

-ably and -ibly Word Endings



Adding -ably



In this picture, we can see someone who is **comfortable**.

We could describe them as sitting **comfortably**.

To turn an **adjective** which already ends in **-able** into an **adverb**, we **replace** the **-le** ending of the adjective with **-ly**.

comfortable
(adjective)



comfortably
(adverb)

Rule for Adding -ably

If the root word ends in **-able**, remove the **-le** and replace it with **-ly**.

For example:

reason**able** → reason**able** → reason**ably**

This will change the word from a **adjective** into an **adverb**.

Adding -ably Together



His reason for being late was understandable.

How could we add **-ably** to create an **adverb** to describe this boy's lateness?

As our root word ends in **-able**, we need to remove the letters **-le** and add **-ly**. This will change the **adjective** into an **adverb**.

understandable
(adjective)



understandably
(adverb)

Adding -ibly



In this picture, we can see someone who is **sensible**.

We could describe them as behaving **sensibly**.

As with **-able**, to turn an **adjective** which already ends in **-ible** into an **adverb**, we **replace** the **-le** ending of the adjective with **-ly**.

sensible
(adjective)



sensibly
(adverb)

Rule for Adding -ibly

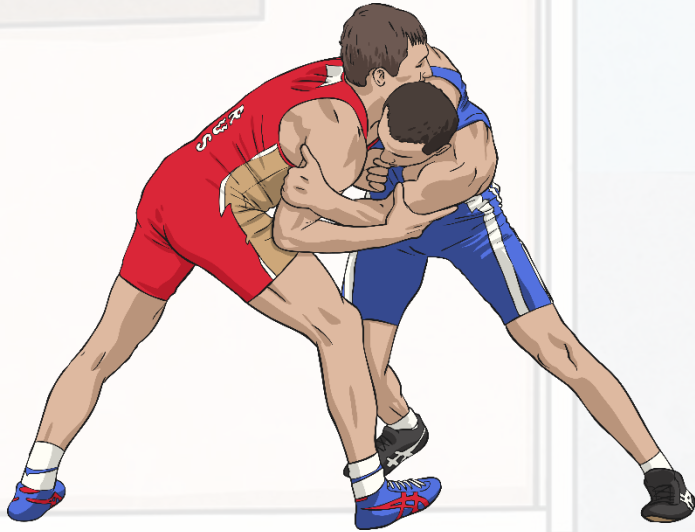
If the root word ends in **-ible**, remove the **-le** and replace it with **-ly**.

For example:

possible → possible → possibly

This will change the word from a **adjective** into an **adverb**.

Adding -ibly Together



The wrestler's strength was **incredible**.

How could we add -ibly to create an **adverb** to describe his strength?

As our root word ends in **-ible**, we need to remove the letters **-le** and add **-ly**. This will change the **adjective** into an **adverb**.

incredible
(adjective)



incredibly
(adverb)

-ably and -ibly Word Endings

When you are reading and writing, you will see far more words which end in **-able/-ably** than words ending in **-ible/-ibly**.

But how do you know when a word should end in **-able/-ably** or **-ible/-ibly**?

-able / -ably

-ible / -ibly

Quiz



Back

Words Ending in -able / -ably

The -able/-ably ending is usually (but not always) used if a complete root word can be heard before it, for example:

dependable

enjoyable

considerable

dependably

enjoyably

considerably



Back

Words Ending in -able / -ably

The -ible/-ibly ending is *usually* (but not always) used if a complete root word **cannot** be heard before it, for example:

possible

horrible

terrible

incredible

possibly

horribly

terribly

incredibly

-ably and -ibly Quick Quiz

Which of these word endings is needed to change the bold adjective into an adverb?

It was **tolerable** cold outside.

-ably

-ibly

Try again

The root word ends in **-able** so we need to remove the letters **-le** and add **-ly** to form the adverb **tolerably**.

-ably and -ibly Quick Quiz

Which of these word endings is needed to change the bold adjective into an adverb?

It all went **horrible** wrong.

Try again

-ably

-ibly

The root word ends in **-ible** so we need to remove the letters **-le** and add **-ly** to form the adverb **horribly**.

-ably and -ibly Quick Quiz

Which of these word endings is needed to change the bold adjective into an adverb?

Samir was **noticeable** missing from class.

-ably

-ibly

Try again

The root word ends in **-able** so we need to remove the letters **-le** and add **-ly** to form the adverb **noticeably**.

-ably and -ibly Quick Quiz

Which of these word endings is needed to change the bold adjective into an adverb?

Dina was **considerable** faster than John.

-ably

-ibly

Try again

The root word ends in **-able** so we need to remove the letters **-le** and add **-ly** to form the adverb **considerably**.

-ably and -ibly Quick Quiz

Which of these word endings is needed to change the bold adjective into an adverb?

He was **visible** shaken after the incident.

Try again

-ably

-ibly

The root word ends in **-ible** so we need to remove the letters **-le** and add **-ly** to form the adverb **visibly**.

-ably and -ibly Quick Quiz

Which of these word endings is needed to change the bold adjective into an adverb?

She wrote **legible** on the cheque.

Try again

-ably

-ibly

The root word ends in **-ible** so we need to remove the letters **-le** and add **-ly** to form the adverb **legibly**.