

# Vocabulary

## Saying the opposite

### Antonyms

Read these sentences. Which **antonyms** are used? Which uses a **prefix**?

- 1 Some news stories are accurate, but others are totally inaccurate.
- 2 Some news stories are accurate, but others are totally false.

1 Which negative prefix goes with these words to form antonyms?

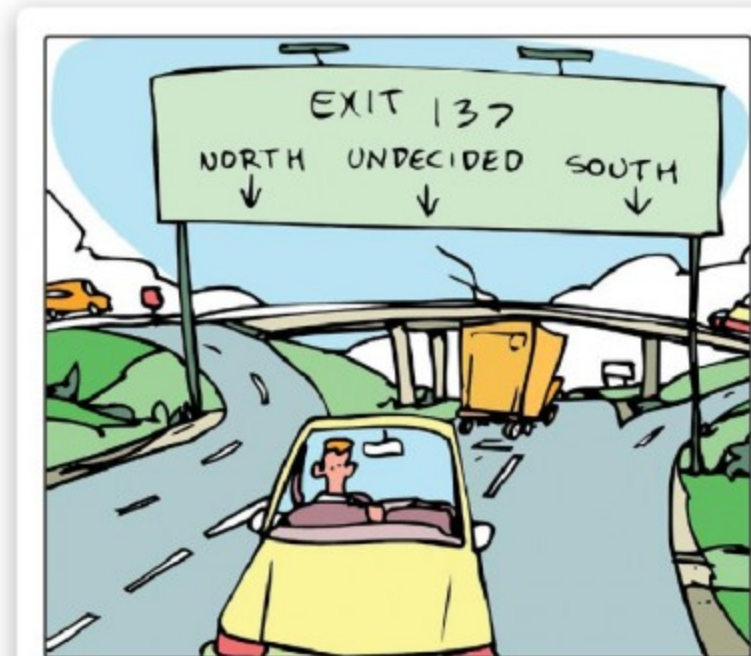
reliable credible probable honest legal responsible

2 Match the different words and their meanings.

A	B
1 <b>abused</b>	not ever used
2 <b>disused</b>	used too much
3 <b>unused</b>	used in the wrong way
4 <b>misused</b>	not used enough
5 <b>overused</b>	used cruelly or badly
6 <b>underused</b>	not used any more

3 What parts of speech are these words? Write antonyms for them, using prefixes where possible.

Word	Antonym
fake <i>adj</i>	<b>genuine, real, authentic</b>
like <i>vb</i>	<b>dislike, hate, loathe, can't stand</b>
tiny	
happiness	
guilty	
safe	
allow	
improve	
sincere	
success	
mature	
encourage	
generous	
appear	



4 Complete the conversations with the correct form of words from 1, 2 and 3.

- 1 **A** Barry's a very \_\_\_\_\_ businessman, isn't he?  
**B** Yeah, but he's a complete \_\_\_\_\_ as a father. He never sees his kids.
- 2 **A** My grandad's so \_\_\_\_\_. He gives me a £20 note every time I see him.  
**B** Lucky you! My grandad's famous for his \_\_\_\_\_. A fiver every birthday, if he remembers.
- 3 **A** Well, Henry, I'm pleased there's been some \_\_\_\_\_ in your behaviour this term, but unfortunately your work has \_\_\_\_\_.  
**B** It's not fair, sir. You never say anything \_\_\_\_\_ about my work.
- 4 **A** The word 'literally' is so \_\_\_\_\_ these days! People drop it into every sentence!  
**B** Yeah, and they don't just use it too much – they \_\_\_\_\_ it, with a totally wrong meaning!
- 5 **A** Don't worry, I'm confident the jury will find you not \_\_\_\_\_.  
**B** They'd better! I'm completely \_\_\_\_\_!

🔊 4.10 Listen and compare.

5 What's the opposite of ... ?

- 1 a tough question / some tough meat
- 2 a clear sky / a clear conscience
- 3 fair hair / a fair decision
- 4 a hard mattress / a hard exam
- 5 a live animal / a live concert
- 6 a light colour / a light sleeper

6 What is the effect of using antonyms in these conversations?

- A** What **lousy** weather!  
**B** Yes, it's **not exactly tropical**, is it?

- A** Oh, this food's **awful**, isn't it?  
**B** Well, it's **not the most delicious** meal I've had, that's for sure.

Write similar conversations with a partner about these topics, and act them out.

- a small hotel room
- a boring party
- some stale bread
- a stingy friend
- a hard exam
- a tough steak

🔊 4.11 Listen and compare.

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