

Adjectives formed with suffixes

I. List of suffixes and examples

II. Adjectives ending in –ic and -ical

I. List of suffixes and examples

Suffix	Examples
-able/-ible	admissible, possible, probable, reasonable
-al	final, global, special
-ant	resistant, resultant
-ent	dependent, different, excellent, frequent, urgent
-ar	perpendicular, popular, regular, similar
-ed	interested, limited, related
-ful	harmful, helpful, successful
-ic, -ical	atomic, basic, economic(al), electric(al), mathematical, scientific
-ive	active, illustrative, indicative, sensitive
-less	harmless, helpless, hopeless
-ory	introductory, preparatory, satisfactory
-ous	porous, serious, various
-y	busy, early, happy, healthy

Note the difference between

different and **various**:

*Our teams used **different** approaches.* (not similar; Czech: různé, odlišné)

*We used **various** approaches.* (many different; Czech: různé, rozmanité)

II. Adjectives ending in –ic and –ical

Some adjectives have **only one form**, e.g. **basic, scientific**

mathematical, physical

Some adjectives have **two forms** without any difference in meaning, e.g.

geographic/geographical

The following adjectives have two forms, each with a different meaning:

classic

a classic example, mistake, case
(typical)

in the classic sense of the term
(traditional, conventional)

classical

a classical argument
(typical)

classical economic theory
(traditional, conventional)

classical literature

(relating to ancient Rome and Greece)

classical music

(serious music of lasting value)

Avoid using *classical* with **methods, approaches, ways**. Use ***traditional*** or ***conventional*** instead.

economic

the economic situation

(relating to trade, industry, money;
Czech = hospodářský)

economical

an economical car

(using time, money, goods without wasting any;
Czech = hospodárný, úsporný)

electric

electric light, an electric kettle

(needing electricity to work)

electric current, charge, power

(producing, carrying, supplying electricity)

electrical

electrical engineering, an electrical fault

(relating to electricity)

electrical equipment, machines, appliances

(using electricity)

historic

a historic building, historic monuments

(very old)

a historic event

(important in history)

historical

historical events, figures

(relating to the past)

a historical novel

(describing past events)

EXERCISES

I. Fill the gaps with the adjectives given below.

perpendicular to
indicative of

illustrative of
limited

scientific
harmful to

final
various

urgent
different from

1. Einstein's theory of relativity was one of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century.
2. The book was published in a edition.
3. This example is the process described above.
4. Excessive use of fossil fuels is the environment.
5. Our motorway network is in need of repair.
6. The melting of glaciers is considered to be climate change.
7. These results are very any that we obtained before.
8. She gave reasons for failing her driving test.
9. These two lines are one another.
10. Students are preparing for their examination.

II. Choose the correct word in italics. In one case both words are correct.

1. The velvet revolution was a *historic/historical* event comparable to the liberation of the country from the Nazi occupation.
2. Very few people study *classic/classical* languages these days.
3. He plays an *electrical/electric* guitar.
4. It's *economic/economical* to buy in large quantities.
5. She loves *historical/historic* films.

6. That is a *classic/classical* instance of poor management.
7. The murder of King Wenceslaus by his brother is a *historic/historical event*.
8. Low fuel consumption makes the car very *economic/economical*.
9. "*Electrical/Electric machines*" is a rather difficult course.
10. She studies *classical/classic* ballet.
11. *Economic/economical* reform is one of the hottest topics today.
12. We've bought a new *electric/electrical* cooker.
13. *Electrical/Electric* engineers are in great demand these days.
14. In the last few years the *economical/economic* development of the country has stagnated.
15. They use all sorts of *electric/electrical* equipment.