Word Part Detectives

Find the added part to read the whole word.

4.LF.3 "Apply knowledge of roots, prefixes, and suffixes to decode unfamiliar multisyllabic words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix is added to the beginning of a base word. Read the prefix and base, then blend them.

overcook

SUFFIX

A suffix is added to the end of a base word. Read the base and suffix, then blend them.

restful

1 SORT

8 items

Read each word, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX, then choose two items and explain how you knew where the added part was.

1. preselect — PREFIX SUFFIX
2. colorful — PREFIX SUFFIX
3. shipment — PREFIX SUFFIX
4. misbehave — PREFIX SUFFIX
5. uncover — PREFIX SUFFIX
6. thankless — PREFIX SUFFIX
7. rebuild — PREFIX SUFFIX
8. darkness — 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 multisyllabic word with a prefix and one with a suffix, and underline the added part in each word.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write one multisyllabic word with both a prefix and a suffix, then name its prefix, base word, and suffix.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	preselect	**PREFIX**	Pre- comes before the base select.
2	colorful	**SUFFIX**	-ful comes after the base color.
3	shipment	**SUFFIX**	-ment comes after the base ship.
4	misbehave	**PREFIX**	Mis- comes before the base behave.
5	uncover	**PREFIX**	Un- comes before the base cover.
6	thankless	**SUFFIX**	-less comes after the base thank.
7	rebuild	**PREFIX**	Re- comes before the base build.
8	darkness	**SUFFIX**	-ness comes after the base dark.

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**: repaint
- **SUFFIX**: playful

Challenge: Unhelpful: prefix un-, base help, suffix -ful.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the added part and say whether it comes before or after the base word. For Part 3, accept other correctly divided multisyllabic words.