WORD BUILDING – PREFIXES

A. Have a look at the following words and discuss, in groups, what you think they mean. Then match each word to the right definition:

1. ________ bacterium: (adj.) a beneficial bacterium found in the intestinal tract of animals.
2. ________ : (adj.) not of legal age.
3. ________ : (V) cook too long.
4. ________ : (adj.) born after a gestation period of less than the normal time.
5. ________ : (adj.) after noon.
6. ________ : (V) be unsuccessful; fail in your plans.
7. ________ : (N) a message that seems to convey no meaning.
8. ________ : (adj.) clandestine.
9. ________ : (adj.) having achieved success or recognition by your own efforts.
10. ________ : (adj.) relating to a society or economy marked by a lessened importance of manufacturing and an increase of services.
11. ________ : (N) an agent that counteracts or neutralizes acidity, especially in the stomach.
12. ________ : (V) to manufacture sections of a building so that they can be easily transported to and rapidly assembled on a building site of buildings.
13. ________ : (N) a protagonist who lacks the characteristics that would make him a hero (or her a heroine).
14. ________ : (adj.) advocating a woman's right to control her own body, especially her right to an induced abortion.
15. ________ : (V) do something to an excessive degree.
16. ________ : (adj.) having many aspects.
17. ________ : (V) give new consideration to; usually with a view to changing.
18. ________ : (adj.) having more than one lane for traffic (of roads and highways).
19. ________ : (adj.) causing one to believe what is not true or fail to believe what is true.
20. ________ : (adj.) preoccupied with yourself to the exclusion of everything else.
21. ________ : (V) remember.
22. ________ : (adj.) lacking distinct or individual characteristics; dull and uninteresting.

B. Now complete the sentences with one correct word from the box in the right form:

1. Do you ________ that film with James Stewart and Grace Kelly? Rear Window I think it's called...
2. Luke is such a _________. There is not a single thing he says that would interest me at all!
3. I hear Sam and Julie are together, but don't tell anyone because it's totally ________!
4. Stop talking _________! I don't believe a word you say!
5. The _________ period in Great Britain was marked by an increase in the people's wellbeing.
6. I was so ________ in the book that I didn't hear the phone ring!
7. Patrick is a ________ man. He taught himself and then he created his own company!
8. There are many pubs in Scotland where those ________ are not allowed in.
9. Gosh! I ________ the rice and now it's inedible.
10. I think you should ________ John's offer. It's a good one. Go on, give it a second thought!
11. Those signs are _________. It's so easy to take the wrong turn here!
12. Amy is a really ________ actress. She can play any role and do any accent!
13. I guess ________ activists will be delighted to hear the new abortion law won't be passed.
14. The doctor should prescribe you some ________ to ease your heartburn.
KEY:

Exercise A:
1 probiotic; 2 underage; 3 overcook; 4 premature; 5 postmeridian; 6 miscarry; 7 nonsense; 8 undercover; 9 self-made; 10 post-industrial; 11 antiacid; 12 prefabricate; 13 antihero; 14 pro-choice; 15 overdo; 16 multifaceted; 17 reconsider; 18 multilane; 19 misleading; 20 self-absorbed; 21 recall; 22 nondescript.

Exercise B:
1 recall; 2 nondescript; 3 undercover; 4 nonsense; 5 post-industrial; 6 self-absorbed; 7 self-made; 8 underage; 9 overcooked; 10 reconsider; 11 misleading; 12 multifaceted; 13 pro-choice; 14 antiacids.