

Adjectives formed with prefixes

Prefix	Examples
a-	asymmetric, asymptotic, asynchronous
ab-	abnormal
anti-	anticlockwise, anticorrosive, antiresonant, antistatic
counter-	counterclockwise, counterproductive
de-	decentralized, decoded, deformed, demagnetizing, demotivating
dis-	disagreeable, disconnected, discontinuous, disintegrated, displaced
hyper-	hyperactive, hypercritical, hypersensitive
il-	illegal, illegible, illogical
im-	imperceptible, imperfect, impossible, impractical, improbable, impure
in-	inaccessible, inaccurate, inactive, inadequate, inapplicable, inappropriate, incapable, incomparable, incompatible, incomplete, incomprehensible, inconsistent, incorrect, incredible, indefinite, independent, indestructible, indirect, ineffective, inefficient, ineligible, inessential, inevitable, inexpensive, inexperienced, infinite, informal, infrequent, insoluble, insolvable, insufficient, invisible
inter-	interdepartmental, interdisciplinary, interfaculty, international, interrelated
ir-	irregular, irrelevant, irreparable, irreplaceable, irresponsible, irreversible
mis-	miscalculated, misguided, misinformed, misleading, mistaken, misunderstood, misused
non-	non-controversial, non-corrosive, non-existent, non-flammable, non-linear, non-profit, non-standard,
over-	overheated, overloaded, oversized, overworked
pre-	predetermined, premature, preset
sub-	subnormal, subtropical, suburban
super-	superhuman, supernatural
un-	unable, unaffected, unaware, unbalanced, uncertain, unclear, uncontrollable, uncontrolled, uncountable, uneasy, uneconomic/al, uneducated, unemployable, unemployed, unexpected, unfavourable, unfinished, unforeseeable, unfortunate, uninformed, uninterrupted, unjustified, unknown, unlimited, unnecessary, unobtainable, unpaid, unpredictable, unprofitable, unprotected, unqualified, unreadable, unrealistic, unreasonable, unrecognizable, unscientific, unskilled, unspecified, unstable, unsteady, unsuccessful, unsuitable, untypical, unusable, unusual
under-	underdeveloped, underestimated, underfunded, underpaid, underrated, undersized, understaffed

Notes:

- Some adjectives can have **two forms with the same meaning**,
e.g. *counterclockwise/anticlockwise, non-existent/inexistent, non-scientific/unscientific*.
When in doubt, consult your dictionary.
- Note the difference between
un- and **mis-**: **unused** (= not used; Czech: neužívaný, nepoužitý)

misused (= used in the wrong way; Czech: zneužívaný)

(in)flammable (describes materials/substances that burn easily; Czech: hořlavý)

nonflammable (describes materials/substances that do not burn easily; Czech: nehořlavý)

- Most adjectives formed with prefixes are **written** as **one word**. In some cases, e.g. **after non-**, a hyphen is used; however, usage varies.

- With some adjectives **the prefix is different from the one used in nouns**:

<i>unable</i>	<i>inability</i>
<i>unstable</i>	<i>instability</i>
<i>unbalanced</i>	<i>imbalance</i> (<i>unbalance</i> is less common)
<i>unjust</i>	<i>injustice</i>
<i>unequal</i>	<i>inequality</i>

EXERCISES

Carefully read the table and notes above before you start doing the exercises. Make sure that you understand all the adjectives in the table. You will need them in the exercises.

I. Give the following adjectives an opposite meaning.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. able | 2. convenient | 3. reversible |
| 4. probable | 5. existent | 6. used |
| 7. justified | 8. responsible | 9. informed |
| 10. consistent | 11. economic | 12. logical |
| 13. accessible | 14. relevant | 15. scientific |
| 16. coded | 17. continuous | 18. pure |
| 19. likely | 20. replaceable | 21. efficient |
| 22. recognizable | 23. possible | 24. essential |
| 25. clockwise | 26. ambiguous | 27. accurate |
| 28. available | 29. clear | 30. evitable |
| 31. integrated | 32. linear | 33. capable |
| 34. centralized | 35. paid | 36. interrupted |

II. Reformulate the following sentences using negative adjectives. Sometimes some other changes have to be made.

- Administrative staff are not eligible for this program.
.....
- We didn't succeed in finding a replacement for our secretary.
.....
- You shouldn't focus on details that are not relevant.
.....
- The report is not based on scientific data.
.....
- Their conclusions are not logical.
.....

6. He isn't a responsible young man.
.....
7. This is not a very frequent occasion.
.....
8. 50% of those questioned did not feel easy about nuclear power.
.....
9. They aren't capable of implementing any of their plans.
.....
10. Old cars aren't economical.
.....
11. Knowledge of CAD is not essential for this course.
.....
12. The information he gave us wasn't accurate.
.....
13. Most of their proposals are not controversial.
.....
14. The company doesn't employ people who are not experienced.
.....

III. Complete the sentences with adjectives that fit in the context.

1. Something that can't be seen is
2. Materials that do not burn are
3. Funding that cannot cover all the needs of a project is
4. Things that have the wrong shape are
5. Something that is cheap is
6. Something without limits in space or time is
7. An argument that doesn't make sense is
8. Behaviour that is not right in a particular situation is
9. An event that isn't likely to happen is
10. Problems that can't be solved are
11. A person who hasn't been trained for a particular type of job is
12. Someone who has wrong information is
13. Stories nobody can believe are
14. A coating that does not corrode is
15. Something that nobody can read is

IV. Complete the sentences with adjectives. The explanations in brackets will help you find the right ones.

1. Those measures proved
(they did not achieve what they were intended to achieve)
2. How long has she been ?
(without a job)
3. We were of the possible danger.
(we did not realize there was a danger)
4. Two studies came to the same conclusion.
(they were two separate studies that were not connected, did not influence each other)
5. It's a very business.

- (it does not make profit)
6. Our research is
(it has not received enough money to be effective)
 7. A further escalation of the crisis is
(it is certain to happen, cannot be prevented)
 8. Some doctoral students claim that they are
(they do not receive enough money for their work)
 9. He is hopelessly at doing experiments.
(not organized, skilled or able to work satisfactorily)
 10. cooperation is very necessary.
(it is necessary that departments cooperate with each other)
 11. These two values are
(they cannot be compared)
 12. In the present situation their demands for more money are
(not fair or acceptable, not complying with reason)

V. Use the words below to form adjectives that will complete the sentences. Use each word only once.

government	destroy	repair	discipline
work	lead	qualify	rate
mistake	understand	motivate	experience
perceive	renew		

1. Tasks that do not challenge the students can be
2. The experiment shouldn't take more than one hour if I'm not
3. organizations have provided significant emergency aid during the recent floods.
4. The figures he quoted are highly; they are either false or incomplete.
5. Such damage is
6. The equipment is very robust; it's practically
7. The Faculty obtained a grant for an research centre.
8. Such changes are even to the best-trained eyes.
9. Education is important but experience shouldn't be either.
10. We don't employ any staff.
11. Most PhD students claim that they're
12. Coal and gas are sources of energy.
13. He said that he was - his arguments were interpreted wrongly.
14. An pilot can easily cause a plane crash.