Word Part Detectives

Sort words, prove two choices, and make your own.

RF.4-5.3.c "Read (decode) and write (encode) words with prefixes and derivational suffixes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX ADDED

A prefix goes at the beginning of a base word and changes its meaning.

pre + view = preview

SUFFIX ADDED

A suffix goes at the end of a base word. It can change the word's meaning or how the word is used in a sentence.

kind + ness = kindness

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word in Part 1, then in Part 2 choose two words and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	1. unfair	PREFIX	SUFFIX
2.	2. rewrite	PREFIX	SUFFIX
3.	3. careless	PREFIX	SUFFIX
4.	4. dislike	PREFIX	SUFFIX
5.	5. movement	PREFIX	SUFFIX
6.	6. joyful	PREFIX	SUFFIX
7.	7. misplace	PREFIX	SUFFIX
8.	8. overcook	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.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write one word with both a prefix and a suffix, then split it into its three parts.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. unfair	**PREFIX**	un is added before fair.
2	2. rewrite	**PREFIX**	re is added before write.
3	3. careless	**SUFFIX**	less is added after care.
4	4. dislike	**PREFIX**	dis is added before like.
5	5. movement	**SUFFIX**	ment is added after move.
6	6. joyful	**SUFFIX**	ful is added after joy.
7	7. misplace	**PREFIX**	mis is added before place.
8	8. overcook	**PREFIX**	over is added before cook.

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**: replay
- **SUFFIX**: sadness

Challenge: un + help + ful = unhelpful

For Part 2, a student might write: "Unfair belongs with prefixes because un comes before fair. Careless belongs with suffixes because less comes after care." Accept other correct words and explanations.