



## Spelling: -ible vs. -able

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### Rule

<b>-ible</b>	<b>-able</b>
<p>If the root is not a complete word, add <i>-ible</i> .</p> <p>aud + ible = audible</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● visible</li><li>● horrible</li><li>● terrible</li><li>● possible</li><li>● edible</li><li>● eligible</li><li>● incredible</li><li>● permissible</li></ul>	<p>If the root is a complete word, add <i>-able</i> .</p> <p>accept + able = acceptable</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● fashionable</li><li>● laughable</li><li>● suitable</li><li>● dependable</li><li>● comfortable</li></ul> <p>If the root is a complete word ending in <i>-e</i> , drop the final <i>-e</i> and add <i>-able</i> .</p> <p>excuse - e+ able = excusable</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● advisable</li><li>● desirable</li><li>● valuable</li><li>● debatable</li></ul>

Some exceptions:

- contemptible
- digestible
- flexible
- responsible
- irritable
- inevitable

You can try some exercises for spelling *-ible* and *-able* correctly at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g\\_spelibleEX1.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/grammar/g_spelibleEX1.html).

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The following information must remain intact on every handout printed for distribution.

This page is located at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/grammar/g\\_spelible.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/grammar/g_spelible.html).

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