Word Part Detectives

Sort words by where a meaningful part was added.

3.RF.3.b "Identify and understand the meanings of common prefixes and derivational suffixes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX ADDED

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

In **preheat**, **pre-** means before. To preheat is to heat something before using it.

SUFFIX ADDED

A suffix goes at the end of a base word. It can change what the word means or how it works in a sentence.

In **quietly**, **-ly** means in a certain way. Quietly means in a quiet way.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1 SORT: Circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word; Part 2 PROVE IT: Choose two numbered words and explain where each added part is and what it means.

1.	redo	PREFIX	SUFFIX
2.	unhappy	PREFIX	SUFFIX
3.	fearless	PREFIX	SUFFIX
4.	dislike	PREFIX	SUFFIX
5.	joyful	PREFIX	SUFFIX
6.	replay	PREFIX	SUFFIX
7.	untie	PREFIX	SUFFIX
8.	kindness	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

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new word with a prefix and one new word with a suffix, then tell what each added part means.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one base word and add a prefix to make one word and a suffix to make a different word, then tell what both new words mean.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.RF.3.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	redo	**PREFIX**	The prefix re- comes before do and means again.
2	unhappy	**PREFIX**	The prefix un- comes before happy and means not.
3	fearless	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -less comes after fear and means without.
4	dislike	**PREFIX**	The prefix dis- comes before like and means not.
5	joyful	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -ful comes after joy and means full of.
6	replay	**PREFIX**	The prefix re- comes before play and means again.
7	untie	**PREFIX**	The prefix un- comes before tie and means to reverse the action.
8	kindness	**SUFFIX**	The suffix -ness comes after kind and means the state of being kind.

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**: Misread has the prefix mis-, which means wrongly.
- **SUFFIX**: Careless has the suffix -less, which means without.

Challenge: Paint becomes repaint, which means paint again, and painter, which means a person who paints.

Items 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 have prefixes. Items 3, 5, and 8 have suffixes. For Part 2, accept any two numbered words with the added part's location and meaning explained correctly.