

Word Part Detectives

Find the clue that unlocks each word.

6.L.V.2.a “Deconstruct words using etymology knowledge, Greek and Latin roots, root words, and/or affixes to determine or clarify meaning in grade-level texts. (I)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

PREFIX CLUE

A prefix is at the beginning of a word. It changes the meaning of the word that follows it.

nonfiction: non- means not, so nonfiction is writing about real facts.

ROOT CLUE

A Greek or Latin root carries a word's main meaning. Knowing the root can help you understand the whole word.

autograph: graph means write, so an autograph is a person's written name.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each word and clue, circle PREFIX or ROOT, then choose two items and explain which word part helped you sort each one.

1. misplace, mis- means wrongly

PREFIX

ROOT

2. preheat, pre- means before

PREFIX

ROOT

3. geology, geo means earth

PREFIX

ROOT

4. disconnect, dis- means apart

PREFIX

ROOT

5. audience, aud means hear

PREFIX

ROOT

6. biology, bio means life

PREFIX

ROOT

7. rewrite, re- means again

PREFIX

ROOT

8. submarine, sub- means under

PREFIX

ROOT

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 word with a prefix clue and one word with a Greek or Latin root clue. For each word, name the word part and tell what it means.

PREFIX _____

ROOT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a word with both a prefix and a Greek or Latin root. Name both parts and use them to explain the word's meaning.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	misplace, mis- means wrongly	PREFIX	mis- is a prefix meaning wrongly.
2	preheat, pre- means before	PREFIX	pre- is a prefix meaning before.
3	geology, geo means earth	ROOT	geo is a Greek root meaning earth.
4	disconnect, dis- means apart	PREFIX	dis- is a prefix meaning apart or away.
5	audience, aud means hear	ROOT	aud is a Latin root meaning hear.
6	biology, bio means life	ROOT	bio is a Greek root meaning life.
7	rewrite, re- means again	PREFIX	re- is a prefix meaning again.
8	submarine, sub- means under	PREFIX	sub- is a prefix meaning under.

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:** replay: re- means again, so replay means play again.
- **ROOT:** aquarium: aqua means water, so an aquarium is a place where water animals or plants live.

Challenge: In transportation, trans- means across and port means carry. Transportation means moving people or goods from one place to another.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are PREFIX. Items 3, 5, and 6 are ROOT. Accept Part 2 and Part 3 responses when the named word part and meaning are accurate.