Prefixes with Opposite Meanings Discussion & Presentation
Word formation/Comparing and contrasting/Looking at both sides

Choose one of the pairs of ideas on page 2 or page 3, compare and contrast those ideas, and choose which one is best (in the majority of cases, in the short-term, in this country, etc). Although you should look at both sides of both ideas, you should imagine that only one is possible (to prioritise), and so you must come to a clear conclusion, however uncertain.

Prefixes with opposite meanings presentation
Without looking below for now, match up the affixes with opposite meanings below. Words given more than once have more than one possible opposite.

- anti
- bene
- homo
- inter
- macro
- mega
- mono
- mono
- mono
- over
- pre
- proto
- semi
- super
- trans
- uni
- uni
- up
- well-

- bi
- bi
- cis
- di(a)
- down
- hetero
- intra
- mal(e)
- micro
- mini
- mis
- multi
- multi
- neo
- poly
- post
- pro
- sub
- under

Check your answers below, firstly trying to memorise the answers with your pens down.

Test each other on the language above and below:
- Read one of the words in the list of topics above and see if your partner can come up with the opposite word
- Read out a whole sentence from above and see if your partner can make a sentence with a word with a prefix with the opposite meaning
- Read out a prefix above and see if your partner can say the prefix(es) with the opposite meaning(s)
- Read out the root word from the ideas on the first page and see if your partner can add both possible prefixes
- Read out a pair of opposite prefixes and see if your partner can say a pair of words using them with the same root (other words not above often also being possible)
- Read out a single prefix and see if your partner can say a word with it
- Read out a single prefix and see if your partner can say a word with it and a word with the opposite prefix (preferably with the same root word)

Written by Alex Case for UsingEnglish.com © 2017
Ideas with opposite prefixes to discuss
a homogeneous public education system
a heterogeneous public education system

marriage equality for homosexual and heterosexual couples
a special kind of civil partnership for homosexual couples

treating transgender people the same as cisgender people of the gender that they choose to identify with
creating a special category, special policies or special treatment for transgender people

funding macro-analysis of the causes of crime
funding microanalysis of the causes of crime

government funding to help microfinance start-ups/ micro-bank start-ups
government funding to help sort out bad debts in the megabanks

more legislation on megabanks
more legislation on micro-banks

encouraging megamalls on the edge of and outside cities
encouraging mini-malls in city centres

promoting integration of immigrant communities into the majority culture (to retain a monocultural society)
promoting multiculturalism

unilateral disarmament
trying to negotiate multilateral disarmament agreements

a multiverse cosmology
a cosmology assuming a single universe

trying to return former industrial sites in the countryside (coal mines etc) to their pre-industrial state
finding post-industrial economic uses for former industrial sites in the countryside

teaching (more) about the pre-colonial history of Korea
teaching (more) about the post-colonial history of Korea

investing in developing supersonic passenger aircraft
investing in developing better subsonic aircraft

a scholarship for monoglots to learn another language
a scholarship for polyglots to learn more languages
an advertising campaign teaching the dangers of carbon monoxide (for humans)
an advertising campaign teaching the dangers of carbon dioxide (for the environment)

an English speaking test mainly consisting of a dialogue with another candidate
an English speaking test mainly consisting of a monologue on a topic chosen by the examiner

semi-annual job rotations
bi-annual job rotations

a bicameral parliament
a unicameral parliament

public service advertising against the misuse and overuse of antibiotics
public service advertising promoting the use of probiotics

undercover spies placed in anti-North Korean groups
undercover spies placed in pro-North Korean groups

writing to a television station to support a particularly well-informed regular guest
writing to a television station to complain about a particularly misinformed regular guest

a belief in the fundamental benevolence of other countries/ other countries’ governments
a belief in the fundamental malevolence of other countries/ other countries’ governments

upgrading the IT skills of all staff
downgrading staff who lack IT skills and/ or resist technology

looking at the upside of each idea first, then the downsides
looking at the downside of each idea first, then the upsides

more info on the company’s internet server
more info on the company’s intranet server

more local policemen to stop intra-tribal violence (e.g. between violence between different clans) in tribal areas
more army posts to stop inter-tribal violence in tribal areas

executives being overpaid
boosting the pay of underpaid workers

teaching children about the health dangers of undercooked food
teaching children about the health dangers of overcooked food

teaching high school students about the most important proto-feminist figures
teaching high school students about the most important neo-feminist figures