

Prefixes

VOCABULARY BANK

1 NEGATIVE PREFIXES

a Write the words from the list in the correct column to make negatives.

agree appropriate attractive capable coherent competent continue do
embark helpful honest hospitable legitimate literate logical mobile moral
official personal practical rational regular relevant replaceable

im-	il-	ir-	in-	un-	dis-
					disagree

b 7.4 Listen and check. What letters do the words begin with after im-, il-, and ir-?

2 PREFIXES WHICH ADD OTHER MEANINGS

a Read the sentences carefully and match the **bold** prefixes to their meanings A–U.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 ☒ D My daughter has outgrown most of her clothes – she needs a bigger size. 2 ☐ A lot of common English verbs are monosyllabic, like get, have, give, etc. 3 ☐ The whole town was rebuilt after the earthquake. 4 ☐ After the operation, I'll have to go to the hospital once a week as an outpatient. 5 ☐ My dog was ill-treated* as a puppy, but he's much happier now. 6 ☐ I haven't been feeling very well recently. The doctor told me to take multivitamins. 7 ☐ I must have misunderstood you. I thought you said you didn't want to come tonight. 8 ☐ I need to install a new antivirus on my computer. 9 ☐ I was incredibly lucky on my flight to Mexico – I was upgraded to business class! 10 ☐ High consumption of meat is leading to deforestation of the planet. 11 ☐ My brother did a postgraduate course in translation and interpreting. 12 ☐ A ceasefire is an essential precondition for any negotiation. 13 ☐ Even though I set my alarm clock, I overslept this morning and was late for work. 14 ☐ The committee has biannual meetings in October and March. 15 ☐ Several different species now coexist peacefully side by side. 16 ☐ This work is totally substandard. It's just not acceptable. 17 ☐ There will be an intergovernmental conference to look at climate change. 18 ☐ They're really understaffed at the moment because a lot of their workers are off sick. 19 ☐ With a superhuman effort, he managed to lift the car and save the injured man. 20 ☐ I'm not very good with my camera. I almost always use the autofocus setting. 21 ☐ Bacteria are microorganisms which often cause disease. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A not enough B too much C more than one, many D more than, better than, bigger than, etc. E wrongly F below G two, twice H against I one J by yourself, by itself K after L outside, not inside M before N remove or reduce O higher, towards the top P together Q badly R between S above average T extremely small U again |
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*The prefix *ill* is always followed by a hyphen.

b 7.5 Listen and check.

Prefixes with more than one meaning

Some prefixes have more than one meaning, e.g. out-, de-. Compare:

- out- + verb usually means *more than, better than, etc.*, e.g. *Boys outnumber girls in this class* (= there are more boys than girls)
- out- + noun / adjective means *outside*, e.g. *He lives on the outskirts of the city*
- de- often means *remove or take away sth*, e.g. *demystify* = remove the mystery
- de- can also mean *reduce*, e.g. *devalue* = reduce the value of sth

ACTIVATION Which prefixes from 2 could you use before each of these words?

-cook (verb) -lingual -war
-national -place (verb)

➔ p.67