

**Lesson 5 : How to change a noun to an adjective**

A noun is a person, place or thing; an adjective modifies or describes the noun. The girl is a beauty -- beauty being a noun. The girl can also be beautiful -- beautiful, in this case, being an adjective. Turning a noun into an adjective requires only a few minor changes to the ending of a word.

**Adding Suffixes**

The simplest way to turn a noun into an adjective is to add suffixes to the end of the root word. The most common suffixes used to create adjectives are -ly, -able, -al, -ous, -ary, -ful, -ic, -ish, -less, -like and -y. For example, turn the noun "danger" into the adjective "dangerous" by adding the suffix -ous. Other examples include: "The lady enjoys magic; however, she is not very magical herself." "Those who have health are considered healthy, while those who follow fashion are thought of as fashionable." In these instances, the root nouns were turned into adjectives by adding appropriate suffixes.

**Modifications to Make It Work**

**Sometimes you will have to make slight modifications to the root noun if it ends in -e, -y or -t. For example, if the noun is "offense," the adjective is "offensive." In this case, drop the -e from the noun and add -ive to create the adjective.**

**Common Adjective Suffixes I(Noun → Adjective)**

SUFFIX	NOUN – ADJECTIVE	NOUN – ADJECTIVE	NOUN – ADJECTIVE
<b>-AL</b> relating to	accident – accidental region – regional	brute – brutal person – personal	region – regional universe –universal
<b>-ARY</b> relating to quality or place	custom – customary compliment – complimentary	moment – momentary honor – honorary	caution – cautionary diet – dietary
<b>-FUL</b> full of	beauty – beautiful skill – skillful	wonder – wonderful success – successful	awe – awful delight – delightful
<b>-IC</b> having the nature of; caused by	athlete – athletic photograph – photographic	base – basic science – scientific	history – historic rhythm– rhythmic
<b>-ICAL</b> having the nature of	magic – magical practice – practical	logic – logical statistic – statistical	history – historical alphabet – alphabetical
<b>-ISH</b> origin, nature	fool – foolish sheep – sheepish	child – childish pink – pinkish	self – selfish girl – girlish
<b>-LESS</b> without	power – powerless use – useless	friend – friendless home – homeless	worth – worthless penny – penniless
<b>-LIKE</b> like	like – lifelike child – childlike	lady – ladylike bird – birdlike	war – warlike spring – springlike
<b>-LY</b> like	friend – friendly day – daily	cost – costly order – orderly	month – monthly coward – cowardly
<b>-OUS</b> quality, nature	poison – poisonous courtesy – courteous	danger – dangerous mystery – mysterious	nerve – nervous victory – victorious
<b>-Y</b> like	rain – rainy mess – messy	fun – funny dirt – dirty	dirt – dirty spot – spotty