Affix Clue Sort

Find clues at the beginning or end of each word.

4.L.V.2.a "Deconstruct words using knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, root words, and affixes to determine meaning. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX CLUE

A prefix is a word part at the beginning of a root word. It can change what the word means.

replay = play again

SUFFIX CLUE

A suffix is a word part at the end of a root word. It can change what the word means or how it works in a sentence.

fearless = without fear

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word, then for Part 2 choose two words and explain which word part showed you the answer.

1.	rewrite	PREFIX	SUFFIX
2.	dislike	PREFIX	SUFFIX
3.	cheerful	PREFIX	SUFFIX
4.	darkness	PREFIX	SUFFIX
5.	prepay	PREFIX	SUFFIX
6.	untie	PREFIX	SUFFIX
7.	misplace	PREFIX	SUFFIX
8.	singer	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. Then name its root and tell what the whole word means.

ANSWER KEY

Affix Clue Sort

GRADE 4 · 4.L.V.2.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	rewrite	**PREFIX**	re- comes before write and means again.
2	dislike	**PREFIX**	dis- comes before like and means not or opposite.
3	cheerful	**SUFFIX**	-ful comes after cheer and means full of.
4	darkness	**SUFFIX**	-ness comes after dark and names a state or quality.
5	prepay	**PREFIX**	pre- comes before pay and means before.
6	untie	**PREFIX**	un- comes before tie and means undo or reverse.
7	misplace	**PREFIX**	mis- comes before place and means wrongly.
8	singer	**SUFFIX**	-er comes after sing and means a person who does something.

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**: overcook
- **SUFFIX**: joyful

Challenge: Unhelpful has the prefix un-, the root help, and the suffix -ful. It means not helpful.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should name the affix and tell that it is at the beginning or end of the root word for both choices. Accept Part 3 words when the affix is correctly placed and the word is a real word.