

Prefixes (un-, il-, im-, in-, ir-, and non-)

A prefix is used to change the meaning of a root word. Some prefixes are used to say “**not**”, giving the word the opposite meaning.

happy - **un**happy

legal - **il**legal

possible - **im**possible

visible - **in**visible

regular - **ir**regular

fiction - **non**fiction



un- (not)		il- (not)	
unhappy	unannounced	illegal	
unfair	unanswered	illogical	
unheard	unappreciated	illegible	
unacceptable	unavailable	illegitimate	
unafraid	unbelievable	illiterate	
im- (not)		in- (not)	
impossible	impolite	insecure	invalid
impatient	import	invisible	independent
imperfect	impractical	incomplete	insane
improper		insignificant	inconspicuous
immature		inexpensive	inactive
ir- (not)		non- (not)	
irregular	irrelevant	nonsmoking	nonpoisonous
irrational	irreconcilable	nonreturnable	nonexistent
irresistible	irrefutable	nonperishable	nonflying
irretrievable	irreproachable	nonsensical	nonstick
irreversible		nonfat	nonfiction