Double Negatives Using Prefixes

Some words have a negative prefix meaning “not,” like un-, in-, ir-, etc. You must be careful not to accidentally create a double negative in a sentence when you use these words.

**INCORRECT:** My aunt isn’t irreligious.  
Irreligious already means “not religious.”

**CORRECT:** My aunt is irreligious.

**DIRECTIONS:** Rewrite each sentence to correct the double negative.

1. We were able to confirm that her claim is not irrefutable.

2. Her name is not uncommon.

3. Her argument wasn’t clearly illogical.

4. The test results were not inconclusive.

5. His objection to our plan is not insignificant.

6. It is hardly unnecessary to work eight hours a day, if you can get your work done in six.

7. She wasn’t irresponsible when it came to her homework.

8. Her proposal wasn’t nonsensical.

9. We thought he would be quarantined, but his illness wasn’t non-infectious.