Word Part Detectives

Find the word part that gives a clue to meaning.

L.5.4.b "Use common affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix is added to the beginning of a base word. It gives you a clue to the word's meaning.

In preheat, pre- means before. Preheat means to heat something beforehand.

SUFFIX

A suffix is added to the end of a base word. It gives you a clue to the word's meaning.

In teacher, -er means a person who does something. A teacher is a person who teaches.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word in Part 1, then choose two words in Part 2 and explain how each word part helps you figure out its word's meaning.

1.	rewrite	PREFIX	SUFFIX
2.	unhappy	PREFIX	SUFFIX
3.	helpful	PREFIX	SUFFIX
4.	miscount	PREFIX	SUFFIX
5.	dislike	PREFIX	SUFFIX
6.	careless	PREFIX	SUFFIX
7.	darkness	PREFIX	SUFFIX
8.	reread	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. Tell what each word means.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a word from Part 1. Change its affix to make a new word, then tell what your new word means.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	rewrite	**PREFIX**	The prefix re- means again, so rewrite means write again.
2	unhappy	**PREFIX**	The prefix un- means not, so unhappy means not happy.
3	helpful	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -ful means full of or showing, so helpful means giving help.
4	miscount	**PREFIX**	The prefix mis- means wrongly, so miscount means count wrongly.
5	dislike	**PREFIX**	The prefix dis- means the opposite of, so dislike means not like.
6	careless	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -less means without, so careless means not taking care.
7	darkness	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -ness means a state or quality, so darkness is the state of being dark.
8	reread	**PREFIX**	The prefix re- means again, so reread means read again.

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**: Unlock means to open something that is locked.
- **SUFFIX**: Thankful means feeling grateful.

Challenge: Change careless to careful by replacing -less with -ful. Careful means paying attention to avoid mistakes.

For Part 2, each explanation should identify the affix and connect its meaning to the whole word. For Part 3, accept other real words whose affixes give a clear clue to their meanings.