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
		Basic rule: *We use the prefix im- when a word starts with the letter*	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-*.

1 patient → **im**patient
2 probable → **im**probable
3 relevant → **ir**relevant
4 responsible → **ir**responsible
5 logical → **il**logical
6 legible → **il**legible

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 each one: a noun, verb or adjective? Use your dictionary if necessary.

1 *dis* like *noun, verb*
2 ____ agree _____
3 ____ alcoholic _____
4 ____ appear _____
5 ____ advantage _____
6 ____ resident _____
7 ____ stop _____
8 ____ honest _____
9 ____ obey _____
10 ____ smoking _____
11 ____ qualify _____

5 Complete the sentences with words in 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's 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 almost 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 this radio station is _____. It's one song, then another, then another.