
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute Vocabulary

-ing and -ed adjectives



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ENGLISH

NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Finn

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Finn...

Catherine

And I'm Catherine. In today's programme we're going to look at **i-n-g** and **e-d** adjectives.

Finn

So if you're **interested** in vocabulary, but you find some adjectives **confusing**, keep listening...

Catherine

Yes, keep listening, and it's on with the show! I must say Finn, you're looking very **relaxed** today.

Finn

That's because I was on holiday last week. It was very **relaxing**. Speaking of holidays, here are two people who had a bad time on holiday. What went wrong?

INSERT

Man

The train was horrible. Big gangs of teenagers playing music on their phones – I got very **annoyed**.

Woman

The flight was delayed and we had ten really **boring** hours in the airport with nothing to do.

Catherine

Not much fun, eh? So, the man was **annoyed**, or angry, about teenagers playing music. And the woman had a long and **boring** wait in the airport.

Finn

So let's have a closer look. Here's the woman again.

INSERT

Woman

The flight was delayed and we had ten really **boring** hours in the airport with nothing to do.

Finn

Now adjectives ending with **i-n-g**, like **boring**, usually describe things or events that make us have a particular feeling.

Catherine

That's right, and in the example, **boring** describes all those hours and hours in the airport. Ten long, **boring** hours. Sound familiar Finn?

Finn

That sounds very familiar, yes.

Catherine

And there are lots of **i-n-g** adjectives we can use to describe things or events. We can talk about a **confusing** problem, a **surprising** piece of news or an **exciting** film with lots of action. Finn, what's the most **exciting** film you have ever seen?

Finn

So many exciting films. But the first one I can think of is Gravity. In space. Very exciting. OK Catherine, what is your idea of a **relaxing** holiday?

Catherine

I do like to be beside the seaside, Finn. Now let's look at **e-d** adjectives. We're going to hear from a woman who got a very cheap holiday. What **e-d** adjective does she use?

INSERT

We got a great deal. I was **surprised** at how cheap it was.

Catherine

We use **e-d** adjectives to say how we feel about something. In our example, the adjective **surprised** describes how the woman feels about the price.

INSERT

We got a great deal. I was **surprised** at how cheap it was.

Catherine

She didn't expect it to be so cheap!

Finn

That's right. If I say: **I get annoyed by loud music**, the word **annoyed** describes my feelings about the music. The music is **annoying**, and I feel **annoyed**.

Catherine

And if I say: **long lectures make me bored**, the word **bored** describes my feelings about the lecture. The lecture is **boring**, and I feel **bored**. So, Finn, what makes you **bored**?

Finn

I never feel bored.

Catherine

Yes, you do.

Finn

OK, when I'm travelling to work. A long commute is very **boring** and it makes me feel **bored**.

Catherine

Me too. And a word of warning here: don't confuse **bored** and **boring** – because if you say **I'm very boring**, you're actually saying that you make other people feel **bored**!

Finn

And you don't want that.

IDENT

You're listening to BBC Learning English.

Finn

And it's time for a quiz. Listen to these sentences and choose whether they need an **i-n-g** or **e-d** adjective. Catherine will tell you the answers. Ready? Number one: 'I enjoy taking long hot baths. They make me feel really...' a) relaxed or b) relaxing?

Catherine

Now Finn, you're describing your feeling, so it's a) relaxed.

Finn

That's right: they make me relaxed. Number two: 'The discovery of life on Mars would be...' a) **surprised** or b) **surprising**?

Catherine

We're talking about a discovery, which is a thing, so it's b) **surprising**.

Finn

And the last one: 'Those students are very ...' a) **annoying** or b) **annoyed**?

Catherine

And this one is a trick question, because both of them are possible: **Those students are very annoying** is correct if we are describing **the students**. But **Those students are very annoyed** is what we say if we are talking about **the students' feelings**.

Finn

That's right, both are possible. And that brings us almost to the end of the show. But before we go, here's today's top tip for learning vocabulary: **i-n-g** and **e-d** adjectives are easy to confuse, so write down pairs of example sentences in your notebook.

Catherine

Very good. And remember there's more about this at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

Both:

Bye!

Vocabulary points to take away

Both –ing and –ed adjectives are used to talk about how we feel and describing our feelings.

The main difference is that –ing adjectives are usually used to talk about the person, place or thing that is making us feel a certain way:

*Yawn! This lecture is really **boring**!*

But –ed adjectives are used to talk about how we feel:

*I've been listening to him for hours – I'm so **bored**.*

You could say *I am boring* – it's grammatically correct – but this means that you make other people feel bored!

Here are some more example sentences with more –ing and –ed adjectives to help you understand the difference in meaning:

exciting and excited

*We have seen some **exciting** developments in technology in the 21st century.
We are **excited** to introduce our new range of smartphones.*

surprising and surprised

*It is **surprising** how little we know about our oceans.
My whole family was there for my party – I was so **surprised**!*

annoying and annoyed

*I hate popup adverts on the internet – they're **annoying**!
I'm sorry, I know you're **annoyed** – I won't make that mistake again!*

relaxing and relaxed

*Some people find listening to classical music very **relaxing**.
Doing yoga can be a way to feel more **relaxed**.*

confusing and confused

*I couldn't understand the plot of that film – it was just too **confusing**.
If too many people are talking at once I just get **confused**.*