Webster's New International Dictionary Preface, 1909

The third device for saving space is the defining of many purely formal derivatives by references to their prefixes or suffixes.

Formal Derivatives. From a primary word or stem, derivatives can be formed, almost at will, by the addition of suffixes like *-hood*, *-ship*, *-ness*, *-ish*, or of such prefixes as *non-*, *anti-*, *contra-*, *infra-*, *super-*, *sub-*, *over-*, *un-*. Any word formed by means of such a general suffix or prefix, although occurring in literature in only one or two of the senses of the main word as modified by the suffix or prefix, might legitimately be used in nearly any other sense appropriate to that of the root word. Great care has been taken to show clearly the meaning of each prefix and suffix in the various combinations in which it may occur, and derivatives have been referred to the proper prefix or suffix, thus leading to an amount of information as to the actual or potential meanings of the derivative that could not possibly be given if each one received independent treatment. By this device the utility of the book has been distinctly increased, and the consulter has also been put in the way of acquiring a knowledge of the force of the formative parts of the English language that might otherwise be overlooked or neglected.