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derive, *v.*

Pronunciation: /dɪˈrɪv/

Forms: ME *dir-*, *diryve*, *dyryve*, ME–15 *deryve*, 15 *deryfe*.

Frequency (in current use):

Etymology: < French *dériver* (12th cent. in Littré = Provençal *derivar*, Spanish *derivar* ...

I. Transitive senses.

†1.

a. To conduct (a stream of water or other fluid) *from* a source, reservoir, main stream, etc. *to* or *into* a channel, place, or destination; to lead, draw, convey down a course or through a channel. *Obsolete* or *arch.*

1483 *Cath. Angl.* 96 To deriue, deriuare.

1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 513/1 I deriue, or bringe one thyng out of another, as water is brought whan it is brought from the spring, *je deriue*.

a1552 J. LELAND *Itinerary* (1711) V. 77 The Pittes be so set abowte with Canales that the Salte Water is facily derivid to every Mannes Howse.

1555 W. WATERMAN tr. J. Boemus *Fardle of Facions* Pref. 10 From them [springes] thei deriued into cities and Tounes, the pure freshe waters a greate distaunce of.

?a1560 L. DIGGES *Geom. Pract.: Pantometria* (1571) I. xvii. sig. Eiv Ye may conclude that this water may be deriued thither.

1606 N. BAXTER *Man Created* in E. Farr *Sel. Poetry Reign James I* (1848) 238 And so through conduits, secretly contriu'd, Is blood to euerie humane part deriu'd.

1632 R. SANDERSON *12 Serm.* 24 Little trenches, whereby..husbandmen used to derive water from some fountain or cistern to the several parts of their gardens.

1697 S. PATRICK *Comm. Exod.* (vii. 19) 122 Water..derived by Pipes from the River, into Cisterns.

1805 W. SAUNDERS *Treat. Mineral Waters* (ed. 2) 197 Mineral springs..Externally used, either by immersing the whole body, or by deriving a stream to some particular part.

†**b.** with various constructions, and adverbial complements.

1548 R. HUTTEN tr. J. Spangenberg *Sum of Diuinitie* sig. Lvij^v Thy fountaynes shall be deriued, & the ryuers shall runne into the streetes.

1594 *2nd Rep. Dr. Faustus* v. sig. C4 Danuby is deriued in two armes, which..meete at length againe in the same Channell.

- 1633 BP. J. HALL *Plaine Explic. Hard Texts* II. 411 Cyrus..drained the channell of Euphrates, and derived the streames the other way.
- 1650 T. FULLER *Pisgah-sight of Palestine* IV. iii. 48 The pillar conducting them such by-ways, in levels or declivity of vales..where the water had a conveniency to be derived after them.
- a1723 SIR C. WREN in L. Phillimore *Family & Times* (1881) App. iii. 343 They deriv'd the River when it rose, all over the Flat of the Delta.
- 1800 E. DARWIN *Phytologia* XV. iii. 417 In some parts..where rice is cultivated, they are said not to derive the water on it, till it is in flower.

†**c.** *reflexive*. To flow (*in, into, through* channels). (Chiefly *fig.*)
Obsolete.

- a1631 J. DONNE *Serm.* (1953) VI. 153 From all eternity he derived himselfe into three persons.
- a1652 J. SMITH *Select Disc.* (1821) IX. iv. 430 When God made the world, he did not..leave it alone to subsist by itself..but he derived himself through the whole creation.
- a1661 T. FULLER *Worthies* (1662) Bristol 37 The stream of her Charity..found other channels therein to derive it self.

†**2.** To cause (water, etc.) to flow away; to draw off, carry off, divert the course of; *spec.* in *Medicine*, cf. DERIVATION *n.*¹ 1c. *Obsolete*.

- 1598 J. STOW *Suruay of London* 26 Intending to haue deriued the riuier of Thames, to haue flowed aboute it.
- 1601 P. HOLLAND tr. Pliny *Hist. World* I. 544 To water them, or to deriue & diuert water from them.
- 1601 P. HOLLAND tr. Pliny *Hist. World* II. 469 To lade out the water that riseth vpon the workemen, for feare it choke vp the pits; for to preuent which inconuenience, they deriue it by other drains.
- 1656 J. SMITH *Compl. Pract. Physick* 17 The matter must be derived and voided from the head.
- 1693 J. RAY *Three Physico-theol. Disc.* (ed. 2) I. iii. 38 Water, (which to derive and rid away).
- 1771 T. PERCIVAL *Ess. Med. & Exper.* (1777) I. 220 They derive the febrile matter from the brain, and assist..the other discharges.

†**3.**

a. To carry, lead, extend (a watercourse, canal, or channel of any kind). *Obsolete*.

- ?c1550 tr. P. Vergil *Three Bks. Eng. Hist.* (1844) 20 After~ward, deriving a trenche from fort to fort, he environed the towne, and..beganne to annoy the same.
- 1600 J. PORY tr. J. Leo Africanus *Geogr. Hist. Afr.* II. 113 So soone as the said water-conduct was derived unto the towne, he caused it to be divided, and sent into sundry places.

- 1623 J. BINGHAM tr. Xenophon *Hist.* 16 Media, where the Channels begin, that are deriued out of the Riuer Tygris.
- 1777 R. WATSON *Hist. Reign Philip II* I. XIII. 413 From this stream..an infinity of canals are derived.

†**b.** To extend by branches or ramifications; to divide by branching.
lit. and *fig.*

- a1612 J. HARINGTON *Treat. Playe in Nugæ Antiquæ* (1775) II. 5 Yt may be deriued into three kinds.
- a1631 J. DONNE *Serm.* (1955) II. 62 Rooted in some one beloved sin, but derived into infinite branches of tentation.
- 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* III. xxv. 174 At the other end, by two branches [it] deriveth it selfe into the Lunges.
- a1676 M. HALE *Primitive Originat. Mankind* (1677) I. ii. 65 Other ramifications of this *nervus intercostalis* are derived into the Chest and *Diaphragma*. [Cf. 1760 at sense 4a.]

†**4.** *transf.* and *fig.*

a. To convey from one (treated as a source) to another, as by transmission, descent, etc.; to transmit, impart, communicate, pass on, hand on. Const. *to*, *into*, *unto*, rarely *upon* the recipient. *Obsolete* or *arch.* (*rare* after 1750).

- a1530 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfeccyon* (1531) III. f. CCxxvi This power of byndyng & losyng of synne, is deriuyed from the apostles to y^e mynystres of Christes chirche.
- 1547 J. HOOPER *Declar. Christe i*, in *Early Writings* (1843) 15 The sin of Adam..was derived into all his posterity.
- 1564 *Briefe Exam.* B iv The maner of prophesying..was deryued out of the Sinagoges, into our Churches.
- 1593 T. BILSON *Perpetual Govt. Christes Church* 6 From him God lineally derived it unto Abraham.
- 1607 T. DEKKER & J. WEBSTER *Famous Hist. Thomas Wyat* sig. A2 I will Deriue the Crowne vnto your Daughters head.
- 1651–3 BP. J. TAYLOR *Serm. for Year* Ep. Ded. That this Book is derived upon your Lordship almost in the nature of a legacy from her.
- a1661 T. FULLER *Worthies* (1662) Bucks. 136 Parents..rich enough to derive unto him the hereditary infirmity of the gout.
- 1686 J. SCOTT *Christian Life: Pt. II* II. vii. 678 Jesus..when he ascended..derived that divine Spirit upon his Apostles.
- 1699 BP. G. BURNET *Expos. 39 Articles* (1700) xxxii. 356 The High-Priest..was to marry, and he derived to his descendents that Sacred Office.

- 1702 *Clarendon's Hist. Rebellion* I. v. 549 His Name would be derived to Posterity, as the Preserver of his Country.
- 1760 W. LAW *Spirit of Prayer* I. 38 The life of the vine must be really derived into the branches.
- 1835 PAUL *Antiq. Greece* I. II. xi. §2 A festival first instituted at Athens, and from thence derived to the rest of the Ionians.
- 1848 R. D. HAMPDEN *Bampton Lect.* (ed. 3) 184 The definition of Predestination, as given in the Scholastic writers, and from them derived to modern Theology.

†**b.** To hand *down* (*esp.* by descent). *Obsolete.*

- 1561 T. NORTON & T. SACKVILLE *Gorboduc* 86 What their fathers..Have with great fame derived down to them.
- a1646 J. GREGORY *Posthuma* (1649) 268 The Turkish Histories are not so completely derived down to us as to Describe the Territories by Longitude, or Latitude.
- 1681–6 J. SCOTT *Christian Life* (1747) III. 402 Another evident Instance of the Apostles deriving down their Apostolick Authority.
- 1828 R. SOUTHEY in *Q. Rev.* 37 208 The hatred of popery..which has..been derived down from father to son.

†**c.** *reflexive.* To pass by descent or transmission.

- 1600 SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV, Pt. 2* IV. iii. 174 This imperial Crowne, Which as immediate from thy place and blood, Deriues it selfe to me.
- 1654 E. WOLLEY tr. 'G. de Scudéry' *Curia Politicæ* 126 Which Conditions did not (with his succession) derive themselves on me.
- 1655 T. FULLER *Church-hist. Brit.* VII. 407 The Womens discords derived themselves into their Husbands hearts.
- 1677 J. PHILLIPS tr. J.-B. Tavernier *Persian Trav.* v. iv. 206 in tr. J.-B. Tavernier *Six Voy.* (1678) The jealousy of the Kings of Persia..derives itself to all his Subjects, who will not permit their women to be seen.

†**5.** *transitive.* To cause to come; to draw, bring, turn, direct; to bring down. *Obsolete.*

a. Const. *to, unto, into.*

- ?c1550 tr. P. Vergil *Eng. Hist.* (1846) I. 102 Then Honorius, retainenge the Brittshe armie, did againe derive and traine the Ilande to the empire.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *All's Well that ends Well* (1623) v. iii. 267 Things which would deriue mee ill will to speake of.
- 1623 SHAKESPEARE & J. FLETCHER *Henry VIII* II. iv. 30 What Friend of mine, That had to him deriu'd your Anger, did I Continue in my Liking.
- 1678 T. HOBBS *Decameron Physiologicum* vii. 75 The force of the Sun-beams is derived almost to a point by a Burning-glass.

- 1702 *Clarendon's Hist. Rebellion* I. iv. 270 Men..looked upon him, as one, who could derive the King's Pleasure to them.
- 1772 J. W. FLETCHER *Appeal Matter of Fact* III. 96 Those who..derive putrefaction into their bones, for the momentary gratification of a shameful appetite.
- 1774 T. JEFFERSON *Autobiogr. App.*, in *Wks.* (1859) I. 144 To undergo the great inconvenience that will be derived to them from stopping all imports whatever from Great Britain.

b. Const. *on, upon.*

- 1611 J. SPEED *Hist. Great Brit.* IX. xvi. 665/2 Hereby he deriued vpon his enemie all the enuie of the people.
- 1671 J. DAVIES *Sibylys* II. ii. 87 The first Persecution was raised by Nero, to derive upon the innocent Christians the Indignation of the Romanes.
- 1705 G. STANHOPE *Paraphr.* III. 65 Such Apostacy derives a double Dishonour upon Religion.
- 1741 S. RICHARDSON *Pamela* III. ix. 41 Such an Example, as will derive upon you the Ill-will and Censure of other Ladies.
- 1808 W. TAYLOR in *Monthly Mag.* 26 224 They would derive on themselves a solid glory.

6.

a. To draw, fetch, get, gain, obtain (a thing *from* a source). Const. *from*, rarely †*out of*.

- 1561 T. HOBY tr. B. Castiglione *Courtyer* I. sig. F.iiii^v Deriuing them [*sc.* new words] featly from the Latins, as the Latins in olde tyme, deriued from the [Greeks].
- 1581 G. PETTIE tr. S. Guazzo *Ciuiile Conuersat.* (1586) Pref. sig. A vij If one chance to derive anie word from the Latine, which is insolent to their eares..they forthwith make a jest at it, and terme it an Inkhorne terme.
- 1600 SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* II. ix. 41 O that estates, degrees, and offices, were not deriu'd corruptly.
- 1601 B. JONSON *Every Man in his Humor* II. ii. sig. E^v Signior, let me deriue a small peece of siluer from you.
- 1665 T. HERBERT *Some Years Trav.* (new ed.) 140 The Romans..led Horses in honour of the Sun, a custome derived from the Persians.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* IX. 837 Sciential sap, deriv'd From Nectar, drink of Gods.
- 1751 J. HARRIS *Hermes* III. iv. 400 If all Minds have them [*sc.* their ideas] derived, they must be derived from something, which is itself not Mind.
- 1781 GIBBON *Decline & Fall* II. 32 The power of the præfect of Italy was not confined to the country from whence he derived his title.
- 1822 'B. CORNWALL' *Headland Bay Panama* in *Misc. Poems* And Cheops hath derived eternal fame Because he made his tomb a place of pride.
- 1856 J. A. FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. iii. 219 The archbishop..derived no personal advantage from his courts.

1878 T. H. HUXLEY *Physiogr.* (ed. 2) 181 The solid matter derived from the waste of the land.

b. Const. with *from* and *to*. *rare*.

1771 O. GOLDSMITH *Hist. Eng.* I. 204 A king, from the weakness of whose title they might derive power to themselves.

1785 W. PALEY *Moral & Polit. Philos.* (1818) II. 404 The chief advantage which can be derived to population from the interference of law.

1806 J. LINGARD *Antiq. Anglo-Saxon Church* I. iv. 167 From his labours, the most valuable benefits were derived to his countrymen.

c. *to derive* (ancestry, origin, pedigree, etc.); also *reflexive*.

1599 H. BUTTES *Dyets Dry Dinner* sig. B8 For Malum (an apple) deriveth his line of Ancestry from the Greeke Melon, of great antiquity.

1612 J. SELDEN in M. Drayton *Poly-olbion* xi. Illustr. 183 Prester Iohns, sometimes deriuing himselfe very neere from the loines of Salomon.

1634 T. HERBERT *Relation Some Yeares Trauaile* 10 The Mountaines of the Moone..whence seuen-mouthed Nyle, deriues his Origen.

1662 J. EVELYN *Sculptura* ii. 11 Sculpture may derive its Pedegree from the infancy of the World.

d. *absol.* or *intransitive*.

1632 F. QUARLES *Divine Fancies* Ded. That like the painful Bee, I may derive From sundry Flow'rs to store my slender Hive.

1649 G. LANGBAINE *Answer Vniv. Oxford* 33 Erected by the Citty and those who derive from their Title.

1796 E. BURKE *Let. to Noble Lord* in *Wks.* (1815) VIII. 39 The grantee whom he derives from.

e. *Chemistry*. To obtain (a compound) from another, as by partial replacement.

1868 H. WATTS *Dict. Chem.* V. 554 This compound, derived from ethylsulphurous acid by substitution of Cl for HO.

7. To obtain by some process of reasoning, inference or deduction; to gather, deduce.

1509 S. HAWES *Pastime of Pleasure* 75 Loke what ye saye; loke it be deryfyde Frome perfyrt reason well exemplyfyde.

- 1624 N. DE LAWNE tr. P. Du Moulin *Elements Logick* 89 Rules to live well, derived from nature.
- 1690 J. LOCKE *Ess. Humane Understanding* II. xiv. 83 Men derive their Ideas of Duration, from their Reflection on the train of the Ideas, they observe to succeed one another in their own Understandings.
- 1752 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 203. ¶7 In age, we derive little from retrospect but hopeless sorrow.
- 1874 J. R. GREEN *Short Hist. Eng. People* vii. §7. 426 It is difficult..to derive any knowledge of Shakspeare's inner history from the Sonnets.
- 1875 B. JOWETT in tr. Plato *Dialogues* (ed. 2) IV. 269 The higher truths of philosophy and religion..are derived from experience.

8. reflexive. To arise, spring, come *from* something as its source; to take its origin *from*.

- 1662 E. STILLINGFLEET *Origines Sacræ* II. ii. §9 Sem from whom he derived himself, was one of the persons who escaped it in the Ark.
- 1665 T. HERBERT *Some Years Trav.* (new ed.) 127 Sheraz then probably derives it self from Sherab, which in the Persian Tongue signifies a Grape.
- 1690 J. LOCKE *Ess. Humane Understanding* II. i. 37 Experience: In that, all our Knowledge is founded; and from that it ultimately derives it self.
- 1735 tr. C. Rollin *Anc. Hist.* V. 85 Hence comedy derives itself.
- 1833 C. LAMB *Pop. Fallacies* v, in *Last Ess. Elia* 232 If the abstinence from evil..is to derive itself from no higher principle.

9.

a. passive. To be drawn or descended; to take its origin or source; to spring, come *from* (rarely †*of*, †*out of*).

- c1386 CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* (Ellesm. & Camb. MSS.) 2180 Conuertynge al vn to his propre welle ffrom which it is dirryued sooth to telle.
- 1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 513/1 His lynage is deryved out of the house of Melysyn.
- 1610 J. GUILLIM *Display of Heraldrie* II. vi. 58 A Couple-close is a subordinate charge deriued from a Cheuron.
- 1701 D. DEFOE *True-born Englishman* i. 11 A Race uncertain and unev'n, Deriv'd from all the Nations under Heav'n.
- 1737 W. WHISTON tr. Josephus *Jewish Antiq.* XIII. xiii. §5, in tr. Josephus *Genuine Wks.* They also reviled him, as derived from a captive.
- 1892 S. R. GARDINER *Student's Hist. Eng.* 6 No European population now existing which is not derived from many races.

b. spec. Of a word: To arise or be formed by some process of word-formation *from* (some more primitive or earlier word).

- 1567 J. MAPLET *Greene Forest* f. 60 *Arundo*, sayth he, is deriued out of the Adiectiue *Aridum*, for that it so spedily drieth and withereth.
- a1599 SPENSER *View State Ireland* 50 in J. Ware *Two Hist. Ireland* (1633) Stirrup..being derived of the old English word *Sty*, which is, to get up.
- 1676 *Port Royal Art of Speaking* 11 From one single Word many others are derived, as is obvious in the Dictionaries of such Languages as we know.
- 1751 J. WESLEY *Wks.* (1872) XIV. 48 A Participle is an Adjective derived of a Verb.
- 1791 *Gentleman's Mag.* Jan. 27/1 The word *Tontine* is only a cant word, derived from the name of an Italian projector.
- 1881 W. W. SKEAT *Etymol. Dict.* 150/2 From this O.F. *dars* is also derived the Breton *darz*, a dace.

10.

a. transitive. To trace or show the derivation, origin, or pedigree of; to show (a thing) to proceed, issue, or come *from*; to trace the origination of (anything) from its source; also, more loosely, to declare, assert, or state a thing to be derived *from*.

- 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. G. F. di Conestaggio *Hist. Uniting Portugall to Castell* 4 Some derive the originall of this Count Henrie from Hungarie, others from Aragon, and from other places.
- 1604 *Meeting of Gallants* sig. A2^v Bastard..Thou knowest I can deriue thee.
- 1646 SIR T. BROWNE *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* VI. ix. 321 The observations of Albuquerque..derive this rednesse from the colour of the sand and argillous earth at the bottome.
- 1662 E. STILLINGFLEET *Origines Sacræ* III. iv. §13 Prometheus (from whom the Greeks derived themselves).
- 1683 *Britanniæ Speculum* 38 From whence Sir Edward Cook derives the Law of England at this day for burning those Women who kill their Husbands.
- 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* VI. XVII. vii. 140 An Action which Malice itself could not have derived from an evil Motive.
- 1874 J. W. DAWSON *Nature & Bible* 202 These men derive all religion from myths.

b. spec. To trace the origin of (a word) *from* ([†]*to*) its etymological source; to establish or show the derivation of; also, less correctly, to offer a conjectural derivation for (a word).

- 1559 W. CUNINGHAM *Cosmogr. Glasse* 186 Africa..Festus saith it came of the qualitie of th' Aere..deriving it of φρικη, as who should say, Ἀφρικη that is, without horroure of coldenes.
- 1672 H. DODWELL *Two Lett. Advice* II. ix. 259 This..way of deriving unknown words to their primitive originals.
- 1755 JOHNSON *Dict. Eng. Lang.* Pref. That etymologist..who can seriously derive *dream* from *drama*, because *life is a drama, and a drama is a dream*.

- 1851 R. C. TRENCH *Study of Words* (ed. 13) vii. 264 He derives the name of the peacock from the peak or tuft of pointed feathers on its head.
- 1884 *Notes & Queries* 6th Ser. IX. 207 I should be much obliged if any of your readers could help me in deriving the name of the village of Allonby, in Cumberland.

II. Intransitive senses (arising out of reflexive uses in I.).

11. To flow, spring, issue, emanate, come, arise, originate, have its derivation *from*, rarely *out of* (a source). Frequently in modern use, probably at first as a gallicism.

- c1386 CHAUCER *Knight's Tale* 2148 (Ellesm. MS.) Wel may men knowe but it be a fool That euery part dirryueth from his hool.
- 1649 A. ASCHAM *Bounds Publique Obed.* 17 We all derive from him.
- a1661 W. BRERETON *Trav.* (1844) 65 A mighty revenue derives out of the excise paid for beer and wine.
- 1684 *Scanderbeg Redivivus* i. 3 To understand the Family he derives from.
- 1706 D. DEFOE *Jure Divino* v. 13 The Right to rule derives from those that gave, And no Man can convey more Power than that they have.
- a1774 A. TUCKER *Light of Nature Pursued* (1777) III. I. 27 Happiness, which does not derive from any single source.
- 1803 S. SMITH *Wks.* (1859) I. 54/2 In the third class, nobility derives from the person, and not from the estate.
- 1850 TENNYSON *In Memoriam* liv. 78 The wish, that of the living whole No life may fail beyond the grave; Derives it not from what we have The likest God within the soul?
- 1863 A. W. KINGLAKE *Invasion of Crimea* II. iii. 74 There was an authority not deriving from the Queen or the Parliament.
- 1895 tr. P. Bourget *Outre-mer* ii. 36 How all literature derives from him [sc. Shakespeare] in every English-speaking country.
- 1899 *Daily News* 28 Nov. 6/5 As a draughtsman he derives from Charles Keene.
- 1901 *Daily News* 22 Jan. 5/4 The theory of the mediæval empire derives immediately from Rome.
- 1907 *Daily Chron.* 18 Oct. 4/6 Thackeray derived straight from Goldsmith.
- 1971 *Daily Tel.* 19 Nov. 13/3 Richard Rountree..is powerful in a role that must derive from those paragons of policemen Sidney Poitier used to play.

12. To proceed, descend, pass on, come (*to* a receiver, receptacle, etc.).

- 1559 P. MORWYNG tr. C. Gesner *Treasure of Euonymus* Pref. The study of this Art..derived unto the Romains and Grekes somewhat late.
- 1647 BP. J. TAYLOR *Θεολογία Ἐκλεκτική* xv. 212 If the Church meddles with them when they doe not derive into ill life.

- 1655 T. STANLEY *Hist. Philos.* I. I. 1 Thales., who first introduc'd Naturall and Mathematicall Learning into Greece, from whence it derives into us.
- 1768 *Woman of Honor* III. 130 All that is the most excellent, in our..laws, derives to us from those very..savages.
- 1858 M. PATTISON *Ess.* (1889) II. 16 Puritanism..derives to this country directly from Geneva.

13. Of a word: To originate, come as a derivative (*from* its root or primitive).

- 1794 H. L. PIOZZI *Brit. Synonymy* I. 90 *Indignant* meantime derives from a higher stock.
- 1804 W. TAYLOR in *Ann. Rev.* 2 632 Upholsterer is declared against as a corruption. Whence does it derive?
- 1866 J. B. ROSE tr. Virgil *Eclogues & Georgics* 154 The words *Comus* and *Encomium* derive thence.

DERIVATIVES

de' riving *n.*

- 1607 S. HIERON *Old-man & New-man* in *Wks.* (1620) I. 420 Whosoeuer is a man by the propagation of Adams nature, the same is also a sinner by the deriuing ouer of his corruption.
- 1626 BACON *Sylua Syluarum* §176 (R.) For our experiments are onely such as do ever ascend a degree to the deriving of causes and extracting of axiomes.