphs of one morpheme (-s pl)  
/s/ /z/ /Iz/
- **divine** **divinity** ..... two allomorphs of one morpheme(divine)  
/dIvIn/ /dIvIn.../



## NOTE:



- Not all morphemes have more than one phonemic form, many morphemes in English have only one phonemic form (one allomorph) even after attaching them to other morphemes.
- Ex:
- **boy, boyhood, boyish, boys**..... in all of them the morpheme (boy) is pronounced as /**bɔɪ**/ so it is the only allomorph for this morpheme.
- **equip, equipage, equipment**,... the morpheme (equip) in all of these words is pronounced as /**ɪkwɪp**/ so there is only one allomorph for this morpheme which is /ɪkwɪp/

