

Practice for Questions 5-7 on HW4:

Imagine that you are backpacking alone in the woods of northern California, and you discover a human settlement that has not been documented and does not appear on any maps! The villagers speak English and are quite friendly – you end up staying with a family for dinner. As you talk to your host family, you realize that certain words are somewhat unfamiliar and that there seem to be some interesting phonological differences between their dialect of English and your dialect (assume, however, that both dialects share the exact same phonemic inventory).

Both your dialects contain a derivational process (X + “-en”) that roughly translates to “make something X”. Here is an example from both dialects: “I used a knife to shorten the stick” (i.e., “shorten” = make something short). However, you notice that the villagers’ dialect has an alternation that your dialect does not contain, and you collect the data below. *Relying solely on the data in this first table*, answer Questions 1-4.

[dɪp]	deep	[dɪpən]	deepen
[waɪt]	white	[waɪtən]	whiten
[mæd]	mad	[mædən]	madden
[kwɪk]	quick	[kwɪkən]	quicken
[kʊl]	cool	[kʊlɪn]	cooleen
[blu]	blue	[bluɪn]	blueen
[ɡriːn]	green	[ɡriːnɪn]	greeneen
[sləʊ]	slow	[sləʊɪn]	sloween

1. What are the 2 forms of the derivational suffix for “make something X”?
2. Which form would you pick for the underlying form and why?
3. What is your best guess for the distributions of the 2 forms? *Base your guess solely on the data in the first table above.*
4. Write a rule to show how to get the non-underlying form, using proper rule notation.

After dinner, you get up to go home, but your host family insists that you stay. How can you possibly refuse, when they are offering you dessert and hot chocolate?

As you chat some more, you pick up on some more words that the family uses (listed in the table below), and you realize that you may need to adjust some of your earlier claims based on these new data. Answer Questions 5-7 below.

[lɛŋθ]	length	[lɛŋθən]	lengthen
[laɪv]	live	[laɪvən]	liven
[hɑːʃ]	harsh	[hɑːʃən]	harshen
[brɪdʒ]	bridge	[brɪdʒən]	bridgen

5. How do the data in the table above go against the rule you constructed in Question 4?

6. Formulate a new rule to account for the data within both tables (above and on the back page).

7. For the following words, make a prediction about which suffix should follow: superb, high, big, bring, tall, serious.