

Suffix '-able/ible'

For each of the six questions choose the **one** correct answer.

1. My car is very _____ it's never broken down.
 - a. edible
 - b. inedible
 - c. unreliable
 - d. reliable

2. This steak is completely _____, it's cold and tough.
 - a. unreliable
 - b. reliable
 - c. edible
 - d. inedible

3. Sue's handwriting is _____, she usually has to type letters.
 - a. flexible
 - b. inflexible
 - c. comprehensible
 - d. incomprehensible

4. Is this sweater _____ or do I have to get it dry-cleaned?
 - a. washable
 - b. changeable
 - c. washible
 - d. adjustable

5. My working hours are very _____, I have to arrive exactly on time.
 - a. changeable
 - b. inflexible
 - c. flexible
 - d. inflexible

6. Water in the UK is _____, you can have it directly from the tap.
 - a. drinkable
 - b. undrinkable
 - c. curable
 - d. incurable

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Answers

1:

- a. If something is edible, you can eat it - Most insects are edible, some are delicious!
- b. If something is inedible, you cannot eat it –
- c. If something (or someone) is unreliable, you cannot rely or depend on it, e.g. her ex-boyfriend was always late; he was very unreliable.
- d. **Correct** – If something is reliable, you can depend or rely on it.

2:

- a. If something (or someone) is unreliable, you cannot rely or depend on it, e.g. her ex-boyfriend was always late.; he was very unreliable.
- b. If something is reliable, you can depend or rely on it.
- c. If something is edible, you can eat it - Most insects are edible, some are delicious!
- d. **Correct** – If something is inedible, you cannot eat it .

3:

- a. If something is flexible, you can change it easily.
- b. If something is inflexible, you cannot change it easily.
- c. If something is comprehensible, you can understand it.
- d. **Correct** – If something is incomprehensible, you cannot understand it.

4:

- a. **Correct** – If something is washable, you can wash it.
- b. We often say the weather in the UK is changeable, sunny one moment, rainy the next!
- c. Both 'able' & 'ible' occur as suffixes – 'wash' uses 'able' – you just have to learn the correct spelling!
- d. If something is adjustable, you can change it so that it fits / suits or is comfortable e.g. an adjustable office chair.

5:

- a. We often say the weather in the UK is changeable, sunny one moment, rainy the next!
- b. **Correct** – If something is inflexible, you cannot change it easily.
- c. If something is flexible, you can change it easily.
- d. Both 'able' & 'ible' occur as suffixes – 'flex' uses 'ible' – you just have to learn the correct spelling!

6:

- a. Correct - If something is drinkable, you can drink it - a more formal word is 'potable'.
- b. If something is undrinkable, you cannot drink it - a more formal word is 'non-potable'.
- c. If an illness is curable, it can be cured, the person can be made well. Some illnesses are incurable.
- d. If an illness is curable, it can be cured, the person can be made well. Some illnesses are incurable.

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