Academic Word List- vocabulary with negative prefixes

Find the words below which have negative prefixes but don’t have negative meanings.

abnormal  deregulation/ deregulate
disproportionate  illegal
illiberal  illogical
immature/ immaturity  imprecise/ imprecision
inaccessible  inaccurate
inadaptable  inadequate
inappropriate  incapable
incoherent  incompatible/ incompatibility
inconsistency/ inconsistent  indemonstrable
indiscrete/ indiscretion  inflexible/ inflexibility
insecurity  insignificant
instability  insufficient
invalid/ invalidity  irrational
irrelevant/ irrelevance  misinterpret/ misinterpretation
nonconformist  unachievable
unambiguous  unapproachable
unbeneficial  unbiased
unclear  uncommitted
uncommunicative  unconfined
unconstitutional  unconstrained
unconstructive  uncontroversial
unconvincing  uncooperative
uncreative  uncultured
undiminished  undiscriminating
undynamic  uneconomical
unempirical  unenergetic
unethical  unfocused
unideological  uninjured
uninvolved  unjustifiable
unlicensed  unmethodical
unmotivated  unprofessional
unrefined  unregulated
unreliable  unsustainable

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Hint: There are eight.

Try to remember the negative prefixes of the words below:

accessible accurate
achievable adaptable
adequate ambiguous
approachable appropriate
beneficial biased
capable clear
cohere committed
communicative compatible/ compatibility
confined conformist
consistency/ consistent constitutional
constrained constructive
controversial convincing
coop erative creative
cultured demonstrable
diminished discrete/ discretion
discriminating dynamic
economical empirical
energetic ethical
flexible/ flexibility focused
ideological injured
interpret/ interpretation involving
justifiable legal
liberal licensed
logical mature/ maturity
methodical motivated
normal precise/ precision
professional proportionate
rational refined
regulated regulation/ regulate
relevant/ relevance reliable
security significant
stability sufficient
sustainable valid/ validity

Try to argue that some of the words are not necessarily in the right section and/or that some of the opposites do not have opposite connotations. You will get one point for each one that you argue convincingly.

Use the list on the next page to help you if you need to.

What phrases can you use to talk about positive and negative aspects?
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Suggested answers
Positive words with negative prefixes

deregulation/ deregulate  nonconformist
unbiased  unconstrained
uncontroversial  undiminished
unideological  uninjured

Words which could be debated
adequate
biased
clear/ clarity
committed
confined
conformist
constitutional
constrained
controversial
cooperative
diminished
dynamic
empirical
flexible/ flexibility
focused
ideological
interpret
justifiable
liberal
licensed
mature
methodical
nonconformist
normal
professional
refined
regulated
regulation/ regulate
reliable
security
stability
sufficient
sustainable
unambiguous
unconfined
unconstrained
uncontroversial