



Modified words



1. We can sometimes add prefixes to change, or modify, the main meaning of a verb, noun or adjective without making it into an opposite (e.g., pay - overpay - underpay)

The prefixes we use to do this are:

For verbs: over-, under-, pre-, fore-

For adjectives: over-, under-, pre-, fore-, pro-, anti-.

For nouns: pre-, post-, anti-, pro-, under-

Complete the sentences below with a combination of a prefix from box A and a word from box B.

anti- • over- • antiunder- • pro- • fore- •
fore- • under- • pre- • post- • fore- • under-
• anti- • over

armed • Christmas • climax • clockwise •
due • estimate • estimated • European
graduates • holiday • mined • see • social •
warned

1. Everybody told us the film was fantastic, so we were quite excited about seeing it. Unfortunately, it wasn't very good. It really was quite an _____.
2. Do you _____ any problems with the visa? I need to know as soon as possible if we're likely to have difficulties.
3. Everyone's suffering from _____ depression. After such a nice break in Spain, the gloomy weather back here in England is making us all miserable.
4. The figure of £50,000 was a bit of an _____. It actually cost us almost £70,000.
5. She's _____ and believes that the country should remain part of the European Union.
6. He's very _____, and ignores all our attempts to talk to him or make him feel part of the group.
7. A lot of _____ from the university are trying to get holiday jobs so that they have some spending money next term.
8. She was _____ with good advice before she went into the interview.
9. He was driving _____ round the ring road when the accident took place. If he had been going the other way, he would have been all right.
10. We were _____ of trouble by our spies and took guns to the meeting.
11. I always read my horoscope so that I can _____ what will happen to me during the week.
12. Her library books were _____ by four weeks, so she had to pay a fine of almost £8.
13. He _____ my confidence by telling me that everyone hated me.
14. Last December we had so many _____ parties that by the time the big day arrived I couldn't eat or drink another thing.
15. He _____ the amount of time needed to decorate the house; he thought it would take five days but it only took three.

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'Forewarned is forearmed' is an English expression which means that if you know about something before it happens, you will be better prepared.

Person A. 'Mr Jenkins wants to see me in his office.'

Person B. 'Be careful. He's in a really bad mood this morning'

Person A. 'Thanks. Forewarned is forearmed!'



Opposites 1



lot of verbs and adjectives can be made into opposites by adding a prefix (e.g., agree - disagree, correct - incorrect). However, in other cases, it is necessary to change some letters or use a completely different word in order to make an opposite.

For example:

cry = laugh import = export generous = mean thick = thin

Some verbs and adjectives can have more than one meaning, and so can have more than one opposite.

For example: light

The room is very light - - - The room is very dark

This book is very light - - - This book is very heavy.

1. **VERBS:** Complete these sentences by using the opposite of the word in bold. You will need to change the forms of some of the words. You will find the answers in the box.

forbid / ban • receive • fail • hit • empty • forget
defend • deny • destroy • succeed • retreat • laugh • spend • win •
depart / leave • lend • reject • fall • punish • loosen

1. She fell off the ladder and everyone _____. (cry)
2. Why do we _____ so much money on food? (save)
3. His business has _____ more than he expected. (fail)
4. A lot of private property was _____ in the war. (create)
5. What time does our coach _____? (arrive)
6. He _____ the bottle into the sink. (filled)
7. The car _____ the tree. (miss)
8. The simplest way to _____ them will be to make them pay for the damage they caused. (reward)
9. Don't _____ we're having lunch together tomorrow. (remember)
10. The exam was very difficult. Most of the students _____. (pass)
11. We only _____ our tickets the day before we were due to leave. (sent)
12. I expect our team will _____ tomorrow. (lose)
13. He asked me if I would _____ him £5 till Monday. (borrow)
14. She flatly _____ his proposal of marriage. (accept)
15. She couldn't _____ herself against the attack. (attack)

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16. The pound has _____ against the dollar. (rise)
17. He flatly _____ stealing the car. (admit)
18. Smoking has been _____ on trains. (permit / allow)
19. He _____ his shoelaces and relaxed. (tighten)
20. Napoleon _____ from Moscow in 1812. (attack / advance)

2. ADJECTIVES: Replace the adjectives in bold with an opposite from the box. Some words in the box can be used more than once.

tame • shallow • public • odd • artificial • mean • compulsory • lazy
tight • amateur • thick • live • strong • guilty • smooth • easy
sharp • dim • approximate • tough • present • permanent • stale
light • high • minor • cool • soft • hollow

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. real pearls | 22. dead animals |
| 2. a thin slice of bread | 23. a dim light |
| 3. an energetic student | 24. a deep pool |
| 4. a bland taste | 25. a rough sea |
| 5. a professional photographer | 26. voluntary military service |
| 6. a wild animal | 27. exact figures |
| 7. an innocent man | 28. a private affair |
| 8. a generous person | 29. a tender steak |
| 9. a serious book | 30. a rough wine |
| 10. a solid log of wood | 31. a hard chair |
| 11. an alcoholic drink | 32. a loud voice |
| 12. an intelligent student | 33. a loose pair of trousers |
| 13. a normal person | 34. a blunt knife |
| 14. an easy exam | 35. recorded music |
| 15. absent students | 36. a clever manager |
| 16. a weak cup of coffee | 37. a difficult test |
| 17. a heavy meal | 38. a dark blue shirt |
| 18. a temporary job | 39. a fresh loaf of bread |
| 19. a small income | 40. a major injury |
| 20. a low building | 41. a frantic nurse |
| 21. fresh air | 42. a warm cellar |

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Opposites 2



A lot of adjectives can be made into their opposite form by the addition of a prefix (e.g., un-, in-, dis-, il-) to the beginning of the word. The most common prefix is un-. Adjectives which end with -ful (thoughtful, useful, etc) are an exception: they are made into opposites by replacing -ful with the suffix -less (thoughtless, useless, etc)

Note that some adjectives can be made into opposites by the addition of a prefix or by the use of another word (e.g., correct = incorrect or wrong).

1. Decide which of the prefixes from the first box can be used to make opposites of the adjectives in the second box.

dis- • il- • im- • in- • ir- • un
acceptable • accurate • adequate • advantaged • agreeable attractive • avoidable • believable • certain • comfortable competent • complete • conscious • contented • convincing correct • curable • even • fair • fashionable • honest inclined • legal • limited • literate • logical • married mature • moral • mortal • obedient • patient • perfect • personal possible • proper • pure • qualified • rational • regular • relevant replaceable • resistible • resolute • responsible • satisfied • welcome

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 12. _____ | 23. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 13. _____ | 24. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 14. _____ | 25. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 15. _____ | 26. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 16. _____ | 27. _____ | 38. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 17. _____ | 28. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 18. _____ | 29. _____ | 40. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 19. _____ | 30. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 20. _____ | 31. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 21. _____ | 32. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 22. _____ | 33. _____ | 44. _____ |

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2. Complete these sentences by adding the most suitable adjective to the prefixes given.

1. Your behaviour was completely ir_____.! You're eighteen years old, not eight!
2. Life can be quite difficult for un_____ mothers, or 'single parents' as they are usually called.
3. I'll help you in a minute. Don't be so im_____!
4. She never learnt to read or write; she was completely il_____.
5. I'm afraid your answer is in_____. Try again.
6. He's a very dis_____ man; bad-tempered, selfish, jealous and bigoted.
7. Flared trousers and a purple corduroy jacket? That's very un_____, you know.
8. Using the 'broadband' system means that you get un_____ Internet access at any time of the day or night.
9. Dis_____ children - those from poor families - have to work harder than others to succeed in life.
10. I did all the work and she got all the credit for it. That is so un_____!
11. The people who run our national rail network are lazy and in_____; they're so bad at their job.
12. You paid £12 for a hamburger? That's un_____! You must be joking!
13. After I was hit on the head, I must have been un_____ for about ten minutes.
14. Your homework is in_____. You've only answered half of the questions.
15. He's rather im_____ for a sixteen-year-old. He behaves more like a child of ten.
16. You've broken my favourite cup. It's ir_____! I'll never find another one.



Opposites 3



1. Some verbs can be made into their opposite form by the addition of a prefix (e.g., dis-, mis-). Complete these sentences with the opposite form of one of the verbs in the box. Not all of the words are needed. You will need to change the form of the verb in several cases.

agree • approve • connect • continue • behave • cover
fold • like • load • lock • obey • pack • place • please
pronounce • prove • qualify • trust • understand • use • wrap

1. If anyone _____, they will be sent home immediately.
2. I've just come back from Canada and I'm still _____ my suitcases.
3. Here's a photo of our little girl _____ her Christmas presents.
4. She's a very obedient young lady. She would never _____ her parents.
5. She _____ the money which she had been given. She was supposed to use it to pay for her education, but bought a sports car instead.
6. The head teacher _____ of members of staff wearing jeans to school, and insists that they dress smartly at all times.
7. You keep _____ my name. It's Rawdon, not Random.

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8. His statement to the police said that he was nowhere near the bank, but they managed to _____ this.
9. I _____ anyone who wears green shoes but I can't tell you why.
10. I can't _____ the car door. I think I've got the wrong key.
11. After the accident he was fined £1,000 and _____ from driving for two years.
12. She _____ the tablecloth and put it on the table.
13. We don't sell Sonic cameras any longer. We have _____ that line.
14. I seem to have _____ my keys. I can't find them anywhere.
15. If you refuse to pay your gas bill, you will be _____.
16. You're completely wrong. I'm afraid I _____ with you.
17. He completely _____ my meaning when I told him to 'put a sock in it'.
18. If you _____ me again, I'm afraid I shall ask you to leave.



Character and personality



1. **ADJECTIVES:** Match the sentences in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column. Use the adjectives in **bold** to help you.

1. I wish John wouldn't be so critical all the time.
2. Mary is so witty.
3. Chris is such a garrulous person.
4. Sometimes Rick can be really impulsive.
5. Laurence is the most conceited person I know.
6. Mr Kelly is very absent-minded.
7. Jan is so obstinate.
8. Mr. Roberts is extremely reserved.
9. You're not very punctual, are you?
10. Has anyone ever told you how bossy you are?
11. You're so pessimistic!
12. Jenny is optimistic about the future.
13. Brian is usually quite reliable.
14. Claire is very sensitive.
15. June is the most sensible student in the class.
16. My boyfriend is so possessive.
17. My mother is quite open-minded.
18. Jean should try not to be so bigoted.
19. At times, Fiona can be really bitchy.
20. Mark is extremely sociable.

- A. I know! He spoke non-stop for two hours on the telephone last night!
- B. She made some really nasty remarks about the new secretary.
- C. He hates it when I go out with my friends.
- D. You can never make her change her mind.
- E. You always believe that only bad things will happen.
- F. He loves going to parties.
- G. After all, nobody's perfect.
- H. It's very easy to upset her.
- I. You're almost never on time.
- J. She always makes good decisions and does the right thing.
- K. That's true. She made a very clever and funny speech at her party.
- L. Her strong and unreasonable ideas have really upset some people.
- M. She's always willing to listen to other people's ideas.
- N. He often rushes to do things without thinking of the consequences.
- O. Yesterday he went to the library in his slippers!
- P. He thinks too much of himself.
- Q. I trust him completely.
- R. She feels that everything will work out for the best.
- S. You're always telling people what to do.

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2. **IDIOMS, COLLOQUIALISMS AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS:** Look at the following list of words and expressions, and decide whether they are positive (+) or negative (-). Use your dictionary to check the meanings.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. a fuddy-duddy + / - | 9. a brick + / - | 17. a sponger + / - |
| 2. a pain in the neck + / - | 10. a golden boy + / - | 18. a bimbo + / - |
| 3. a gossip + / - | 11. a high-flyer + / - | 19. a jerk + / - |
| 4. a troublemaker + / - | 12. a windbag + / - | 20. a moron + / - |
| 5. a slob + / - | 13. a busybody + / - | 21. a stick-in-the-mud + / - |
| 6. a layabout + / - | 14. the salt of the earth + / - | 22. the life and soul of the party + / - |
| 7. a wet blanket + / - | 15. a slave driver + / - | |
| 8. a couch potato + / - | 16. an early bird + / - | |



Likes and dislikes



1. Rearrange the letters in bold to form words or expressions related to likes and dislikes. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0. I'm eatnospisba batou fast cars, and have always wanted a Ferrari. PASSIONATE ABOUT

Likes

1. My sister's boyfriend is so handsome, I really **nafyc** him. _____
2. My mother is so kind and gentle. I **earod** her. _____
3. My brother is one of the best people in the world. I absolutely **horswip** him. _____
4. I always **kolo drawrof ot** the summer holidays. _____
5. Sometimes I **goln orf** a bit of peace and quiet. _____
6. I have always been **ratactetd ot** my best friend's sister. _____
7. I'm quite **donf fo** Chinese food. _____
8. My brother and I are both **enek** no sailing and go every weekend. _____

Dislikes

1. I will eat almost anything, but I really **thae** seafood. _____
2. I'm afraid I **heatlo** people who interrupt when I'm speaking. _____
3. I **setted** people who tell lies. _____
4. My mother **tanc' dants** listening to loud music. _____
5. And my father **nact' aerb** being in the same room as somebody who is smoking. _____
6. The smell of cooking meat really **pleser** me. _____
7. His dirty habits **stugsid** her. _____
8. People who are cruel to animals **tolerv** me. _____

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Abstract nouns



1. **Abstract nouns are nouns which we normally cannot see, hear, touch, smell or taste. Complete these sentences with an appropriate abstract noun formed from the word in bold. There is an example at the beginning.**

0. She's in a position of great responsibility. (responsible)
1. When I walked in, she looked at me in _____. (astonish)
2. His _____ came as a great shock to all of us. (die)
3. There have been a lot of _____ in science and technology in the last twenty years. (develop)
4. His sudden _____ was a complete mystery. (disappear)
5. I made a remarkable _____ when I opened the box. (discover)
6. We reported the _____ of the car to the police. (lose)
7. Did you get _____ to leave early? (permit)
8. If your _____ doesn't improve, you'll have to leave the school. (behave)
9. When his trousers fell down, the whole room shook with _____. (laugh)
10. Her face went bright red with _____. (embarrass)
11. It's been a _____ meeting you. (please)
12. Don't forget to put your _____ at the bottom of the page. (sign)
13. I would like to make a _____ about the service in your restaurant. (complain)
14. After dinner, she made an important _____. (announce)
15. I'm afraid my English _____ isn't very good. (pronounce)
16. If you want to achieve _____ in the FCE, you will need to study hard. (succeed)
17. British Airways announced the _____ of Flight BA671 from Bangkok. (arrive)
18. The _____ begins at exactly half past seven. (perform)
19. I had a terrible _____ with my boyfriend. (argue)
20. As far as I'm concerned, _____ is more important than money. (happy)
21. Do you think that there's much _____ on television? (violent)

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22. If you can't stand the _____, get out of the kitchen. (hot)
23. I'm afraid I don't have much _____ with lazy people. (patient)
24. Do French, Italian and Spanish have any _____? (similar)
25. He didn't show much _____ when I told him I had split up with my girlfriend.
(sympathetic)
26. He always seems to have a lot of _____ in the FCE. (confident)
27. In all _____, _____ is more important than money. (probable)
28. The mountain reaches a _____ of almost 6,000 metres. (high)



Opposites 1



1. Change these words using the prefixes in the box so that they have the opposite meaning. There is an example at the beginning.

un- dis- mis- im- in- il- ir-

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 0. <u>in</u> correct | 16. ____ qualified | 32. ____ personal |
| 1. ____ believable | 17. ____ avoidable | 33. ____ complete |
| 2. ____ obedient | 18. ____ competent | 34. ____ accurate |
| 3. ____ adequate | 19. ____ conscious | 35. ____ legal |
| 4. ____ honest | 20. ____ certain | 36. ____ agreeable |
| 5. ____ acceptable | 21. ____ attractive | 37. ____ possible |
| 6. ____ perfect | 22. ____ patient | 38. ____ mature |
| 7. ____ regular | 23. ____ fair | 39. ____ satisfied |
| 8. ____ responsible | 24. ____ married | 40. ____ logical |
| 9. ____ limited | 25. ____ fashionable | 41. ____ comfortable |
| 10. ____ even | 26. ____ welcome | 42. ____ agree |
| 11. ____ like (verb) | 27. ____ behave | 43. ____ obey |
| 12. ____ understand | 28. ____ trust (verb) | 44. ____ approve |
| 13. ____ pronounce | 29. ____ wrap | 45. ____ pack |
| 14. ____ lock | 30. ____ continue | 46. ____ cover |
| 15. ____ connect | 31. ____ fold | 47. ____ appear |

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Opposites 2



1. Complete these sentences with an opposite of the verb in bold. In some cases, more than one answer is possible. Make sure that you use the correct form of each verb. There is an example at the beginning (0).

0. Although we **missed** our train to the airport, we still caught the plane.
1. We didn't **spend** much money. In fact, we managed to _____ a lot.
2. The train **arrives** at the station at 4 o'clock and _____ five minutes later.
3. After he had **emptied** the bottle, he _____ it with water.
4. "Can you **lend** me £10?" "No way. The last time you _____ money from me, you didn't pay it back!"
5. She isn't **laughing**, she's _____.
6. The principal doesn't **allow** smoking at school. In fact, he _____ anything that is bad for our health.
7. "Did he **confess** to stealing your money?" "No, he _____ everything."
8. In summer, the sun **rises** at about five o'clock and _____ until after nine in the evening.
9. He didn't **pass** the exam. In fact, he _____ with a very low score.
10. At first, his business **succeeded**, but after the recession it _____ dramatically.
11. She threw the ball to me, but **missed** and _____ the window instead.
12. Our teacher **rewarded** all the students, but decided to _____ the bad ones.
13. "Did you **remember** to buy some milk?" "Oh, sorry, I _____."
14. Although I **sent** the letter on Monday, she didn't _____ it until Friday.
15. My local council **demolished** the old flats and _____ some new ones.
16. We thought we would **lose** the game, but to our surprise we _____.
17. I hoped she would **agree** to meet me, but she _____.
18. If you are **attacked** in the street, there are several different ways you can _____ yourself.
19. She spends too much time **playing** and not enough time _____.



Opposites 3



1. Complete these sentences with an opposite of the word in bold. There is an example at the beginning.

0. A cricket ball is **solid**, but a table-tennis ball is hollow.
1. Her pearls are **real**, but her eyelashes are _____.
2. This bread isn't **fresh**, it's _____.
3. Do you prefer listening to **live** music or _____ music?
4. The chair is very **hard**. Put a _____ cushion on it.
5. This knife isn't **sharp**, it's completely _____.
6. She was wearing a **dark** blue skirt and a _____ blouse.
7. Those trousers are too **tight** for me, but these are too _____. Have you got another pair?
8. My steak was very **tender**, but hers was a bit _____.
9. There are some things you can do in **private** that you should never do in _____.
10. At the end of the long, **dim** tunnel, we could see a _____ light shining.
11. The **deep** lake was surrounded by a series of _____ pools.
12. It was only a **temporary** job until I could find something more _____.
13. I had a **heavy** lunch, so I only want a _____ dinner.
14. The thief said he was **innocent**, but the judge decided he was _____.
15. The students were all **early**, but the teacher was _____.
16. Half the students were **present**, the other half were _____.
17. My sister is very **hardworking**, but my brother is very _____.
18. Attendance at class is **compulsory**, but the afternoon social programme is _____.
19. I don't like it when the sea is **rough**; I prefer it when it's _____.
20. The room is about ten metres **long** and four metres _____.
21. My best friend is quite **mean**, but his sister is very _____.
22. There has been a **major** accident, but fortunately there have only been a few _____ injuries.
23. I prefer **strong** coffee to _____ coffee.