

Unit 22 Prefixes

Letters added to the front of a word are called a **prefix**. Some prefixes change a word into its **opposite**.

happy	unhappy	wise	unwise
visible	invisible	smart	imsmart
possible	impossible	patient	impatient
appear	disappear	trust	distrust
legal	illegal	legible	illegible
clockwise	anticlockwise	climax	anticlimax



*'Pre' comes from Latin meaning before.

Prefixes have special meanings.

Here are some more prefixes and their meanings.

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
bi	two	bicycle bilingual
ex	out of	export exit
inter	between	interval international
mis	wrong	misbehave misjudge
re	again	replace return
sub	under	submarine subway
super	very good or large	superstar supermarket
auto	oneself	autograph autobiography

Focus

A Which prefix is needed to make each word into its opposite?

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 true | 2 loyal | 3 moveable | 4 secure |
| 5 honour | 6 pure | 7 well | 8 mobile |
| 9 approve | 10 logical | 11 agree | 12 active |

B Copy the sentences.

Add a prefix to the coloured words so that each sentence has the opposite meaning.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Did you obey the rules? | 2 Will you lock the door? |
| 3 That is possible. | 4 You are very patient. |

Practice

Match each of the words in the box with its correct meaning.

rewrite incapable unsure invisible disbelieve

- to think that something is not true
- not able to do something
- not able to be seen
- to put words on paper again
- not to be certain



Extension

A Use a dictionary to find one word that begins with each of the following prefixes.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------|--------|----------|
| 1 inter | 2 bi | 3 pro | 4 pre |
| 5 mono | 6 sub | 7 post | 8 auto |
| 9 ol | 10 re | 11 ex | 12 trans |

B Use each word you found in **A** in a sentence of your own.

C Use a dictionary to help you write the meaning of each of these words.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 explosion | 2 extension |
| 3 invasion | 4 preparation |
| 5 biped | 6 international |
| 7 mistake | 8 revise |
| 9 submerge | 10 supersonic |

