Adjectives formed with suffixes

I. List of suffixes and examples
II. Adjectives ending in –ic and -ical

I. List of suffixes and examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-able/-ible</td>
<td>admissible, possible, probable, reasonable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-al</td>
<td>final, global, special</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ant</td>
<td>resistant, resultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ent</td>
<td>dependent, different, excellent, frequent, urgent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ar</td>
<td>perpendicular, popular, regular, similar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ed</td>
<td>interested, limited, related</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ful</td>
<td>harmful, helpful, successful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ic, -ical</td>
<td>atomic, basic, economic(al), electric(al), mathematical, scientific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ive</td>
<td>active, illustrative, indicative, sensitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-less</td>
<td>harmless, helpless, hopeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ory</td>
<td>introductory, preparatory, satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ous</td>
<td>porous, serious, various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-y</td>
<td>busy, early, happy, healthy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note the difference between
different and various:

*Our teams used different approaches.* (not similar; Czech: různé, odlišné)
*We used various approaches.* (many different; Czech: různé, rozmanité)

II. Adjectives ending in –ic and –ical

Some adjectives have only one form, e.g. **basic, scientific**
**mathematical, physical**

Some adjectives have two forms without any difference in meaning, e.g. **geographic/geographical**

The following adjectives have two forms, each with a different meaning:

**classic**

*a classic example, mistake, case* (typical)

*in the classic sense of the term* (traditional, conventional)

**classical**

*a classical argument* (typical)

*classical economic theory* (traditional, conventional)

*classical literature* (relating to ancient Rome and Greece)

*classical music* (serious music of lasting value)
Avoid using *classical* with *methods, approaches, ways*. Use *traditional* or *conventional* instead.

### economic
*the economic situation*
(relating to trade, industry, money; Czech = hospodářský)

### economical
*an economical car*
(using time, money, goods without wasting any; Czech = hospodárný, úsporný)

### electric
*electric light, an electric kettle*  
(needing electricity to work)
*electric current, charge, power*  
producing, carrying, supplying electricity)

### electrical
*electrical engineering, an electrical fault*  
(relating to electricity)
*electrical equipment, machines, appliances*  
(using electricity)

### historic
*a historic building, historic monuments*  
(very old)
*a historic event*  
(important in history)

### historical
*historical events, figures*  
(relating to the past)
*a historical novel*  
(describing past events)

## EXERCISES

I. Fill the gaps with the adjectives given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>perpendicular to</th>
<th>illustrative of</th>
<th>scientific</th>
<th>final</th>
<th>urgent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>indicative of</td>
<td>limited</td>
<td>harmful to</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>different from</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Einstein’s theory of relativity was one of the greatest ......................... discoveries of the 20th century.
2. The book was published in a ......................... edition.
3. This example is ......................... the process described above.
4. Excessive use of fossil fuels is ......................... the environment.
5. Our motorway network is in ......................... need of repair.
6. The melting of glaciers is considered to be ......................... climate change.
7. These results are very ......................... any that we obtained before.
8. She gave ......................... reasons for failing her driving test.
9. These two lines are ......................... one another.
10. Students are preparing for their ......................... examination.

II. Choose the correct word in italics. In one case both words are correct.

1. The velvet revolution was a *historic/historical* event comparable to the liberation of the country from the Nazi occupation.
2. Very few people study *classic/classical* languages these days.
3. He plays an *electrical/electric* guitar.
4. It’s *economic/economical* to buy in large quantities.
5. She loves *historical/historic* films.
6. That is a *classic/classical* instance of poor management.
7. The murder of King Wenceslaus by his brother is a *historic/historical event*.
8. Low fuel consumption makes the car very *economic/economical*.
9. “*Electrical/Electric machines*” is a rather difficult course.
10. She studies *classical/classic* ballet.
11. *Economic/economical* reform is one of the hottest topics today.
12. We´ve bought a new *electric/electrical* cooker.
13. *Electrical/Electric* engineers are in great demand these days.
14. In the last few years the *economical/economic* development of the country has stagnated.
15. They use all sorts of *electric/electrical* equipment.