

PREFIX: im-

C1 | Vocabulary, gap fill and discussion

1 Vocabulary

The prefix im- often gives a word the meaning "not".

immutable

unable to be changed

impassable

impossible to travel across

impenetrable

impossible to understand or get through

imperceptible

impossible or nearly impossible to notice

implausible

not likely to be true

impertinent

rude because it is too direct or personal

immoderate

greater than is reasonable

immaterial

not important or relevant

2 Complete the sentences

Choose a word from the vocabulary box. Use each word once.

1. The difference in colour was _____ to the naked eye.

2. Her explanation seemed _____ because it contradicted the facts.

3. The mountain road became _____ after the heavy snow.

4. The legal language was _____ to most members of the public.

5. In this context, the exact date is _____ to the final decision.

6. His _____ questions made the speaker uncomfortable.

7. The rule is _____ and cannot be changed.

8. The company made _____ demands on its staff during the crisis.

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C1 | Discussion questions

1 Talk about the vocabulary

Discuss each question with a partner, then write short notes or your own answer.

Try to use at least one word with im- in every answer.

2 Conversation questions

1. What information can be immaterial when making a decision?

2. Why might legal or academic language seem impenetrable?

3. When can a request become immoderate?

4. What makes an explanation implausible?

5. Are any rules truly immutable, or can every rule eventually change?

PREFIX: im-

C1 | Teacher answer key

1 Suggested answers

Suggested answers for the gap-fill activity are shown below.

Discussion answers will vary. The target word is highlighted in bold.

2 Gap-fill answers

1. The difference in colour was **imperceptible** to the naked eye.

2. Her explanation seemed **implausible** because it contradicted the facts.

3. The mountain road became **impassable** after the heavy snow.

4. The legal language was **impenetrable** to most members of the public.

5. In this context, the exact date is **immaterial** to the final decision.

6. His **impertinent** questions made the speaker uncomfortable.

7. The rule is **immutable** and cannot be changed.

8. The company made **immoderate** demands on its staff during the crisis.