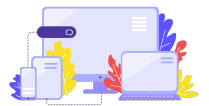




The Suffix -al



Examples with Definition links

Spelling Guide for the Suffix -al

I collected a list of common words with the suffix -al and I looked at the different spellings. (I don't want to call them RULES) Here are some patterns that I found but there are always exceptions, so be careful.

<p>If the word ends with the letters N or C Add -al addition + al = additional education + al = educational classic + al = classical electric + al = electrical</p>	<p>If the word ends with the letter Y Change the y to an i and add -cal biology + al = biological geography + al = geographical history + al = historical identity + al = identical</p>	<p>Sometimes change the y to an i and just add -al navy + -al = naval territory + -al = territorial *NOTE I found another exception, controversy ends with an sy so the spelling keeps the S. controversial - controversy + al (sy = sial)</p>
<p>If the word ends with the letters nt Just add -al environmental - environment + al experimental - experiment + al</p>	<p>If the word ends with the letter e Drop the e and add -al arrival - arrive + al cultural - culture + al global - globe + al</p>	<p>If the word ends with the letters ce Drop the e and add -cial finance + al = financial race + al = racial</p>

Some Exceptions (I didn't find a pattern)

<p>crime + al = criminal idea + al = ideal medicine + -al = medical</p>	<p>minimum + al = minimal spirit + al = spiritual theory + -al = theoretical</p>
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Adjectives with the Suffix -al

Every vocabulary word in this list has a link to its meaning.

Over 95% of the links will take you to Oxford Learners Dictionaries.com which contains an audio link so that you can hear the correct pronunciation.

A natural example sentence follows each word so you can see how these words are used in English.

additional

- The doctor ordered a few **additional** tests to make sure.

agricultural

- This town is about 80% **agricultural**.

beneficial

- These supplements are supposed to be **beneficial** for people who need more energy.

biological

- I was adopted when I was 3 years old, I've never met my **biological** parents.

central

- This bus will take you downtown to the **central** terminal. From there it's easy to get anywhere in the city.

classical

- My uncle really loves **classical** music. Used to play the piano when he was much younger.

coastal

- Rising sea levels will be the hardest on people living in **coastal** areas.

commercial

- This area downtown has been marked for **commercial** developments. They're planning to build a new Shopping Center and entertainment complex.

constitutional

- I don't think the new law will pass, it's not **constitutional**.”

controversial

- Some of AI's views are very **controversial**.

criminal

- He has shown signs of **criminal** behavior in the past so I'm not surprised that he got into trouble last week.

critical

- People are very **critical** of the changes that the city has made to the downtown area.

cultural

- They tore down some buildings that had significant **cultural** importance.

educational

- I like to watch documentaries. They're fun and also **educational** because you learn about real events.

electrical

- My dad is great with anything **electrical**. He has worked with machines all his life.

emotional

- It's always **emotional** after visiting my family for a few weeks when I have to fly back to Japan.

environmental

- We need to take care of **environmental** issues right away. We can't wait until later.

exceptional

- And it was really **exceptional**. You are an amazing chef Karen.

experimental

- I am participating in an **experimental** drug trial next week. I can earn some money for college.

financial

- My friend is the manager of a bank so I can always count on him for good **financial** advice.

formal/informal

- I was planning to wear my khaki pants to dinner. I'm not sure if it's **formal** or **informal** so khakis seem safe.

functional

- This pair of pants has many pockets so it's very **functional** but I don't really like the style. You know what they say fashion over function.

geographical

- I have a satellite phone that works in all **geographical** locations.

global

- The country's president was crazy and dreamed of **global** domination.

historical

- The two countries signed an **historic** peace deal.

ideal

- The morning sun was shining, the lake was calm, and the air was cool. It was **ideal** weather for fishing.

identical

- This smartphone costs double what this other smartphone costs, but they are virtually **identical**.

industrial

- This part of town has been zoned for **industrial** use. That means only factories can build here, no houses or apartments.

influential

- Elon Musk is one of the most **influential** people of our generation.

institutional

- Many people feel the problems that minorities face are **institutional**.

intellectual

- Sometimes it's nice to just sit down with a friend and have a real **intellectual** conversation.

international

- The **international** panel have a proposal to help maintain the supply of freshwater to the region.

logical

- Your idea seems **logical** but I'm not sure if we have enough money in our budget.

magical

- Tokyo DisneySea is a **magical** place. I have so much fun every time I go there.

mechanical

- My motorcycle has some **mechanical** problems right now.

medical

- He was rushed to the hospital for **medical** attention.

minimal

- Andrea is so lazy, she does the **minimal** amount of work at the office.

musical

- My nephew has just joined a band playing the drums. I always thought he was quite **musical**.

national

- My wife and I went to a **national** museum last week, they had many Van Gogh pieces on display.

natural

- Earthquakes and hurricanes are **natural** disasters.

naval

- My dad was a **naval** Commander when he retired from the military in 2008.

normal

- After the quarantine everyone was excited to return to a **normal** life.

occasional

- I don't drink but I will enjoy the **occasional** glass of wine.

official

- The city's professional baseball team will be moving next year. They made an **official** announcement today.

operational

- The world's biggest offshore wind farm is now fully **operational**.

original

- I just bought an **original** Volkswagen Beetle from 1945.

partial

- An electrical problem led to a **partial** blackout in the city last night.

personal

- If you just met someone it's not polite to ask questions that are too **personal**.

political

- It's also not a good idea to have a **political** conversation with someone you just met.

practical

- High heel shoes are very sexy but they're not very **practical**.

presidential

- I'm afraid the president is not acting very **presidential**.

professional

- My boyhood heroes were all **professional** hockey players.

Boyhood is a word made with the suffix **-hood**. Learn more about this suffix at my post > [How do you use the suffix -hood? \(16 Common Examples\)](#)

psychological

- Reg was diagnosed with a **psychological** disorder.

racial

- We should all be striving for **racial** harmony.

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regional

- If we win the **regional** tournament we qualify for the state championship.

residential

- Cities are usually divided into commercial, industrial, in **residential** areas.

removal

- Trash **removal** is handled by the city government.

sexual

- She was accused of making unwanted **sexual** advances what's his female co-workers.

social -

- Parties are fun for me, I like to do anything **social**.

We sometimes use the word antisocial to describe someone who doesn't like to be around other people.

- I would invite Teresa but she's a little bit **anti-social** for me.

*Even more about negative prefixes at my blog post here > [Learn to use 9 Negative prefixes \(Over 225 real examples\)](#)

spiritual

- She felt like she was on the verge of a **spiritual** awakening.

statistical

- Carson is a **statistical** analyst for a professional basketball team. It seems like a cool job but you have to know a lot of math.

structural

- After the big storm there was **severe** structural damage to the school.

substantial

- It's going to take a **substantial** amount of money to repair.

technical

- I could get **technical** here but I don't want to bore everyone.

technological

- The two countries are in a **technological** race to see who can send people to Mars first. For humans to survive on Mars we will need lots of new technology.

territorial

- Hippos are very **territorial** and will fight strongly to protect their area.

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theoretical

- I was shocked to learn that a famous actor also has a degree in **theoretical** physics.

traditional

- We need to return to our **traditional** values. Young people today have very little moral guidance.

tropical

- I'm happy to vacation somewhere **tropical** but I wouldn't want to live there.

universal

- In Canada we have **universal** healthcare.

unusual/usual

- I went to the bar after work and all the **usual** people were there.
- This weather is **unusual** for August.

Nouns with the Suffix -al

arrival - arrive + al

- The townspeople all got ready for the storm's **arrival**.

denial - deny + -al

- The signs were all there but some people were just in **denial**.

disposal - dispose + al

- Garbage **disposal** has been a problem in our city. We need more staff for garbage collection.

proposal - propose + -al

- Hector made a **proposal** but it was rejected by the partners.”

refusal - refuse + al)

- Hector blamed it on the partner's **refusal** to change the direction of the company.”

removal - remove + al

- Trash **removal** is handled by the city government.

signal - sign + al -

*Note - The pronunciation of sign sounds quite different than the pronunciation of signal.

That ‘G’ in the word sign is silent. Sign sounds like fine, mine, or wine.

- Turn right at the stop sign.

The word signal has a strong ‘G’ sound like in the words big, dig, or pig.

- “The ship sent a distress **signal** hoping to get some help.”

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survival - survive + al

- After the surgery doctors expect a high rate of **survival** for someone his age.

trial - try + al

- The store is offering a free **trial** for 30 days.

Common Words With The Suffix -al Made From Older Languages

annual - happening or done once every year

From late Middle English: from Old French annuel, from late Latin annualis, based on Latin annus 'year'.

- It's time for our **annual** trip to the mountains. My family goes camping every year.

final - being or happening at the end of a series of events, actions, statements, etc.

From Middle English (in the adjectival sense 'conclusive'): from Old French, or from Latin finalis, from finis 'end'. Compare with finish.

- This will be our **final** party before we go off to school next year. Let's enjoy ourselves!"

internal - Internal is not related to the noun or the verb intern. Internal means the inside of something.

From the early 16th cent. (in the sense 'intrinsic'): from modern Latin internalis, from Latin internus 'inward, internal'.

- "The company will do some **internal** shuffling after the new president arrives next week."
- "My cousin is a doctor of **internal** medicine."

legal/illegal - allowed or required by law/Not allowed

From late Middle English (in the sense 'to do with Mosaic law'): from French, or from Latin legalis, from lex, leg- 'law'. Compare with loyal.

- "You should move your car, it's not **legal** to park there."
- In Arizona and New York it's **illegal** to own a pet alligator."

local - belonging to or connected with the particular place or area that you are talking about or with the place where you live

From late Middle English: from late Latin localis, from Latin locus 'place'.

- Whenever I travel I try to enjoy as much of the **local** food as I can.

verbal - This is NOT an adjective relating to verbs. It means *relating to words*.

- All teachers must have good **verbal** skills.
- A large part of communication is non-**verbal**. We say a lot with our body language whenever we communicate with others.

Verbal becomes the verb *verbalize* which means to put your ideas or thoughts into words.

- He's a smart guy but he has trouble trying to **verbalize** his ideas.

visual - of or connected with seeing or sight

From late Middle English (originally describing a beam imagined to proceed from the eye and make vision possible): from late Latin visualis, from Latin visus 'sight', from videre 'to see'. Compare vision.

- After the accident, Dennis had some **visual** impairments due to an injury to his eye.



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