Word Part Detectives

Sort words by where a word part is added.

4.RF.3 "Demonstrate proficiency in grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words. Identify and use common prefixes, suffixes, and root words to decode and encode words..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PREFIX

A prefix is added to the beginning of a base word. It changes the word's meaning.

rewrite: re + write

SUFFIX

A suffix is added to the end of a base word. It can change the word's meaning or how it is used.

kindness: kind + ness

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word; for Part 2, choose two words and explain how you knew.

1.	1. misplace	PREFIX SUFFIX
2.	2. unlock	PREFIX SUFFIX
3.	3. payment	PREFIX SUFFIX
4.	4. replay	PREFIX SUFFIX
5.	5. helpful	PREFIX SUFFIX
6.	6. careless	PREFIX SUFFIX
7.	7. disagree	PREFIX SUFFIX
8.	8. prepay	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.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix. Name its prefix, base word, and suffix.

ANSWER KEY

Word Part Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. misplace	**PREFIX**	Mis is added before the base word place.
2	2. unlock	**PREFIX**	Un is added before the base word lock.
3	3. payment	**SUFFIX**	Ment is added after the base word pay.
4	4. replay	**PREFIX**	Re is added before the base word play.
5	5. helpful	**SUFFIX**	Ful is added after the base word help.
6	6. careless	**SUFFIX**	Less is added after the base word care.
7	7. disagree	**PREFIX**	Dis is added before the base word agree.
8	8. prepay	**PREFIX**	Pre is added before the base word pay.

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**: preheat
- **SUFFIX**: quickly

Challenge: unfairly: prefix un, base word fair, suffix ly

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify where the added part goes. For example, mis comes before place in misplace, and ment comes after pay in payment.