Word Part Detectives

Sort words by where a word part is added.

RF.3.3 "Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words. Identify, decode, encode and know the meaning of words with the most common prefixes and derivational suffixes, including Latin suffixes..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

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

unfair

SUFFIX

A suffix is added to the end of a base word. It can change the word's meaning or how it is used.

kind**ness**

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word; for Part 2, pick two words and explain how you knew where the added part is.

1.	rewrite	PREFIX	SUFFIX
2.	washable	PREFIX	SUFFIX
3.	enjoyment	PREFIX	SUFFIX
4.	dislike	PREFIX	SUFFIX
5.	preheat	PREFIX	SUFFIX
6.	unpack	PREFIX	SUFFIX
7.	careless	PREFIX	SUFFIX
8.	slowly	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. Do not use a word already on this page.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one of your new words. Write its base word and added part, then tell what the whole word means.

ANSWER KEY

Word Part Detectives

GRADE 3 · RF.3.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	rewrite	**PREFIX**	The prefix re- is added before write and means again.
2	washable	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -able is added after wash and means able to be washed.
3	enjoyment	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -ment is added after enjoy and names a feeling or state.
4	dislike	**PREFIX**	The prefix dis- is added before like and means not.
5	preheat	**PREFIX**	The prefix pre- is added before heat and means beforehand.
6	unpack	**PREFIX**	The prefix un- is added before pack and means to reverse the action.
7	careless	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -less is added after care and means without.
8	slowly	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -ly is added after slow and makes a word that tells how.

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**: misplace
- **SUFFIX**: playful

Challenge: misplace: mis- + place. Misplace means to put something in the wrong place.

For Part 2, a student might explain that rewrite has re- at the beginning and washable has -able at the end. Accept other accurate explanations that identify the added part and its location.