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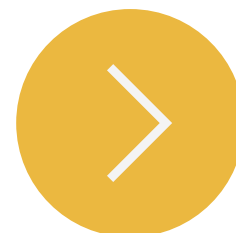
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ADJECTIVES L6 – CREATING ADJECTIVES

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GENERAL INFO

- In German, you can use prefixes and suffixes to form adjectives from many nouns and verbs.
- In addition, by adding the suffixes, you change the meaning of the adjective.
- Unfortunately, there are countless possibilities.
- The following forms are the most important and most common ones.
- However, there are no general rules since you can use more than 30 different prefixes and suffixes for adjective formation.

ADJECTIVES FROM ADJECTIVES

With the **prefixes "in-", "des-", and "un-"** we can create the opposite of the adjective:

- "kompetent" vs. "**in**kompetent" → not competent
- "interessiert" vs. "**des**interessiert" → not interested
- "beliebt" vs. "**un**beliebt" → not loved

**Advice:**

There is no general rule for determining which prefix to use.

ADJECTIVES FROM VERBS

With the **ending "-bar"** we can express that something is possible to do.

You drop the verb ending "-en".

- "**ess**bar" → You can eat it. (edible)
- "**trink**bar" → You can drink it. (drinkable)
- "**mach**bar" → It can be done or made. (doable/makeable/possible)

ADJECTIVES FROM NOUNS

We use the **ending "-isch"** to describe many nationalities.

You have to drop the original ending.

- "der Italiener" → "**italienisch**"
- "der Russe" → "**russisch**"
- But:** "der Deutsche" → "**deutsch**"

With the **ending "-lich"** we can talk about the frequency or ownership of something.
(Monosyllabic words gain an umlaut).

- "der Tag" → "**täglich**" → every day
- "der Monat" → "**monatlich**" → every month

"das Haus der Eltern" → "das **elterliche** Haus" (seldomly used) → parents house

We use the **ending "-los"** to talk about the absence of something → in the sense of the "without". "-los" can be added to nouns only.

Sometimes we have to add an "s" before "-los".

- „Ich habe keine Arbeit.“ → „Ich bin **arbeitslos**.“
- „Es gibt keine Aussicht auf Erfolg.“ → „Es ist **aussichtslos**.“
- „Ich habe keinen Erfolg.“ → „Ich bin **erfolglos**.“



Advice:

There is no universal rule determining when you have to insert the "s".

With the **ending "-arm"**, we can express that there is very little of something.

You can connect "-arm" with nouns only.

- "**fettarm**" → „Das Essen ist **fettarm**." → There is little fat.
- "**kalorienarm**" → „Der Jogurt ist **kalorienarm**." → The yogurt has few calories.
- "**vitaminarm**" → „Cola ist **vitaminarm**." → Cola has few vitamins.

With the **ending "-reich"**, we can express that there is a lot of something.

You can connect "-reich" with nouns only.

- "**erfolgreich**" → „Ich bin **erfolgreich**." → I am very successful.
- "**vitaminreich**" → „Das Essen ist **vitaminreich**." → The food is rich in vitamins.
- "**kalorienreich**" → „Das Essen ist sehr **kalorienreich**." → The food has many calories.

SUMMARY

- There is no standard rule.
- You have to learn the meanings of the suffixes and prefixes.
- After a while, you will feel how you can and cannot form the adjectives.
- At first glance, it doesn't look easy. It isn't! But in many other languages, you don't even have the opportunity to create adjectives. This is one of the reasons why German is one of the most creative languages in the world.

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