

PREFIX: un-

C1 | Vocabulary, gap fill and discussion

1 Vocabulary

The prefix un- often gives a word the meaning "not".

unambiguous

clear and having only one meaning

unsubstantiated

not supported by evidence

unprecedented

never having happened before

unjustifiable

impossible to show as right or reasonable

unworkable

not able to work successfully

unfounded

not based on fact

unwarranted

not needed or deserved

unforeseen

not expected or predicted

2 Complete the sentences

Choose a word from the vocabulary box. Use each word once.

1. The claim is _____ because no reliable evidence supports it.

2. The proposal is _____ because the company lacks staff and funding.

3. The criticism was _____ given the available evidence.

4. The instructions need to be _____ so that nobody misunderstands them.

5. Several _____ costs appeared after the project began.

6. The rumours were _____ and should not be repeated.

7. The decision was _____ because it punished people who had done nothing wrong.

8. The event was _____ in the company's history.

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C1 | Discussion questions

1 Talk about the vocabulary

Discuss each question with a partner, then write short notes or your own answer.

Try to use at least one word with un- in every answer.

2 Conversation questions

1. Why is unambiguous language important in contracts or instructions?

2. How should people respond to unsubstantiated claims online?

3. Can unforeseen costs ever be avoided completely?

4. What makes a policy unworkable in practice?

5. What kind of criticism is unwarranted?

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C1 | Teacher answer key

1 Suggested answers

Suggested answers for the gap-fill activity are shown below.

Discussion answers will vary. The target word is highlighted in bold.

2 Gap-fill answers

1. The claim is **unsubstantiated** because no reliable evidence supports it.

2. The proposal is **unworkable** because the company lacks staff and funding.

3. The criticism was **unwarranted** given the available evidence.

4. The instructions need to be **unambiguous** so that nobody misunderstands them.

5. Several **unforeseen** costs appeared after the project began.

6. The rumours were **unfounded** and should not be repeated.

7. The decision was **unjustifiable** because it punished people who had done nothing wrong.

8. The event was **unprecedented** in the company's history.