Word Part Detective

Find where a word part goes to unlock meaning.

4.RC.12 "Apply knowledge of word structure elements (e.g., suffixes, prefixes, common Greek and Latin affixes and roots), known words, and word patterns to determine meaning."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix goes before a base word and changes its meaning.

disagree means not agree.

SUFFIX

A suffix goes after a base word and changes its meaning.

joyful means full of joy.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word; for Part 2, choose two numbered words and explain how their word parts help you know their meanings.

1.	redo	PREFIX SUFFIX
2.	kindness	PREFIX SUFFIX
3.	fearless	PREFIX SUFFIX
4.	unhappy	PREFIX SUFFIX
5.	preview	PREFIX SUFFIX
6.	incorrect	PREFIX SUFFIX
7.	slowly	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

For Part 3, write one new word with a prefix and one new word with a suffix. Underline each added word part and tell what each new word means.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one base word. Make one new word by adding a prefix and another by adding a suffix, then explain what both new words mean.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detective

GRADE 4 · 4.RC.12

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	redo	**PREFIX**	re- means again, so redo means do again.
2	kindness	**SUFFIX**	-ness names the quality of being kind.
3	fearless	**SUFFIX**	-less means without, so fearless means without fear.
4	unhappy	**PREFIX**	un- means not, so unhappy means not happy.
5	preview	**PREFIX**	pre- means before, so preview means view beforehand.
6	incorrect	**PREFIX**	in- means not, so incorrect means not correct.
7	slowly	**SUFFIX**	-ly means in a certain way, so slowly means in a slow way.
8	misread	**PREFIX**	mis- means wrongly, so misread means read wrongly.

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**: Over<u></u>cook means cook too much.
- **SUFFIX**: Dark<u>ness</u> means the state of being dark.

Challenge: Base word: use. Reuse means use again. Useful means able to be used.

Part 2 answers should name the prefix or suffix in each chosen word and explain how it affects meaning. For Part 3, accept other correctly formed words with accurate meanings.