Root Word Detectives

Find where a word part joins a root.

3.RC.13 "Use a known word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root, and identify when an affix is added to a known root word."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX ADDED

A prefix is a word part added before a root word. The root helps you understand the new word.

Known word: tie. New word: untie. The prefix un- comes before tie.

SUFFIX ADDED

A suffix is a word part added after a root word. The root helps you understand the new word.

Known word: slow. New word: slowly. The suffix -ly comes after slow.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1 SORT, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each new word; for Part 2 PROVE IT, choose two items and explain how you knew.

1. Known: lock. New: unlock. PREFIX SUFFIX

2. Known: help. New: helpful. PREFIX SUFFIX

3. Known: jump. New: jumping. PREFIX SUFFIX

4. Known: play. New: replay. PREFIX SUFFIX

5. Known: heat. New: preheat. PREFIX SUFFIX

6. Known: care. New: careless. PREFIX SUFFIX

7. Known: do. New: redo. PREFIX SUFFIX

8. Known: fair. New: unfair. 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

For Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN, write a known root word and a new word with a prefix, then write a known root word and a new word with a suffix.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one new word you made, use it in a sentence, and explain how its root and affix help you know its meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Root Word Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.RC.13

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Known: lock. New: unlock.	**PREFIX**	Un- is added before lock.
2	Known: help. New: helpful.	**SUFFIX**	-ful is added after help.
3	Known: jump. New: jumping.	**SUFFIX**	-ing is added after jump.
4	Known: play. New: replay.	**PREFIX**	Re- is added before play.
5	Known: heat. New: preheat.	**PREFIX**	Pre- is added before heat.
6	Known: care. New: careless.	**SUFFIX**	-less is added after care.
7	Known: do. New: redo.	**PREFIX**	Re- is added before do.
8	Known: fair. New: unfair.	**PREFIX**	Un- is added before fair.

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**: Known: read. New: reread.
- **SUFFIX**: Known: paint. New: painter.

Challenge: I will reread the story. Read means to make sense of written words, and re- means again, so reread means to read again.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 2 has -ful after help and item 4 has re- before play. Accept other explanations that correctly identify the root and where the affix was added.