

JCGL

-WARD(S)

Swan, M. (2005) *Practical English Usage*, 3rd edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Backward(s), *forward(s)*, *northward(s)*, *outward(s)* and similar words can be used as adjectives or adverbs.

1. ADJECTIVES

They do not have <-s>:

He was seen driving in a northward direction.
The country is very backward in some ways.

2. ADVERBS

They can generally be used with or without <-s>. The forms with <-s> are generally more common in BrE, and the forms without <-s> in AmE.

Why are you moving backward(s) and forward(s)?
Let's start driving homeward(s).

3. NOTE

- *To look forward to, to put forward, etc.*
- *Towards* and *afterwards* are the usual forms in BrE. In AmE, *toward* and *afterward* are also common.