



The Suffix ~OUS (50 examples)



Increase your vocabulary by learning the English suffix ~OUS

Turn nouns and verbs that you already know into adjectives by adding the suffix OUS to the end of the word.

root word	suffix	adjective	~OUS adjective meaning
danger (noun)	~ous	dangerous	likely to injure or harm somebody
envy (verb)	~ous	envious	wanting something that somebody else has

Some ~ous adjective examples

fame [noun] – the state of being known and talked about by many people
“She went to Hollywood in search of **fame** and fortune.”

famous – known about by many people

~ A famous person is someone who has fame.

* After years of hard work she became a **famous** actress.

Two other versions of famous →

world-famous - known throughout the world.

- The wedding cake was made by a **world-famous** baker. It cost \$3500.00!

infamous - well known for some bad quality or deed

- The dealer and other poker players are watching him closely. He is an **infamous** cheater.

adventurous – (of a person) willing to take risks and try new ideas; enjoying being in new, exciting situations ~ ready for adventure

- For the more **adventurous** tourists, there are trips into the mountains with a local guide.

If something is full of joy we can call it **joyous**.

- The children's birthday party was full of **joyous** laughter.

If something happened that seems like a miracle, or was completely unexpected and very lucky we can use the adjective **miraculous** to describe it.

- The fact that he survived the accident with no permanent injury is **miraculous**.

A synonym of **dangerous** is **hazardous** (from the noun hazard) risky

- Be careful. This barrel contains hazardous material.

A synonym of **poisonous** is **venomous** (from the noun venom) (of an animal, especially a snake) secreting venom; capable of injecting venom by means of a bite or sting

- This snake is highly **venomous**.

continuous (from the verb continue) forming an unbroken whole; without interruption

- You have to lift and flip the pancake in one **continuous** motion.

infectious (from the verb infect) an infectious disease can be passed easily from one person to another, especially through air or water

- The flu is highly infectious. I often ride crowded trains so I get a flu shot every year to be safe.

prosperous (from the verb prosper) rich and successful

- I wish everyone a safe and prosperous New Year.

ridiculous (from the verb ridicule) deserving or inviting derision or mockery; absurd

- Greg's outfit is **ridiculous**. I can't believe he wore that to the party.

various (from the verb vary) different from one another; of different kinds or sorts

- New treatments can be used to treat **various** types of cancers.

numerous (from the noun number) great in number; A synonym of many

- People adjusting to working at the office after working at home for many months face **numerous** challenges.

nervous (from the noun nerve) easily agitated or alarmed

- Madison always seems **nervous** for some reason.

suspicious (from the noun suspicion) having or showing a cautious distrust of someone or something

- You said you forgot to pay when leaving the store but I'm **suspicious**.

mysterious (from the noun mystery) difficult or impossible to understand, explain, or identify

- The cause of **mysterious** glass found in the desert may be from an ancient exploding comet

furious (from the noun fury) extremely angry

- Ethan was **furious** when he learned the news.

disastrous (from the noun disaster) causing great damage OR highly unsuccessful

- The team had a **disastrous** start this year. They have a lot of work to do for the rest of the season.

cautious (from the noun caution)

- (of a person) careful to avoid potential problems or dangers
- (of an action) characterized by the desire to avoid potential problems or dangers
 - Rebecca has always been a **cautious** driver. She has been driving for 8 years without an accident.

glorious (from the noun Glory) having, worthy of, or bringing fame or admiration OR having a striking beauty or splendor

- Today was a **glorious** Spring day.

More examples

vigorous (from the noun vigor)

- strong, healthy, and full of energy OR characterized by or involving physical strength, effort, or energy
 - Duncan does some **vigorous** aerobic exercise every morning as soon as he wakes up.

nutritious (from the noun nutrition)

- (of food) very good for you; containing many of the substances which help the body to grow
 - It's important to start your day off right by eating a **nutritious** breakfast in the morning.

spacious (from the noun space)

- (of a room or building) large and with plenty of space for people to move around in
 - The apartment has big windows facing South and a spacious living room.

outrageous (from the noun outrage)

- offensive and unacceptable OR very unusual and intended to shock people slightly
 - The president seems to often say some **outrageous** things.

glamorous (from the noun glamour)

- especially attractive and exciting, and different from ordinary things or people
 - I work an honest job but it's not very **glamorous**.

luxurious (from the noun luxury)

- very comfortable; containing expensive things that give pleasure
 - My wife and I treated ourselves and stayed at a **luxurious** hotel for 4 nights.

humorous (from the noun humor)

- funny; showing a sense of humor
 - The TV show is a **humorous** look at 6 friends living together in New York City.

gracious (from the noun grace)

- kind, polite and generous, especially to somebody of a lower social position
 - I enjoy having dinner with Alex, he's a very **gracious** host.

synonymous (from the noun synonym)

- (of words or expressions) having the same, or nearly the same, meaning OR so closely connected with something that the two things appear to be the same
 - Being rich is not always **synonymous** with being happy.

mischievous (from the noun mischief)

- enjoying playing tricks and annoying people
 - I was a quiet child but my little sister was quite **mischievous**.

rebellious (from the noun rebellion)

- showing a desire to resist authority, control, or convention
 - Max was a very **rebellious** teenager. He never listened to anyone.

laborious (from the noun labor)

- taking a lot of time and effort
 - We have a huge warehouse, counting and recording our inventory is a **laborious** task.

superstitious (from the noun superstition)

- believing in superstitions
 - People who are **superstitious** believe that Friday the 13th is an unlucky day.

tortuous (from the noun torture)

- not simple and direct; long, complicated and difficult to understand
 - After 18 months in court, the family finally saw an end on the long and **tortuous** road to justice.

industrious (from the noun industry)

- working hard; busy
 - Yoshi is an **industrious** student and quickly learned to speak English at a high level.

advantageous (from the noun advantage)

- good or useful in a particular situation
 - Having a college degree it's not necessary in finding a good job but is definitely **advantageous**.

treacherous (from the noun treachery)

- that cannot be trusted; intending to harm you OR dangerous, especially when seeming safe
 - Ice and snow covered the roads making driving **treacherous**.

courageous (from the noun courage)

- showing courage
 - I'm proud of my brother, she made a **courageous** decision.

malicious (from the noun malice)

- having or showing a desire to harm somebody or hurt their feelings, caused by a feeling of hate
 - I never trusted Andrea. She was always spreading **malicious** rumors about her coworkers.

monstrous (from the noun monster)

- very large OR very large, ugly and frightening
 - I have a **monstrous** headache.
 - The camper saw a **monstrous** creature crawl out of the swamp.

ferocious (from the noun ferocity)

- very aggressive or violent; very strong
 - A **ferocious** winter storm blew in from the East last weekend.

victorious (from the noun victory)

- having won a victory; that ends in victory
 - After a long and difficult tournament our team emerged **victorious**. Now we are the national champions.

harmonious (from the noun harmony)

- (of relationships, etc.) friendly, peaceful and without any arguments OR arranged together in a way that is pleasant because each part goes well with the others OR (of sounds) very pleasant when played or sung together
 - The museum is a **harmonious** blend of traditional and modern design.

Below are three examples of words whose meaning you can imagine but don't clearly stem from the original root word.

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horrendous (from the noun horror)?

- terrible or extremely unpleasant
 - The conditions in prison are **horrendous**. You never want to spend time there.

luscious (from the noun lush)?

- having a pleasingly rich, sweet taste OR (of cloth, colors or music) soft and deep or heavy in a way that gives you pleasure to feel, look at or hear
 - She wore **luscious** fire red lipstick that caught the attention of all the men in the room.

instantaneous (from the noun instantaneity)?

- happening immediately
 - The response was almost **instantaneous**.

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