Word Part Detectives

Find the clue, then uncover the meaning.

L.4.4.b "Use common affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX CLUE

A prefix comes at the beginning of a word. It gives you a clue to the word's meaning.

In unfair, un- means not, so unfair means not fair.

SUFFIX CLUE

A suffix comes at the end of a word. It gives you a clue to the word's meaning.

In painter, -er means a person who does something, so a painter is a person who paints.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word; for Part 2, pick one word from each group and explain how its word part helps you know its meaning.

1.	1. reread	PREFIX SUFFIX
2.	2. hopeless	PREFIX SUFFIX
3.	3. singer	PREFIX SUFFIX
4.	4. preheat	PREFIX SUFFIX
5.	5. unkind	PREFIX SUFFIX
6.	6. careful	PREFIX SUFFIX
7.	7. dislike	PREFIX SUFFIX
8.	8. misplace	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 clue and one new word with a suffix clue; tell what each word means.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix, then explain how both parts help you understand its meaning.

ANSWER KEY

Word Part Detectives

GRADE 4 · L.4.4.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. reread	**PREFIX**	The prefix re- means again, so reread means read again.
2	2. hopeless	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -less means without, so hopeless means without hope.
3	3. singer	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -er means a person who does something, so a singer is a person who sings.
4	4. preheat	**PREFIX**	The prefix pre- means before, so preheat means heat beforehand.
5	5. unkind	**PREFIX**	The prefix un- means not, so unkind means not kind.
6	6. careful	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -ful means full of, so careful means full of care.
7	7. dislike	**PREFIX**	The prefix dis- means not, so dislike means not like.
8	8. misplace	**PREFIX**	The prefix mis- means wrongly, so misplace means put something in the wrong place.

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**: Rebuild: re- means again, so rebuild means build again.
- **SUFFIX**: Joyful: -ful means full of, so joyful means full of joy.

Challenge: Unhelpful has un-, meaning not, and -ful, meaning full of. It means not helpful.

For Part 2, each explanation should identify the word part and connect it to the word's meaning. Accept other accurate words and explanations in Part 3.