

Negative Prefixes

Negative statements are the opposite of affirmative statements. In English, one way to make negative statements is by adding negative prefixes to nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Here are some English negative prefixes:

a-, dis-, il-, im-, in-, ir-, non-, un-.

1. You are very _____ (not considerate) to have left without telling me where you were going.
2. It was very _____ (not responsible) of him to have driven his car while under the influence of alcohol.
3. My father was very _____ (not pleased) with us for coming home so late.
4. It is very sad that he never learnt to read or write. He is practically (not literate)
5. I do wish he would grow up! He is really very _____ (not mature)
6. It was very _____ (not loyal) of you to have said such nasty things about your father.
7. Our new boss is useless! Never have I met someone who is so (not efficient).
8. I wish he would hurry up and make a decision. He is so _____ (not decisive)
9. The Vervet Monkey Foundation is a _____ (not profit) organisation.
10. I don't think she will be good at this job. She is far too _____ (not organised)
11. I don't think she will come to the party. She is very _____ (not sociable)
12. I don't think I want to go across and speak to her. She is such a (not pleasant) person.
13. That was the most _____ (not inspiring) talk I have ever been to.
14. For a diplomat, he is very _____ (not diplomatic).
15. It is no use calling the police. They are totally _____ (not competent)
16. My boss is very _____ (not flexible) when it comes to a staff member needing to take time off.
17. It is _____ (not legal) to drive your car if you have been drinking.
18. It is no good discussing politics with him. He is completely _____ (not political)

There are few hard and fast rules when it comes to using prefixes, but there are some cases where a particular prefix is used.

If a word begins with l, we usually add il- e.g. illogical, illegal, illiterate.

If a word begins with m or p, we usually add im- e.g. impossible, impolite, imperfect, immature, immovable, immeasurable etc

If a word begins with r, we usually add ir- e.g. irresponsible, irreversible, irretrievable etc

These are by no means all the examples, and there are also many exceptions.

Make antonyms with the words by using a prefix:

visible	-	helpful	-
appear	-	satisfied	-
satisfactory	-	faithful	-
legitimate	-	frequent	-
grateful	-	healthy	-
personal	-	conscious	-
accurate	-	agree	-
hospitable	-	popular	-
mortal	-	moral	-
acceptable	-	adequate	-
regular	-	excusable	-
honest	-	bearable	-
willingly	-	obedient	-
convenient	-	appropriate	-
complete	-	experienced	-
sane	-	able	-
desirable	-	approachable	-