

# Prefixes

## Activity Sheet (page 1/2)

**A. Prefixes are used at the beginning of words to modify or alter their meaning. The Prefixes below are often used to convey a negative or opposite meaning. Match the beginnings of the sentences with the correct endings, then fill in the gaps using suitable Prefixes.**

in      im      un      dis      il      ir

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Touching your nose with your elbow .....               | a. fewer _____ regular verbs.         |
| 2. I couldn't read his writing. It was .....              | b. _____ agree with everything I say. |
| 3. You used all the hot water! That was really .....      | c. completely _____ legible.          |
| 4. English grammar would be easier if there were .....    | d. rather _____ popular.              |
| 5. We're not getting on well right now. He likes to ..... | e. is virtually _____ possible.       |
| 6. The cakes sold out fast, but the biscuits were .....   | f. _____ considerate of you!          |

**B. Although there are some exceptions, negative Prefixes generally follow these rules. Complete the sentences below using the Prefixes from Exercise A.**

1. Words that take \_\_\_\_\_ as a negative prefix usually start with a 'p' or an 'm'.
2. Words that take \_\_\_\_\_ as a negative prefix usually start with an 'l'.
3. Words that take \_\_\_\_\_ as a negative prefix usually start with an 'r'.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ can be used with most vowels or consonants.

**C. Prefixes are also used to give many other meanings. Complete the sentences using one of the Prefixes below, then match each Prefix with its meaning on the right.**

over      super      re      sub      mis      mid      anti

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. The teacher wasn't happy with my essay, so I had to _____ write it.   | a. Too much.        |
| 2. My name is quite unusual and is often _____ spelt.                    | b. Do again.        |
| 3. There was an _____ war demonstration in front of the city hall.       | c. Incorrectly.     |
| 4. We went to the huge _____ store on the outskirts of the city.         | d. In the middle.   |
| 5. The view from the _____ marine was like nothing I'd ever seen before. | e. Under, beneath.  |
| 6. Temperatures in _____ summer can be as high as 35 degrees.            | f. Very big, above. |
| 7. The pie was _____ cooked as I'd forgotten to take it out of the oven. | g. Against.         |

**D. Complete the sentences below using Prefixes from the previous page, plus one of the words below.**

cut    baby    dishes    years    tired    party    summers    ghost    broke up    account

1. Jim’s very \_\_\_\_\_ responsible. He left the ..... alone in the car all morning!
2. The church was destroyed in an earthquake and was \_\_\_\_\_ built several ..... later.
3. I’m fascinated by the \_\_\_\_\_ natural. I would love to see a ..... one day.
4. I was extremely \_\_\_\_\_ appointed when I found out the ..... had been cancelled.
5. I knew they’d been \_\_\_\_\_ happy for quite a while, so I wasn’t surprised when they .....
6. My boss accidentally \_\_\_\_\_ paid me, so there was extra money in my bank .....
7. Most \_\_\_\_\_ tropical countries have very hot ..... and rather mild winters.
8. You didn’t go to bed until after \_\_\_\_\_ night. No wonder you’re so .....
9. If you don’t put some \_\_\_\_\_ septic on that ....., it’s likely to become infected.
10. It’s so \_\_\_\_\_ fair! You never make *him* do the .....! *I* do them every night!

**E. Complete the list of prompts below using the words in the box. Afterwards talk to your partner and try and see if you can agree on two things for each prompt.**

priced    powers    day    zero    used    pronounce    desirable    polite    liked    legal

**Write down two...**

1. Things we use often that should never be **re**.....: ....., .....
2. English words that people often **mis**.....: ....., .....
3. Animals that can survive in **sub**-..... temperatures: ....., .....
4. Things that are **il**..... to do until you’re 18 years old: ....., .....
5. Foods that are often **dis**..... by young children: ....., .....
6. Things that people rarely do before **mid**.....: ....., .....
7. Traits which are very **un**..... in a partner: ....., .....
8. Things people buy that are often **over**.....: ....., .....
9. Gestures/habits which are extremely **im**.....: ....., .....
10. **Super**..... that would be very useful to have: ....., .....