



## APPARENT OPPOSITES

### APPARENT OPPOSITES: VALUABLE VS. INVALUABLE



Infinite, insane, inaccurate, ineffective, impossible, immoral, irregular - all of these represent adjectives with the negative prefix in-, alternatively im-, ir-. Yet, does it apply to this sentence? "Your support has been **invaluable** to us, we're eternally grateful!" As you may suspect, no, it doesn't!

In English, there are a tiny handful of adjectives in which 'in-' does not negate but **intensifies** the meaning, such as inflammable, inhabitable or the above-mentioned invaluable.

### A THANK-YOU LETTER



Dear all,

I'd like to thank you for your amazing job on the project and **applaud** your insightful decisions. They proved to be absolutely **invaluable**. The customer was **delighted** with the presentation and especially **appreciated** your suggested modifications. The extra time and **effort** you put in were certainly **worthwhile**. It is a joy for me to work with such **dedicated** and talented colleagues.

Yours truly,  
James Cook, CFO

### VOCABULARY BUILDING



**apparent** - zdánlivý

**invaluable (= very valuable)** - nedocenitelný

**applaud** [ə'plɔ:d] - (za)tleskat, (po)chválit

**delighted** - být velmi potěšen, být nadšený

**appreciate** [ə'pri:ʃi:et] - ocenit, uznat kvalitu

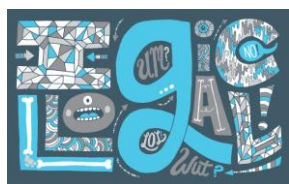
**effort** - úsilí, snaha

**worthwhile** [ˌwɜ:θ'waɪl] - přínosný, stojící za námahu

**dedicated** - oddaný, zanácený

### QUIZ: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Have a look at these sentences and decide if the meaning of the in- prefix is negative or intensifying:



1. This is inflammable material. - Ok, I'll be cautious.
2. The data you sent me was inaccurate. You should try harder next time!
3. This is so illogical! I can't believe it!!!
4. You will find their help absolutely invaluable! - Oh, really? I wouldn't be so convinced.

KEY: 1. intensifying, 2. negative, 3. negative, 4. intensifying