Vocabulary – Word Building

Adjectives can also be formed from other adjectives, especially by the negative prefixes (un-, in- and non-).

e.g. negative + adjective ➝ adjective

The prefix in stands for not. So the word inactive means not active. Some variations to take into account.

1. When the base word starts with an r, the in changes to ir (e.g. irregular)
2. When the base word starts with an l, the in changes to il (e.g. illegal)
3. When the base word starts with an m or p, the in changes to im (e.g. impossible, immoral)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>un-</td>
<td>unfortunate, uncomfortable, unjust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>im-/in-/ir-/il-</td>
<td>immature, impatient, improbable, inconvenient, irreplaceable, illegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-</td>
<td>non-fiction, non-political, non-neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dis-</td>
<td>disloyal, dissimilar, dishonest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Add the correct prefix to the following words

1. _____ dependent
2. _____ polite
3. _____ approve
4. _____ logical
5. _____ zip
6. _____ diary
7. _____ revocable
8. _____ visible
9. _____ complete
10. _____ perfect

B. Complete each sentence by adding a prefix to the adjective to make it negative

1. Paola is very __________ about what English course she has to take: immersion, malla or semi-intensive. (certain)
2. Teachers are usually very tolerant with their students, you shouldn’t feel __________ (comfortable) in class.

3. Andrea thinks that boy with long hair are really ________. I completely disagree. (attractive)

4. Some undergraduate students feel _______ when they do not obtain their language certification (happy)

5. When you talk to her you can use ________ language. She doesn’t pay attention to that. (formal)

6. Most young people are _________ when they finish their high school due to their lack of experience. (employ)

7. John’s ________ behaviour during his teenage years made it almost impossible for him to secure a good job in his adult years. (moral)

8. The information on the website is __________ so don’t include it in your essay. (accurate)

C. Complete the text with the correct form of the words.

1. Teachers often __________ (approve) of the way teenagers behave especially when we talk about social media, it is creating a uniquely shallow and trivial culture, making kids _______ (able) to socialise face to face.

2. Ever since I became one myself, I’ve been _______(easy) about the clichéd way teenagers (aka young adults) are portrayed. I did a bit of research before beginning my latest YA novels and found a minefield of __________(understanding). There’s more myth about teenagers, I realised, than about the entire galaxy of ancient Greek gods and goddesses!
3. Satellite photos can _____ (cover) those who would transgress the rules using a complex face-recognition algorithm.

4. The central hypothesis is that treatment of ______ (fertile) males with antioxidants will improve sperm structure and function, resulting in higher fertilization rates and improved embryo development, leading to higher pregnancy and live birth rates.
Answer key

A
1. Independent
2. Impolite
3. Disapprove
4. Illogical
5. Unzip
6. Nondiary
7. Irrevocable
8. Invisible
9. Incomplete
10. Imperfect

B
1. Uncertain
2. Uncomfortable
3. Unattractive
4. Unhappy
5. Informal
6. Unemployed
7. Immoral
8. Inaccurate

C
1. Disapprove
2. Unable
3. Uneasy
4. Misunderstanding
5. Uncover
6. Infertile