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 inedita (unpublished literary work)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