

The most common meaning of the prefix *in-* is “not” or “without.” With this meaning, it turns a word into its opposite. For example, it turns *correct* into *incorrect*. The prefix *in-* can also act as an intensifier, making the word to which it is attached stronger or more emphatic.

To make certain words easier to say, the prefix changes to *im-* before the letters *b*, *m*, and *p*. It changes to *il-* before the letter *l*, and it changes to *ir-* before the letter *r*.

Add the correct form of this prefix to the words. Then write the letter of the definition that best fits each new word.

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|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____precise   | _____ | a. neither good or bad   |
| 2. _____partial   | _____ | b. not regular           |
| 3. _____furiate   | _____ | c. not relevant          |
| 4. _____relevant  | _____ | d. not precise           |
| 5. _____capable   | _____ | e. very hasty            |
| 6. _____different | _____ | f. not literate          |
| 7. _____lustrious | _____ | g. not partial           |
| 8. _____petuous   | _____ | h. not capable           |
| 9. _____literate  | _____ | i. extremely outstanding |
| 10. _____regular  | _____ | j. make very angry       |

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

## The Midas Touch



It is sometimes said of people who are good at making money that everything they touch turns to gold. Such people are said to have “the Midas touch,” an expression that comes from an ancient Greek myth.

The Greek god Dionysus was visiting Phrygia, now part of Turkey, when his companion Silenus wandered off and got lost, arriving some time later at the court of King Midas. Having had too much to drink, he slipped off his donkey and fell asleep on the ground. When King Midas came upon him, he recognized Silenus at once and felt **privileged** to receive a visit from the friend of a god.

King Midas was determined to make his guest’s stay a pleasant one. Midas’s daughter presented Silenus with **garlands** made from flowers she herself had picked. Slaves fell **prostrate** to the ground when he passed and rushed to obey his every **whim**. Musicians filled the air with sweet music wherever he went. And every night the king honored Silenus with a **lavish** banquet at which the most **delectable** dishes were served. In short, Midas did everything he could think of to **gratify** his guest. The **revelries** continued until Dionysus finally arrived in search of his companion.

Dionysus told Midas that in return for his kindness to Silenus, he could have anything he wanted. Now King Midas loved gold almost as much as he loved his own daughter, so he did not stop to **ponder** Dionysus’s offer. “Make everything I touch turn to gold,” he said. When Dionysus suggested that Midas was being **impetuous**, the king **haughtily** rejected the suggestion. He was too proud to take advice from anyone, even a god. He refused to change his mind, and so Dionysus granted him his wish.

Eager to try out his new power, King Midas rushed into the garden as soon as his visitors had left and **plucked** an apple from a tree. In an instant it turned to gold. The king was in a state of **rapture**. He called out to his daughter and flung his arms around her as he told her the good news. To his **consternation**, she instantly turned into a gold statue.

beseech  
consternation  
delectable  
garland  
gratify  
haughty  
impetuous  
lavish  
pluck  
ponder  
privilege  
prostrate  
rapture  
revelry  
whim

King Midas was aghast when he saw the consequences of his greed. He **beseeked** Dionysus to take back his gift. Dionysus agreed to do so, and he also restored the king's daughter to her human state. As for King Midas, he learned this important lesson: be careful what you ask for; you might get it.

▶ Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. What is the meaning of **gratify** as it is used in the passage?

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2. What brought Midas's **rapture** to an end?

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3. Where do you think Midas's daughter placed the **garlands** she gave Silenus?

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4. Why might Silenus have praised the chefs who worked for Midas?

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5. What is the meaning of **prostrate** as it is used in the passage?

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6. How did Midas react when Dionysus suggested that he be cautious?

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7. How did Midas's mood change when he saw what he had done?

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8. Why should Midas have **pondered** Dionysus's offer?

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9. Why did Dionysus agree to take back his gift?

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10. What is the meaning of **plucked** as it is used in the passage?

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11. Why did Midas go to such trouble to entertain Silenus?

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12. Why had Silenus no cause to complain about the service he received?

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13. Why did Midas not give himself time to think over Dionysus's offer?

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14. For how long did Midas entertain Silenus?

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15. What is the meaning of **lavish** as it is used in the passage?

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consternation  
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