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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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un·cle  (ŭng kəl)

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- n.*
- 1.**
 - a.** The brother of one's mother or father.
 - b.** The husband of a sibling of one's mother or father.
 - 2.** Used as a form of address for an older man, especially by children.
 - 3.** A kindly counselor.
 - 4.** *Slang* A pawnbroker.
 - 5. Uncle** Uncle Sam.
- Idiom:**
cry/say uncle *Informal*
To indicate a willingness to give up a fight or surrender: *tickled my brother until he cried uncle.*

[Middle English, from Anglo-Norman, from Latin *avunculus*, maternal uncle; see **awo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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