# One Prefix, Two Jobs

Sort un- words by meaning, then prove two choices.

**6.4.R.3** "Students will use word parts (e.g., affixes, Latin roots, stems) to define and determine the meaning of increasingly complex words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### MEANS NOT

The prefix un- can mean "not." Look at the rest of the word to find out what is not true.

unkind means not kind

### REVERSES AN ACTION

The prefix un- can also mean "reverse an action." Look at the rest of the word to find the action being reversed.

unzip means to reverse zipping

## 1 SORT

8 items

Circle NOT or REVERSE for each phrase; in Part 2, choose two items and explain how their word parts helped you decide.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | an unfair decision | NOT REVERSE |
| **2.** | an uncertain answer | NOT REVERSE |
| **3.** | untie a knot | NOT REVERSE |
| **4.** | an uneven surface | NOT REVERSE |
| **5.** | unplug a lamp | NOT REVERSE |
| **6.** | unwrap a gift | NOT REVERSE |
| **7.** | an unsafe bridge | NOT REVERSE |
| **8.** | an unusual sound | NOT REVERSE |

## 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 un- word that means "not" and one new un- word that means "reverse an action."

**NOT** _____

**REVERSE** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write two sentences using two more un- words, one with each meaning, and explain each word's meaning in its sentence.

**ANSWER KEY**

# One Prefix, Two Jobs

**GRADE 6 · 6.4.R.3**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | an unfair decision | **NOT** | Unfair means not fair. |
| 2 | an uncertain answer | **NOT** | Uncertain means not certain. |
| 3 | untie a knot | **REVERSE** | Untie means to reverse tying. |
| 4 | an uneven surface | **NOT** | Uneven means not even. |
| 5 | unplug a lamp | **REVERSE** | Unplug means to reverse plugging in. |
| 6 | unwrap a gift | **REVERSE** | Unwrap means to reverse wrapping. |
| 7 | an unsafe bridge | **NOT** | Unsafe means not safe. |
| 8 | an unusual sound | **NOT** | Unusual means not usual. |

## 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)

- **NOT**: unripe
- **REVERSE**: unseal

**Challenge:** The unclean plate was not clean, so I washed it. I unbuttoned my coat, reversing the action of buttoning it.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the base word and show whether un- means “not” or reverses its action. For Part 3, accept new words that clearly fit their chosen meanings.