

There isn't a single complete list of **all** adjective prefixes and suffixes in English because new words are constantly formed and many affixes are rare or specialized. However, here is a comprehensive list of the most common adjective-forming prefixes and suffixes.

Common adjective prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
a-	on, in, without	asleep, alive, afloat
ab-	away from	abnormal
anti-	against	antisocial, antibacterial
auto-	self	automatic, autonomous
bi-	two	bilingual, bicultural
co-	together	cooperative
counter-	opposite	counterproductive
de-	reverse, remove	deflated, deformed
dis-	opposite, not	dishonest, disloyal
down-	lower	downhill (adj.)
ex-	former	ex-military
extra-	beyond	extraordinary
fore-	before	foreseeable
hemi-	half	hemispherical
hyper-	excessive	hyperactive
hypo-	below	hypoglycemic
il-	not (before <i>l</i>)	illegal
im-	not (before <i>m</i> , <i>p</i>)	impossible, immature
in-	not	inaccurate, inactive
inter-	between	international
intra-	within	intravenous
ir-	not (before <i>r</i>)	irregular
macro-	large	macroscopic
mal-	bad	malformed
mega-	very large	megascale
micro-	small	microscopic
mid-	middle	midterm
mini-	small	miniature
mis-	wrong	misleading
mono-	one	monochromatic
multi-	many	multicultural
neo-	new	neoclassical
non-	not	nonessential
omni-	all	omnidirectional
out-	beyond	outstanding
over-	excessive	overconfident
pan-	all	pan-European
peri-	around	peripheral

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
poly-	many	polysyllabic
post-	after	postwar
pre-	before	prehistoric
pro-	in favor of	pro-democracy
pseudo-	false	pseudoscientific
quasi-	almost	quasi-legal
re-	again	reusable
semi-	half	semicircular
sub-	under	substandard
super-	above	supernatural
supra-	above	supranational
tele-	distant	telegraphic
trans-	across	transcontinental
tri-	three	triangular
ultra-	beyond	ultramodern
un-	not, opposite	unhappy, unfair
under-	below	underdeveloped
uni-	one	unilateral
up-	upward	upright
vice-	deputy	vice-regal

Common adjective suffixes

Very common

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-able	capable of	washable, readable
-ible	capable of	flexible, visible
-al	relating to	cultural, natural
-an	relating to	American, suburban
-ant	performing	pleasant, resistant
-ary	relating to	military, voluntary
-ate	having	fortunate, separate
-ed	having	talented, wooded
-en	made of	golden, wooden
-ent	having	different, dependent
-ern	direction	eastern, western
-ese	nationality	Chinese, Japanese
-esque	in the style of	statuesque, picturesque
-ful	full of	helpful, beautiful
-ian	relating to	Canadian, Shakespearean
-ic	relating to	poetic, historic
-ical	relating to	magical, practical

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-id	having	florid, humid
-ile	capable of	fertile, fragile
-ine	relating to	crystalline, feminine
-ing	causing	exciting, boring
-ish	somewhat; belonging to	childish, greenish
-ive	having tendency	active, creative
-less	without	fearless, endless
-like	resembling	childlike, dreamlike
-ly	having qualities	friendly, lively
-oid	resembling	humanoid, asteroid
-ory	relating to	compulsory, advisory
-ous	full of	dangerous, famous
-some	tending to	troublesome, wholesome
-ward	direction	eastward, backward
-worthy	deserving	trustworthy, newsworthy
-y	characterized by	rainy, sleepy

Less common

Suffix	Examples
-aceous	herbaceous
-aceous	crustaceous
-aceous/-aceous	farinaceous
-aceous	coriaceous
-aceous	membranaceous
-acious	audacious, voracious
-arian	humanitarian
-astic	enthusiastic
-centric	egocentric
-ferous	iferous, vociferous
-form	uniform, life-form
-genic	carcinogenic
-graphical	geographical
-ianic	Messianic
-ical	economical
-istic	artistic, realistic
-itive	competitive
-itive	inquisitive
-ive	sensitive
-less	effortless
-logous	analogous
-matic	diplomatic
-metric	geometric

Suffix	Examples
-morphic	polymorphic
-philic	hydrophilic
-phobic	hydrophobic
-polar	bipolar
-scopic	microscopic
-static	electrostatic

Negative adjective prefixes

These are the prefixes most commonly used to make adjectives negative.

Prefix	Examples
un-	unhappy, unfair
in-	inactive, inaccurate
im-	impossible, immature
il-	illegal, illogical
ir-	irregular, irresponsible
non-	nonessential
dis-	dishonest, disloyal
anti-	antisocial
a-	atypical, amoral

Most productive adjective suffixes

These suffixes are the ones you'll encounter and use most often:

- **-able / -ible**
- **-al**
- **-ed**
- **-en**
- **-ful**
- **-ic / -ical**
- **-ing**
- **-ish**
- **-ive**
- **-less**
- **-like**
- **-ly**
- **-ous**
- **-y**

Together, these prefixes and suffixes account for the vast majority of adjective formation in modern English.

