

## Spelling list: The suffix -ous

In the English language, a suffix is added to the end of a word to change its meaning. A suffix is the opposite of a prefix (which is added to the beginning of a word).

The suffix *-ous* comes from Latin and signifies *having the quality of* or *being full of* something. When attached to the end of a root word, *-ous* turns it into a description of a characteristic or state of being. For example, if something is *dangerous* it is fraught with the quality of *danger* and if something is *glorious* it is full of *glory* or magnificence.

You can work out whether you need to use the *-ous* suffix by checking if the word you are spelling is an adjective. An *adjective* is a word that is used to describe someone or something.

poisonous	Not all snake bites are <b>poisonous</b> .
dangerous	A crocodile is a very <b>dangerous</b> creature.
famous	A <b>famous</b> person is someone well-known to many people.
various	There were <b>various</b> bones at the museum.
tremendous	The thunder made a <b>tremendous</b> noise.
enormous	The <b>enormous</b> crocodile was waiting by the riverbank.
jealous	He was <b>jealous</b> of his brother's new bike.
glamorous	She always dressed up and looked <b>glamorous</b> .
courageous	The soldiers were <b>courageous</b> in battle.
serious	The judge said it was a very <b>serious</b> crime.
obvious	It was <b>obvious</b> that the boy needed some help.
curious	I was <b>curious</b> to see how many people turned up.
hideous	The weather was <b>hideous</b> during the storm.
spontaneous	There was <b>spontaneous</b> applause when he spoke.