Typical adjective endings / suffixes

Some adjectives can be identified by their endings. Typical adjective endings include:

1. **-able/-ible** understandable, capable, readable, incredible
2. **-al** mathematical, functional, influential, chemical
3. **-ful** beautiful, bashful, helpful, harmful
4. **-ic** artistic, manic, rustic, terrific
5. **-ive** submissive, intuitive, inventive, attractive
6. **-less** sleeveless, hopeless, groundless, restless
7. **-ous** gorgeous, dangerous, adventurous, fabulous

Sometimes when adding these endings changes have to be made. Here are some rules for forming adjectives and their exceptions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add</th>
<th>Exceptions</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-al</td>
<td>If ending with an ‘e’, drop it</td>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>Natural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Function</td>
<td>Functiona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-y</td>
<td>If ending with an ‘e’, drop it</td>
<td>Ice</td>
<td>Icy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>Oily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ful</td>
<td>If ending with a ‘y’, replace with an ‘i’</td>
<td>Beauty</td>
<td>Beautiful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>Peaceful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ous/-ious</td>
<td>If ending with a ‘y’, drop it</td>
<td>Mystery</td>
<td>Mysterious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Danger</td>
<td>Dangerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ic</td>
<td>If ending with a ‘y’, drop it</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rust</td>
<td>Rustic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forming adjectives from nouns and verbs

Adjectives can be formed from different words. They can be formed from nouns:
What are compound adjectives?

A compound adjective is formed when two or more adjectives are joined together to modify the same noun. These terms should be hyphenated to avoid confusion or ambiguity. For example:

1. Diana submitted a 6-page document.
2. She adopted a two-year-old cat.

Exceptions

Note that combining an adverb and an adjective does not create a compound adjective. No hyphen is required because it is already clear that the adverb modifies the adjective rather than the subsequent noun. For example:

1. It was a terribly hot day.
2. It is an amazingly good idea.

In addition, you should not place a hyphen in a compound adjective if the adjectives are capitalized, such as when they are part of a title.

Examples of compound adjectives

1. This is a four-foot table.
2. Daniella is a part-time worker.
3. This is an all-too-common error.
5. He is a cold-blooded man.
6. I love this brightly-lit room!
7. Danny’s dog is well-behaved.
8. You have to be open-minded about things.
What are denominal adjectives?
Denominal adjectives (sometimes called denominal adjectives) are adjectives derived from nouns. For example:

1. A mathematical puzzle. (a puzzle based on mathematics)
2. A biological experiment. (an experiment in biology)
3. A wooden boat. (a boat made of wood)

Proper adjectives are derived from proper nouns. They commonly describe something in terms of nationality, religious affiliation, or culture. Like proper nouns, proper adjectives have their first letter capitalized. For example:

1. I married a Russian woman.
2. The Muslim community in NY is very large.

Adjectives of this type should be carefully distinguished from adjectives denoting nationalities (nominal adjectives). For example:

1. Denominal Adjective: French people are noted for their wines.
2. Nominal Adjective: The French are noted for their wines.

or:

1. Denominal Adjective: Poor people are more vulnerable.
2. Nominal Adjective: The poor are getting poorer.

Forming comparative adjectives
As well as serving as modifying words like beautiful and big, adjectives are also used for indicating the position on a scale of comparison. The lowest point on the scale is known as the absolute form, the middle point is known as the comparative form, and the highest point is known as the superlative form. Here are some examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absolute</th>
<th>Comparative</th>
<th>Superlative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This book is <strong>long</strong>.</td>
<td>This book is <strong>longer</strong> than that book.</td>
<td>This is the <strong>longest</strong> book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The airport is <strong>far</strong>.</td>
<td>The airport is <strong>farther</strong> than the train station.</td>
<td>This is the <strong>farthest</strong> airport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My mom is a <strong>good</strong> cook.</td>
<td>My mom is a <strong>better</strong> cook than your mom.</td>
<td>My mom is the <strong>best</strong> cook.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**How to order adjectives in English?**

In many languages, adjectives denoting attributes usually occur in a specific order. Generally, the adjective order in English is:

1. Quantity or number
2. Quality or opinion
3. Size
4. Age
5. Shape
6. Color
7. Proper adjective (often nationality, other place of origin, or material)
8. Purpose or qualifier

For example:

1. I love that **really big old green antique** car that always parked at the end of the street.
2. My sister adopted a **beautiful big white** bulldog.

When there are two or more adjectives that are from the same group, the word **and** is placed between the two adjectives:

1. The house is green **and** red.
2. The library has old **and** new books.

When there are three or more adjectives from the same adjective group, place a comma between each of the coordinate adjectives:

1. We live in the big **green, white** and **red** house at the end of the street.
2. My friend lost a **red, black** and **white** watch.

A comma is not placed between an adjective and the noun.