



Words with the  
**negative prefixes**

**un~ in~**

**dis~ non~**



## Vocabulary List

With meanings,  
examples and audio

**40** common vocabulary words

**40** example sentences

**AND** Audio pronunciation links

from [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com)



**WorldEnglishBlog.com**

# Un~

**unable** - adjective - lacking the skill, time, resources to do something

“The box was too heavy, I was **unable** to move it.”

**unconscious** - adjective - in a state like sleep because of an injury or illness

“The boxer was knocked **unconscious** in the 5th round of the fight.”

**undo** - verb

① to open something that is fastened, tied or wrapped

“After work, I’m always happy to **undo** my tie and the top button of my shirt. I feel relaxed.”

② to cancel the effect of something

“Teams of workers and volunteers try to **undo** some of the damage left by the hurricane.”

**unemployed** - adjective - without a job but able to work

“James has been **unemployed** for 2 months. I hope he can find a job soon.”

**unfinished** - adjective - not finished

“Sarah left her **unfinished** dinner on her plate.”

**unlock** - verb - open the lock of a door, safe or something with a key

“Wait for Teri, she has the key to the meeting room. She’ll **unlock** the door when she gets here.”

**unlucky** - adjective - not lucky: having bad luck

“A typhoon came on our moving day! It was very **unlucky**.”

**unspoken** - adjective - not said in words but understood or agreed between people

“We didn’t have a formal policy about not talking to other people’s clients, but it was an **unspoken** rule. No one did it out of respect.”

**untie** - verb - to undo something that is tied

“My grandfather like velcro on his running shoes so he doesn’t have to tie and **untie** them when he puts them on.”

**unusual** - adjective - different from what is usual or normal

“The weather has been **unusual** this fall. Lots of sudden rain.”

# In~

**inability** - noun - the fact of not being able to do something

“People are frustrated with the government’s **inability** to improve healthcare.”

**inactive** - adjective - not doing anything; not active

“Bears are **inactive** during the winter. The sleep during this time.”

**inconsiderate** - adjective - not giving enough thought to other people’s feelings or needs

“If you are going to be late and you don’t call to let me know it’s **inconsiderate**.”

**incoherent** - adjective -

① (of sounds) not clear and hard to understand

“I could hear the TV in the background but I have no idea what they were watching. The sound was **incoherent**.”

② not logical or well organized

“The new company rules for spending are **incoherent**. They don’t address any real issues I have with company funds.”

**incorrect** - adjective - not correct; not true

“I got my Japanese test back, only 1 **incorrect** answer! Great!”

**incomplete** - adjective - not complete; missing something it needs

“This report doesn’t have the results from last month, it’s **incomplete**.”

**independent** - adjective - confident and free to do things without needing help from other people

“When I moved out of my parents’ house I felt very **independent**.”

**indefinitely** - adverb - for a period of time with no set limit

“After the accident, the site was shut down **indefinitely**.”

**inexpensive** - adjective - not expensive; not costing a lot of money

“I’m happy with the quality of my new printer. It does many things and it was very **inexpensive**.”

**infinite** - adjective - without limits; without end

“The universe is **infinite**.”

# Dis~

**disagree** - verb - to have a different opinion about something than another person

“My family **disagrees** about politics, so we try not to talk about it when we get together.”

**disappear** - verb - to become impossible to see

“The girl turned a corner and **disappeared**. She was gone.”

**disconnect** - verb - to remove a piece of equipment from a supply of gas, water or electricity

“I thought the office printer was broken, someone just **disconnected** it from the wall socket.”

More meanings @

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/disconnect?q=disconnect>

**dishonest** - adjective - not honest

“In the shopping areas, you need to be careful. There are some **dishonest** shops that will try to take advantage of tourists.”

**dislike** - verb - to not like someone or something

“Jill and Monica don't get along at the office. I don't know why they **dislike** each other so much.”

**dismount** -verb - to get off a horse, bicycle or motorcycle (formal)

“She rode the horse to the gate, and then gracefully dismounted.”

noun - a move in which a gymnast jumps off an apparatus or completes a floor exercise

“An Olympic gymnast can get a higher score if their **dismount** is very difficult.”

**disobey** -verb - to refuse to do what a person, a law, an order, etc. tells you to do; to refuse to obey

“You shouldn't **disobey** your teachers.”

**disown** - verb - to decide that you no longer want to be connected with or responsible for somebody/something

“Her family **disowned** her for marrying a known criminal.”

**disregard** - verb - to not consider something; to treat something as unimportant

“Greg has experience with this situation. It is a mistake to **disregard** his advice.”

**distasteful** - adjective - unpleasant or offensive

“The comedian's act wasn't funny, and at times it was very **distasteful**. I'll never watch his show again.”

# Non~

**nonsense** - adjective - doesn't make sense

"This idea is **nonsense**, it will never work."

**non-fiction** - adjective - true

"I prefer to read books that are **non-fiction**."

**non-alcoholic** - adjective - contains no alcohol

"Do you serve any **non-alcoholic** drinks?"

**nonchalant** - adjective - relaxed and free from worry or concern

"Mike seems very **nonchalant** today, even though he has to make a big presentation. I would be so nervous!"

**nondescript** - adjective - not special or unique

"When I worked as a stuntman, many of my roles were **nondescript**. This means I wasn't a stunt double for a specific actor, just an ordinary person who does some action."

**nonfat** - adjective - (of food) contains little or no fat

"I always have **nonfat** yogurt with my cereal for breakfast."

**non-flammable** - adjective - difficult to light on fire

"F-1 race car drivers wear **non-flammable** driving suits when they race."

**nonprofit** - adjective - not for the purpose of making money

"I spent 3 years in university volunteering at a **nonprofit** community center."

**non-smoker** - adjective - someone who does not smoke

"Kate quit smoking 2 years ago. She is a proud **non-smoker** now!"

**non-smoking** - adjective - a place or area where smoking is not allowed

"I always get a table in the **non-smoking** section of the cafe. I don't like smoke."





**MORE** [Helpful English Resources](#)



**YouTube** [Videos](#) - [Subscribe](#)



**FREE** [English Newsletter](#)



[Pinterest](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Facebook](#)

**WorldEnglishBlog.com**