

Negative prefixes

We add a prefix such as **in-** or **un-** or **dis-**, **im-** to the beginning of adjectives, adverbs and verbs to give them the opposite meaning.

For example,

Before "t", use "dis"	distrust; distasteful
Before "c, b or s" use "un or in"	uncomfortable/unbelievable and incomplete/incredible/insanity;
Before "p", use "im"	impossible
Before "m", use "im"	immature, immortal
Before "h or f", use "un"	unhappy/unfettered;

Exercise 1

Write the negative form of these words by adding a negative prefix: "un-", "dis-", "in-", or "im-".

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 ____ comfortable | 2 ____ patient | 3 ____ honest | 4 ____ lucky |
| 5 ____ formal | 6 ____ possible | 7 ____ popular | 8 ____ lock |
| 9 ____ appear | 10 ____ agree | 11 ____ polite | 12 ____ like |
| 13 ____ convenient | | | |

Exercise 2: Write the negative form of these words by adding a negative prefix: "un-", "dis-", "in-", or "im-".

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 ____ frequent | 6 ____ approve | 11 ____ dependent |
| 2 ____ mature | 7 ____ curable | 12 ____ accurate |
| 3 ____ legible | 8 ____ familiar | |
| 4 ____ moral | 9 ____ grateful | |
| 5 ____ believable | 10 ____ relevant | |

Exercise 3: Fill in negative prefixes to form the OPPOSITE of each of the adjectives below. In some cases, more than one pre-fix is possible.

_____ acceptable	_____ respectful	_____ readable	_____ obedient	_____ sociable
_____ appropriate	_____ accurate	_____ sane	_____ personal	_____ visible
_____ contented	_____ bearable	_____ adequate	_____ variable	_____ mortal
_____ discreet	_____ convenient	_____ compatible	_____ satisfied	_____ perfect
_____ frequent	_____ excusable	_____ complete	_____ flexible	_____ satisfactory
_____ mature	_____ grateful	_____ credible	_____ desirable	_____ hospitable
_____ passive	_____ moral	_____ agreeable	_____ polite	_____ accurate
_____ probable	_____ patient	_____ helpful	_____ sufficient	_____ organised

Exercise 4: Complete the sentences by adding the correct pre-fix for each word.

1. It's rather _____ polite if you don't say 'Please' a lot in English.
2. My parents are extremely generous with their time and money. They are very _____ selfish.
3. If the traffic is bad, it'll be _____ possible to get to the match on time.
4. My mum thought a burglar had been in my bedroom, but it's always really _____ tidy.
5. It was completely _____ responsible of you to go away for the weekend without telling us.
6. Mike's pretty _____ happy about going on holiday with his girlfriend's parents.