Negative prefixes

We add a prefix such as **in-** or **un-** or **dis-, im-, il-, non, ir- etc.** to the beginning of adjectives, adverbs and verbs to give them the opposite meaning.

For example,

- Before "**r**" one has to use "**ir**" irreparable;
- Before "**l**",use "**il**" illogical;
- Before "**t**", use "**dis**" distrust; distasteful
- Before "**c, b** or **s**" use "**un** or **in**" uncomfortable/unbelievable and incomplete/incredible/insanity;
- Before "**p**", use "**im**" impossible
- Before "**m**", use "**im**" immature, immortal
- Before "**h** or **f**", use "**un**" unhappy/unfettered;
- Before a noun, use "**non**" non-smoker, etc.

Exercise 1

Write the negative form of these words by adding a negative prefix: "un-", "dis-", "ir-", "il-", "in-", or "im-".

1 ____comfortable	2_____patient	3 ____honest	4_____lucky
5 ____formal	6 ____possible	7 ____popular	8 ____lock
9 ____appear	10 ____agree	11 ____legal	12_____polite
13 ____like	14 ____logical	15 ____convenient	

Exercise 2: *Write the negative form of these words by adding a negative prefix:*

"un-", "dis-", "ir-", "il-", "in-", or "im-".

1 ____frequent	6 ____believable	11_____relevant
2 ____mature	7 ____approve	12_____dependent
3 ____legible	8 ____curable	13_____responsible
4 ____moral	9 ____familiar	14_____accurate
5 ____regular	10 ____grateful	15_____resistible

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Exercise 3: Fill in negative prefixes to form the OPPOSITE of each of the adjectives below. In some cases, more than one pre-fix is possible.

___acceptable	___accurate	___adequate	___agreeable	___approachable
___appropriate	___bearable	___compatible	___complete	___conscious
___contented	___convenient	___credible	___decisive	___desirable
___discreet	___excusable	___experienced	___faithful	___flexible
___frequent	___grateful	___healthy	___helpful	___hospitable
___legal	___legible	___legitimate	___literate	___logical
___mature	___moral	___mortal	___obedient	___organised
___passive	___patient	___perfect	___personal	___polite
___probable	___readable	___regular	___resolute	___responsible
___respectful	___sane	___satisfactory	___satisfied	___sociable
___sufficient	___variable	___visible	___willing	

Exercise 4: Complete the sentences by adding the correct pre-fix for each word.

1 It's rather___polite if you don't say 'Please' a lot in English.

2 My parents are extremely generous with their time and money. They are very___selfish.

3 If the traffic is bad, it'll be___possible to get to the match on time.

4 It's___legal to drive along that street; it's for pedestrians only.

5 My mum thought a burglar had been in my bedroom, but it's always really___tidy.

6 It was completely___responsible of you to go away for the weekend without telling us.

7 Mike's pretty___happy about going on holiday with his girlfriend's parents.

8 I never know when to expect the post. It's so___regular.

9 Taking a large suitcase on a waling holiday is a bit___practical

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