Prefixes

1 NEGATIVE PREFIXES

a Write the words from the list in the correct column to make negatives.

~~agree~~ appropriate attractive capable coherent competent continue do embark helpful honest hospitable legitimate literate logical mobile moral official personal practical rational regular relevant replaceable

im-	*il-*	*ir-*	*in-*	*un-*	*dis-*
					disagree

b 7.4 Listen and check. What letters do the words begin with after *im-*, *il-*, and *ir-*?

2 PREFIXES WHICH ADD OTHER MEANINGS

a Read the sentences carefully and match the **bold** prefixes to their meanings A–U.

1 D My daughter has **out**grown most of her clothes – she needs a bigger size.
2 A lot of common English verbs are **mono**syllabic, like *get*, *have*, *give*, etc.
3 The whole town was **re**built after the earthquake.
4 After the operation, I'll have to go to the hospital once a week as an **out**patient.
5 My dog was **ill**-treated* as a puppy, but he's much happier now.
6 I haven't been feeling very well recently. The doctor told me to take **multi**vitamins.
7 I must have **mis**understood you. I thought you said you didn't want to come tonight.
8 I need to install a new **anti**virus on my computer.
9 I was incredibly lucky on my flight to Mexico – I was **up**graded to business class!
10 High consumption of meat is leading to **de**forestation of the planet.
11 My brother did a **post**graduate course in translation and interpreting.
12 A ceasefire is an essential **pre**condition for any negotiation.
13 Even though I set my alarm clock, I **over**slept this morning and was late for work.
14 The committee has **bi**annual meetings in October and March.
15 Several different species now **co**exist peacefully side by side.
16 This work is totally **sub**standard. It's just not acceptable.
17 There will be an **inter**governmental conference to look at climate change.
18 They're really **under**staffed at the moment because a lot of their workers are off sick.
19 With a **super**human effort, he managed to lift the car and save the injured man.
20 I'm not very good with my camera. I almost always use the **auto**focus setting.
21 Bacteria are **micro**organisms which often cause disease.

*The prefix *ill* is always followed by a hyphen.

A not enough
B too much
C more than one, many
~~D more than, better than, bigger than, etc.~~
E wrongly
F below
G two, twice
H against
I one
J by yourself, by itself
K after
L outside, not inside
M before
N remove or reduce
O higher, towards the top
P together
Q badly
R between
S above average
T extremely small
U again

b 7.5 Listen and check.

Prefixes with more than one meaning

Some prefixes have more than one meaning, e.g. *out-*, *de-*. Compare:

- *out-* + verb usually means *more than, better than*, etc., e.g. *Boys outnumber girls in this class* (= there are more boys than girls)
- *out-* + noun / adjective means outside, e.g. *He lives on the outskirts of the city*
- *de-* often means remove or take away sth, e.g. *demystify* = remove the mystery
- *de-* can also mean reduce, e.g. *devalue* = reduce the value of sth

ACTIVATION Which prefixes from **2** could you use before each of these words?

-cook (*verb*) -lingual -war -national -place (*verb*)

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LIVEWORKSHEETS