

Let's learn the most common prefix: Un-

Here are some examples using this prefix. Notice how the **prefix** changes the **root word**. Read the examples and see if you can figure out what the prefix does to the **root words**.



This prefix means the same as adding "not" to a word. For example, "I am well", "I am unwell", "I am not well".

Read this text and underline all the words with *un-*. What advice would you give the boy in the story?

My friend is unemployed. He has been that way for a whole year. I've tried telling him what to do but he refuses to listen. I've told him that he should dress better for his interviews. One time, I saw him go to an interview with T-shirt with ketchup on it. I told him you'd be better off going there undressed!

Another time I told him he should stop leaving so many things unfinished. He starts an application but then gets bored and does something else. What advice would you give him? Finally, his biggest issue is that he likes to do crazy things and he tells his employers that. He loves skydiving, partying and high adrenaline sports. I think that's great but he's employers must think he's unstable. He'll never get a job like this. I need your help guys. What can I say to him? I feel really unhelpful!

Try using these words to complete the sentences below:

Uninvited Unstable Unconscious Unprotected Unhelpful

1. I asked him to come over here and hold my tools, but he refused, he's really _____.
2. That girl just started screaming at the barista, I think she's a little _____.
3. They took him to the hospital tight away. Apparently, he'd been _____ for 30 minutes.
4. Do you know why Jane's not coming? She insulted her friend's wedding dress, so she got _____.
5. John got really hurt last week. He wanted to play American football, but he didn't have a helmet. You should never do something dangerous like that _____.

Now try to answer these conversation questions with a friend or in class

1. Have you ever done anything unsafe? What was it and why did you do it?
2. Is there anything unfinished you still have to do? Why haven't you done it yet?
3. Who's your most unhelpful friend? Why do you think he is so unhelpful?
4. What is something you are unable to do? Would you like to learn how to do it in the future?
5. What advice would you give an unemployed friend? Try to come up with at least three pieces of advice.
6. What do you usually do when you feel unhappy? What would you tell a friend if they were feeling unhappy?