



**Rule 24: able / ible,
ably / ibly**



Teacher information

- This teaching resource is organised into four sections: **1)** Explanation of the rule **2)** Examples of key words that fit the rule **3)** Opportunities to practise **4)** Further examples of commonly used words following the rule & some notable exceptions.
- These slides are intended as a starting point for teaching this rule. The lists of words given at the end might be used for card sorting exercises or a variety of spelling games.



1) Rule 24: Explanation

The **'able'** and **'ible'** endings are usually used to form **adjectives** from **nouns**. The suffix **'able'** is usually used after a stem that is a complete word in itself.

The suffixes **'ably'** and **'ibly'** are used to form **adverbs**.

reasonable suitably valuable

terribly possible edibly

NOTE: If the root word ends in **'e'**, this is usually dropped when **'able'** is added.

2) Rule 24: Examples

Look at the stem before the **suffix**.

Can you spot those that are a complete word?

respectable

legible

enjoyable

horribly

excitable

adorable

acceptable

comfortably

possibly

HINT: Say the words clearly so you can HEAR the
'ible' or 'able' at the end.

3) Rule 24: Practice

Use 'able' (or 'ably') if the stem is a complete word.

Remember what to do if the root word ends in 'e'!

Starter

suit...

poss...

reason...

respect...

vis...

Challenge 1

ed...

depend...

cred...

adore...

consider...

Challenge 2

value...

permiss...

excite...

compat...

desire...

THINK: Is 'able' or 'ible' more common?

4) Rule 24: Further examples

'able' after root word

considerable

adorable

reasonable

suitable

comfortable

valuable

acceptable

remarkable

respectable

dependable

understandable

Exceptions:

'able' not after root word

applicable

tolerable

capable

'ible' not after root word

possible

terrible

visible

horrible

credible

compatible

permissible

edible

legible

Exceptions:

'ible' after root word

forcible

accessible

sensible

flexible

Other exceptions

The 'e' at the end of a root word is kept for root words ending in 'ee' or in 'ce' or 'ge' so the 'g' or 'c' maintains its 'soft' sound of 'j' or 's'. For words ending in 'y', the 'y' changes to an 'i' (as usual for suffixes after a 'y').

changeeable

noticeeable

agreeeable

reliiable

variiable

NOTE: Many of these can also be used with an 'ably' / 'ibly' suffix.