

## PRACTICAL GRAMMAR

THE SUFFIX **-LESS**

Take a look at this sentence from the situation *A New Pet*.

Son: It's just a **harmless** little dog I found.

Notice that the adjective **harmless** is formed by the noun **harm** and the suffix **-less**. The suffix **-less** is an adjective-forming suffix which means *without*. A **harmless** dog is one that *won't* harm anyone; a **cordless** telephone is one *without* a cord, an **endless** story is one that seems to never end.

Let's take a look at some other examples.

Kim said that at some beaches in France, the women don't wear the top part of their bathing suits. She said they're called **topless** beaches.

Every weekend, Greg volunteers to help the **homeless** people in his town.

Next time you come across an adjective which ends in **-less**, follow this hint:



The suffix **-less** is an adjective-forming suffix meaning *without*.

THE PREFIX **IN-**

Remember the prefix *un-* from a previous lesson? You learned that the prefix *un-* has a negative force. If you remember how to use the prefix *un-*, then you should know how to use the prefix **in-** because it also has a negative force. For example: An **incomplete** sentence is one which is *not complete*; an **indecisive** person is one who is *not decisive*; an **inexpensive** restaurant is one which is *not expensive*.

In the situation *Bad Advice*, we see the word **incredible**, which is formed by the prefix **in-** and the adjective **credible**. As you already know, something incredible is something which is *not credible* or not believable.

Now look at these examples.

Why are you wearing a suit, Brent? This is an **informal** party.

Morgan's report is still **incomplete**. She hasn't finished it yet.

Study this:



Like the prefix *un-*, the prefix **in-** has a negative force.