

## **NEGATIVE PREFIXES**

We can add prefixes to the word to make it negative.

***Read the chart and do the exercises that follow***

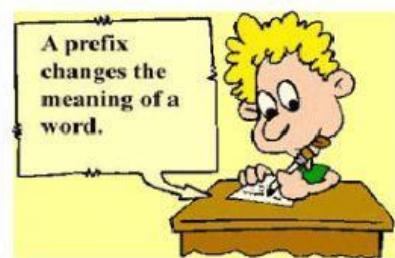
<b>Negative prefixes</b>					English With Life
In....	Im....	Un....	Il....	Dis....	
Incorrect	Impolite	Unreal	Illegal	Dishonest	
Incredible	Imperfect	Unable	Illegible	Disorganized	
Invalid	Immoral	Unusual	Iliterate	Disqualified	
Insane	Impure	Unhappy	Illogical	Dissatisfied	
Infrequent	Impossible	Unfaithful	Illicit	Dissimilar	
Incapable	Impatient	Unfair	Ir...	Non...	
Inexpensive	Improbable	Unprepared	Irrational	Nonconformist	
Ineligible	Immobile	Unhelpful	Irregular	Nonessential	
Inorganic	Imbalance	Unlikely	Irresistible	Nonfiction	
Indecent	Impeccable	Unshaven	Irrelevant	Nonsense	

**Prefixes**  
A PREFIX is added to the beginning of a word to make a new word.  
**re** opposite of  
**un** not  
**dis** away from

A prefix changes the meaning of a word.

**Prefixes**  
A PREFIX is added before a root word to make a new word.  
**Pro** REFORM  
**Re** AGAIN  
**Un** not  
**Mis** wrong  
**Anti** against  
**Ir** not  
**Im** not

**unhelpful**  
A PREFIX is added before a root word to make a new word.  
prefix  
root word  
suffix



## **Negative Prefixes**

**Un- Ir- Im- In- Dis- Il-**

**I) Make these adjectives negative in meaning by choosing the correct prefix. Write the words in the correct columns.**

honest sincere regular legal possible friendly capable patient logical expensive formal  
loyal correct happy polite sensitive practical obedient responsible comfortable modest

**Un-**

**Ir-**

**Im-**

**In-**

**Il-**

**Dis-**

## II Write the correct negative adjectives.

- 1 I suspect he isn't *honest*. In fact, I think he's quite \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Sometimes Ann doesn't behave in a *responsible* manner. She's quite \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 This arrangement isn't strictly *legal*. Some people would regard it as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Nick's not very *capable*. He's \_\_\_\_\_ of making sound decisions.
- 5 This scheme isn't very *practical*. In fact, it's quite \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 It's not *possible* to do this exercise. I think the numbers are wrong. It seems \_\_\_\_\_ to do the task.
- 7 Sarah doesn't like her new school. She doesn't know anyone. She's not *happy* here. In other words the girl's really \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Maybe it's not *logical*, but my best friend lives in another country. Everybody in my family thinks that it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 He was punished for not being *obedient*. He was very \_\_\_\_\_ to his father.

## III) Use one of the adjectives in the box + a negative prefix to complete the sentences.

- 1 The teacher told his students to learn twenty \_\_\_\_\_ verbs.
- 2 Mrs. Brown is really \_\_\_\_\_. She never wants to talk to anyone.
- 3 Susan has no intention of being \_\_\_\_\_ to his friends.
- 4 Adam is so \_\_\_\_\_. He never wants to explain things twice.
- 5 These window locks are \_\_\_\_\_ and effective.
- 6 John said he was sorry, but they were sure that he was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 It is very \_\_\_\_\_ to tell people you don't like their clothes.
- 8 These parties are almost always \_\_\_\_\_ there is no dress code.
- 9 They were sitting in a very \_\_\_\_\_ position.
- 10 Mr. Black thinks it is very \_\_\_\_\_ of Tom to think he can do just what he likes.

Sensitive  
Expensive  
Regular  
Formal  
Comfortable  
Polite  
Friendly  
Patient  
Sincere  
Loyal

**Click on the box next to the words that have prefixes. Remember, it is a prefix if you can detach it and the remaining word can stand on its own.**

indicate	impolitely	university	disaster
insanity	impractical	uncertainty	discussion
inaccurate	impression	until	disadvantage
inconvenience	imagine	unexpectedly	disapproval
increase	immature	uncle	disappear
infant	immediate	unlimited	display

**ADDITIONAL PREFIXES:**

**A) Match the prefix on the left with its meaning on the right. Write the number next to the matching letter.**

1. co –	..... a. across or beyond; into another place or state
2. trans –	..... b. again
3. post –	..... c. together
4. up –	..... d. before
5. pre –	..... e. making something higher or better
6. re -	..... f. after

**2. Add a prefix from above to the words below to complete the sentences:**

*lifting ; united ; atlantic ; exist; view; reading*

- a. The speech was very inspiring and .....
- b. Tom was..... with his twin brother after many years.
- c. I went to the ..... of the new Angelina movie.
- d. Different cultures should try to..... with one another.
- e. My parents took a ..... flight from Paris to New York.
- f. I need to complete my ..... assignment.

