Word Part Detectives

Sort, explain, and build words.

5.RF.3.a "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 root word. It changes the word's meaning.

unfold

SUFFIX

A suffix is added to the end of a root word. It can change the word's meaning or its job in a sentence.

painted

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered word, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX, then pick two words and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	1. reheat	PREFIX SUFFIX
2.	2. hopeful	PREFIX SUFFIX
3.	3. slowly	PREFIX SUFFIX
4.	4. misplace	PREFIX SUFFIX
5.	5. kindness	PREFIX SUFFIX
6.	6. fearless	PREFIX SUFFIX
7.	7. preview	PREFIX SUFFIX
8.	8. teacher	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. Underline the added part in each word.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix. Underline both added parts, then explain what each part adds to the root word.

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. reheat	**PREFIX**	Re is added before the root heat.
2	2. hopeful	**SUFFIX**	Ful is added after the root hope.
3	3. slowly	**SUFFIX**	Ly is added after the root slow.
4	4. misplace	**PREFIX**	Mis is added before the root place.
5	5. kindness	**SUFFIX**	Ness is added after the root kind.
6	6. fearless	**SUFFIX**	Less is added after the root fear.
7	7. preview	**PREFIX**	Pre is added before the root view.
8	8. teacher	**SUFFIX**	Er is added after the root teach.

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**: <u>re</u>write
- **SUFFIX**: care<u>ful</u>

Challenge: <u>un</u>help<u>ful</u>: Ful changes help into a word meaning giving help. Un means not, so unhelpful means not giving help.

For Part 2, students should name the root and tell whether the added part comes before or after it. For example, re comes before heat in reheat, and ful comes after hope in hopeful.