



## Suffixes:

### Adjective Suffixes: -ful/-less, -ous, -ive, -able

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. Be careful! That road is very \_\_\_\_ at night.  
a) dangerous  
b) dangerous  
c) dangerive  
d) dangerable
2. This website is very \_\_\_\_ — I use it every day for my studies.  
a) useful  
b) useous  
c) usious  
d) usive
3. The new marketing campaign was very \_\_\_\_ and sales increased by 30%.  
a) effective  
b) effectful  
c) effectous  
d) effectable
4. Without a map, we felt completely \_\_\_\_ in the forest.  
a) helpless  
b) helpous  
c) helpive  
d) helpable
5. The sunset over the mountains was absolutely \_\_\_\_.  
a) beautious  
b) beautiful  
c) beautive  
d) beautyless
6. This new phone is \_\_\_\_ — you can take it swimming.  
a) waterful  
b) waterless  
c) waterproof  
d) waterous
7. She made a \_\_\_\_ effort to finish the marathon despite the pain.  
a) heroful  
b) heroic  
c) heroive  
d) heroable
8. Don't touch that wire — it could be \_\_\_\_!  
a) harmous  
b) harmive  
c) harmable  
d) harmful
9. The children were very \_\_\_\_ and played together without any problems.  
a) peacous  
b) peaceful  
c) peacive  
d) peaceous
10. We had a \_\_\_\_ conversation about politics that lasted for hours.  
a) liveful  
b) liveous  
c) liveable  
d) lively
11. It was \_\_\_\_ of him to leave without saying goodbye.  
a) thoughtous  
b) thoughtive  
c) thoughtable  
d) thoughtless





## Answers

1. b) dangerous
2. a) useful
3. a) effective
4. a) helpless
5. b) beautiful
6. c) waterproof
7. b) heroic
8. d) harmful
9. b) peaceful
10. d) lively
11. d) thoughtless
12. a) humorous
13. c) beneficial
14. d) favourable
15. c) obedient
16. b) suitable
17. a) hopeless
18. c) sensible
19. c) marvellous
20. d) useless



# Explanations

## 1. “dangerous” (b)

The noun 'danger' takes the suffix -ous to form the adjective 'dangerous'. The suffix -ous means 'full of' or 'having the quality of'. Other examples: fame → famous, nerve → nervous.

## 2. “useful” (a)

The noun 'use' takes the suffix -ful to form 'useful' (full of use / having use). The suffix -ful means 'full of' or 'having'. Compare: use → useful (-ful), use → useless (-less).

## 3. “effective” (a)

The noun 'effect' takes the suffix -ive to form 'effective' (producing the desired effect). The suffix -ive means 'having the nature or quality of'.

## 4. “helpless” (a)

The noun 'help' takes the suffix -less to form 'helpless' (without help). The suffix -less means 'without' or 'lacking'. Compare: helpful (-ful = with help).

## 5. “beautiful” (b)

The noun 'beauty' takes the suffix -ful to form 'beautiful'. Note the spelling change: y → i before -ful. The suffix -ful here means 'full of beauty'.

## 6. “waterproof” (c)

The correct adjective is 'waterproof', using the suffix -proof (protected against). Note: 'waterless' means 'without water' (e.g., a waterless desert), which has a completely different meaning.

## 7. “heroic” (b)

The noun 'hero' takes the suffix -ic to form 'heroic'. The suffix -ic means 'relating to' or 'having the character of'. Other examples: artist → artistic, history → historic.

## 8. “harmful” (d)

The noun 'harm' takes the suffix -ful to form 'harmful' (capable of causing harm). Compare: harmless (-less = not causing harm).

## 9. “peaceful” (b)

The noun 'peace' takes the suffix -ful to form 'peaceful' (full of peace). The suffix -ful means 'full of'. Compare: peaceful (-ful = full of peace) vs peaceless (-less = without peace).

## 10. “lively” (d)

The noun/adjective 'live' takes the suffix -ly to form the adjective 'lively' (full of life and energy). Note: -ly usually forms adverbs, but some adjectives also end in -ly (friendly, lovely, lonely).

## 11. “thoughtless” (d)

The noun 'thought' takes the suffix -less to form 'thoughtless' (without thought for others). Compare: thoughtful (-ful = showing care and consideration).

## 12. “humorous” (a)

The noun 'humour' takes the suffix -ous to form 'humorous' (full of humour). Note the spelling: the 'u' in 'humour' is dropped before -ous.

## 13. “beneficial” (c)

The noun 'benefit' forms the adjective 'beneficial' using the suffix -ial (a variant of -al). Note the spelling change in the root. The suffix -al/-ial means 'relating to'.

**14. “favourable” (d)**

The noun 'favour' takes the suffix -able to form 'favourable' (showing approval or advantage). The suffix -able means 'capable of' or 'worthy of'. Other examples: enjoy → enjoyable, comfort → comfortable.

**15. “obedient” (c)**

The verb 'obey' forms the adjective 'obedient' using the suffix -ent. Note the significant spelling change from the verb form. The suffix -ent/-ant means 'being in a state of'.

**16. “suitable” (b)**

The verb 'suit' takes the suffix -able to form 'suitable' (appropriate or fitting). The suffix -able means 'capable of' or 'worthy of'.

**17. “hopeless” (a)**

The noun 'hope' takes the suffix -less to form 'hopeless' (without hope). Compare: hopeful (-ful = full of hope). The -ful/-less pair creates opposite meanings.

**18. “sensible” (c)**

The noun 'sense' takes the suffix -ible to form 'sensible' (showing good sense/judgement). Note: 'sensitive' (-ive) also exists but means 'easily affected by things' — a different meaning.

**19. “marvellous” (c)**

The noun 'marvel' takes the suffix -ous to form 'marvellous' (causing great wonder). Note the doubled 'l' in British English spelling (American: marvelous).

**20. “useless” (d)**

The noun 'use' takes the suffix -less to form 'useless' (without use / not useful). This is the opposite of 'useful' (-ful). The -ful/-less contrast is one of the most productive suffix pairs in English.