

1. SUFFIXES TO DERIVE ADJECTIVES

We can derive ADJECTIVES by adding a suffix to a NOUN or VERB. Some examples are:

⚠ **Be careful!** The spelling of the adjective may change.

-able *acceptable, reasonable, predictable, comfortable, believable, advisable*

-al *traditional, musical, medical, environmental, political, accidental*

-ent / -ant *dependent, different, intelligent, resident, consistent, resistant*

-ful *helpful, peaceful, awful, wonderful, colourful, successful*

-ible *horrible, divisible, accessible, comprehensible, sensible, terrible*

-ic *atomic, problematic, idiomatic, energetic, systematic, emphatic*

-ive *permissive, cohesive, supportive, offensive, decisive, constructive*

-less *hopeless, harmless, homeless, meaningless, fearless, countless*

-like *childlike, godlike, ladylike*

-ly *deadly, friendly, lovely, manly, kingly, earthly*

-ous *dangerous, courageous, mysterious, erroneous, suspicious, malicious*

-y *lucky, cloudy, sleepy, sunny, hairy, funny*

-ing / -ed

2. SUFFIXES TO DERIVE NOUNS

2.1) FROM AN ADJECTIVE

-ance: *tolerance; abundance; importance; relevance*

-cy: *privacy; pregnancy; accuracy; efficiency*

-ence: *intelligence; difference; obedience; adolescence; violence*

-(t)ion: *integration; immigration; organisation; discrimination*

-ism: *multiculturalism; individualism; optimism*

-ity: *diversity; nationality; reality; equality; individuality; electricity; purity; generosity; popularity; curiosity*

-ness: *illness; happiness; darkness; emptiness; fullness*

-y: **difficulty, honesty**

IRREGULAR DERIVATIONS

Adjective - Noun

*angry - anger / high - height / thirsty - thirst /
brave - bravery / hot - heat / true - truth / broad - breadth /
hungry - hunger / warm - warmth / dead - death /
long - length / wide - width / deep - depth / poor - poverty /
wise - wisdom / free - freedom / strong - strength /
young - youth*

2.2) FROM A VERB

- Suffixes used to make nouns that mean the result of the action of the verb:

-al: *arrival; survival; approval; burial; refusal*

-ance: *performance; appearance; ignorance*

-ation: *organisation; imagination; consideration; estimation; information; variation; education; explanation; invitation*

-ence: *preference; difference*

-(t)ion: *instruction; situation; creation; action; mutation; exposition; combination; invention; radiation*

-sion: *confusion; discussion; permission; emission*

-ition: *partition; demolition*

-ment: *development; arrangement; improvement; achievement; measurement*

- Suffixes used to make nouns that we give to the agent:

-er: *teacher; speaker; discoverer; learner; reader; painter; driver; performer; dancer*

-or: *actor; conductor; advisor; survivor; solicitor*

- Suffix used to make nouns that mean the action of the verb:

-ing: *feeling; painting; cleaning; reading; meaning; learning; ageing; heating*

IRREGULAR DERIVATIONS

Verb - Noun

*behave - behaviour / inhabit - inhabitant /
please - pleasure / succeed - success / choose - choice /
know - knowledge / post - postage / weigh - weight /
depart - departure / laugh - laughter / rob - robbery /
believe - belief / die - death / live - life / see - sight /
fly - flight / marry - marriage / sign - signature*

VERBS AND NOUNS WITH THE SAME FORM:

When in doubt, use the context around the word. Examples:

answer / change / rush / smoke / taste / tattoo

2.3) FROM ANOTHER NOUN

- hood: **childhood, adulthood, motherhood, brotherhood, neighbourhood**
- ship: **friendship, relationship, authorship, membership, partnership, fellowship, companionship**
- dom: **kingdom, stardom, martyrdom, boredom**

3. SUFFIXES TO DERIVE VERBS

We can derive VERBS by adding a suffix to a NOUN or ADJECTIVE. Some examples are:

-en *lessen, tighten, sharpen*

-ify *simplify, notify, falsify* ,purify, clarify, classify, satisfy, specify, terrify

-ise / -ize *privatise, apologise, fertilise* ,modernise, commercialise, industrialise, legalise

4. NEGATIVE PREFIXES

They are used to give a negative meaning to a noun, adjective or verb.

dis- *disagree, discomfort, disobedient, disadvantage*

il- *illegal, illiteracy, illogical, illegitimate*

im- *impossible, immature, impractical, impatient*

in- *incomplete, inefficiency, invisible, insecurity*

ir- *irresponsible, irregularity, irrelevant, irrational*

mis- *misguided, misunderstand, misbehave*

non- *non-smoker, non-verbal, non-stop, non-resident*

un- *unusual, untidy, unfasten, unfortunate*

5. COMPOUND NOUNS

We sometimes join two nouns together to express a new concept or idea. These two nouns may be:

- **joined into one word:**

bathroom / bedroom / football / housewife / tracksuit / weekend / workshop

- **joined by means of a hyphen (-):** = *quien*

data-processing / horse-riding / ice-skating / tea-room

- **kept as two separate words:**

alarm clock / drinking water / shop window / swimming pool / training school / credit card / goal keeper / shopping centre / table tennis / waiting room / dining room / petrol station / shopping list / taxi driver / writing paper / disc jockey / shop assistant / sports centre / tennis court

6. COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

These consist of two words normally separated by a hyphen (-). The second element is usually a present participle (-*ing*) or a past participle (-*ed* or irregular).

absent-minded / left-handed / good-looking / hard-working / broad-shouldered / short-sighted / hand-made / well-dressed / bad-tempered

On some occasions the first element of the compound adjective includes a number or a unit of measure (of time, weight, size, length, etc.). As adjectives do not have a plural, the unit keeps its singular form:

a three-year-old child ~~*a three-years-old child*~~

a weekend-long stay

a two-inch-thick book ~~*a two-inches-thick...*~~

a five-euro note

7. MORE PREFIXES

We can use prefixes with nouns, adjectives or verbs to add concrete meanings.

With nouns:

anti- = against	anti-war
ex- = former	ex-boxer
micro- = miniature	microchip
over- = excessive	overfishing
pre- = before	pre-history
post- = after	post-election
pro- = in favour of	pro-democracy
super- = large	supermarket

antibiotic, anti-abortion
exhusband, exwife, expresident
microwave, microscopic,
microcomputer
overeating, overeater, overenthusiasm
prewar
postwar, postgraduate,
pro-government, pro-nuclear
supersonic, superstar

With adjectives:

anti- = against	anti-republican
extra- = more than usual	extraordinary
inter- = between	international
over- = too	over-confident
pre- = before	pre-cooked
post- = after	post-colonial
pro- = in favour of	pro-democracy
semi- = partly	semi-professional

antisocial, antimarxist,
extracurricular, extravagant, extraterrestrial
intercontinental,
overtired, overpopulated, overdressed
prehistoric
postmodernist, post-traumatic
pro-abortionist
semicircular, semi-detached house

With verbs:

over- = too much	overfish, overuse
re- = do again	rewrite, retest
under- = too little	undercook, underuse

oversleep, overeat, overdo, overspend
reread, rebuild, replace, rewind
underestimate, underpay