

# Prefixes

## VOCABULARY BANK

### 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.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D My daughter has <b>out</b>grown most of her clothes – she needs a bigger size.</li> <li>2 <input type="checkbox"/> A lot of common English verbs are <b>mono</b>syllabic, like get, have, give, etc.</li> <li>3 <input type="checkbox"/> The whole town was <b>re</b>built after the earthquake.</li> <li>4 <input type="checkbox"/> After the operation, I'll have to go to the hospital once a week as an <b>out</b>patient.</li> <li>5 <input type="checkbox"/> My dog was <b>ill</b>-treated* as a puppy, but he's much happier now.</li> <li>6 <input type="checkbox"/> I haven't been feeling very well recently. The doctor told me to take <b>multi</b>vitamins.</li> <li>7 <input type="checkbox"/> I must have <b>mis</b>understood you. I thought you said you didn't want to come tonight.</li> <li>8 <input type="checkbox"/> I need to install a new <b>anti</b>virus on my computer.</li> <li>9 <input type="checkbox"/> I was incredibly lucky on my flight to Mexico – I was <b>up</b>graded to business class!</li> <li>10 <input type="checkbox"/> High consumption of meat is leading to <b>de</b>forestation of the planet.</li> <li>11 <input type="checkbox"/> My brother did a <b>post</b>graduate course in translation and interpreting.</li> <li>12 <input type="checkbox"/> A ceasefire is an essential <b>pre</b>condition for any negotiation.</li> <li>13 <input type="checkbox"/> Even though I set my alarm clock, I <b>over</b>slept this morning and was late for work.</li> <li>14 <input type="checkbox"/> The committee has <b>bi</b>annual meetings in October and March.</li> <li>15 <input type="checkbox"/> Several different species now <b>co</b>exist peacefully side by side.</li> <li>16 <input type="checkbox"/> This work is totally <b>sub</b>standard. It's just not acceptable.</li> <li>17 <input type="checkbox"/> There will be an <b>inter</b>governmental conference to look at climate change.</li> <li>18 <input type="checkbox"/> They're really <b>under</b>staffed at the moment because a lot of their workers are off sick.</li> <li>19 <input type="checkbox"/> With a <b>super</b>human effort, he managed to lift the car and save the injured man.</li> <li>20 <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not very good with my camera. I almost always use the <b>auto</b>focus setting.</li> <li>21 <input type="checkbox"/> Bacteria are <b>micro</b>organisms which often cause disease.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A not enough</li> <li>B too much</li> <li>C more than one, many</li> <li>D more than, better than, bigger than, etc.</li> <li>E wrongly</li> <li>F below</li> <li>G two, twice</li> <li>H against</li> <li>I one</li> <li>J by yourself, by itself</li> <li>K after</li> <li>L outside, not inside</li> <li>M before</li> <li>N remove or reduce</li> <li>O higher, towards the top</li> <li>P together</li> <li>Q badly</li> <li>R between</li> <li>S above average</li> <li>T extremely small</li> <li>U again</li> </ol> |
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\*The prefix *ill* is always followed by a hyphen.

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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