

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 **adventurous** with my cooking.

anonymous I wonder who sent this **anonymous** letter.

disastrous My first attempt at baking was **disastrous** .

enormous Elephants are **enormous** .

fabulous Spotted dresses look **fabulous** in the summer.

famous The new building was to be designed by a **famous** architect.

generous The charity received a **generous** donation.

hazardous He warned the hikers that it would be a **hazardous** climb.

jealous She has a very **jealous** boyfriend.

joyous The birth of their baby was a **joyous** occasion.

miraculous He has made a **miraculous** recovery.

mischievous Puck is a **mischievous** fairy.

momentous Their wedding will be a **momentous** occasion.

mountainous A large part of Austria is **mountainous** .

nervous I am **nervous** about the test.

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