Negative Prefixes

A **prefix** is added to the beginning of a **word**, or to a **word root** to change its meaning. For example adding **un** to **pleasant** becomes **unpleasant**. It makes the original word an **antonym** (its opposite)

Try these: Move the un to the root word and see what antonym you get

Un

pleasant

dress

decided

cooked

acceptable

did

Choose negative prefixes from the box to make each of these words into antonyms.

In   dis   mis   im   il

word roots

justice

polite

approve

behave

possible

sufficient

literate

colour

trust

honest

Can you think of any more examples of antonyms containing these negative prefixes? Does it change its spelling in each case?

Use a dictionary and a thesaurus to help. On your whiteboards write these word roots to make antonyms. Work in pairs.

Word   **Antonym using negative prefix**

experience

logical

mature

regular

possible

complete

legal

reversible