Word Part Detectives

Find the word part that gives a meaning clue.

3.LF.15.c "Identify common and derivational prefixes and suffixes and use them as clues to a word's meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix is added to the start of a word. It gives a clue to the word's meaning.

In overfill, over- means too much. Overfill means fill too much.

SUFFIX

A suffix is added to the end of a word. It gives a clue to the word's meaning.

In darkness, -ness means a state of being. Darkness is the state of being dark.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word, then choose two words and explain how their added parts help you understand their meanings.

1.	replay	PREFIX	SUFFIX
2.	unsafe	PREFIX	SUFFIX
3.	hopeful	PREFIX	SUFFIX
4.	preheat	PREFIX	SUFFIX
5.	slowly	PREFIX	SUFFIX
6.	kindness	PREFIX	SUFFIX
7.	miscount	PREFIX	SUFFIX
8.	disagree	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. Tell what each word means.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix. Name both parts and tell what the word means.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	replay	**PREFIX**	re- means again, so replay means play again.
2	unsafe	**PREFIX**	un- means not, so unsafe means not safe.
3	hopeful	**SUFFIX**	-ful means full of, so hopeful means full of hope.
4	preheat	**PREFIX**	pre- means before, so preheat means heat beforehand.
5	slowly	**SUFFIX**	-ly means in a certain way, so slowly means in a slow way.
6	kindness	**SUFFIX**	-ness names a state or quality, so kindness is the quality of being kind.
7	miscount	**PREFIX**	mis- means incorrectly, so miscount means count incorrectly.
8	disagree	**PREFIX**	dis- means not, so disagree means not agree.

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**: Unfair has the prefix un- and means not fair.
- **SUFFIX**: Loudly has the suffix -ly and means in a loud way.

Challenge: Unreadable has the prefix un- and the suffix -able. It means not able to be read.

For Part 2, accept any two sorted words if the student identifies each added part and explains its meaning clue. For Part 3, accept other correctly formed words with accurate meanings.