



## Prefixes:

### Advanced Negative Prefixes: in-/im-/il-/ir-, mis-, non-

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- It is \_\_\_ to drive without a licence in most countries.  
a) illegal  
b) illegal  
c) dislegal  
d) mislegal
- She always \_\_\_ her keys and then spends ages looking for them.  
a) displaces  
b) unplaces  
c) implaces  
d) misplaces
- The task seemed \_\_\_ at first, but we managed to finish it.  
a) impossible  
b) impossible  
c) dispossible  
d) mispossible
- This is a \_\_\_ flight from London to New York — no stops along the way.  
a) unstop  
b) disstop  
c) misstop  
d) non-stop
- His handwriting is so bad that it is almost \_\_\_\_.  
a) unlegible  
b) dislegible  
c) illegible  
d) inlegible
- The student \_\_\_ the question and gave a completely wrong answer.  
a) disunderstood  
b) misunderstood  
c) ununderstood  
d) inunderstood
- It was \_\_\_ of him to spend all his savings on a car.  
a) irresponsible  
b) disresponsible  
c) inresponsible  
d) irresponsible
- The patient was \_\_\_ because the nurse could not find a vein.  
a) unpatient  
b) dispatient  
c) impatient  
d) mispatient
- The witness gave \_\_\_ testimony that confused the jury.  
a) inconsistent  
b) inconsistent  
c) disconsistent  
d) misconsistent
- He was punished for \_\_\_ the school rules repeatedly.  
a) disobeying  
b) misobeying  
c) unobeying  
d) inobeying
- The damage to the building was \_\_\_\_\_. It could never be repaired.  
a) unreversible  
b) disreversible  
c) irreversible  
d) misreversible





## Answers

1. b) illegal
2. d) misplaces
3. a) impossible
4. d) non-stop
5. c) illegible
6. b) misunderstood
7. d) irresponsible
8. c) impatient
9. b) inconsistent
10. a) disobeying
11. c) irreversible
12. a) misread
13. d) immature
14. c) misleading
15. a) inappropriate
16. d) non-smoking
17. b) unwise
18. a) misspelling
19. c) incredible
20. a) non-profit



# Explanations

## 1. “illegal” (b)

The adjective 'legal' takes the prefix il- (a variant of in- used before the letter l) to form its opposite: illegal.

## 2. “misplaces” (d)

The verb 'place' takes mis- to form 'misplace', meaning to put something in the wrong place and then be unable to find it. 'Displace' means to force something out of its position — a different meaning.

## 3. “impossible” (a)

The adjective 'possible' takes the prefix im- (a variant of in- used before p, b, and m) to form its opposite: impossible.

## 4. “non-stop” (d)

The prefix non- is added to 'stop' to form 'non-stop', meaning continuous without any breaks. Non- is often hyphenated.

## 5. “illegible” (c)

The adjective 'legible' (= readable) takes il- (variant of in- before l) to form 'illegible' (= impossible to read).

## 6. “misunderstood” (b)

The verb 'understand' takes mis- to form 'misunderstand', meaning to understand wrongly. The past tense is 'misunderstood'.

## 7. “irresponsible” (d)

The adjective 'responsible' takes ir- (a variant of in- used before the letter r) to form its opposite: irresponsible.

## 8. “impatient” (c)

The adjective 'patient' takes im- (variant of in- before p) to form its opposite: impatient (= unable to wait calmly).

## 9. “inconsistent” (b)

The adjective 'consistent' takes in- to form its opposite: inconsistent (= contradictory, not matching).

## 10. “disobeying” (a)

The verb 'obey' takes dis- to form 'disobey' (= to refuse to follow rules). This is a contrast question — not all negative verbs use mis- or in-; some use dis-.

## 11. “irreversible” (c)

The adjective 'reversible' takes ir- (variant of in- before r) to form 'irreversible' (= cannot be reversed or undone).

## 12. “misread” (a)

The verb 'read' takes mis- to form 'misread' (= to read or understand wrongly). She read the instructions incorrectly, which caused her to add salt instead of sugar.

## 13. “immature” (d)

The adjective 'mature' takes im- (variant of in- before m) to form 'immature' (= not fully developed in behaviour, childish).

## 14. “misleading” (c)

The verb 'lead' takes mis- to form 'mislead', meaning to give a false or wrong impression. 'Misleading' is the adjective form.

**15. “inappropriate” (a)**

The adjective 'appropriate' takes in- to form its opposite: inappropriate (= not suitable). Note: 'misappropriate' exists but means to steal or misuse funds — a different meaning.

**16. “non-smoking” (d)**

The prefix non- combines with 'smoking' to form 'non-smoking', meaning an area where smoking is not allowed. Non- is typically hyphenated.

**17. “unwise” (b)**

The adjective 'wise' takes un- (not in- or its variants) to form its opposite: unwise. This is a contrast question — remember that not every adjective uses in-.

**18. “misspelling” (a)**

The verb 'spell' takes mis- to form 'misspell' (= to spell incorrectly). Note the double 's': mis- + spell = misspell.

**19. “incredible” (c)**

The adjective 'credible' (= believable) takes in- to form 'incredible' (= hard to believe, amazing). Note: in everyday English, 'incredible' often means 'amazingly good'.

**20. “non-profit” (a)**

The prefix non- combines with 'profit' to form 'non-profit' (= not intended to make money). This is a common term for charitable organisations.