Prefix Clue Quest

Find meaning at the start of a word.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

NOT

The prefix **un-** can mean "not." **Unhappy** means not happy.

unhappy: not happy

AGAIN

The prefix **re-** can mean "again." **Retie** means tie again.

retie: tie again

1 SORT

8 items

Circle NOT or AGAIN for each bold word, then choose two numbered items and explain how each prefix helped you decide.

1. I **reread** the clue to catch a detail. NOT AGAIN
2. We will **repaint** the stage after the show. NOT AGAIN
3. It was **unkind** to laugh at his mistake. NOT AGAIN
4. Please **refill** the birdbath when it is empty. NOT AGAIN
5. They will **rebuild** the sandcastle after the wave. NOT AGAIN
6. I must **rewash** my muddy mittens. NOT AGAIN
7. The cracked ladder is **unsafe** to climb. NOT AGAIN
8. The rule was **unfair** to new players. NOT AGAIN

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 un- word that means "not" and one new re- word that means "again." Tell what each word means.

NOT _____

AGAIN _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence using a new un- word and a new re- word, then explain how each prefix changes its word.

ANSWER KEY

Prefix Clue Quest

GRADE 4 · 4.4.R.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	I **reread** the clue to catch a detail.	**AGAIN**	The prefix re- means again, so reread means read again.
2	We will **repaint** the stage after the show.	**AGAIN**	The prefix re- means again, so repaint means paint again.
3	It was **unkind** to laugh at his mistake.	**NOT**	The prefix un- means not, so unkind means not kind.
4	Please **refill** the birdbath when it is empty.	**AGAIN**	The prefix re- means again, so refill means fill again.
5	They will **rebuild** the sandcastle after the wave.	**AGAIN**	The prefix re- means again, so rebuild means build again.
6	I must **rewash** my muddy mittens.	**AGAIN**	The prefix re- means again, so rewash means wash again.
7	The cracked ladder is **unsafe** to climb.	**NOT**	The prefix un- means not, so unsafe means not safe.
8	The rule was **unfair** to new players.	**NOT**	The prefix un- means not, so unfair means not fair.

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)

- **NOT**: unlucky: not lucky
- **AGAIN**: repack: pack again

Challenge: The untidy desk made me rewrite my list. Untidy means not tidy, and rewrite means write again.

For Part 2, accept any two numbered items if the student identifies the prefix and correctly explains its meaning in each word. For Part 3, accept other words when un- means not and re- means again.