Word Part Detectives

Find word parts at the start or end.

3.LF.8.f "Decode and encode words using knowledge of the morphological structure of a word, including prefixes, suffixes, and roots."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix goes before a base word and changes its meaning. In **untie**, **un-** goes before **tie**.

untie

SUFFIX

A suffix goes after a base word and changes its meaning or how it is used. In **careless**, **-less** goes after **care**.

careless

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word; for Part 2, choose two words and explain how you knew where each word part goes.

1.	redo	PREFIX SUFFIX
2.	misplace	PREFIX SUFFIX
3.	painter	PREFIX SUFFIX
4.	preheat	PREFIX SUFFIX
5.	unsafe	PREFIX SUFFIX
6.	disagree	PREFIX SUFFIX
7.	darkness	PREFIX SUFFIX
8.	quickly	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.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix, underline the base word, and tell what the whole word means.

ANSWER KEY

Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	redo	**PREFIX**	re- goes before do.
2	misplace	**PREFIX**	mis- goes before place.
3	painter	**SUFFIX**	-er goes after paint.
4	preheat	**PREFIX**	pre- goes before heat.
5	unsafe	**PREFIX**	un- goes before safe.
6	disagree	**PREFIX**	dis- goes before agree.
7	darkness	**SUFFIX**	-ness goes after dark.
8	quickly	**SUFFIX**	-ly goes after quick.

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
- **SUFFIX**: singer

Challenge: unhelpful means not helpful.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the added part and its place. For example, redo has re- before do, and darkness has -ness after dark.