

Prefixes in English

Extensive Practice Worksheet for B1-B2 / Cambridge English Learners

Name	Date	Score
		/ 100

How to Use This Worksheet

This worksheet gives you extended practice with common prefixes in English. You will practise meaning, spelling, word formation, negative prefixes, error correction and Cambridge-style sentence completion.

Tip: Do not add prefixes mechanically. Always check whether the new word makes sense in the sentence.

Prefix	Common meaning	Examples
un-	not / opposite	unhappy, unfair, unclear
in- / im- / il- / ir-	not	incorrect, impossible, illegal, irregular
dis-	not / opposite / reverse	disagree, disappear, disconnect
non-	not / without	non-smoker, non-fiction, non-verbal
re-	again / back	rewrite, reread, return
mis-	wrongly / badly	misunderstand, mispronounce, misuse
pre- / post-	before / after	preheat, preview, post-war
over- / under-	too much / not enough	overcook, underpaid, underestimate
inter- / trans-	between / across / change	international, transfer, transform
co- / anti- / pro-	together / against / in favour of	cooperate, anti-war, pro-environment

Exercise 1: Match the Prefixes to Their Meanings

Match prefixes 1-12 with meanings A-L.

Prefix	Answer	Meaning
1. re-		A. against
2. mis-		B. not enough / below
3. pre-		C. before
4. post-		D. wrongly / badly
5. over-		E. together / with
6. under-		F. many
7. anti-		G. again / back
8. co-		H. after
9. multi-		I. too much
10. inter-		J. between / among
11. trans-		K. across / change
12. non-		L. not / without

Exercise 2: Identify the Prefix and Meaning

Underline the prefix in each word. Then write the meaning of the whole word.

1. uncomfortable = _____
2. rewrite = _____
3. mispronounce = _____
4. overpriced = _____
5. underpaid = _____
6. international = _____
7. non-fiction = _____
8. postgraduate = _____
9. preheat = _____
10. disagree = _____
11. irregular = _____
12. multilingual = _____

Exercise 3: Choose the Correct Prefix

Choose the best prefix to complete each word.

1. The answer is not correct. It is ___correct. a) un- b) in- c) mis-
2. I need to write this email again. I need to ___write it. a) re- b) pre- c) post-
3. He understood the message wrongly. He ___understood it. a) dis- b) mis- c) over-
4. The room was not comfortable at all. It was ___comfortable. a) un- b) im- c) ir-
5. This phone is too expensive for what it offers. It is ___priced. a) over- b) under- c) non-
6. The chicken was not cooked enough. It was ___cooked. a) over- b) under- c) re-
7. You should heat the oven before baking. You should ___heat it. a) post- b) pre- c) mis-
8. She is against war. She is ___war. a) anti- b) pro- c) co-
9. He supports environmental protection. He is ___environment. a) anti- b) pro- c) non-
10. This is not a profit-making organisation. It is ___profit. a) non- b) un- c) under-
11. The project changed the whole area. It ___formed the town. a) trans- b) inter- c) sub-
12. She can speak three languages. She is ___lingual. a) mono- b) bi- c) tri-
13. The behaviour was not responsible. It was ___responsible. a) ir- b) il- c) im-
14. The parking here is not legal. It is ___legal. a) il- b) ir- c) in-
15. He did not agree with me. He ___agreed with me. a) dis- b) mis- c) re-
16. The streets were too crowded. They were ___crowded. a) over- b) under- c) pre-
17. A dictionary in one language is ___lingual. a) mono- b) multi- c) inter-
18. The two writers produced the book together. They ___authored it. a) co- b) anti- c) post-
19. The train travels between cities. It is an ___city train. a) inter- b) trans- c) sub-
20. The words at the bottom of a film are ___titles. a) sub- b) post- c) over-

Exercise 4: Negative Prefixes

Complete the words with *un-*, *in-*, *im-*, *il-*, *ir-*, *dis-* or *non-*.

Word	Answer	Word	Answer
1. __possible		2. __regular	
3. __legal		4. __correct	
5. __happy		6. __polite	
7. __honest		8. __smoking	
9. __visible		10. __mature	
11. __responsible		12. __fair	
13. __active		14. __logical	
15. __profit		16. __patient	
17. __usual		18. __fiction	
19. __agree		20. __comfortable	
21. __formal		22. __lucky	
23. __appear		24. __verbal	

Exercise 5: Complete the Sentences with a Prefixed Word

Use a suitable prefixed word from the box. You may need to change the form of the word.

Word box: rewrite | mispronounce | overcook | underestimate | preview | reconnect | misunderstand | overpriced | underpaid | postgraduate | non-verbal | multicultural | irresponsible | impossible | disappear | cooperate | anti-social | transform | bilingual | illegal

- Please do not _____ the vegetables. They should stay slightly firm.
- I think you _____ what I said. That was not my intention.
- The hotel was nice, but it was definitely _____.
- She speaks English and Italian fluently, so she is _____.
- The company needs to _____ with local schools on this project.
- The old factory was _____ into a modern art gallery.
- His behaviour was rather _____ because he ignored everyone at the party.
- The film includes a short _____ of next week's episode.
- After the storm, the internet stopped working and we had to _____ the router.
- It is _____ to park here after 6 p.m.
- Do not _____ the amount of work involved in preparing for the exam.
- She is doing a _____ degree in psychology.
- Body language is an important part of _____ communication.
- The magician made the coin _____ in front of the audience.
- It would be _____ to finish all this work in ten minutes.
- Many workers feel _____ because their salaries are too low.
- You need to _____ the introduction because it is not clear enough.
- Please do not _____ my name when you introduce me.
- Leaving a child alone near a busy road would be _____.
- London is a very _____ city, with people from all over the world.

Exercise 6: Cambridge-Style Word Formation

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the word in capitals. You may need a prefix, a suffix, or both.

1. The information in the article was completely _____. (CORRECT)
2. There has been a serious _____ between the two departments. (UNDERSTAND)
3. His behaviour during the interview was highly _____. (PROFESSIONAL)
4. The instructions were so _____ that nobody knew what to do. (CLEAR)
5. It was _____ of him to ignore the safety rules. (RESPONSIBLE)
6. The story was full of _____ events that nobody could explain. (NATURAL)
7. The hotel looked good online, but it was badly _____. (PRICE)
8. The country changed dramatically in the _____ period. (WAR)
9. The answer was _____ because it did not follow the rules of logic. (LOGICAL)
10. The student had to _____ the whole paragraph. (WRITE)
11. This medicine is used as an _____ treatment. (BACTERIA)
12. The city is famous for its _____ population. (CULTURE)
13. He was accused of _____ public money. (USE)
14. The essay needs more detail and is rather _____. (DEVELOP)
15. It is _____ to sell alcohol to children. (LEGAL)
16. She was _____ to continue after such a long illness. (ABLE)
17. The two issues are closely _____. (CONNECT)
18. The spelling of this word is often _____ by learners. (TAKE)
19. The company launched a new _____ campaign. (SMOKE)
20. I found his explanation rather _____. (CONVINCING)
21. You should never _____ the importance of regular revision. (ESTIMATE)
22. The actor gave an unforgettable _____ in the final scene. (PERFORM)
23. The two countries signed a _____ agreement. (LATERAL)
24. The chicken was still pink in the middle because it was _____. (COOK)

Exercise 7: Same Base Word, Different Prefix

Complete each pair with the correct prefixed form of the base word. Think carefully about the meaning.

1. use: You can _____ this glass jar instead of throwing it away. / This tool is dangerous if you _____ it.
2. connect: Please _____ the printer before you restart the computer. / The villages are _____ by a narrow road.
3. cook: The pasta is still hard because it is _____. / The vegetables are soft and tasteless because they are _____.
4. read: I always _____ important emails before sending them. / I completely _____ the timetable and arrived late.
5. agree: I respect your opinion, but I _____ with your conclusion. / The two sides reached a formal _____.
6. appear: The sun _____ behind the clouds. / Her sudden _____ after ten years surprised everyone.
7. legal: Downloading films from that website is _____. / The company asked for _____ advice.

8. responsible: He is reliable and _____. / It was _____ to drive so fast in heavy rain.
9. write: Please _____ this sentence in a more formal style. / The article was _____ by two journalists.
10. estimate: We _____ the cost and spent much more than expected. / The accountant _____ the total cost, so the budget was too high.

Exercise 8: Correct the Prefix Mistakes

Each sentence contains one prefix mistake. Correct the sentence.

1. It is impossible to learn every English word in one month.
2. The answer is uncorrect because you forgot the negative form.
3. He disunderstood the question and gave the wrong answer.
4. The soup was undercooked, so it tasted burnt.
5. My brother is very unresponsible with money.
6. The restaurant was underpriced, so we paid far too much.
7. Please postheat the oven before you bake the cake.
8. This is a no-smoking area inside the hospital.
9. I need to misread the chapter before the test.
10. Her behaviour was ilpolite during the meeting.
11. The train is antibound for Manchester.
12. He works as a coworker of the article with me.
13. The city is very manycultural.
14. She is impossible to attend because she is ill.
15. We need to unconnect the device from the wall socket.

Exercise 9: Mini Reading - Fill in the Gaps

Read the text and complete the gaps with suitable prefixed words from the word bank.

Word bank: unclear | rewrite | misunderstood | international | overworked | underpaid | cooperate | postgraduate | multicultural | reconnect | irresponsible | impossible

When Sara started her _____ course in Manchester, she felt excited but nervous. The university was very _____, with students from many different countries, and most people were friendly. However, during the first week, some of the instructions were _____, so Sara _____ the deadline for an important assignment. Her tutor told her not to panic and advised her to _____ the introduction, which was too informal. Sara also worked part-time in a cafe, but she soon felt _____ and _____ because the shifts were long and the pay was low. One evening, the internet stopped working, and she had to _____ her laptop to the university network. At first, she thought it would be _____ to manage everything, but she learnt to ask for help, plan better and _____ with her classmates. Looking back, she realised that trying to do everything alone had been _____.

Exercise 10: Sentence Transformation Practice

Rewrite each sentence using the word in brackets. Keep the meaning as similar as possible.

1. The instructions were not clear. (UNCLEAR)
2. You need to write the paragraph again. (REWRITE)

3. He understood the message wrongly. (MISUNDERSTOOD)
4. The hotel was too expensive. (OVERPRICED)
5. The workers are not paid enough. (UNDERPAID)
6. It is not legal to park here. (ILLEGAL)
7. They do not agree with the decision. (DISAGREE)
8. The two problems are connected with each other. (INTERCONNECTED)
9. She speaks more than one language. (MULTILINGUAL)
10. The organisation does not make a profit. (NON-PROFIT)

Exercise 11: Short Writing Practice

Choose three tasks. Use at least five prefixed words in each answer.

1. Write a short paragraph about a time when you misunderstood something.
2. Describe a city that is multicultural and international.
3. Give advice to a student who feels overworked before an exam.
4. Write a formal complaint about an overpriced product or service.
5. Explain why it is important not to underestimate regular revision.
6. Write five sentences using negative prefixes: un-, in-, im-, il- and ir-.

Answer Key

Some answers may vary where more than one prefixed word is possible. Suggested answers are given below.

Exercise 1

1. G
2. D
3. C
4. H
5. I
6. B
7. A
8. E
9. F
10. J
11. K
12. L

Exercise 2

1. uncomfortable = not comfortable
2. rewrite = write again
3. mispronounce = pronounce wrongly
4. overpriced = too expensive
5. underpaid = not paid enough
6. international = between countries / involving several countries
7. non-fiction = writing based on facts, not invented stories
8. postgraduate = after a first university degree
9. preheat = heat before cooking
10. disagree = not agree
11. irregular = not regular
12. multilingual = able to use many languages

Exercise 3

1. b) incorrect
2. a) rewrite
3. b) misunderstood
4. a) uncomfortable
5. a) overpriced
6. b) undercooked
7. b) preheat
8. a) anti-war
9. b) pro-environment
10. a) non-profit
11. a) transformed
12. c) trilingual
13. a) irresponsible
14. a) illegal
15. a) disagreed
16. a) overcrowded
17. a) monolingual
18. a) co-authored
19. a) intercity
20. a) subtitles

Exercise 4

1. impossible
2. irregular
3. illegal
4. incorrect
5. unhappy
6. impolite
7. dishonest
8. non-smoking
9. invisible
10. immature
11. irresponsible
12. unfair
13. inactive
14. illogical
15. non-profit
16. impatient
17. unusual
18. non-fiction
19. disagree
20. uncomfortable
21. informal
22. unlucky
23. disappear
24. non-verbal

Exercise 5

1. overcook
2. misunderstood
3. overpriced
4. bilingual
5. cooperate
6. transformed
7. anti-social
8. preview
9. reconnect
10. illegal
11. underestimate
12. postgraduate
13. non-verbal
14. disappear
15. impossible
16. underpaid
17. rewrite
18. mispronounce
19. irresponsible
20. multicultural

Exercise 6

1. incorrect
2. misunderstanding
3. unprofessional
4. unclear

5. irresponsible
6. supernatural
7. overpriced
8. post-war
9. illogical
10. rewrite
11. antibacterial
12. multicultural
13. misusing / misuse of
14. underdeveloped
15. illegal
16. unable
17. interconnected
18. mistaken
19. non-smoking
20. unconvincing
21. underestimate
22. performance
23. bilateral
24. undercooked

Exercise 7

1. reuse / misuse
2. disconnect / connected
3. undercooked / overcooked
4. reread / misread
5. disagree / agreement
6. disappeared / reappearance
7. illegal / legal
8. responsible / irresponsible
9. rewrite / co-written
10. underestimated / overestimated

Exercise 8

1. It is impossible to learn every English word in one month.
2. The answer is incorrect because you forgot the negative form.
3. He misunderstood the question and gave the wrong answer.
4. The soup was overcooked, so it tasted burnt. OR The soup was undercooked, so it was still cold/raw.
5. My brother is very irresponsible with money.
6. The restaurant was overpriced, so we paid far too much.
7. Please preheat the oven before you bake the cake.
8. This is a non-smoking area inside the hospital.
9. I need to reread the chapter before the test.
10. Her behaviour was impolite during the meeting.
11. The train is bound for Manchester.
12. He is a co-author of the article with me.
13. The city is very multicultural.
14. She is unable to attend because she is ill.
15. We need to disconnect the device from the wall socket.

Exercise 9

1. postgraduate
2. multicultural / international

3. unclear
4. misunderstood
5. rewrite
6. overworked
7. underpaid
8. reconnect
9. impossible
10. cooperate
11. irresponsible

Exercise 10

1. The instructions were unclear.
2. You need to rewrite the paragraph.
3. He misunderstood the message.
4. The hotel was overpriced.
5. The workers are underpaid.
6. It is illegal to park here.
7. They disagree with the decision.
8. The two problems are interconnected.
9. She is multilingual. / She is bilingual if she speaks two languages.
10. The organisation is non-profit.

Exercise 11

Students' own answers. Check that each answer uses at least five prefixed words accurately and naturally.