

## Conspiracy theories (Reading and vocabulary)

- Description:** Students insert the correct prefixes to complete a text.
- Use with or after:** *English Network Connection*, Unit 6.
- Skill:** Reading and vocabulary.
- Focus:** Use of the prefixes *dis-*, *im-*, *in-* or *un-* to change the meaning of a word to its opposite.
- Time:** 10 minutes
- Preparation:**
- Print out both pages of this file.
  - Make a copy of the second page for each student.
  - Cut on the dotted line to remove the key.
- Procedure:**
- Distribute the worksheets and point out the instructions at the top of the page. Explain that these prefixes *dis-*, *im-*, *in-* and *un-* are all used to change the meaning of a word to its opposite, but only one of the prefixes is correct for each particular word.
  - Students fill in the gaps individually, and then compare their answers with a partner.
  - Alternatively, you could assign this worksheet as homework.
  - Distribute the key afterwards.

The twenty numbered words in the key have all been introduced already, either in the first six units of *English Network Connection* or in *English Network 2* or *3 (New Edition)*.

The words that have already appeared in *English Network Connection* are *unbelievable* in unit 2, *unconventional* in unit 3, *disappointed*, *dissatisfied* and *incorrect* in unit 4, *disappear*, *disappearance*, *unconscious* and *unusual* in unit 6.

In unit 8 of the coursebook (page 44) there will be another exercise involving some of these prefixes.



In each of the blanks, write in the correct prefix to change the meaning of the word. Use the prefixes *dis-*, *im-*, *in-* or *un-*.

When they heard that Harold Holt had (1) \_\_\_\_\_ appeared on December 17, 1967, some people in Europe found it (2) \_\_\_\_\_ believable that the Australian prime minister would have gone swimming in the sea in the middle of winter. But of course that was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ correct. They had simply forgotten that December is the middle of summer in Australia.

Because of the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ usual circumstances of Holt's (5) \_\_\_\_\_ appearance, the cause of his death is still (6) \_\_\_\_\_ known. Some people (7) \_\_\_\_\_ agreed with the police report, which said he probably crashed against the rocks and drowned while he was (8) \_\_\_\_\_ conscious. Holt's body has (9) \_\_\_\_\_ fortunately never been found, so it was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ possible to determine the exact cause of his death.

Some people in Australia are still (11) \_\_\_\_\_ satisfied with the official version. They say that Holt was murdered by an (12) \_\_\_\_\_ employed person who (13) \_\_\_\_\_ liked his (14) \_\_\_\_\_ conventional lifestyle and (15) \_\_\_\_\_ approved of his political decisions, or that he was kidnapped by agents of an (16) \_\_\_\_\_ friendly country. Australian officials are (17) \_\_\_\_\_ patient with these conspiracy theories. "Of course some people are (18) \_\_\_\_\_ appointed that the case was never solved," one official said, "but after all these years it's (19) \_\_\_\_\_ interesting and (20) \_\_\_\_\_ healthy to keep worrying about it."

**Key:**

1 disappeared, 2 unbelievable, 3 incorrect, 4 unusual, 5 disappearance, 6 unknown, 7 disagreed, 8 unconscious, 9 unfortunately, 10 impossible, 11 dissatisfied, 12 unemployed, 13 disliked, 14 unconventional, 15 disapproved, 16 unfriendly, 17 impatient, 18 disappointed, 19 uninteresting, 20 unhealthy

