

Adjectives ending “-ed” or “-ing”

Description: We take a look at pairs of adjectives – one version describing how a person (or animal) feels, the other describing the activity that caused that feeling.

...ed or ...ing adjectives

Adjectives that end in **-ed** (e.g. *bored, interested*) and adjectives that end in **-ing** (e.g. *boring, interesting*) are often confused.

Which one of the following options should be used in the sentence shown?

Complete this sentence

1. You look really ____. Why don't you go to bed?
2. Can I call you?
I've got some very ____ news for you!
3. My neighbour is always playing loud music.
It's very ____.
4. The directions were ____ and we got lost.
5. I was really ____ that I won the competition.
6. She didn't call about the car.
I don't think she's ____ in buying it.
7. My cats get really ____ when there's a
thunderstorm.
8. His exam results were really ____.

Choose the right word

- tired / tiring
- excited / exciting
- annoyed / annoying
- confused / confusing
- surprised / surprising
- interested / interesting
- frightened / frightening
- disappointed / disappointing

-ed adjectives

Adjectives that end in *-ed* generally describe emotions – they tell us how people (or animals) feel. So the subject of the sentence will almost always be a person or an animal

*I was so bored in that lesson, I almost fell asleep.
He was surprised to see Helen after all those years.
She was really tired and went to bed early.*

-ing adjectives

Adjectives that end in *-ing* generally describe the thing that causes the emotion – a boring lesson makes you feel bored.

*Have you seen that film? It's really frightening.
I could listen to her for hours. She's so interesting.
I can't sleep! That noise is really annoying!*

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. She's a big dog but you don't need to be ___. | frightened / frightening |
| 2. The instructions for my new coffee machine are really ___. | confused / confusing |
| 3. I loved my maths teacher! Lessons with her were never ___. | bored / boring |
| 4. That shop never has any customers. I'm ___ it's still there. | surprised / surprising |
| 5. The battery on my phone only lasts about two hours. It's really ___. | annoyed / annoying |
| 6. I was ___ that I didn't get the job. | disappointed / disappointing |
| 7. I'm reading a really ___ book. | interested / interesting |
| 8. The children were so ___ they couldn't sleep. | excited / exciting |

Here's a list of adjectives that can end **-ed** or **-ing**

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Alarmed - Alarming | 16. Discouraged - Discouraging | 31. Insulted - Insulting |
| 2. Aggravated - Aggravating | 17. Disgusted - Disgusting | 32. Interested - Interesting |
| 3. Amused - Amusing | 18. Distressed - Distressing | 33. Moved - Moving |
| 4. Annoyed - Annoying | 19. Disturbed - Disturbing | 34. Overwhelmed - Overwhelming |
| 5. Astonished - Astonishing | 20. Embarrassed - Embarrassing | 35. Perplexed - Perplexing |
| 6. Astounded - Astounding | 21. Encouraged - Encouraging | 36. Pleased - Pleasing |
| 7. Bored - Boring | 22. Entertained - Entertaining | 37. Relaxed - Relaxing |
| 8. Captivated - Captivating | 23. Excited - Exciting | 38. Relieved - Relieving |
| 9. Challenged - Challenging | 24. Exhausted - Exhausting | 39. Satisfied - Satisfying |
| 10. Charmed - Charming | 25. Fascinated - Fascinating | 40. Shocked - Shocking |
| 11. Comforted - Comforting | 26. Frightened - Frightening | 41. Sickened - Sickening |
| 12. Confused - Confusing | 27. Frustrated - Frustrating | 42. Soothed - Soothing |
| 13. Convinced - Convincing | 28. Fulfilled - Fulfilling | 43. Surprised - Surprising |
| 14. Depressed - Depressing | 29. Gratified - Gratifying | 44. Tempted - Tempting |
| 15. Disappointed - Disappointing | 30. Inspired - Inspiring | 45. Terrified - Terrifying |
| | | 46. Threatened - Threatening |
| | | 47. Thrilled - Thrilling |
| | | 48. Tired - Tiring |
| | | 49. Touched - Touching |
| | | 50. Troubled - Troubling |
| | | 51. Unsettled - Unsettling |
| | | 52. Worried - Worrying |

Explain the difference in meaning between the two sentences in each pair. In what circumstances would each of them be the right thing to say?

1a. When I meet Susan, I'm not very **amused** if there aren't any jokes in the first 5 minutes.

1b. When I meet Susan, I'm not very **amusing** if there aren't any jokes in the first 5 minutes.

2a. The circus performer was **amazing**.

2b. The circus performer was **amazed**.

3a. John has a **charming** spaniel dog.

3b. John has a **charmed** spaniel dog.

4a. We had a discussion about the advantages of buying a new car. I'm afraid I wasn't very **convinced**.

4b. We had a discussion about the advantages of buying a new car. I'm afraid I wasn't very **convincing**.

5a. I listened to a song by Taylor Swift – it was **inspired**.

5b. I listened to a song by Taylor Swift – it was **inspiring**.

6a. When you are **insulting**, what should you do?

6b. When you are **insulted**, what should you do?

7a. Nottingham is such a **relaxed** place in which to live.

7b. Nottingham is such a **relaxing** place in which to live.

8a. I'm **worried** that I won't have enough money to heat my house.

8b. I'm **worrying** that I won't have enough money to heat my house.