

PREFIXES

Prefixes are letters which we add to the beginning of a word to make a new word with a different meaning. Prefixes can, for example, create a new word opposite in meaning to the word the prefix is attached to. They can also make a word negative or express relations of time, place or manner.

Here are some examples:



BASE WORD	PREFIXED WORD	MEANING
Possible	Im possible	Opposite
Able	Un able	Negation
Payment	Non payment	Opposite/negation
war	P rewar	Time (before)
Terrestrial	Extra terrestrial	Place (outside of/ beyond)
cook	over cook	Manner (too much)

-I'm sorry I was **unable** to attend the meeting.

-**Non-payment** of fees could result in a student being asked to leave the course.

-Has anyone ever really met an **extraterrestrial** being? (meaning a being from another planet).

-The meat was **overcooked** and quite tasteless.

WE USE THESE PREFIXES MOST COMMONLY IN **NEGATION**:

DE-, DIS-, IL-/IM-/IN-/IR-, MIS-, NON-, UN-:

-What he said was very **im**polite.

-As a result of the doctor's mistake, the symptoms of the illness were **mis**understood. (understood wrongly)

-In the past, the cause of this disease was **un**known.

-The refugees also need **non**-food items such as tents and blankets. (items which are not food).

-less is the most common suffix for negation:

-Too many people are home**less** in this city.

-We just have end**less** meetings at work – they're so boring.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE NEGATIVE FORM OF THE VERB IN CAPITALS. REMEMBER TO USE THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB.

1. You must not _____ your seatbelt until the plane has landed.
FASTEN
2. I'm sorry to _____ you, but you haven't passed the test.
APPOINT
3. You must be careful with the saw. If you _____ it, you could injure yourself. **USE**
4. I couldn't _____ my shoelaces, because the knots were too tight. **TIE**
5. My surname is very unusual, which means that many people _____ it. **SPELL**
6. I saw George at the party an hour ago, but now he seems to have _____. **APPEAR**
7. I was so tired that I fell asleep on my bed without getting _____.
DRESS
8. We were told that the test was today, but we must have been _____ as we had a normal lesson. **INFORM**

ADD A PREFIX UN, DIS, IN, IM OR MIS TO FORM THE OPPOSITES OF THESE WORDS. IN SOME CASES, MORE THAN ONE ANSWER MAY BE POSSIBLE.

Ability i_____	Agreement _____	Appear _____	Experienced _____
Formal _____	Happiness _____	Helpful _____	Honest _____
Honest _____	Like d_____	Likely _____	Patient _____
Predictable _____	Prepared _____	Reliable _____	Satisfied _____