

Adjectives: Negative prefixes

un-

unclear
uncommon
unconcerned
unhappy
unknown
unlikely
unlucky
unpleasant
unreliable
unselfish
unsociable
unsure
unusual

in-

inaccurate
incapable
incompetent
incorrect
indirect
inefficient
inexperienced
informal
insensitive
insignificant
insincere
insufficient
intolerant

dis-

disabled
dishonest
disobedient
dissatisfied

il-

illegal
illegible
illiterate
illogical

im-

immature
immodest
immoral

impatient
imperfect
impersonal
impolite
impossible
impractical
improbable

ir-

irrational
irregular
irrelevant
irresponsible

People

-ant

Verb	Person
apply	applicant
assist	assistant
contest	contestant
immigrate	immigrant
inhabit	inhabitant
participate	participant

-ee

Verb	Person
employ	employee
interview	interviewee
train	trainee

-eer

Noun	Person
engine	engineer
mountain	mountaineer

-er

Verb	Person
box	boxer
employ	employer
entertain	entertainer
interview	interviewer
listen	listener
organise	organiser
perform	performer

Word formation list

photograph	photographer
play	player
research	researcher
ride	rider
run	runner
support	supporter
teach	teacher
train	trainer
walk	walker
win	winner

-ian

Noun	Person
comedy	comedian
electricity	electrician
history	historian
library	librarian
magic	magician
mathematics	mathematician
music	musician
politics	politician

-ist

Noun	Person
bicycle	cyclist
biology	biologist
economy	economist
novel	novelist
psychology	psychologist
science	scientist
tour	tourist

-or

Verb	Person
act	actor
collect	collector
compete	competitor
construct	constructor
direct	director
instruct	instructor
invent	inventor
spectate	spectator

Nouns

-al

Verb	Noun
(dis)approve	(dis)approval
arrive	arrival
deny	denial
propose	proposal
refuse	refusal
rehearse	rehearsal
remove	removal
survive	survival

-ance

Verb	Noun
(dis)appear	(dis)appearance
annoy	annoyance
assist	assistance
enter	entrance
perform	performance
tolerate	tolerance

Adjective

distant	distance
important	importance
relevant	relevance

-ence

Verb	Noun
exist	existence
occur	occurrence
refer	reference

Adjective

absent	absence
(in)convenient	(in)convenience
(in)dependent	(in)dependence
different	difference
evident	evidence
innocent	innocence
intelligent	intelligence
(dis)obedient	(dis)obedience
(im)patient	(im)patience
present	presence
violent	violence

-ation

Verb	Noun
adapt	adaptation
admire	admiration
apply	application

Word formation list

combine	combination
communicate	communication
consider	consideration
explain	explanation
identify	identification
imagine	imagination
inform	information
inspire	inspiration
oblige	obligation
observe	observation
occupy	occupation
present	presentation
publish	publication
qualify	qualification
recommend	recommendation
reserve	reservation
resign	resignation

-ion

Verb	Noun
accommodate	accommodation
associate	association
collect	collection
compete	competition
complete	completion
complicate	complication
concentrate	concentration
conclude	conclusion
confuse	confusion
congratulate	congratulation
connect	connection
convert	conversion
decide	decision
describe	description
divide	division
expand	expansion
explode	explosion
extinct	extinction
fascinate	fascination
graduate	graduation
imitate	imitation
instruct	instruction
intend	intention
invade	invasion
investigate	investigation
locate	location
object	objection
operate	operation
permit	permission

persuade	persuasion
pollute	pollution
predict	prediction
prescribe	prescription
react	reaction
reduce	reduction
satisfy	(dis)satisfaction
solve	solution
substitute	substitution

-ight

Verb	Noun
fly	flight
see	sight
weigh	weight

Adjective	Noun
high	height

-ing

Verb	Noun
advertise	advertising
be	being
build	building
live	living
meet	meeting
record	recording
say	saying
set	setting
surround	surroundings

-ity

Adjective	Noun
(un)able	(in)ability
(in)active	(in)activity
(un)available	(un)availability
complex	complexity
curious	curiosity
(un)equal	(in)equality
(in)formal	(in)formality
generous	generosity
hostile	hostility
intense	intensity
major	majority
minor	minority
(un)original	(un)originality
personal	personality
(un)popular	(un)popularity
(im)possible	(im)possibility

Word formation list

prosperous	prosperity
(im)pure	(im)purity
real	reality
(ir)responsible	(ir)responsibility
(in)secure	(in)security
(in)sensitive	(in)sensitivity
severe	severity
similar	similarity
(in)sincere	(in)sincerity
stupid	stupidity

-ment

Verb

Noun

achieve	achievement
(dis)agree	(dis)agreement
amaze	amazement
amuse	amusement
announce	announcement
argue	argument
arrange	arrangement
commit	commitment
develop	development
disappoint	disappointment
discourage	discouragement
embarrass	embarrassment
employ	(un)employment
encourage	encouragement
enjoy	enjoyment
entertain	entertainment
equip	equipment
excite	excitement
govern	government
improve	improvement
invest	investment
involve	involvement
judge	judgement/judgment
manage	management
measure	measurement
move	movement
pay	payment
punish	punishment
replace	replacement
require	requirement
retire	retirement
state	statement
treat	treatment

-ness

Adjective

Noun

aware	awareness
careful	carefulness
careless	carelessness
conscious	consciousness
fit	fitness
friendly	friendliness
happy	happiness
hopeless	hopelessness
ill	illness
lonely	loneliness
mad	madness
sad	sadness
serious	seriousness
sore	soreness
thick	thickness
tired	tiredness
useful	usefulness
weak	weakness

-ship

Noun

Noun

champion	championship
friend	friendship
leader	leadership
member	membership
partner	partnership

-th

Verb

Noun

die	death
grow	growth

Adjective

Noun

deep	depth
long	length
strong	strength
true	truth
warm	warmth
wide	width
young	youth

-ure

Verb

Noun

depart	departure
fail	failure
please	pleasure
press	pressure

Word formation list

proceed	procedure
sculpt	sculpture
sign	signature

-y

Adjective	Noun
certain	certainly
difficult	difficulty
honest	honesty
poor	poverty
safe	safety
Verb	Noun
discover	discovery
enter	entry
injure	injury

Miscellaneous nouns

Verb	Noun
advise	advice
analyse	analysis
behave	behaviour
believe	belief
complain	complaint
choose	choice
give	gift
know	knowledge
laugh	laughter
lose	loss
practise	practice
prove	proof
receive	receipt
relieve	relief
respond	response
rob	robbery
sell	sale
speak	speech
succeed	success
try	trial
Adjective	Noun
hot	heat
Noun	Noun
scene	scenery

Adjectives

-able

Verb	Adjective
accept	(un)acceptable
advise	(in)advisable

avoid	(un)avoidable
bear	(un)bearable
believe	(un)believable
consider	considerable
enjoy	(un)enjoyable
forget	(un)forgettable
imagine	(un)imaginable
notice	noticeable
predict	(un)predictable
prefer	preferable
rely	(un)reliable
remark	(un)remarkable
respect	respectable
suit	(un)suitable
understand	understandable
Noun	Adjective
comfort	(un)comfortable
fashion	(un)fashionable
knowledge	knowledgeable
memory	(un)memorable
profit	(un)profitable
reason	(un)reasonable
value	valuable/invaluable*

***invaluable:** extremely useful
e.g. *invaluable advice/experience/help*

-ible

Noun	Adjective
access	(in)accessible
sense	sensible
Verb	Adjective
resist	(ir)resistible
respond	(ir)responsible

-al/-ial

Noun	Adjective
accident	accidental
addition	additional
benefit	beneficial
centre	central
commerce	commercial
controversy	controversial
criticism	critical
culture	cultural
education	educational
emotion	(un)emotional
environment	environmental
exception	(un)exceptional

Word formation list

experiment	experimental
fiction	fictional
finance	financial
globe	global
industry	industrial
influence	influential
intention	(un)intentional
nation	national
nature	(un)natural
occasion	occasional
origin	(un)original
person	(im)personal
politics	political
practice	(im)practical
profession	(un)professional
residence	residential
sensation	(un)sensational
society	social
tradition	traditional
universe	universal

-ical

Noun	Adjective
alphabet	alphabetical
biology	biological
chemistry	chemical
ecology	ecological
economy	(un)economical
geography	geographical
history	historical*
psychology	psychological

***historic:** famous or important in history

e.g. *a historic event/monument/building*

historical: belonging to or typical of the study of history

e.g. *a historical document/film/novel*

-ant

Verb	Adjective
ignore	ignorant
please	(un)pleasant
resist	resistant
signify	(in)significant
tolerate	(in)tolerant
Noun	Adjective
distance	distant
importance	(un)important
vacancy	vacant

-ent

Verb	Adjective
appear	apparent
confide	confident
depend	(in)dependent
differ	different
(dis)obey	(dis)obedient
Noun	Adjective
absence	absent
(in)convenience	(in)convenient
(in)efficiency	(in)efficient
evidence	evident
(in)frequency	(in)frequent
innocence	innocent
intelligence	(un) intelligent
(im)patience	(im)patient
presence	present
violence	violent

-ful/-less

Noun	-ful/-y	-less/un__ful/un__ed
beauty	beautiful	_____
breath	_____	breathless
care	careful	careless
cheer	cheerful	cheerless*
colour	colourful	colourless
delight	delightful	_____
effort	_____	effortless
end	_____	endless
event	eventful	uneventful
fault	faulty	faultless
gratitude	grateful	ungrateful
harm	harmful	harmless
help	helpful	helpless*/unhelpful*
home	_____	homeless
hope	hopeful	hopeless
limit	_____	limitless/unlimited
meaning	meaningful	meaningless
motion	_____	motionless
pain	painful	painless
peace	peaceful	_____
point	_____	pointless
power	powerful	powerless
price	pricey/pricy	priceless*
skill	skilful*/skilled*	unskilled
sleep	sleepy	sleepless
stress	stressful	unstressful
success	successful	unsuccessful

Word formation list

taste	tasty*/tasteful*	tasteless
thank	thankful	thankless
thought	thoughtful*	thoughtless
use	useful	useless
wonder	wonderful	————
worth	————	worthless*

***cheerless:** used mainly to describe the weather or a room which is not bright or pleasant

helpless: unable to do anything to help or protect yourself

unhelpful: not willing to help other people

priceless: used to describe an object which has a very high value; it is worth so much money that the price cannot be calculated (compare with *worthless* below)

skilful/skilled: both can be used to describe a person who has the necessary ability, experience and/or training to do something well.

e.g. *He's a skilful footballer. This work was done by skilled craftsmen.*

skilled: can also be used to describe a job or piece of work that requires special skill and training

e.g. *Nursing is a skilled job.*

tasty: used to describe food with a strong and pleasant flavour

tasteful: used to describe clothes, decoration etc which is attractive and shows good taste

thoughtful: a) to describe a person who is quiet and serious because they are thinking about something

b) to describe someone who thinks and cares about the feelings and needs of other people

worthless: used to describe an object with no value in money (compare with *priceless* above)

-ing/-ed

The following verbs can be used to form participle adjectives:

e.g. *amazing/amazed*

amaze, amuse, annoy, astonish, bore, confuse, convince, depress, disappoint, disgust, embarrass, entertain, excite, exhaust, fascinate, frighten, frustrate, increase, interest, irritate, motivate, move, relax, satisfy, shock, surprise, terrify, thrill, tire, worry

-ed adjectives describe how we feel (about something or someone)

e.g. *I'm tired after the journey.*

-ing adjectives describe the thing or person that produces the feeling

e.g. *The journey was very tiring.*

-ive

Noun

aggression

effect

expense

mass

secret

sense

Verb

attract

communicate

compete

construct

create

decide

defend

describe

explode

extend

imagine

impress

inform

include

invent

offend

persuade

possess

produce

protect

receive

represent

support

Adjective

(un)aggressive

(in)effective

(in)expensive

massive

secretive

(in)sensitive

Adjective

(un)attractive

(un)communicative

(un)competitive

(un)constructive

(un)creative

(in)decisive

defensive

descriptive

explosive

extensive

(un)imaginative

(un)impressive

(un)informative

inclusive

inventive

(in)offensive

persuasive

possessive

(un)productive

protective

(un)receptive

(un)representative

(un)supportive

-ous

Noun

ambition

advantage

anxiety

caution

curiosity

danger

disaster

generosity

humour

infection

marvel

mystery

nerve

Adjective

(un)ambitious

(dis)advantageous

anxious

cautious

curious

dangerous

disastrous

(un)generous

humorous

(un)infectious

marvellous

mysterious

nervous

Word formation list

number	numerous
poison	poisonous
religion	(ir)religious
suspicion	suspicious
variety	various

-y

Noun	Adjective
anger	angry
cloud	cloudy
fault	faulty
fog	foggy
frost	frosty
fun	funny
grass	grassy
guilt	guilty
hair	hairy
health	healthy
hill	hilly
hunger	hungry
ice	icy
luck	(un) lucky
mist	misty
mud	muddy
noise	noisy
price	pricey/pricy
rain	rainy
rock	rocky
sleep	sleepy
storm	stormy
sun	sunny
thirst	thirsty
wealth	wealthy
wind	windy

Adverbs

-ly

The most common way to form adverbs is by adding *-ly* to the adjective.

Adjective	Adverb
apparent	apparently
nervous	nervously
pleasant	pleasantly
proud	proudly
short	shortly

-ly (after l)

Similarly, *-ly* is added to all adjectives ending in *-l* to form adverbs.

Adjective	Adverb
accidental	accidentally
careful	carefully
eventual	eventually
gradual	gradually
original	originally
total	totally

-ly (after e)

-ly is added to many adjectives ending in *-e* to form adverbs.

Adjective	Adverb
complete	completely
(in) effective	(in) effectively
extreme	extremely
(un)fortunate	(un)fortunately
late	lately
sole	solely

-y (replacing e)

However, *-y* replaces *-e* in most adjectives ending in *-e* to form adverbs.

Adjective	Adverb
gentle	gently
humble	humbly
regrettable	regrettably
remarkable	remarkably
simple	simply
subtle	subtly

-ally

-ally is added to most adjectives ending in *-ic*.

Adjective	Adverb
automatic	automatically
dramatic	dramatically
energetic	energetically
enthusiastic	enthusiastically
historic(al)	historically
scientific	scientifically

Word formation list

-ily

-y is deleted and *-ily* added to all adjectives ending in -y to form adverbs.

Adjective	Adverb
angry	angrily
extraordinary	extraordinarily
happy	happily
healthy	healthily
(un) lucky	(un) luckily
noisy	noisily

-ingly

A number of common adverbs can be formed from present participle adjectives.

Verb	Adjective	Adverb
annoy	annoying	annoyingly
astonish	astonishing	astonishingly
increase	increasing	increasingly
interest	(un) interesting	interestingly
surprise	(un) surprising	(un) surprisingly
worry	worrying	worryingly

Miscellaneous adverbs

Adjective	Adverb
full	fully
public	publicly
shy	shyly
true	truly
whole	wholly
Verb	Adverb
expect	(un)expectedly
repeat	repeatedly
report	reportedly
suppose	supposedly
Noun	Adverb Adjective
day	daily

Verbs

-en

Adjective	Verb
bright	brighten
broad	broaden
dark	darken
deaf	deafen
deep	deepen
fat	fatten
flat	flatten
hard	harden

high	heighten
less	lessen
long	lengthen
loose	loosen
sad	sadden
sharp	sharpen
short	shorten
soft	soften
stiff	stiffen
straight	straighten
strong	strengthen
sweet	sweeten
thick	thicken
tight	tighten
weak	weaken
wide	widen
worse	worsen
Noun	Verb
threat	threaten

en-

Adjective	Verb
able	enable
large	enlarge
rich	enrich
sure	ensure
Noun	Verb
courage	encourage
danger	endanger
force	enforce