Gateway B1 Unit 3

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Negative prefixes un-, in-, im-, ir-, il-

1. Complete the table by writing these words in the correct column

correct formal happy (legal) official possible practical regular usual visible

un-	in-	im-	ir-	il-
				legal

2 Look at these words. Complete the basic rules to explain when we use the prefixes im-, ir-, il-.

im + adjective	impossible, impatient, impolite, immortal, immoral, immobile
il + adjective	illegal, illogical, illegible
ir + adjective	irregular, irreverent, irreversible

1 patient -> impatient
2 probable -> improbable
3 relevant -> irrelevant
4 responsible -> irresponsible
5 logical -> illogical
6 legible -> illegible

Basic rule: *We use the prefix im- when a word starts with the letters* ____	Basic rule: *We use the prefix ir- when a word starts with the letter* ____	Basic rule: *We use the prefix il- when a word starts with the letter* ____

3 Match the words in 1 and 2 with these synonyms and definitions

1 wrong
2 relaxed, friendly, not very serious
3 sad
4 not good at waiting
5 impossible to see
6 impossible to read

Vocabulary extension: negative prefixes dis- and non- -

4 Look at these words. Which go with *dis-* and which go with *non-*?
Which type of word is it: a noun, a verb or an adjective?
Use your dictionary if necessary.

5 Complete the sentences with words from 4

1 Cola is a _____ drink.
2 Someone who doesn't usually tell the truth is_____.
3 He doesn't normally live in this country, he only comes for short periods. He is a _____.
4 When you _____someone, you don't do what they tell you to do.
5 If you do something against the rules in a competition, they can _____you.
6 You and I _____about nearly everything. Our ideas are always different.
7 One _____of mobile phones is the radiation that they can cause.
8 I hate cigarettes. Put me in the _____section.
9 The music on the radio station is _____. It's one song, then another, then another.