

Topic: Words with 'ible' & 'able'

Date: 2.7.21

- 'able' and 'ible' are both suffixes, groups of letters that are added to a word to change its meaning or use. When **-able** and **-ible** are added to words it generally means '**capable of being**'

e.g. enjoyable: means can enjoy.

terrible: means can terrify

available : able to be used or obtained

audible : able to be heard

breakable : able to be broken

divisible : able to be divided

changeable : that can be changed

edible : that can be eaten

since both 'ible' and 'able' sounds similar, it is sometimes difficult to spell words with these endings. Here is a simple rule to help you.

- Use '**able**' when the root word looks like a whole English word.

Example: renew + able: renewable

adapt + able: adaptable

- laugh**able**
- transfer**able**
- prefer**able**
- suit**able**
- impression**able**
- adapt**able**
- like**able**
- comfort**able**
- wash**able**
- afford**able**
- size**able**
- like**able**
- name**able**

- Use '**ible**' when the root word does not look like a whole English word.

Example : vis + ible : visible

sens + ible : sensible

- terr**ible**
- horr**ible**
- vis**ible**
- respons**ible**
- invinc**ible**
- access**ible**

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- sens**ible**
- incred**ible**
- illeg**ible**
- elig**ible**

➤ Notice that words that end in **-ce** and **-ge** keep their final **-e** before adding **-able**.

Here are some examples:

Example:

- not**iceable**
- chang**eable**
- manag**eable**
- peac**eable**
- knowled**geable**
- pronounc**eable**
- trac**eable**

➤ Root words that end in **-e**, need to remove the final **-e** before adding **-able**.

Examples:

- debat**e**- debat**able**
- pleasur**e** - pleasur**able**
- ador**e** - ador**able**
- desir**e** - desir**able**
- measur**e** - measur**able**
- excus**e** - excus**able**
- excit**e** - excit**able**
- dispos**e** - dispos**able**

➤ **There are also a few important exceptions that keep their final -e, which you should memorize: sizeable, likeable, nameable.**

➤ If the root word ends with a consonant then double the consonant and add **-able**.

Examples:

- forget**table**
- regret**table**
- spott**able**
- controll**able**
- dropp**able**
- stop**ppable**
- hugg**able**

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- When the base word ends in **-y**, then **-y** must be changed to an **'i'** before adding **-able**.

Examples:

- Justify - justifiable
- rely - reliable
- verify - verifiable
- identify - identifiable
- deny - deniable
- classify - classifiable

Review

So, let's review what we have learned about the suffixes **-able** and **-ible** in English:

1. When the root word is a complete and recognizable word, you will usually use **-able**.
2. When the root word does not look like a whole English word then use **-ible**.
3. When the base word ends in **-e**, you should remove **-e**, then add **-able**.
4. Words that end in **-ce** and **-ge** keep their final **-e** before adding **-able**.
5. Words that ends with consonant then double the final consonant of the root word and add **-able..**
6. Change the final **-y** to **i**, add **-able**.

II. Complete the sentences using suffixes 'able' and 'ible' in the bracket.

1. Please don't throw the plastic bag. We can use it again. It is _____. (**use**)
2. I find it difficult to believe your story. It is _____. (**unbelieve**)
3. Mr Brown knows lots of things. He is a _____ person. (**knowledge**)
4. The new sofa you bought is great! It's so _____ that I feel asleep on it. (**comfort**)
5. My grandparents are so kind and _____. I love them so much! (**love**)
6. The travel guide is _____. (**read**)
7. Flowers are always _____. (**accept**)
8. Carrots and turnips are _____ roots. (**edible/ ediable**)
9. That is an _____ story. (**incredible/ incrediable**)
10. He thinks he is _____. (**invincible/ invincable**)