Unit Three / Making Negative (Negative Prefixes)

A negative sentence (or statement) states that something is not true or incorrect. In English language when we want to say that something **is not** true or **in**correct we add the word '**not**' after the first auxiliary verb in the positive sentence.

List of auxiliaries in English

A list of verbs that (can) function as auxiliaries in English is as follows:

Verbs to Be (am, are, is, was, were, being, been)

Verbs to Have (have, has, had, having)

Modals (will, would / shall, should / can, could / may, might / must, ought to, dare).

Examples:

1- He is playing. ……………………………..He is **not** playing.
2- The clouds were blocking the sun's rays. ….The clouds were **not** blocking the sun's rays.
3- They are happy. ………………………..They are **not** happy.
4- He can help us. …………………………He **cannot** help us.
5- They will travel tomorrow. ……………...They will **not** travel tomorrow. (**long form**)
                              (Or) They **won't** travel tomorrow. (**short form** / Contraction)
6- I am late. ………………. I am **not** late. **Or** (I'm not late)

* If there is no auxiliary verb in the positive sentence, as in the Present Simple and Past Simple tenses, then use one of the forms of **Verbs to Do** (do / does / did).

1- According to the tense of the verb
2- and the subject.

Examples:
1- She clean**s** her room. ………………..She does **not** clean her room.
2- Nada called me yesterday. ………………Nada did **not** call me yesterday.
3- They open the windows. ……………. They do **not** open the windows.
4- He does nothing at all. ……………… He does **not** do anything at all.
5- The man lost all his money. ………………The man did **not** lose all his money.

Note / In the following sentence the verb **'has'** is a main verb.

She **has** a cat. …………… She does **not** have a cat.

Negative prefixes

In English, another way make negative statements <u>is by adding</u> **negative prefixes** to **nouns**, **adjectives**, and **verbs**.

Here are some English negative prefixes: **a–, de, dis–, il–, im–, in-, ir–, non–, un–**.

For example,

* Words that take **a–** as a negative prefix always begin with <u>a consonant</u>

political …………………**a**political / typical نموذجي ……**a**typical

theist …………………….**a**theist مُلِّحد

* Words that take **dis–** as a negative prefix may begin with a vowel or a consonant.

agree …………………….**dis**agree   / comfort …………………**dis**comfort

mount ……………………..**dis**mount / orient ……………………**dis**orient

* Words that take **il–** as a negative prefix always begin with **the letter L.**

legal ……………….... **il**legal   **/** legible ………………...**il**legible

literate ………….……**il**literate / logical ………………...**il**logical

* Words that take **im–** as a negative prefix always begin with the letter m or p.

mobile ………………**im**mobile غير متحرك   / moral ………………. **im**moral

perfect ………………**im**perfect غير تام   / possible ……….…**im**possible

* Words that take **in–** as a negative prefix can begin with a vowel (except **i** or **u**) or a consonant.

accurate ……………**in**accurate / eligible مؤهل……………. **in**eligible غير مؤهل experience …. **in**experience

organic ……………. **in**organic / decent ……………. **in**decent   /   sane عاقل ……………… **in**sane مجنون

* Words that take **ir–** as a negative prefix always begin with <u>the letter</u> **r**.

rational ……...**ir**rational / reconcilable ……**ir**reconcilable **/** regular …...**ir**regular **/** resistible …...**ir**resistible

* Words that take **non–** as a negative prefix may begin with <u>a vowel or a consonant</u>.

conformist ……**non**conformist / essential ……**non**essential **/** resident مقيم……**non**resident

fiction ………...**non**fiction   **/** sense ………. **non**sense / restrictive …**non**restrictive / metallic …. **nonmetallic**

* Words that take **un–** as a negative prefix may begin <u>with a vowel or consonant</u>.

able ……. **unable /** interesting ………...**un**interesting / usual ………. **unusual** / prepared ……**un**prepared

happy …...**un**happy **/** comfortable ……. **uncomfortable** / helpful ……**un**helpful / fair …...**un**fair غير منصف

clear ……. **unclear /** kind …...**un**kind **/** certain …. **uncertain** / known ……**un**known / stable ……. **unstable**

wise ……. **unwise** / forgettable ……. **unforgettable /** fortunate ……. **unfortunate**

* Words that take **de-** as a negative prefix

activate….**de**activate **/** construct ………**de**construct تفكيك **/** contaminate لوث …**de**contaminate / value …. **devalue**

Note: There are many words that begin with **in–** <u>that are **not**</u> words with a negative prefix. For example:
incline / indulge / insist / invoke