

# Changing the meaning of words by adding the prefixes 'il' and 'ir'

A task setting PowerPoint Pack about adding prefixes

# What is present **prefix**?

A prefix is a group of letters that is added to the **beginning** of a word to change its meaning.

It is similar to a **suffix**, which is added to the end of a word.

Prefixes are added to a **root word**, a word that makes sense on its own but can also have prefixes and suffixes added to it.

For example, the verb **'take'** can be made into **'mistake'** with a prefix and **'taking'** with a suffix.

# il and ir prefixes

This group of prefixes all mean not or the opposite of.

The prefix that is used depends on the first letter of the root word (original word).

Here are the golden rules for using this group of prefixes.

Prefix	Use it when	Example
ir	The roots words begins with 'r'.	irreversible
il	The root word begins with 'l'.	illegal

il

**Meaning:** not or the opposite of.

**Examples:** illegal, illogical, illegible.



Toby's handwriting was illegible because he was rushing his work.

ir

**Meaning:** not or the opposite of.

**Examples:** irreparable, irrespective, irresistible.



I will have to buy another skateboard because mine is irreparable.

THE END