

106 Forming adjectives



1 Changing nouns or verbs into adjectives

NOUN OR VERB	+	= ADJECTIVE
centre music nation	-al	central musical national
beauty care help pain use	-ful	beautiful careful helpful painful useful
care pain use	-less	careless painless useless
comfort fashion	-able	comfortable fashionable
dirt health rain wind	-y	dirty healthy rainy windy
danger fame	-ous	dangerous famous
act attract expense	-ive	active attractive expensive

The spelling often changes when we add letters to a word that ends with a vowel or -y:

fame → *famous*

expense → *expensive*

beauty → *beautiful*



Pronunciation ▶ 1.35

Adjectives with *-ed* and *-ing*, e.g. *interested/interesting* ▶ Unit 26

2 Making adjectives negative

in-, *un-* and *im-* mean 'not':

unhappy = not happy

informal = not formal

	+ ADJECTIVE	= ADJECTIVE WITH NEGATIVE MEANING
un-	<i>comfortable happy healthy helpful lucky tidy usual</i>	<i>uncomfortable unhappy unhealthy unhelpful unlucky untidy unusual</i>
in-	<i>complete correct expensive formal</i>	<i>incomplete incorrect inexpensive informal</i>
im-	<i>patient perfect polite possible</i>	<i>impatient imperfect impolite impossible</i>



If the adjective begins with the sound /p/ we use *im-*, not *in-* to make it negative:

polite → ~~*inpolite*~~
✓ *impolite*

perfect → ~~*inperfect*~~
✓ *imperfect*