



Vocabulary Power

Lesson 19 The Prefixes *im-*, *in-*, and *un-*

A prefix is a word part attached at the beginning of a word or root. The prefixes *im-*, *in-*, and *un-* all mean "not." Adding a prefix to a word modifies its meaning. For example, the word *illiterate* (*il* + *literate*) means "not able to read or write."

Word List

immaculate	implausible	infallible	unprecedented
imperturbable	incongruous	unobtrusive	unpretentious
impervious	indiscriminate		

EXERCISE A Definitions

Each boldfaced vocabulary word is followed by a brief definition that emphasizes the meaning of the prefix and the root or base word. Look up the word in a dictionary and write its definition.

1. **imperturbable** : not disturbable

Dictionary definition _____

2. **unpretentious** : not showy

Dictionary definition _____

3. **infallible** : not erring

Dictionary definition _____

4. **immaculate** : not blemished

Dictionary definition _____

5. **unobtrusive** : not standing out

Dictionary definition _____

6. **indiscriminate** : not making distinctions

Dictionary definition _____

7. **impervious** : not open to passage

Dictionary definition _____

8. **incongruous** : not in harmony

Dictionary definition _____

9. **unprecedented** : not done before

Dictionary definition _____

10. **implausible** : not believable

Dictionary definition _____



Vocabulary Power *continued*

EXERCISE B Antonyms

Write the vocabulary word that is an antonym for each of the following words.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. harmonious _____ | 6. filthy _____ |
| 2. error-prone _____ | 7. noticeable _____ |
| 3. careful _____ | 8. open _____ |
| 4. expected _____ | 9. believable _____ |
| 5. excitable _____ | 10. showy _____ |

EXERCISE C Usage

If the boldfaced word is used correctly in the sentence, write *correct* above it. If not, draw a line through it and write the correct vocabulary word above it.

- The tractor, covered with a plastic sheet that was **infallible** to rain and snow, remained dry and rust-free.
- I'm not **immaculate**; like everyone else, I make mistakes.
- The cloning experiment that created Dolly the sheep was **unpretentious**; never before had an adult mammal given birth to a genetic copy of itself.
- The huge wolfhound looked **incongruous** lined up with the eight miniature poodles.
- While the squealing children ran around the room, the **imperturbable** baby-sitter calmly worked on her algebra assignment.
- The **unobtrusive** observer sat in the last row of the classroom and spoke to no one.
- Although he is a millionaire, he lives in an **indiscriminate** three-room apartment and has a modest lifestyle.
- Her prediction that some day all cars would run on corn fuel seemed **implausible** to me.
- She made sure her clothes were pressed and **infallible** for the debutant ball.
- Her lifelong habit of **indiscriminate** sunbathing had done terrible damage to her skin.