Suffix Switch

What changed at the end of the word?

3.LF.7.e "Use knowledge of syllable and affix substitution and deletion to demonstrate morphological changes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SWAP A SUFFIX

A suffix is a word part added to the end of a base word. In a swap, one suffix is replaced with a different suffix.

hopeful → hopeless

REMOVE A SUFFIX

In a removal, a suffix is taken off. Only the base word is left.

joyful → joy

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SWAP or REMOVE for each word change, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1. careful → careless SWAP REMOVE

2. kindness → kindly SWAP REMOVE

3. playful → play SWAP REMOVE

4. painted → painting SWAP REMOVE

5. darkness → dark SWAP REMOVE

6. teacher → teach SWAP REMOVE

7. slowly → slower SWAP REMOVE

8. fearful → fearless SWAP REMOVE

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 change that swaps a suffix and one that removes a suffix.

SWAP _____

REMOVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a three-word chain that swaps a suffix first, then removes the new suffix. Label each change SWAP or REMOVE.

ANSWER KEY # Suffix Switch

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	careful → careless	**SWAP**	The suffix -ful is replaced with -less.
2	kindness → kindly	**SWAP**	The suffix -ness is replaced with -ly.
3	playful → play	**REMOVE**	The suffix -ful is removed.
4	painted → painting	**SWAP**	The suffix -ed is replaced with -ing.
5	darkness → dark	**REMOVE**	The suffix -ness is removed.
6	teacher → teach	**REMOVE**	The suffix -er is removed.
7	slowly → slower	**SWAP**	The suffix -ly is replaced with -er.
8	fearful → fearless	**SWAP**	The suffix -ful is replaced with -less.

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)

- **SWAP**: useful → useless
- **REMOVE**: safely → safe

Challenge: cloudy → cloudless (SWAP) → cloud (REMOVE)

For Part 2, accept any two items with explanations that correctly name the suffix replaced or removed. In Part 3, each word change must keep the same base word.