

## MISSING POSITIVES

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Many negative words beginning with in- and some with im- do not become positive words by simply dropping the negative prefix—e.g., perious is not a word. I found no un- words of interest.

QUIZ: Pick which of the words in this list are *not* words with the prefix removed. All in- words here use the negator in-. Words using in- meaning in or into are of course excluded.

1. immaculate 27. inexpugnable
2. immarcescible (unfading, imperishable) 28. inexpungible
3. immitigable 29. inexorable
4. immune/immunology 30. infamy
5. impeccable 31. infant/infantile
6. imperseverant (can't perceive or persevere) 32. infantry
7. implete 33. infidel
8. impostor 34. infirmary
9. impromptu 35. infusible
10. impunity 36. ingrate
11. inalienable 37. inimical
12. incessant 38. iniquity
13. incognito 39. innocence
14. incommunicado 40. innocent
15. incondite (poorly constructed or composed) 41. innocuous
16. inconnu/inconnue (unknown person/woman) 42. inopinate (unexpected)
17. inconsequent 43. inquisite (corrupt, defiled)
18. indefeasible 44. inquorate (having quorum)
19. indefectible 45. inscient
20. indemnity 46. inscrutable
21. indiscernible (inseparable) 47. insolent/insolence
22. inedita (unpublished literary work) 48. insouciant
23. inept 49. insuperable
24. inert/inertia 50. intenable (can't be held/maintained)
25. inevitable 51. intenable (can't hold or contain)
26. inevitably 52. intestate

ANSWERS to MISSING POSITIVES by Anil

These have missing positives: #s 2, 4, 10, 12-16, 20-24, 26, 28, 30-34, 36-39, 42-43, 47-48, 51.

Notes:

36. ingrate (Altho grate is a word, it does not mean gratitude or a grateful person.)

37. inimical (also enemy, with emy not a word)

43. inquinate (Quinate is two words [5-parted, and of quinic acid] but they don't mean undefiled.)

45. inscient (Scient is a word so this is not a correct answer, but inscient is of interest as a self-opposite, depending on whether the in- prefix means in(to) or not. Can you name any other pairs of words that use both prefixes and are self-opposites?)

51. intenable (This has the same etymology as 50 intenable. Tenable is a word but tenible is not.)

My main sources were *Collins Scrabble Dictionary* for words less than ten letters and *Chambers Dictionary* for longer words. If doubtful, several other dictionaries were consulted including *Webster's Third*.