Prefixes

A prefix is a group of letters that is added to the beginning of a word. It changes the meaning of the word.

un- is a prefix  dis- is a prefix

You can add the prefix un- to change the meaning of some words.
un + load = unload  un + dress = undress

You can add the prefix dis- to change the meaning of other words.
dis + obey = disobey

Add un- or dis- to the words in bold to complete the sentences below.

Jim locks the box.
Tim .......................................... it.

Nina ties her laces.
Kitty ......................................... them!

Yes, I agree.
No, I ........................................

he toys are organized.
The toys are ................................

Wes is happy.
Wes is .......................................
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Tim............unlocks............it.

Nina ties her laces.

Kitty............unties............them!

Yes, I agree.

No, I............disagree............

The toys are organized.

The toys are........disorganized......

Wes is happy.

Wes is..............unhappy.............

Explain the meaning of the term prefix to your child, and help him or her explore and understand that the effect of common prefixes such as un- and dis- is to change the meaning of positive words to negative words, such as unhappy or displeased.