Word Part Detectives

Find the part that changes a word's meaning.

3.4.R.3 "Students will use word parts (e.g., affixes, Anglo-Saxon roots, stems) to define and determine the meaning of new words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix is added to the beginning of a base word. It changes what the word means.

preheat = heat before

SUFFIX

A suffix is added to the end of a base word. It changes what the word means.

kindness = being kind

1 SORT

8 items

For each word, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX; in Part 2, choose two words and explain how each word part helps you know its meaning.

1.	unfair	PREFIX	SUFFIX
2.	replay	PREFIX	SUFFIX
3.	careless	PREFIX	SUFFIX
4.	disagree	PREFIX	SUFFIX
5.	hopeful	PREFIX	SUFFIX
6.	fearless	PREFIX	SUFFIX
7.	sadness	PREFIX	SUFFIX
8.	unhappy	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

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix. Name each part and tell what the whole word means.

ANSWER KEY

Word Part Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.4.R.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	unfair	**PREFIX**	The prefix un- means not, so unfair means not fair.
2	replay	**PREFIX**	The prefix re- means again, so replay means play again.
3	careless	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -less means without, so careless means without care.
4	disagree	**PREFIX**	The prefix dis- means not, so disagree means not agree.
5	hopeful	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -ful means full of, so hopeful means full of hope.
6	fearless	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -less means without, so fearless means without fear.
7	sadness	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -ness changes sad into a noun meaning the state of being sad.
8	unhappy	**PREFIX**	The prefix un- means not, so unhappy means not happy.

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 = do again
- **SUFFIX**: thankful = full of thanks

Challenge: Unhelpful has the prefix un- and the suffix -ful. It means not helpful.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the word part and use it to explain the word's meaning. For Part 3, accept other correctly formed words with accurate meanings.