

Adjective Formation

Use and Form – Negative prefixes

Remember: ☺ We use the negative prefixes **un-** / **in-** / **im-** / **il-** / **ir-** / **dis-** to give the adjective the opposite meaning:

- grateful – **un**grateful
- personal – **im**personal
- retrievable – **ir**retrievable
- conclusive – **in**conclusive
- liberal – **il**liberal
- contented – **dis**contented

A. Match the adjectives with the right prefix to form opposites.

- | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 1. legal | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. countable | <input type="checkbox"/> | a) im- |
| 2. pleased | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. responsible | <input type="checkbox"/> | b) in- |
| 3. moral | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. graced | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) il- |
| 4. jointed | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. fair | <input type="checkbox"/> | d) ir- |
| 5. correct | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. polite | <input type="checkbox"/> | e) un- |
| 6. happy | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. logical | <input type="checkbox"/> | f) dis- |
| 7. legible | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. mature | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 8. regular | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. continued | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 9. connected | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. tolerant | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 10. literate | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. proper | <input type="checkbox"/> | |



I had never seen such an **irresponsible** player before! And he's so **dishonest!**

C. Now choose a noun and add a prefix to it to complete the sentences:

- relevant* **stable**
legitimate **practical** **offensive**
logical *precise* **reversible**

B. Fill in the gaps with the right prefix.

- The rumours about their reconciliation were completely ____founded.
- He didn't like Lisa's boyfriend. It would be ____honest of him to pretend otherwise.
- It was ____possible for her to arrive on time to the meeting.
- The tickets are ____valid. You haven't stamped them.
- Many ____legal immigrants were arrested last night.
- I am convinced now. His arguments were ____resistible.
- I hate to wait in queues. I'm too ____patient.
- Look at her shoes. They're so ____usual.
- It was such a ____courageing experience.
- An ____known visitor has left a package in the room.

- I don't believe you! She's such a shy, _____ woman. She couldn't possibly have done it!
- It would be _____ to call her every time the baby doesn't want to eat.
- Her arguments don't make sense. They're completely _____.
- John spent the whole class making _____ remarks. I wish the teacher would have shut him up.
- He was very _____. He could have had a better grade if he had been more accurate.
- They are always calling him names. They say he's an _____ son. His parents are married to someone else.
- The accident caused him _____ brain damage, I'm afraid.
- I'm sorry. His medical condition is highly _____.



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grateful – **un**grateful conclusive – **in**conclusive
 personal – **im**personal liberal – **il**liberal
 retrievable – **ir**retrievable contented – **dis**contented

A. Match the adjectives with the right **prefix** to form opposites.

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| 1. legal c) | 11. countable e) | a) im- |
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| 8. regular d) | 18. continued f) | |
| 9. connected f) | 19. tolerant b) | |
| 10. literate c) | 20. proper a) | |



I had never seen such an **irresponsible** player before! And he's so **dishonest**!!!

C. Now choose a noun and add a **prefix** to it to complete the sentences:

relevant stable
 legitimate practical offensive
 logical precise **reversible**

B. Fill in the gaps with the right **prefix**.

- The rumours about their reconciliation were completely **un**founded.
- He didn't like Lisa's boyfriend. It would be **dis**honest of him to pretend otherwise.
- It was **im**possible for her to arrive on time to the meeting.
- The tickets are **in**valid. You haven't stamped them.
- Many **il**legal immigrants were arrested last night.
- I am convinced now. His arguments were **ir**resistible.
- I hate to wait in queues. I'm too **im**patient.
- Look at her shoes. They're so **un**usual.
- It was such a **dis**couraging experience.
- An **un**known visitor has left a package in the room.

- I don't believe you! She's such a shy, **in**offensive woman. She couldn't possibly have done it!
- It would be **im**practical to call her every time the baby doesn't want to eat.
- Her arguments don't make sense. They're completely **il**logical.
- John spent the whole class making **ir**relevant remarks. I wish the teacher would have shut him up.
- He was very **im**precise. He could have had a better grade if he had been more accurate.
- They are always calling him names. They say he's an **il**legitimate son. His parents are married to someone else.
- The accident caused him **ir**reversible brain damage, I'm afraid.
- I'm sorry. His medical condition is highly **un**stable.

