Prefix Detective Sort

Look for un- that changes a word's meaning.

2.L.V.2.a "Identify and use frequently occurring root words and affixes (e.g., prefixes, suffixes) to deconstruct words to determine or clarify meaning. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

UN- IS A PREFIX

At the beginning of some words, un- means not or the opposite. It changes the meaning of the root word.

unknown means not known.

UN- IS NOT A PREFIX

Some words begin with the letters un, but un- does not mean not or opposite. The letters are just part of the word.

A unicorn is an animal.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PREFIX or NO PREFIX for each word, then choose two words and explain how you knew where each word belongs.

1. unhappy — PREFIX / NO PREFIX
2. unwrap — PREFIX / NO PREFIX
3. uncle — PREFIX / NO PREFIX
4. unfair — PREFIX / NO PREFIX
5. under — PREFIX / NO PREFIX
6. until — PREFIX / NO PREFIX
7. unlock — PREFIX / NO PREFIX
8. uniform — PREFIX / NO PREFIX

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word for PREFIX and one new word for NO PREFIX.

PREFIX _____

NO PREFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with a new PREFIX word, then tell what the word means.

ANSWER KEY

Prefix Detective Sort

GRADE 2 · 2.L.V.2.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	unhappy	**PREFIX**	un- means not, so unhappy means not happy.
2	unwrap	**PREFIX**	un- means do the opposite, so unwrap means take off a wrapping.
3	uncle	**NO PREFIX**	The letters un do not mean not or opposite in uncle.
4	unfair	**PREFIX**	un- means not, so unfair means not fair.
5	under	**NO PREFIX**	The letters un do not mean not or opposite in under.
6	until	**NO PREFIX**	The letters un do not mean not or opposite in until.
7	unlock	**PREFIX**	un- means do the opposite, so unlock means open a lock.
8	uniform	**NO PREFIX**	The letters un do not mean not or opposite in uniform.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PREFIX**: unkind
- **NO PREFIX**: umbrella

Challenge: The boy was unkind to his sister. Unkind means not kind.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify un- as meaning not or opposite, or explain that un is only part of the word. For Part 3, accept other accurate examples that fit each category.