

Mrs McKenna returned from her shopping trip to Wilmslow with potatoes, carrots and a small tin of corned beef. She boiled the vegetables and tried to unscrew the lid off the corned beef tin with a sort of key. She struggled to open it and asked Dr McKenna to help her.

"It's easier to open cans with a ring-pull," I told them before I realised what I had said.

"Sorry! Did I mishear? Did you say ring-pull?" asked Dr McKenna.

It dawned on me that ring-pulls hadn't been invented in 1940. "Oh! It's just an invention of mine ... for undoing cans," I said casually.

"A bit like your vaccines then," said Dr McKenna. "Quite the scientist, aren't you?" (He had obviously been talking to Mr Carter.)

We helped Dr McKenna lay the table. I set out the knives and forks how Mum had shown me when Grandma came round for tea. Then Mrs McKenna spotted a mark on the tablecloth.

"That will never do for our young guests, Grant," she told her husband. "What will they think of us?" She made Dr McKenna re-cover the table with a clean tablecloth, and Kenneth and I had to re-lay the cutlery. I couldn't see anything wrong with the first cloth: I thought Mrs McKenna was over-reacting.

"I'm afraid I have overcooked the carrots," she said as she served lunch.

"Nonsense! The carrots are cooked to perfection," proclaimed Dr McKenna.

"I'm afraid the boys will disagree with you!" Mrs McKenna said.

"The carrots are perfectly cooked," insisted Dr McKenna. "It's the potatoes that are undercooked!"

"You're discouraging me from ever cooking for you again!" she exclaimed.

"Forgive me, my darling," chuckled Dr McKenna, "but I delight in teasing you." He turned to Kenneth and me. "Disregard everything I've said, boys. She is a fabulous cook – she makes the best corned beef this side of Wilmslow!" Mrs McKenna gave her husband a friendly slap on the arm. "My wife disapproves of my sense of humour," he grinned.

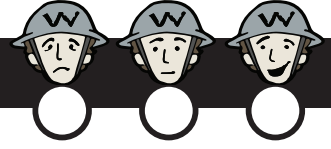
During lunch, Dr McKenna wanted to know all about me. I was uncertain what I should tell them. I disliked the idea of lying to Dr McKenna and his wife because they seemed so nice. I even considered telling the truth, but the truth was so fantastical I was sure they wouldn't believe it. In the end, I decided to stick to the story I had told Kenneth. I tried to re-tell the tale I had told him, but unfortunately I couldn't recall all the details. I told them I was dreadfully mistreated by my cruel uncle who would lock me in the shed if I misbehaved.

"But you told me you were locked in the under-stairs cupboard, Drew," Kenneth remarked in a loud voice that made the others stare at me.





## I can use verb prefixes.



A **prefix** is a letter or group of letters placed before a word to change the meaning of the word.  
The prefixes used in the passage are:

- re-** meaning back or again, as in re-tell.
- dis-** which reverses the meaning, as in disagree.
- un-** which reverses the meaning, as in undo.
- mis-** meaning badly or wrongly, as in misbehave.
- over-** meaning too much, as in overcook.
- under-** meaning below or not enough, as in undercook.
- ex-** meaning out or from, as in exclaim.

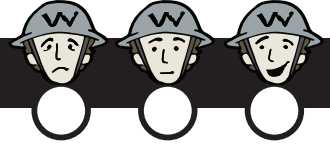


**Underline the verb prefixes in the sentences below.**

- 1 Drew tried to disregard Kenneth's embarrassing interruption.
- 2 "Weren't you locked in the cupboard? Or did I misunderstand?" persisted Kenneth.
- 3 Drew had underestimated how difficult it was to lie convincingly.
- 4 "Perhaps Duncan didn't want to overburden you with the details," suggested Dr McKenna.
- 5 Drew tried to kick Kenneth under the table, but miskicked and got the dog instead.
- 6 Tess reacted with a yelp and reappeared on the other side of the table.
- 7 The two children exchanged angry glances.
- 8 "I'm sure Duncan didn't misinform you on purpose," Dr McKenna said tactfully.
- 9 "You must have misheard me," Drew finally said after carefully rethinking the question.
- 10 "I think I've uncovered a lie!" insisted Kenneth.
- 11 Overcome with emotion, Drew felt like bursting into tears.
- 12 Instead, Drew got up and refilled a glass with water from the tap.
- 13 Returning to the table, Drew had recovered enough composure to continue.
- 14 Drew had reconsidered what to say. "Both. I was locked in the cupboard and the shed."

**Extension** Identify the verbs with prefixes in the passage and use them in sentences of your own.

## I can use verb prefixes.



A **prefix** is a letter or group of letters placed before a word to change the meaning of the word.  
The prefixes used in the passage are:

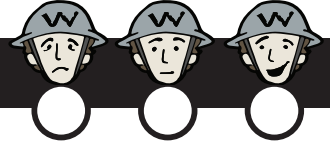
- re-** meaning back or again, as in retell.
- dis-** which reverses the meaning, as in disagree.
- un-** which reverses the meaning, as in undo.
- mis-** meaning badly or wrongly, as in misbehave.
- over-** meaning too much, as in overcook.
- under-** meaning below or not enough, as in undercook.
- ex-** meaning out or from, as in exclaim.



Choose the correct prefix from the brackets to complete the verbs in the sentences below.

- 1 Drew tried to .....regard Kenneth's interruption.  
(dis/mis)
- 2 "Weren't you locked in the cupboard? Or did I .....understand?" persisted Kenneth.  
(mis/dis)
- 3 Drew had .....estimated how difficult it was to lie convincingly.  
(over/under)
- 4 "Perhaps Duncan didn't want to .....burden you with the details," suggested Dr McKenna.  
(over/under)
- 5 Drew tried to kick Kenneth under the table, but .....kicked and got the dog instead.  
(re/mis)
- 6 Tess .....acted with a yelp and .....appeared on the other side of the table.  
(under/re) (dis/re)
- 7 The two children .....changed angry glances.  
(ex/re)
- 8 "I'm sure Duncan didn't .....inform you on purpose," Dr McKenna said tactfully.  
(mis/dis)
- 9 "You must have .....heard me," Drew finally said after carefully .....thinking the question.  
(over/mis) (re/over)
- 10 "I think I've .....covered a lie!" insisted Kenneth.  
(ex/un)
- 11 .....come with emotion, Drew felt like bursting into tears.  
(mis/over)
- 12 Instead, Drew got up and .....filled a glass with water from the tap.  
(re/un)
- 13 .....turning to the table, Drew had .....covered enough composure to continue.  
(over/re) (re/dis)
- 14 Drew had .....considered what to say. "Both. I was locked in the cupboard and the shed."  
(dis/re)

**Extension** Identify the verbs with prefixes in the passage and use them in sentences of your own.



A **prefix** is a letter or group of letters placed before a word to change the meaning of the word.  
The prefixes used in the passage are:

- re-** meaning back or again, as in retell.
- dis-** which reverses the meaning, as in disagree.
- un-** which reverses the meaning, as in undo.
- mis-** meaning badly or wrongly, as in misbehave.
- over-** meaning too much, as in overcook.
- under-** meaning below or not enough, as in undercook.
- ex-** meaning out or from, as in exclaim.



Complete the verbs in the sentences below with one of the prefixes above.

- 1 Drew tried to .....regard Kenneth's interruption and the fact that he had used Drew's actual name.
- 2 "Weren't you locked in the cupboard? Or did I .....understand?" persisted Kenneth.
- 3 Drew had .....estimated how difficult it was to lie convincingly.
- 4 "Perhaps Duncan didn't want to .....burden you with the details," suggested Dr McKenna.
- 5 Drew tried to kick Kenneth under the table, but .....kicked and got the dog instead.
- 6 Tess .....acted with a yelp and .....appeared on the other side of the table.
- 7 The two children .....changed angry glances.
- 8 "I'm sure Duncan didn't .....inform you on purpose," Dr McKenna said tactfully.
- 9 "You must have .....heard me," Drew finally said after carefully .....thinking the question.
- 10 "I think I've .....covered a lie!" insisted Kenneth.
- 11 .....come with emotion, Drew felt like bursting into tears.
- 12 Instead, Drew got up and .....filled a glass with water from the tap.
- 13 .....turning to the table, Drew had .....covered enough composure to continue.
- 14 Drew had .....considered what to say. "Both. I was locked in the cupboard and the shed."

**Extension** Identify the verbs with prefixes in the passage and use them in sentences of your own.