



Common Examples of the Suffix ~ABLE



(With Definitions)

Suffix -able meaning

We'll use the suffix able with verbs to show that the verb is possible.

drinkable = safe to drink (you can drink it)

It is also used with nouns to make adjectives that mean *having the quality of that noun*.

comfortable = having the quality of comfort (it feels relaxing)

Word Origin - from French -able or Latin -abilis; originally found in words only from these forms but later used to form adjectives directly from English verbs ending in -ate

[Oxford Learner's Dictionaries suffix ~able](#)

What words end with the suffix able?

The suffix ~able is used with verbs and nouns to make new adjectives.

You will find that most verbs with the suffix ~able will show possibility and may have CAN in the definition.

Nouns with **the suffix ~able** show a condition or quality.

22 Possibility adjectives with the suffix able

[adjustable](#) - that can be moved to different positions or changed in shape or size

- My bicycle seat is **adjustable** so you can change the height.

[agreeable](#) - pleasant and easy to like

- We just met Kayla's boyfriend today for the first time. I like him. He's very **agreeable**.

[available](#) - that you can get or have access to

(From the verb avail - to make use of something, especially an opportunity or offer)

- When I got to the store they only had extra large shirts **available**. I need a medium.

avoidable - that can be prevented

- We should have prepared more, all this trouble was completely **avoidable**.

believable - that can be believed

- If you get to work late you need an excuse that is **believable**, nothing too crazy.

*Very common, unbelievable. [Prefix -UN] That story is **unbelievable**.

breakable - likely to break; easily broken

- Make sure you wrap all the **breakable** items in thick towels before you pack them in the box.

chewable - capable of being chewed

- Regular vitamins are okay but I prefer **chewable** ones.

dependable - that can be relied on to do what you want or need

- Before I start my new job I need a **dependable** car to get me to and from work.

doable - able to be done

- It was a large task but **doable**. I was confident I could complete it.

drinkable - clean and safe to drink

- Many countries don't have **drinkable** water even in their bigger cities.

excusable - that can be excused

- If it was an honest mistake and it's **excusable**. if it was done on purpose it is not.

*Very common, inexcusable. [Prefix -IN] Your actions are

inexcusable.

foreseeable - that you can predict will happen; that can be foreseen

- Dwayne and Cassandra are very happy together. I can see them getting married in the **foreseeable** future.

irritable - getting annoyed easily; showing your anger

- Gus is a nice guy but he's a little bit **irritable** in the mornings.

justifiable - existing or done for a good reason, and therefore acceptable

- It's really cool but there's no way I can spend that much money on a new car. It's not **justifiable** right now.

passable - fairly good but not excellent

- My French is not perfect but it's **passable**. I can navigate Montreal without any problems.

perishable - (especially of food) likely to decay or go bad quickly

- I keep dried and canned food in the pantry and anything **perishable** goes in the refrigerator.

predictable - if something is predictable, you know in advance that it will happen or what it will be like

- The movie wasn't bad, it was just a bit **predictable**. I felt like I always knew what was going to happen.

preventable - that can be stopped from happening

- The accident was **preventable** in my opinion.

sustainable - ① involving the use of natural products and energy in a way that does not harm the environment

- The world needs to move towards **sustainable** energy sources for the future.

② that can continue or be continued for a long time

- We are working at a fast pace but I don't think it's **sustainable**. The team will burn out quickly if we don't slow down.

unbelievable - ① (informal) used to emphasize how good, bad or extreme something is

- That movie was **unbelievable**! Let's watch it again this weekend.

unknowable - that cannot be known

- Understanding the early formation of our universe is difficult and may even be **unknowable**.

wearable - (of clothes, etc.) pleasant and comfortable to wear; suitable to be worn

- The spring fashion show had some very **wearable** clothes this season. Usually, the fashion shows that I watch have models wearing crazy outfits that are not practical.

10 Condition adjectives with ABLE

adorable - very attractive and easy to feel love for

- Have you seen Brenda's new puppy? Is so **adorable**!

comfortable - feeling relaxed with no stress or worry

- We stayed at my favorite Hotel. The food is awesome and the beds are so **comfortable**.

considerable - great in amount, size, importance, etc.

- The company lost a **considerable** amount of money last year.

desirable - that you would like to have or do; worth having or doing

- The most **desirable** outcome is the one where everybody wins.

enjoyable - giving pleasure

- I found the movie very **enjoyable**.

fashionable - ① following a style that is popular at a particular time

- Jennifer was wearing some **fashionable** jeans today, she has a nice style.

② used or visited by people following a current fashion, especially by rich people

- They just opened a very **fashionable** restaurant on Main Street. I heard the food is great but it's too expensive for me.

favorable - making or showing a good opinion of somebody/something

- When I met my wife's family for the first time I wanted to make a **favorable** impression.

honorable - deserving great respect

- Ken is a decent and **honorable** man. I like him a lot.

questionable - ① that you have doubts about because you think it is not accurate or correct

- I reviewed the report and some of these numbers are **questionable**.

② likely to be dishonest or morally wrong

- I'm not sure why Tom did that. His motives are **questionable** to me.

reasonable - fair, practical, acceptable

- That sounds like a **reasonable** solution to me.

regrettable - that you are sorry about and wish had not happened

- What happened at the party was **regrettable**. I'm sorry to anyone who was affected by it.

remarkable - unusual or surprising in a way that causes people to take notice

- The goalie made a **remarkable** save in the last minute of the game to secure the win for his team.

Able Vs ~able - Correct Pronunciation

The verb **able** and the suffix **~able** are spelled exactly the same but not pronounced the same. Here's the difference.

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The verb **able** makes an AY sound. (Like DAY)

Superman is **able** to leap tall buildings in a single bound. (bound = a high or long jump)

The suffix **~able** makes an AH sound. (Like SPA)

Regular vitamins are okay but I prefer **chewable** ones.

Suffix ~able vs ~ible What's the Difference

Both suffixes -able and -ible are added to words to make adjectives that something can be done.

-ible suffix 1. that can or must be

[Oxford Learner's Dictionaries suffix ~ible](#)

Here are two common adjectives using the suffix -ible

[audible](#) - that can be heard clearly

- Dogs can hear sounds that are not **audible** to human ears.

[reversible](#) - (of clothes, materials, etc.) that can be turned inside out and worn or used with either side showing

- I just bought a **reversible** jacket. The outside is dark blue and the inside is light grey. I can wear it either way.

The difference

From my research, the suffix -able is still being used to make new adjectives but the suffix -ible is not. This is why we hear words ending with ABLE more than words ending with IBLE.

