

Academic Word List vocabulary with negative prefixes

Find the words below which have negative prefixes but don't have negative meanings.

abnormal	deregulation/ deregulate
disproportionate	illegal
illiberal	illogical
immature/ immaturity	imprecise/ imprecision
inaccessible	inaccurate
inadaptable	inadequate
inappropriate	incapable
incoherent	incompatible/ incompatibility
inconsistency/ inconsistent	indemonstrable
indiscrete/ indiscretion	inflexible/ inflexibility
insecurity	insignificant
instability	insufficient
invalid/ invalidity	irrational
irrelevant/ irrelevance	misinterpret/ misinterpretation
nonconformist	unachievable
unambiguous	unapproachable
unbeneficial	unbiased
unclear	uncommitted
uncommunicative	unconfined
unconstitutional	unconstrained
unconstructive	uncontroversial
unconvincing	uncooperative
uncreative	uncultured
undiminished	undiscriminating
undynamic	uneconomical
unempirical	unenergetic
unethical	unfocused
unideological	uninjured
uninvolving	unjustifiable
unlicensed	unmethodical
unmotivated	unprofessional
unrefined	unregulated
unreliable	unsustainable

Hint: There are eight.

Try to remember the negative prefixes of the words below:

accessible	accurate
achievable	adaptable
adequate	ambiguous
approachable	appropriate
beneficial	biased
capable	clear
coherent	committed
communicative	compatible/ compatibility
confined	conformist
consistency/ consistent	constitutional
constrained	constructive
controversial	convincing
cooperative	creative
cultured	demonstrable
diminished	discrete/ discretion
discriminating	dynamic
economical	empirical
energetic	ethical
flexible/ flexibility	focused
ideological	injured
interpret/ interpretation	involving
justifiable	legal
liberal	licensed
logical	mature/ maturity
methodical	motivated
normal	precise/ precision
professional	proportionate
rational	refined
regulated	regulation/ regulate
relevant/ relevance	reliable
security	significant
stability	sufficient
sustainable	valid/ validity

Try to argue that some of the words are not necessarily in the right section and/ or that some of the opposites do not have opposite connotations. You will get one point for each one that you argue convincingly.

Use the list on the next page to help you if you need to.

What phrases can you use to talk about positive and negative aspects?

Suggested answers**Positive words with negative prefixes**

deregulation/ deregulate
unbiased
uncontroversial
unideological

nonconformist
unconstrained
undiminished
uninjured

Words which could be debated

adequate
biased
clear/ clarity
committed
confined
conformist
constitutional
constrained
controversial
cooperative
diminished
dynamic
empirical
flexible/ flexibility
focused
ideological
interpret
justifiable
liberal
licensed
mature
methodical
nonconformist
normal
professional
refined
regulated
regulation/ regulate
reliable
security
stability
sufficient
sustainable
unambiguous
unconfined
unconstrained
uncontroversial