

Topic: Forming Adjectives

There is no general rule for making adjectives. We know they are adjectives usually by what they do (their function) in a sentence. However, some word endings (suffixes) are typical of adjectives.

Adjectives suffixes .

suffix	examples
-able, -ible	<i>comfortable, readable, incredible, invisible</i>
-al, -ial	<i>comical, normal, musical, industrial, presidential</i>
-ful	<i>beautiful, harmful, peaceful, wonderful</i>
-ic	<i>classic, economic, heroic, romantic</i>
-ical	<i>alphabetical, political</i>
-ish	<i>British, childish, Irish, foolish</i>
-ive, -ative	<i>active, alternative, creative, talkative</i>
-less	<i>endless, motionless, priceless, timeless</i>
-eous, -ious, -ous	<i>spontaneous, hideous, ambitious, anxious, dangerous, famous</i>
-y	<i>angry, busy, wealthy, windy</i>

Warning:

Adjectives ending in *-ic* and *-ical* often have different meanings:

*The **economic** policy of this government has failed.*

*A diesel car is usually more **economical** than a petrol one.*

Forming adjectives from other words

Suffixes

Some adjectives are made from nouns and verbs by adding suffixes.

noun	adjective
<i>hero</i>	<i>heroic</i>
<i>wind</i>	<i>windy</i>
<i>child</i>	<i>childish</i>
<i>beauty</i>	<i>beautiful</i>
verb	adjective
<i>read</i>	<i>readable</i>
<i>talk</i>	<i>talkative</i>
<i>use</i>	<i>useful</i>
<i>like</i>	<i>likeable</i>

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I hate **windy** days.

San Francisco is a very **hilly** place.

Some words ending in -ly can be both adjectives and adverbs. These include daily, early, monthly, weekly, nightly, yearly:

Adjective: She gets a **weekly** payment from her parents. (She gets money every week.)

Adverb: I pay my rent **weekly**. (I pay my rent every week.)

Some words ending in -ly are only adjectives and not adverbs. These include: costly, cowardly, deadly, friendly, likely, lonely, lovely, oily, orderly, scholarly, silly, smelly, timely, ugly, woolly.

We enjoyed the trip to America but it was a **costly** holiday.

Oily fish is very healthy because it contains omega 3.

Order of adjectives – examples

1. I love that **beautiful old big green antique** car that always parked at the end of the street. [quality – age – size – color – proper adjective]
2. My sister has a **big beautiful tan** and **white** bulldog. [size – quality – color – color]
3. A **wonderful old Italian** clock. [opinion – age – origin]
4. A **big square blue** box. [dimension – shape – color]
5. A **disgusting pink plastic** ornament. [opinion – color – material]
6. Some **slim new French** trousers. [dimension – age – origin]
7. An **amazing new American** movie. [opinion – age – origin]
8. I bought a pair of **black leather** shoes. [color – material]

