

## Spelling list: Adjectives ending in *ous*

There are two ways of spelling the *schwa* in the *us* sound when it falls at the end of a word: *us* and *ous* .

Fortunately there is an easy trick to help you remember when to use which spelling pattern:

The spelling pattern *us* is used for people, places, or things; like in the words *cactus* , *fungus* , or *octopus* .

The *ous* ending, on the hand, is used for descriptive words like *poisonous* , *jealous* , and *enormous* .

Adjectives ending in *ous* are commonly used in English to describe being *full of* or *possessing the quality of* a base word. For example, *ambitious* means being *full of ambition* and *curious* means *possessing the quality of curiosity* .

adventurous	I'm trying to be more <b>adventurous</b> with my cooking.
anonymous	I wonder who sent this <b>anonymous</b> letter.
disastrous	My first attempt at baking was <b>disastrous</b> .
enormous	Elephants are <b>enormous</b> .
fabulous	Spotted dresses look <b>fabulous</b> in the summer.
famous	The new building was to be designed by a <b>famous</b> architect.
generous	The charity received a <b>generous</b> donation.
hazardous	He warned the hikers that it would be a <b>hazardous</b> climb.
jealous	She has a very <b>jealous</b> boyfriend.
joyous	The birth of their baby was a <b>joyous</b> occasion.
miraculous	He has made a <b>miraculous</b> recovery.
mischievous	Puck is a <b>mischievous</b> fairy.
momentous	Their wedding will be a <b>momentous</b> occasion.
mountainous	A large part of Austria is <b>mountainous</b> .
nervous	I am <b>nervous</b> about the test.

numerous	He has had <b>numerous</b> offers of employment.
prosperous	The film star is marrying a <b>prosperous</b> banker.
ravenous	I missed my lunch and now I'm <b>ravenous</b> .
ridiculous	She thought his idea was <b>ridiculous</b> .
tremendous	The thunder made a <b>tremendous</b> noise.