

Spelling list: Words beginning with the prefix un-

A prefix is a short group of letters that is added to the beginning of a word in order to change its meaning.

Un- is an Old English prefix that means *not* .

It is like a secret code that, when added to the start of a word, signifies the opposite or the reversal of a base word's meaning. For example, *undo* means to reverse an action, *unseen* means not seen, and *unlock* means to free something from a locked state.

Once you have identified the base word, you can usually work out what an *un-* word means even if you've never come across it before. You'll become an expert at *un-* words in no time with our spelling activities!

unwell	Peter had been feeling unwell all morning.
unable	The boy tried to push the door, but he was unable to open it.
unhappy	When she lost the race, Rosie was very unhappy .
untidy	His handwriting is just an untidy scrawl.
untrained	The dog kept barking at the door because he was untrained .
unlucky	We were unlucky to lose the game by one goal.
unpopular	The politician is immensely unpopular .
unpick	He wanted to unpick the stitches and start his sewing from scratch.
unseen	The exam includes unseen poems.
unusual	We have had an unusual amount of rain this month.
undo	The knot was too tight to undo .
untie	The girl could not untie her laces.