

(I) Deriving Enjoyment (1/2)

The derivations, which are formed according to a uniform set of rules, indicate diminutive, including derived names shown by the suffix -ič, or feminine shown by the suffix -ica. If the noun is already feminine (i.e. ends in an -a), this suffix has the diminutive meaning (at least in the data given).

In addition there is consonant change (palatalization) of k to č, g to ž, h to š. This happens whether there is an -a ending or not. Not all cases are exemplified in the given data (volk, roka, -g, knjiga, menih, -ha) so it has to be inferred that the rule applies to both genders.

And with a polysyllabic stem ending in e+consonant, drop the e.

I1.

(a) bivol	buffalo	bivolica	female buffalo
bog	god	(b) božič	small god
grm	bush	(c) grmič	small bush
knjiga	book	(d) knjižica	booklet
muha	fly	(e) mušica	midge (small fly)
orel	eagle	orlica	female eagle
		(f) orlič	eaglet
osel	donkey	oslič	donkey foal
		(g) oslica	jenny (i.e. she-donkey)
otrok	child	(h) otročič	baby
oven	sheep	(i) ovnič	lamb
Pavel	Paul	(j) Pavlič	Paulson
(k) rak	crab	račič	baby crab
(l) Štefan	Stephen	Štefanič	Stephenson
Tomaž	Thomas	(m) Tomažič	Thomson
(n) trn	thorn	trnič	small thorn
veter	wind	(o) vetrič	draft (current of air)
vrh	peak	(p) vršič	small peak
zid	wall	(q) zidič	small wall
žep	pocket	(r) žepič	small pocket



(I) Deriving Enjoyment (2/2)

I2. It might be rož or rog: you can't tell from the diminutive whether the stem has undergone palatalization (like bog) or ended in ž anyway (like Tomaž). In fact it is rog.

I3. It might be čoln or čolen: you can't tell from the diminutive whether or not there is an e in the final syllable of the stem. In fact it is čoln.

With example (a), you might think that bivola is a possible answer. But in the data there is no example of the -ica suffix meaning 'feminine' attaching to a word ending in -a: in all such cases, the derived word is a diminutive. This is because (in this data at least), all feminine stems end in -a (though that is not a general rule for Slovene). For example the word živalica means 'small animal', not 'female animal' because the root žival is actually (already) feminine.

