

# ACADEMIC PREFIXES (adjectives & nouns)

## 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**)

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

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