

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,

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 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.