Word Part Detectives

Sort words by where the added part goes.

5.RF.3 "Demonstrate mastery of 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 goes before a base word and changes its meaning.

overcook (base: cook)

SUFFIX

A suffix goes after a base word. It can change the word's meaning or how the word is used in a sentence.

teacher (base: teach)

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word, then choose two numbered items and explain where the added part goes in each word.

1. preheat (base: heat) PREFIX SUFFIX

2. joyful (base: joy) PREFIX SUFFIX

3. fearless (base: fear) PREFIX SUFFIX

4. dislike (base: like) PREFIX SUFFIX

5. misplace (base: place) PREFIX SUFFIX

6. recheck (base: check) PREFIX SUFFIX

7. readable (base: read) PREFIX SUFFIX

8. unhappy (base: happy) 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, and give the base word for each.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix, name its base word, and explain what each added part means.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.RF.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	preheat (base: heat)	**PREFIX**	pre- comes before heat.
2	joyful (base: joy)	**SUFFIX**	-ful comes after joy.
3	fearless (base: fear)	**SUFFIX**	-less comes after fear.
4	dislike (base: like)	**PREFIX**	dis- comes before like.
5	misplace (base: place)	**PREFIX**	mis- comes before place.
6	recheck (base: check)	**PREFIX**	re- comes before check.
7	readable (base: read)	**SUFFIX**	-able comes after read.
8	unhappy (base: happy)	**PREFIX**	un- comes before happy.

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**: unfair (base: fair)
- **SUFFIX**: hopeful (base: hope)

Challenge: Unhelpful (base: help): un- means not, and -ful means full of. Unhelpful means not helpful.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the base word and correctly place the added part before or after it. For example, pre- comes before heat in item 1, while -ful comes after joy in item 2.