

# Practice Worksheet

## Negative Prefixes and Suffixes in English

*Suitable for upper-intermediate and advanced learners*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class / Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Complete each exercise carefully. Use the correct negative prefix or suffix. Read the whole word before you decide: English loves patterns, but it also enjoys exceptions.

### A. Choose the correct word.

Circle or underline the correct option.

1. It is very (illegal / unlegal) to drive without a licence.
2. Please do not be (impolite / unpolite) to the receptionist.
3. His explanation was so (unclear / disclear) that nobody understood it.
4. That information is (irrelevant / unrelavent) to our discussion.
5. The boy was punished for (misbehaving / unbehaving) in class.
6. I think you have (misunderstood / disunderstood) the question.
7. The article was full of (nonsense / unsense).
8. She became (impatient / unpatient) after waiting for an hour.
9. It would be (irresponsible / unresponsible) to ignore the warning.
10. We stayed in a (non-smoking / dissmoking) hotel room.
11. After the storm, many families were left (homeless / unhome).
12. Your final answer is (incorrect / uncorrect).

### B. Add the correct negative prefix.

Complete the words using one suitable prefix: un-, in-, im-, il-, ir-, dis-, mis-, non- or anti-.

1. happy — with the result
2. legal — to copy films without permission
3. agree — with someone politely
4. possible — to finish in five minutes
5. regular — attendance
6. fiction — books about real life
7. understand — a teacher's instructions
8. social — behaviour in public places
9. honest — sales tactics
10. relevant — details in an essay
11. patient — children in a queue
12. secure — passwords

### C. Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

<b>careless</b>	<b>uncertain</b>	<b>disconnect</b>	<b>harmless</b>	<b>misplace</b>
<b>dishonest</b>	<b>non-stop</b>	<b>atypical</b>	<b>illogical</b>	<b>helpless</b>

1. If a snake is \_\_\_\_\_, it cannot hurt you.
2. His excuse was completely \_\_\_\_\_; it made no sense at all.
3. Be careful with your keys. You always seem to \_\_\_\_\_ them.
4. It was \_\_\_\_\_ of her to leave the door open all night.
5. After three days without news, we felt anxious and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The company offers a \_\_\_\_\_ flight from Belgrade to London.
7. The witness gave a clearly \_\_\_\_\_ account of events.
8. Her reaction was rather \_\_\_\_\_; she is usually much calmer.
9. I am still \_\_\_\_\_ about what I should do next.
10. Please \_\_\_\_\_ the printer before you move it.

### D. Correct the mistake.

Each sentence contains one word with the wrong negative form. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. It was very unpolite of him to interrupt the speaker.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. That explanation is completely illogical.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Her behaviour at the party was quite unsocial.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Please do not misunderstood my message.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The report contains several incorrect figures.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. He felt very unsecure in his new position.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. They stayed in a room for un-smokers.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Without help, the injured climber was completely helpless.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### E. Build words with -less.

Use the noun in brackets to complete each sentence with a suitable -less adjective.

1. After the fire, several families were left \_\_\_\_\_. (home)
2. Try not to be so \_\_\_\_\_ with your money. (care)
3. The child looked \_\_\_\_\_ when he could not find his mother. (help)
4. After running up the stairs, I was completely \_\_\_\_\_. (breath)
5. The cream promises \_\_\_\_\_ skin after just one week. (spot)

6. Their plan turned out to be completely \_\_\_\_\_. (hope)

## F. Mixed review: sentence transformations.

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning. Use the word in brackets. Do not change the word in brackets.

- 1. It is not legal to park here.** It is \_\_\_\_\_ to park here. (illegal)
- 2. I think you understood me wrongly.** I think you \_\_\_\_\_ me. (misunderstood)
- 3. That detail is not relevant to the discussion.** That detail is \_\_\_\_\_ to the discussion. (irrelevant)
- 4. She does not seem friendly today.** She seems rather \_\_\_\_\_ today. (unfriendly)
- 5. The child behaved badly in class.** The child \_\_\_\_\_ in class. (misbehaved)
- 6. We cannot do anything without more information.** We are \_\_\_\_\_ without more information. (helpless)

## G. Your turn.

Write one original sentence for each prompt.

1. Use an adjective with un-:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Use a word with dis-:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Use a word with mis-:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Use a word with non-:

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Use an adjective with -less:

\_\_\_\_\_

# Answer Key

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## A. Choose the correct word

- 1 illegal
- 2 impolite
- 3 unclear
- 4 irrelevant
- 5 misbehaving
- 6 misunderstood
- 7 nonsense
- 8 impatient
- 9 irresponsible
- 10 non-smoking
- 11 homeless
- 12 incorrect

## B. Add the correct negative prefix

- 1 unhappy
- 2 illegal
- 3 disagree
- 4 impossible
- 5 irregular
- 6 non-fiction
- 7 misunderstand
- 8 antisocial
- 9 dishonest
- 10 irrelevant
- 11 impatient
- 12 insecure

## C. Complete the sentences

- 1 harmless
- 2 illogical
- 3 misplace
- 4 careless
- 5 helpless
- 6 non-stop
- 7 dishonest
- 8 atypical
- 9 uncertain

- 10 disconnect

## D. Correct the mistake

- 1 It was very impolite of him to interrupt the speaker.
- 2 That explanation is completely illogical.
- 3 Her behaviour at the party was quite antisocial.
- 4 Please do not misunderstand my message.
- 5 The report contains several incorrect figures.
- 6 He felt very insecure in his new position.
- 7 They stayed in a room for non-smokers. / a non-smoking room.
- 8 Without help, the injured climber was completely helpless.

## E. Build words with -less

- 1 homeless
- 2 careless
- 3 helpless
- 4 breathless
- 5 spotless
- 6 hopeless

## F. Sentence transformations

- 1 illegal
- 2 misunderstood
- 3 irrelevant
- 4 unfriendly
- 5 misbehaved
- 6 helpless

## G. Your turn

- Answers will vary.