

Gateway B1 Unit 3

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Negative prefixes **un-**, **in-**, **im-**, **ir-**, **il-**

1. Complete the table by writing these words in the correct column

correct formal happy (legal) official possible practical regular usual visible

un-

in-

im-

ir-

il-

legal

2 Look at these words. Complete the basic rules to explain when we use the prefixes **im-**, **ir-**, **il-**.

- 1 patient -> impatient
- 2 probable -> improbable
- 3 relevant -> irrelevant
- 4 responsible -> irresponsible
- 5 logical -> illogical
- 6 legible -> illegible

im + adjective	impossible, impatient, impolite, immortal, immoral, immobile
il + adjective	illegal, illogical, illegible
ir + adjective	irregular, irreverent, irreversible

Basic rule: We use the prefix **im-** when a word starts with the letters ____

Basic rule: We use the prefix **ir-** when a word starts with the letter ____

Basic rule: We use the prefix **il-** when a word starts with the letter ____

3 Match the words in 1 and 2 with these synonyms and definitions

- 1 wrong
- 2 relaxed, friendly, not very serious
- 3 sad
- 4 not good at waiting
- 5 impossible to see
- 6 impossible to read

Vocabulary extension: negative prefixes **dis- and **non-****

4 Look at these words. Which go with **dis-** and which go with **non-**?

Which type of word is it: a noun, a verb or an adjective? Use your dictionary if necessary.

5 Complete the sentences with words from 4

- 1 Cola is a _____ drink.
- 2 Someone who doesn't usually tell the truth is _____.
- 3 He doesn't normally live in this country, he only comes for short periods. He is a _____.
- 4 When you _____ someone, you don't do what they tell you to do.
- 5 If you do something against the rules in a competition, they can _____ you.
- 6 You and I _____ about nearly everything. Our ideas are always different.
- 7 One _____ of mobile phones is the radiation that they can cause.
- 8 I hate cigarettes. Put me in the _____ section.
- 9 The music on the radio station is _____. It's one song, then another, then another.