How to Create Negative Adjectives

A. To form the negative of adjectives in English, you generally add a **prefix** to the original adjective. The most common prefixes used for negation include:

1. **Un-** → Used with many adjectives
   - happy → **un**happy
   - fair → **un**fair

unable, unprofessional, unreliable, unclear, uncertain, uncommon, unimportant, unsatisfactory, unknown, uncooperative, unstable, unwilling, unemployed, unlikely

2. **In-** → Used with some adjectives
   - correct → **in**correct
   - direct → **in**direct

insufficient, inaccurate, inaccessible, indirect, inefficient, incomplete, indecisive, ineffective, incapable, insignificant, inadequate, inappropriate

3. **Im-** → Used before adjectives starting with "m" or "p"
   - possible → **im**possible
   - mature → **im**mature

improper, imprecise, impatient, impractical, impartial, improbable

4. **Il-** → Used before adjectives starting with "l"
   - legal → **il**legal
   - logical → **il**logical

illiterate (not literate /not able to read), illogical, illegitimate

5. **Ir-** → Used before adjectives starting with "r"
   - regular → **ir**regular
   - responsible → **ir**responsible

irrational (not rational -logical), irresistible (not resist- stop yourself)

6. **Dis**- → Used with some adjectives to indicate the opposite
   - honest → **dis**honest
   - satisfied → **dis**satisfied
   - dishonest → not honest, untruthful
   - disloyal → not loyal, unfaithful
   - disrespectful → lacking respect, rude
   - disorganized → not organized, messy
   - displeased → not pleased, unhappy
   - discontent → not content, dissatisfied
   - disconnected → not connected, separated
   - disappointed → feeling let down

7. **Mis**- The prefix **"mis-"** is another way to form negative adjectives, verbs, and nouns. It usually means **"wrong"** or **"badly"** and is often used to indicate an incorrect action or state.
   - **mis**understood → not correctly understood
   - **mis**guided → having the wrong idea or belief
   - mistreated → treated badly or unfairly
   - misplaced → put in the wrong place
   - misbehave → "misbehaving" (acting badly)
   - mislead → "misleading" (giving the wrong impression)
   - misuse → "misused" (used incorrectly)

B. Some adjectives also form their negative meaning using completely different words rather than prefixes:
- o good → bad

C. In English, adjectives are usually negated with prefixes, but a few **suffixes** can also create a negative meaning. Some common suffixes that imply a negative or opposite meaning include:

1. -less (indicating absence or lack of something)
- o hope → hope**less**
- o care → care**less**
- o fear → fearless
- o help → helpless
- o end → endless (without an end)
- o fear → fearless (without fear, brave)
- o power → powerless (without power, weak)
- o home → homeless (without a home)
- o use → useless (without use, not useful)
- o hope → hopeless (without hope, despairing)
- o care → careless (without care, not careful)
- o thought → thoughtless (without thought, inconsiderate)
- o worth → worthless (without value)

This suffix generally means **"without"** the quality of the root word.

2. -ful vs. -less (opposites)

Some adjectives have both a **positive (-ful)** and a **negative (-less)** form:
- o use**ful** ↔ use**less**
- o help**ful** ↔ help**less**
- o thoughtful ↔ thoughtless
- o painful ↔ painless
- o meaningful ↔ meaningless
- o fearful ↔ fearless
- o doubtful ↔ doubtless
- o helpful ↔ helpless