

# 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*

## 2 Making adjectives negative

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

*unhappy* = not happy

*informal* = not formal

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

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

*polite* →  *impolite*  
 *impolite*

*perfect* →  *imperfect*  
 *imperfect*

## Practice

1 Match the words in A with the letters in B to make nine more adjectives.  
You need to change the spelling in some of them.

A music act beauty care comfort fame formal happy health possible B -al -able -ful im- in- -ive -less -ous un- -y

0 musical..... 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 .....  
5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 .....

2 Write an adjective under each picture. Some of the adjectives are negative.  
Use the words in the box.

comfort correct danger expense happy health pain rain

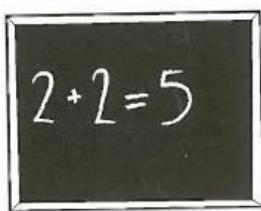


0 unhappy.....

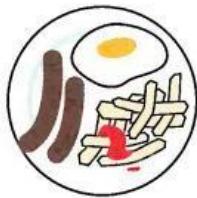
1 .....

2 .....

3 .....



4 .....



5 .....



6 .....



7 .....

3 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first.  
Use adjectives from this unit. Use one, two or three words.

0 Cotton is a material you can use for many things.

Cotton is a useful material.....

1 That sofa costs a lot of money. It is ..... sofa.

2 Don't worry; the operation won't give you any pain.

Don't worry; the operation .....

3 I want a hotel in the centre of the city. I want ..... hotel.

4 You shouldn't eat food that is bad for your health.

You shouldn't eat .....

5 Some people never have any luck. Some people .....

6 My sister helps people all the time. My sister is ..... person.

7 Everyone in my family is good at music. I come from ..... family.

8 In autumn there are a lot of days when it rains all the time.

There are a lot of ..... in autumn.

9 I hate people who don't behave in a polite way. I hate .....

10 Two of the answers in the exercise are not correct.

There are two ..... in the exercise.