



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH



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BBC Learning English - Quiznet

Vocab Suffix able/ible

For each of the six questions choose the one correct answer.

1. My car is very _____ it's never broken down.
 - a. edible
 - b. inedible
 - c. unreliable
 - d. reliable

2. This steak is completely _____, it's cold and tough.
 - a. unreliable
 - b. reliable
 - c. edible
 - d. inedible

3. Sue's handwriting is _____, she usually has to type letters.
 - a. flexible
 - b. inflexible
 - c. comprehensible
 - d. incomprehensible

4. Is this sweater _____ or do I have to get it dry-cleaned?
 - a. washable
 - b. changeable
 - c. washible
 - d. adjustable

5. My working hours are very _____, I have to arrive exactly on time.
 - a. changeable
 - b. inflexible
 - c. flexible
 - d. inflexible

6. Water in the UK is _____, you can take it directly from the tap.
 - a. drinkable
 - b. undrinkable
 - c. curable
 - d. incurable

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Answers

1. My car is very _____ it's never broken down.

- a. edible - If something is edible, you can eat it - Most insects are edible, some are delicious!
- b. inedible - If something is inedible, you cannot eat it - e.g. The inedible mushroom *Hydnellum Caeruleum* (now you know!)
- c. unreliable - If something (or someone) is unreliable, you cannot rely or depend on it, e.g. her ex-boyfriend was always late.
- d. reliable - If something is reliable, you can depend or rely on it. Correct**

2. This steak is completely _____, it's cold and tough.

- a. unreliable - If something (or someone) is unreliable, you cannot rely or depend on it, e.g. her ex-boyfriend was always late.
- b. reliable - If something is reliable, you can depend or rely on it.
- c. edible - If something is edible, you can eat it - Most insects are edible, some are delicious!
- d. inedible - If something is inedible, you cannot eat it - e.g. The inedible mushroom *Hydnellum Caeruleum* (now you know!) Correct**

3. Sue's handwriting is _____, she usually has to type letters.

- a. flexible - If something is flexible, you can change it easily.
- b. inflexible - If something is inflexible, you cannot change it easily.
- c. comprehensible - If something is comprehensible, you can understand it.
- d. incomprehensible - If something is incomprehensible, you can't understand it. Correct**

4. Is this sweater _____ or do I have to get it dry-cleaned?

- a. washable - If something is washable, you can wash it. Correct**
- b. changeable - We often say the UK weather is changeable, sunny one moment, rainy the next!
- c. washible - Both 'able' & 'ible' occur as suffixes - there are no rules - learn the spelling!
- d. adjustable - If something is adjustable, you can change it so that it fits / suits or is comfortable e.g. an adjustable office chair.

5. My working hours are very _____, I have to arrive exactly on time.

- a. changeable - We often say the UK weather is changeable, sunny one moment, rainy the next!
- b. inflexible - If something is inflexible, you cannot change it easily. Correct**
- c. flexible - If something is flexible, you can change it easily.
- d. inflexible - Both 'able' & 'ible' occur as suffixes - there are no rules - learn the spelling!

6. Water in the UK is _____, you can take it directly from the tap.

- a. drinkable - If something is drinkable, you can drink it - a formal word is 'potable'. Correct**
- b. undrinkable - If something is undrinkable, you can't drink it - a formal word is 'non-potable'.
- c. curable - If an illness is curable, it can be cured, the person can be made well. Some illnesses are curable,
- d. incurable - If an illness is incurable, it cannot be cured, the person cannot be made well. Some illnesses are incurable.