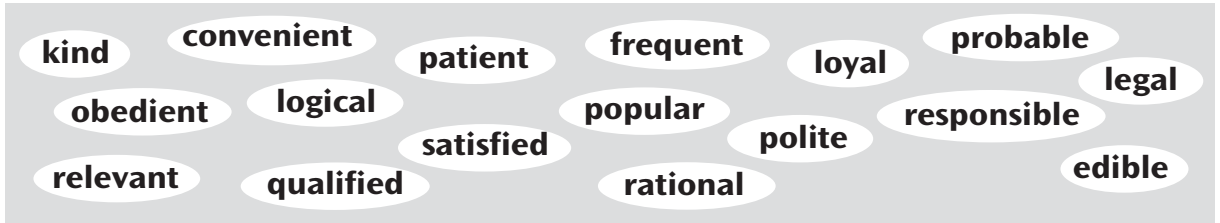


Vocabulary Building: Opposites and Synonyms

► **1** You can often make a word mean the opposite by adding **un-**, **in-**, **il-**, **im-**, **ir-** or **dis-**.

Look up these words in your *Arabic Wordpower Dictionary* to find out which is the correct way to make their opposite. Write them in the correct column on the chart.



un-	in-	il-	im-	ir-	dis-
<i>kind</i>					

► **2** **Two sides of the coin**

Experts often disagree! Read the following passage about the economy of the little-known country of Batalia.

*The fall in the value of the currency has made **imports** more **expensive** and **discouraged** investors. However, the outlook for the coming year is **favourable** and there is a mood of **optimism** in the country as a whole.*

*The decision to privatize the telecommunications industry will bring a number of **advantages** with it. It will make the sector more **efficient** and will **reduce direct** costs. We believe that the forecasts for growth are **accurate** and it is likely that the measures taken by the government will **stabilize** the economy.*

Now imagine you have studied the Batalian economy and come to exactly the opposite conclusions. Look up the words in **bold type** and find their opposites to help you write your report.

- ▶ **3** In the dictionary you will find notes to help you learn related words, for example words that have similar meanings to the word you have looked up. Look at the words in the left-hand column and find a synonym for each of them in the right-hand column. Use the notes in the dictionary to help you.

nonetheless	impolite
impetuous	stubborn
jobless	nevertheless
rude	thoughtless
obstinate	unemployed
inconsiderate	impulsive

▶ **4** **Tricky pairs**

Some pairs of words look as though they are opposites, when in fact they either have a very similar meaning, or they have a different, but not opposite meaning.

Look at these pairs and say whether they mean a) the same b) the opposite or c) something different. Use the entries in the dictionary to help you.

	the same	opposite	something different
flammable – inflammable	✓		
overestimate – underestimate			
overtake – undertake			
valuable – invaluable			
inhale – exhale			
habitable – inhabitable			
appoint – disappoint			
famous – infamous			
similar – dissimilar			
impress – express			
different – indifferent			