Use and Form – Negative prefixes

Remember: ☺ We use the negative prefixes un- / in- / im- / ir- / dis- to give the adjective the opposite meaning:

- grateful → ungrateful
- conclusive → inconclusive
- personal → impersonal
- liberal → iliberal
- retrievable → irretrievable
- contented → discontented

A. Match the adjectives with the right prefix to form opposites.

   a) im-   b) in-   c) il-   d) ir-   e) un-   f) dis-

B. Fill in the gaps with the right prefix.

1. The rumours about their reconciliation were completely ______founded.
2. He didn’t like Lisa’s boyfriend. It would be ______honest of him to pretend otherwise.
3. It was ______possible for her to arrive on time to the meeting.
4. The tickets are ______valid. You haven’t stamped them.
5. Many ______legal immigrants were arrested last night.
6. I am convinced now. His arguments were ______resistible.
7. I hate to wait in queues. I’m too ______patient.
8. Look at her shoes. They’re so ______usual.
9. It was such a ______couraging experience.
10. An ______known visitor has left a package in the room.

C. Now choose a noun and add a prefix to it to complete the sentences:

- relevant
- legitimate
- practical
- stable
- offensive
- logical
- precise
- reversible

1. I don’t believe you! She’s such a shy, ______________________ woman. She couldn’t possibly have done it!
2. It would be ________________ to call her every time the baby doesn’t want to eat.
3. Her arguments don’t make sense. They’re completely ________________.
4. John spent the whole class making ________________ remarks. I wish the teacher would have shut him up.
5. He was very ________________. He could have had a better grade if he had been more accurate.
6. They are always calling him names. They say he’s an ________________ son. His parents are married to someone else.
7. The accident caused him ________________ brain damage, I’m afraid.
8. I’m sorry. His medical condition is highly ________________.
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Remember: ☺ We use the negative prefixes un- / in- /im- /il- /ir- /dis- to give the adjective the opposite meaning:

- grateful – ungrateful
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A. Match the adjectives with the right prefix to form opposites.

1. legal c) 11. countable e) a) im-
2. pleased f) 12. responsible d) b) in-
3. moral a) 13. graced f) c) il-
4. jointed f) 14. fair e) d) ir-
5. correct b) 15. polite a) e) un-
6. happy e) 16. logical c) f) dis-
7. legible c) 17. mature a)
8. regular d) 18. continued f)
9. connected f) 19. tolerant b)
10. literate c) 20. proper a)

B. Fill in the gaps with the right prefix.

1. The rumours about their reconciliation were completely un-founded.
2. He didn’t like Lisa’s boyfriend. It would be dishonest of him to pretend otherwise.
3. It was impossible for her to arrive on time to the meeting.
4. The tickets are invalid. You haven’t stamped them.
5. Many illegal immigrants were arrested last night.
6. I am convinced now. His arguments were irresistible.
7. I hate to wait in queues. I’m too impatient.
8. Look at her shoes. They’re so unusual.
9. It was such a discouraging experience.
10. An unknown visitor has left a package in the room.

C. Now choose a noun and add a prefix to it to complete the sentences:

- relevant
- legitimate
- practical
- stable
- offensive
- logical
- precise
- reversible

9. I don’t believe you! She’s such a shy, inoffensive woman. She couldn’t possibly have done it!
10. It would be impractical to call her every time the baby doesn’t want to eat.
11. Her arguments don’t make sense. They’re completely illogical.
12. John spent the whole class making irrelevant remarks. I wish the teacher would have shut him up.
13. He was very imprecise. He could have had a better grade if he had been more accurate.
14. They are always calling him names. They say he’s an illegitimate son. His parents are married to someone else.
15. The accident caused him irreversible brain damage, I’m afraid.
16. I’m sorry. His medical condition is highly unstable.

THANK YOU!