Word Part Detectives

Use word parts to find meaning clues.

5.FFR.3.B "Use knowledge of morphology (suffixes, prefixes, root/base) to decode words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix is a word part at the beginning of a word. It can help you predict the word's meaning.

overcook: over- means too much, so overcook means cook too much.

SUFFIX

A suffix is a word part at the end of a word. It can help you predict the word's meaning.

joyful: -ful means full of, so joyful means full of joy.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word, then choose two words and explain which word part helped you sort each one.

1. misread — PREFIX SUFFIX
2. preheat — PREFIX SUFFIX
3. fearless — PREFIX SUFFIX
4. disagree — PREFIX SUFFIX
5. painter — PREFIX SUFFIX
6. washable — PREFIX SUFFIX
7. rewrite — PREFIX SUFFIX
8. preview — 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 that belongs in PREFIX and one new word that belongs in SUFFIX.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix. Put brackets around the base word and explain what the word means. Read these sentences: The cover is reusable. We can use it again. With a teacher or partner, mark re + use + able. Use the sounds of those parts to read and blend the whole word, then reread the sentences and explain its meaning. Have the adult or partner check your reading and help you retry if needed. If reusable is already familiar, the adult supplies a new affixed word in a short sentence for the same reading check.

ANSWER KEY

Word Part Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.FFR.3.B

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	misread	**PREFIX**	mis- is a prefix at the beginning and means wrongly.
2	preheat	**PREFIX**	pre- is a prefix at the beginning and means before.
3	fearless	**SUFFIX**	-less is a suffix at the end and means without.
4	disagree	**PREFIX**	dis- is a prefix at the beginning and can mean not or opposite.
5	painter	**SUFFIX**	-er is a suffix at the end and can mean a person who does something.
6	washable	**SUFFIX**	-able is a suffix at the end and means able to be.
7	rewrite	**PREFIX**	re- is a prefix at the beginning and means again.
8	preview	**PREFIX**	pre- is a prefix at the beginning and means before.

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, re- is at the beginning.
- **SUFFIX**: careless, -less is at the end.

Challenge: re + [use] + able → reusable, able to be used again. Read the whole word in the supplied sentence and confirm that meaning with a partner.

For Part 2, students should identify the beginning prefix or ending suffix in each chosen word. Accept new examples that clearly contain the correct word part in the correct position. Observe actual learner print-to-word-part-to-whole-word decoding in context with a reading accuracy check and supported retry if needed. Written labels or teacher-only modeling do not complete the reading step. Re + use + able identifies morphemes, not a claim about syllable boundaries; the final written word is reusable. No timed or independent decoding requirement.