



## Negative Prefixes

**Certain prefixes are used to change a word's meaning from positive to negative. Some of these prefixes are: IL, IM, IR, UN, DE and DIS. And there's a pattern to remembering which one to use – see below!**

- DIS: The prefix “dis” implies that something is “taken away”. (Example: disagree, disarm, disallow)
- DE: The prefix “de” is used to mean “undo”. (Example: decode, deactivate, decompose = undo the code, undo activation, undo composition)
- UN: The prefix “un” is used to mean “not”. (Example: unreliable, unresponsive, uninspired = not reliable, not responsive, not inspired)
- IR: The prefix “ir” is used to make negative words from words beginning with “r”. (Example: irresponsible, irregular, irrefutable) However, “reliable” is made negative with the prefix “un.” (Example: unreliable)
- IM: The prefix “im” is used before words beginning with “m”. (Example: immature, immodest, immoral)
- IL: The prefix “il” is used only with words beginning with “l”. (Example: illegal, illegible, illogical)