Name _____ Date _____

Un- and re- words

A prefix goes at the start of a root word and changes what it means.

1 Learn



A **prefix** is a group of letters added to the **start** of a **root word**. **un-** can mean **not** or **undo**. **re-** means **again** or **back**.

prefix root word new word

un + lock = unlock — un- means **undo**: open the lock.

re + play = replay — re- means **again**: play it again.

What does unwrap mean?

un + wrap

1. Split it: prefix **un** + root word **wrap** (cover in paper).
2. Here un- means **undo**. So **unwrap** means take the paper off.
3. Compare **unkind**: un + kind. Here un- means **not**: not kind.

Flip's tip: before a doing word (a verb), un- often means **undo**: untie, unpack, unzip. Before a describing word (an adjective), it means **not**: unfair, unwell.

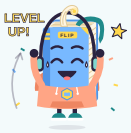
Warm up: finish the word sums.

re + fill = _____ un + fair = _____ un + pack = _____

Grown-ups: read Flip's words together. When you meet a long word, ask, "Can you see a prefix? What's the root word?" Saying the parts out loud helps your child read and understand new words.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Do it, undo it, redo it

You need: a shoe with laces, a coat with a zip, a tea towel, a bag with a few things in it, and a sheet of paper.

1. The grown-up does an action, like **tying** a lace. The child says what happened: "You **tied** it."
2. The child does the opposite and names it with un-: "I **untied** it."
3. Now do it again and name it with re-: "I **retied** it."
4. Try more: zip a coat, fold a tea towel, pack a bag, wrap a book in paper.
5. Write your words in the table. Does every word work with both prefixes?

Action (root word)	Undo it: un-	Do it again: re-
tie	untie	retie

Grown-ups: if your child makes up a word, like "rezip", say it aloud together and ask, "Have you heard that word before?" Check in a dictionary if you have one.

3 Practise

A. Add **un-** or **re-** to make a word with this meaning.

not happy _____

build again _____

undo a knot (tie) _____

not able _____

write again _____

come back (turn) _____

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B. Does **un-** mean **not** or **undo** in each word? Tick one.

	not	undo		not	undo
unlock			unsafe		
unfriendly			unfold		
unzip			unwell		

C. Fill each gap with a word from the box.

unpack **reread** **unfair** **return** **unlock** **rewrite**

1. When we got home from holiday, we had to _____ our cases.
2. I didn't understand the story, so I will _____ it.
3. Please _____ your library book by Friday.
4. It is _____ if only one person gets a turn.
5. My work was messy, so I had to _____ it.
6. Use the key to _____ the gate.

D. Write a sentence with an **un-** word and a **re-** word in it.

Challenge

Sam says, "un- always means **not**. So **unlock** means **not lock**." Is he right? Explain what un- means in unlock.

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ split a word into a prefix and a root word
- ☐ explain when un- means not or undo
- ☐ use re- to mean again or back