

Suffixes: -able, -ible

Many words end in -able and -ible. Sometimes it is hard to remember which one to use. The -ible ending is for words that have a Latin origin. The -able ending is used for words that are verbs. Over the years, there have been some words added such as:不可收拾. The -able and -ible suffixes mean capable of and it changes the end of the word to be an adjective.

Here is a little rule to help you decide the correct spelling. It works most of the time.

- If you remove -ible from a word, you are left with a complete word.

For example:



Horrible -> horr + ible. Horr is not a complete word.

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For example:



Adaptable -> adapt + able. Adapt is a complete word.

Because you can remove -ible from the word, but cannot do it with the word adapt, the correct spelling is adaptable.