

# Negative Prefixes

A **prefix** is added to the beginning of a **word**, or to a **word root** to change its meaning. For example adding **un** to **pleasant** becomes **unpleasant**. It makes the original word an **antonym** (its opposite)

Try these: Move the un to the root word and see what antonym you get

Un

pleasant

dress

decided

cooked

acceptable

did



**Choose negative prefixes from the box to make each of these words into antonyms.**

**In dis mis im il**

**word roots**

**justice**

**polite**

**approve**

**behave**

**possible**

**sufficient**

**literate**

**colour**

**trust**

**honest**

**Can you think of any more examples of antonyms containing these negative prefixes? Does it change its spelling in each case?**



Use a dictionary and a thesaurus to help. On your whiteboards write these word roots to make antonyms.  
Work in pairs.

Word

Antonym using negative prefix

experience

logical

mature

regular

possible

complete

legal

reversible



Show me your  
Whiteboards.  
How did you get on?  
What did you learn?