Word Part Detectives

Find the word part that gives a clue.

3.LF.15.a "Identify meaningful parts of words (morphemes) and use them as clues to the meaning of unfamiliar words, including base words, roots, and frequently occurring affixes and inflections."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix is added to the beginning of a base word. It changes the word's meaning.

repaint means paint again.

SUFFIX

A suffix is added to the end of a base word. It can change the word's meaning or tell when something happened.

Slow**ly** means in a slow way.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word, then pick two words and explain how each added part helps you know the word's meaning.

1.	unfair	PREFIX	SUFFIX
2.	helpful	PREFIX	SUFFIX
3.	jumped	PREFIX	SUFFIX
4.	rewrite	PREFIX	SUFFIX
5.	disagree	PREFIX	SUFFIX
6.	careless	PREFIX	SUFFIX
7.	misplace	PREFIX	SUFFIX
8.	preview	PREFIX	SUFFIX

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word with a prefix and one new word with a suffix; underline each added part and tell what each word means.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix; underline both parts and explain what each part tells you about the word's meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	unfair	**PREFIX**	Un- means not, so unfair means not fair.
2	helpful	**SUFFIX**	-ful is added to help and means full of or showing.
3	jumped	**SUFFIX**	-ed is added to jump and shows that the action happened in the past.
4	rewrite	**PREFIX**	Re- means again, so rewrite means write again.
5	disagree	**PREFIX**	Dis- means not, so disagree means not agree.
6	careless	**SUFFIX**	-less means without, so careless means without care.
7	misplace	**PREFIX**	Mis- means wrongly, so misplace means put in the wrong place.
8	preview	**PREFIX**	Pre- means before, so preview means see before.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PREFIX**: Unsafe means not safe.
- **SUFFIX**: Hopeful means full of hope.

Challenge: Restarted means started again in the past. Re- means again, and -ed shows the action happened in the past.

For Part 2, accept any two sorted words if the student identifies the added part and correctly explains its meaning or what it tells about the action. In Part 3, new examples should have the added part in the named position.