

Adjective Suffixes

1. -ant or -ent suffix

Meaning: *performing or being*, inclined towards something/ someone

Examples:

- independent
- vacant
- important
- brilliant

2. -ary suffix

Meaning: relates to something, relating to quality or place

Examples:

- customary
- momentary
- cautionary
- dietary
- veterinary
- planetary

3. -able or -ible suffix

Meaning: capable of being, *capable or worthy of, tending to*

Examples:

- flammable
- accountable
- beatable
- acceptable
- edible

4. -al suffix (-al, -ial, -ical)

Meaning: pertaining to something, *relating to, having the quality of*

Examples:

- accidental
- educational
- historical
- regional
- social
- universal
- personal
- experimental
- mental
- universal

5. -ful suffix (-full)

Meaning: *full of, tending, or liable to*

Examples:

- awful
- skillful

- successful
- bountiful
- beautiful
- wonderful
- careful

6. -like suffix

Meaning: like

Examples:

- lifelike
- warlike
- childlike
- lifelike
- ladylike
- birdlike

7. – ish suffix

Meaning: *origin, nature*

Examples:

- selfish
- pinkish
- bookish
- childish
- boyish
- foolish

8. – ile suffix

Meaning: tending to, *capable of*

- fragile
- sterile
- tactile
- docile

9. -ic suffix

Meaning: *pertaining or relating to*

Examples:

- athletic
- scenic
- fantastic
- organic
- acidic
- historic
- scenic

10. -ive suffix

Meaning: performing or tending toward, nature of

Examples:

- sensitive
- supportive

- creative
- preventive

11. -ious or -ous suffix

Meaning: *full of, relating to, qualities of*

Examples:

- dangerous
- nervous
- gracious
- mysterious
- poisonous
- victorious

12. -less suffix

Meaning: *without, lacking, unable to act*

Examples:

- powerless
- friendless
- worthless
- useless
- homeless
- careless
- breathless

13. -y suffix

Meaning: *characterized by, tending to*

Examples:

- rainy
- funny
- dirty
- messy
- sleepy
- beautifully
- brainy
- fruity

Exercise: Fill in the blanks with the correct adjectives.

1. The pageant is looking for the most _____ (beauty) women in the country.
2. English is a _____ (universe) language.
3. To be _____ (success), you should be determined and focused.
4. A car's _____ (dirt) interior is a breeding ground for germs.
5. Don't be too _____ (self). Try caring for others at times.
6. When planning a party, we should consider our guests' _____ (diet) restrictions.
7. Remove all _____ (flame) substances near the stove when you're cooking.
8. _____ (Organ) vegetables are pricier than regular ones.
9. The woman appears to be very _____ (mystery) and doesn't even talk to anyone.
10. She is fit and very _____ (athlete).