Word Part Detectives

Look at where the word part is added.

RF.3.3.c "Read (decode) and write (encode) words with common prefixes and derivational suffixes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

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

untie = un + tie

SUFFIX

A suffix is added to the end of a base word. It makes a new word.

bravely = brave + ly

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word; for Part 2, choose one word from each category and explain how the added word part helped you decide.

1.	unfair	PREFIX SUFFIX
2.	joyful	PREFIX SUFFIX
3.	darkness	PREFIX SUFFIX
4.	replay	PREFIX SUFFIX
5.	dislike	PREFIX SUFFIX
6.	careless	PREFIX SUFFIX
7.	preheat	PREFIX SUFFIX
8.	misread	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

Write a word that has both a prefix and a suffix. Split it into its three parts.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	unfair	**PREFIX**	The prefix un is added before fair.
2	joyful	**SUFFIX**	The suffix ful is added after joy.
3	darkness	**SUFFIX**	The suffix ness is added after dark.
4	replay	**PREFIX**	The prefix re is added before play.
5	dislike	**PREFIX**	The prefix dis is added before like.
6	careless	**SUFFIX**	The suffix less is added after care.
7	preheat	**PREFIX**	The prefix pre is added before heat.
8	misread	**PREFIX**	The prefix mis is added before read.

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**: redo
- **SUFFIX**: sadness

Challenge: unhelpful = un + help + ful

For Part 2, an acceptable explanation names the added part and its position, such as “un comes before fair in unfair” and “ful comes after joy in joyful.” For Part 3, accept other correctly formed words that meet each prompt.