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. The 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 you car if you have been drinking.
18. It is no good discussing politics with him. He is completely (not political)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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, immoveable, 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	-

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