Un- and re- words: answers

What your child practised: prefixes and root words, un- meaning not or undo, and re- meaning again or back (Years 3–4 spelling and word reading).

Page 1 · Warm up

refill · unfair · unpack

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary: unzip / rezip (rezip is not a usual word), unfold / refold, unpack / repack, unwrap / rewrap.

Page 2 · A. un- or re-?

unhappy · rebuild · untie
unable · rewrite · return

Page 3 · B. not or undo?

undo: **unlock, unzip, unfold**
not: **unfriendly, unsafe, unwell**

Page 3 · C. Fill the gaps

1 **unpack** · 2 **reread** · 3 **return**
4 **unfair** · 5 **rewrite** · 6 **unlock**

Page 3 · D. Your sentence

Answers will vary, such as: **I had to unpack my bag and repack it neatly.**

Page 3 · Challenge

No. "Lock" is something you do, so un- means **undo** it: **unlock** means open the lock. un- means not when it goes before a describing word, like unkind.

Watch out for

- **Thinking un- only means "not".** Before an action (untie, unpack, unlock) it means undo or reverse. Ask, "Is the root word something you do, or a describing word?"
- **Changing the root word's spelling.** A prefix never changes the root: re + write = rewrite, un + able = unable.
- **Making up words.** Not every root works with every prefix. Say it aloud and check it is a real word.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Prefix ping-pong:** say a root word, like "do". Your child adds un- or re- and uses it in a sentence.
- **Spot it:** look for un- and re- words on packets, signs and in books: "Reuse", "Return", "Unlock".
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Muddle Market: dis- and mis-, adds two new prefixes.