



## Prefixes:

### Common Negative Prefixes: un- and dis-

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The instructions were very confusing and \_\_\_\_.  
a) discleared  
b) incleared  
c) unclear  
d) non-clear
- I totally \_\_\_\_ with your opinion on this matter.  
a) unagree  
b) misagree  
c) inagree  
d) disagree
- It would be \_\_\_\_ to go swimming in such cold weather.  
a) unwise  
b) diswise  
c) inwise  
d) miswise
- Please do not \_\_\_\_ the cables from the computer.  
a) unconnect  
b) disconnect  
c) misconnect  
d) deconnect
- The children were very \_\_\_\_ during the long car journey.  
a) dishappy  
b) inhappy  
c) mishappy  
d) unhappy
- Many students \_\_\_\_ maths because they find it too difficult.  
a) dislike  
b) unlike  
c) mislike  
d) inlike
- The door to the classroom was \_\_\_\_, so the students walked right in.  
a) dislocked  
b) mislocked  
c) unlocked  
d) inlocked
- The magician made the rabbit \_\_\_\_ from the hat.  
a) unappear  
b) disappear  
c) misappear  
d) deappear
- She felt \_\_\_\_ about leaving her job after so many years.  
a) uncertain  
b) discern  
c) incertain  
d) miscertain
- The building was old and in a state of \_\_\_\_.  
a) unrepair  
b) misrepair  
c) disrepair  
d) inrepair
- The movie was so boring that we found it completely \_\_\_\_.  
a) disinteresting  
b) uninteresting  
c) ininteresting  
d) misinteresting





## Answers

1. c) unclear
2. d) disagree
3. a) unwise
4. b) disconnect
5. d) unhappy
6. a) dislike
7. c) unlocked
8. b) disappear
9. a) uncertain
10. c) disrepair
11. b) uninteresting
12. d) unfair
13. a) disapprove
14. c) unable
15. b) discontinue
16. d) unusual
17. a) disrespect
18. b) good
19. c) unfinished
20. d) uncomfortable



# Explanations

**1. “unclear” (c)**

We add un- to the adjective 'clear' to form its opposite: unclear. 'Dis-' and 'in-' do not combine with 'clear'.

**2. “disagree” (d)**

The verb 'agree' takes the prefix dis- to form its opposite: disagree. 'Un-' is not used with 'agree'.

**3. “unwise” (a)**

The adjective 'wise' takes un- to form its opposite: unwise. This means 'not sensible' or 'foolish'.

**4. “disconnect” (b)**

The verb 'connect' takes dis- to mean 'to separate or detach': disconnect. 'Un-' is not standard with 'connect'.

**5. “unhappy” (d)**

The adjective 'happy' takes un- to form its opposite: unhappy. This is one of the most common un- words in English.

**6. “dislike” (a)**

The verb 'like' takes dis- to form its opposite: dislike (= not like). Note that 'unlike' exists but is a preposition/adjective, not a verb.

**7. “unlocked” (c)**

The past participle 'locked' takes un- to form its opposite: unlocked (= not secured with a lock). The door was open for anyone to enter.

**8. “disappear” (b)**

The verb 'appear' takes dis- to form its opposite: disappear (= to vanish). 'Un-' is not used with 'appear'.

**9. “uncertain” (a)**

The adjective 'certain' takes un- to form its opposite: uncertain (= not sure). 'Dis-' and 'in-' do not combine with 'certain'.

**10. “disrepair” (c)**

The noun 'repair' takes dis- to form 'disrepair', meaning a state of being in poor condition. This is a fixed expression: 'in a state of disrepair'.

**11. “uninteresting” (b)**

The adjective 'interesting' takes un- to form its opposite: uninteresting. Note: 'disinterested' exists but means 'impartial', not 'bored'.

**12. “unfair” (d)**

The adjective 'fair' takes un- to form its opposite: unfair (= not just or equal).

**13. “disapprove” (a)**

The verb 'approve' takes dis- to form its opposite: disapprove (= to have an unfavourable opinion of something).

**14. “unable” (c)**

The adjective 'able' takes un- to form its opposite: unable (= not able to do something). Note: 'disable' is a verb meaning to make something stop working.

**15. “discontinue” (b)**

The verb 'continue' takes dis- to form 'discontinue', meaning to stop doing or providing something.

**16. “unusual” (d)**

The adjective 'usual' takes un- to form its opposite: unusual (= not common or normal).

**17. “disrespect” (a)**

The noun 'respect' takes dis- to form 'disrespect', meaning a lack of respect or courtesy.

**18. “good” (b)**

The sentence praises the food ('never eaten such good food'), so we need a positive word. 'Good' fits the context. Not every sentence needs a negative prefix — read carefully!

**19. “unfinished” (c)**

The past participle 'finished' takes un- to form its opposite: unfinished (= not completed). Tom chose to play instead of completing his homework.

**20. “uncomfortable” (d)**

The adjective 'comfortable' takes un- to form its opposite: uncomfortable (= not at ease). It's natural to feel uneasy on a first day.