

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-
_____	_____	_____	_____	<i>legal</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
		Basic rule: <i>We use the prefix im- when a word starts with the letter</i>	Basic rule: _____	Basic rule: _____
			_____	_____
			_____	_____

im + adjective impossible, impatient, impolite, immortal, immoral, immobile

il + adjective illegal, illogical, illegible

ir + adjective irregular, irreverent, irreversible

2 Look at these words. Complete the basic rules in 1 to explain when we use the prefixes *im-*, *ir* and *il-*.

- patient → impatient
- probable → improbable
- relevant → irrelevant
- responsible → irresponsible
- logical → illogical
- legible → illegible

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

- wrong _____
- relaxed, friendly, not very serious _____
- sad _____
- not good at waiting _____
- impossible to see _____
- 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 each one: a noun, verb or adjective? Use your dictionary if necessary.

- dis* like *noun, verb* _____
- _____ agree _____
- _____ alcoholic _____
- _____ appear _____
- _____ advantage _____
- _____ resident _____
- _____ stop _____
- _____ honest _____
- _____ obey _____
- _____ smoking _____
- _____ qualify _____

5 Complete the sentences with words in 4.

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