English Derivational Affixes

Affixes are always evolving and are often specialized by profession; therefore, no list of affixes can be complete. The etymology of the root determines whether or not a form is an affix.

Prefixes

The placement of a bound morpheme at the beginning of a root creates a prefix, not the spelling of the form. For ease of reading, only the first prefix shows the required { }.

{a-}	endo-	over-
ab-	ex-	pan-
ad-	extra-	para-
ambi-	hetero-	post-
ante-	homo-	pre-
anti-	hyper-	psych-
arch-	hypo-	quasi-
be-	il-	re-
circum-	im-	sept-
con-	in-	sext-
contra-	ir-	sub-
de-	meta-	supra-
dec(a)-	micro-	trans-
dis-	non-	un-
dys-	omni-	under-

Derivational Suffixes

Roots can have more than one derivational suffix, but it is always the last derivational suffix that determines the part of speech of a word. Derivational suffixes are always followed by inflectional suffixes when they occur. For ease of reading, only the first suffix shows the required { }.

{-able}	-ette	-ive
-aggedon	-ful	-ize
-al	-gate	-less
-an	-gnosis	-like
-ance	-gram	-ly
-arium	-graph	-ment
-ary	-hood	-ness
-ate	-(i)al	-oid
-ation	-(i)ate	-ology
-(c)ian	-ible (see –able; -ible is a spelling variant)	-ory
-cy	-ic	-ous
-dom	-ile	-sion (see –ion and –tion)
-en	-ion (spelling variants: -(s)-ion; -(t)ion)	-some
-enne	-ish	-ster
-ence	-ism	-tion (see –ion and-sion)
-ent	-ist	-ward
-er	-ite	-wise
-esce	-ity	-y
-ess	-itis	