

# Adjectives: -ful (having) / -less (lacking)

The suffix **-ful** has most of the times a positive meaning and **-less** a negative meaning but not always: the adjectives *awful* or *dreadful* have negative meanings (= frightening) and *priceless* has a positive meaning (= valuable).

We can make adverbs from these adjectives with **-fully** or **-lessly**: *Carefully* and *Carelessly*.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
Care	Care	Careful / Careless
colour	colour	colourful / colourless
fear	fear	fearful / fearless
harm	harm	harmful / harmless
help	help	(un)helpful / helpless
hope	hope	hopeful / hopeless
meaning	mean	meaningful / meaningless
pain	pain	painful / painless
power	power	powerful / powerless
sleep	sleep	sleepful / sleepless
thought	think	thoughtful / thoughtless
taste	taste	tasteful / tasteless
use	use	useful / useless

These adjectives take **-ful** or **-less**, but not both.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
awe	awe	awful / awesome
brain	-	brainless (unintelligent)
count	count	countless / countable
dread	dread	dreadful
end	end	endless
home	-	homeless
peace	-	peaceful
play	play	playful
price	price	priceless
success	succeed	(un)successful
time	-	timeless
wire	wire	wireless
worth	worth	worthless (without value)

Complete these sentences with adjectives given in brackets endings **-ful** or **-less**.

- What a lovely present! That was very \_\_\_\_\_ of you. (think)
- He's told me \_\_\_\_\_ times about how good he is at football. (count)
- My best friend is a rich, \_\_\_\_\_ lawyer. (power)
- You must remember to recharge your phone. Without its batteries, it's \_\_\_\_\_. (use)
- Although everybody knows that cigarettes are \_\_\_\_\_ to our health, many people still smoke. (harm)
- The new sales assistant was really \_\_\_\_\_ and rude. (help)
- Look at the newborn baby. He's completely \_\_\_\_\_. (help)
- Don't worry, John - this injection will be completely \_\_\_\_\_. (pain)
- Thieves broke into the museum and stole a \_\_\_\_\_ painting by Van Gogh. (price)
- She's really rich, but her clothes are always very \_\_\_\_\_ and elegant. (taste)
- I bought some shares in the company 5 years ago. Nevertheless now they are \_\_\_\_\_. (worth)
- How could you be so \_\_\_\_\_ as to lose your wallet? (care)
- I'm going to give some clothes to the \_\_\_\_\_. (home)
- I spent a \_\_\_\_\_ night worrying about you! Where have you been? (sleep)
- That little boy is absolutely \_\_\_\_\_. He's not afraid of anything! (fear)
- Despite he has lost some points, he's \_\_\_\_\_ they can win the game. (hope)

