

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,

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| ② Before "t", use "dis" | distrust; distasteful |
| ② Before "c, b or s" use "un or in" | uncomfortable/unbelievable and incomplete/incredible/insanity; |
| ② Before "p", use "im" | impossible |
| ② Before "m", use "im" | immature, immortal |
| ② 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.