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The purpose of the present study is to demonstrate that rules whose origin is purely phonological may acquire a morphological function, i.e. may be motivated by the need to mark the morphological status of the lexical item. In such a case, the presence of the phonological environment is not necessary for the application of the rule. The discussion is based on the widely discussed problem of zero & vowel phonetically ()*+ alternation in Polish: -pencer . /01, -zpyra . //2, 3o ali# . //0, 4ethin 2556, 7ussman 2558, 3ras#a⁹-zlen# 2558, : ayes 255/, ; u"ach 'to appear+ among many others+. This study demonstrates that while the vowel is indeed epenthetic in many environments 'contrary to 7ussmann 2558, "ut in agreement with 3o ali# . //0+, in some specific parts of the grammatical paradigm the motivation for the epenthesis is not phonological "ut morphological to indicate that the form is derived. The interest of this study for linguistic theory is that the marking of a linguistic form as derived is crosslinguistically rare.