

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.

- 1 D My daughter has **out**grown most of her clothes – she needs a bigger size.
- 2 E A lot of common English verbs are **monosyllabic**, like get, have, give, etc.
- 3 F The whole town was **rebuilt** after the earthquake.
- 4 G After the operation, I'll have to go to the hospital once a week as an **outpatient**.
- 5 H My dog was **ill**-treated* as a puppy, but he's much happier now.
- 6 I I haven't been feeling very well recently. The doctor told me to take **multivitamins**.
- 7 J I must have **misunderstood** you. I thought you said you didn't want to come tonight.
- 8 K I need to install a new **antivirus** on my computer.
- 9 L I was incredibly lucky on my flight to Mexico – I was **up**graded to business class!
- 10 M High consumption of meat is leading to **deforestation** of the planet.
- 11 N My brother did a **post**graduate course in translation and interpreting.
- 12 O A ceasefire is an essential **pre**condition for any negotiation.
- 13 P Even though I set my alarm clock, I **overslept** this morning and was late for work.
- 14 Q The committee has **biannual** meetings in October and March.
- 15 R Several different species now **coexist** peacefully side by side.
- 16 S This work is totally **sub**standard. It's just not acceptable.
- 17 T There will be an **inter**governmental conference to look at climate change.
- 18 U They're really **under**staffed at the moment because a lot of their workers are off sick.
- 19 V With a **super**human effort, he managed to lift the car and save the injured man.
- 20 W I'm not very good with my camera. I almost always use the **auto**focus setting.
- 21 X 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*-.

- *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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