

Prefix Word Detectives

Look at the beginning of each word.

3.2.B.vi "spelling words using knowledge of prefixes; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

HAS A PREFIX

A prefix is a group of letters added to the beginning of a word. In rewrite, re- means again.

rewrite

NO PREFIX

A plain word does not have a prefix added to its beginning. Planet begins with letters, but no prefix was added.

planet

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each word, then choose two words and explain which letters at the beginning helped you sort them.

1. reread

PREFIX

PLAIN

2. unhappy

PREFIX

PLAIN

3. basket

PREFIX

PLAIN

4. preview

PREFIX

PLAIN

5. window

PREFIX

PLAIN

6. dislike

PREFIX

PLAIN

7. picnic

PREFIX

PLAIN

8. untie

PREFIX

PLAIN

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 plain word with no prefix.

PREFIX _____

PLAIN _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence using a word with a prefix. Then name the prefix and the base word.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	reread	PREFIX	re- is a prefix meaning again, and read is the base word.
2	unhappy	PREFIX	un- is a prefix, and happy is the base word.
3	basket	PLAIN	Basket is a plain word with no prefix added to its beginning.
4	preview	PREFIX	pre- is a prefix, and view is the base word.
5	window	PLAIN	Window is a plain word with no prefix added to its beginning.
6	dislike	PREFIX	dis- is a prefix, and like is the base word.
7	picnic	PLAIN	Picnic is a plain word with no prefix added to its beginning.
8	untie	PREFIX	un- is a prefix, and tie is the base word.

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:** misplace
- **PLAIN:** garden

Challenge: We will repaint the fence. Prefix: re-. Base word: paint.

For Part 2, students should identify the prefix and base word for two PREFIX choices. Accept other correct words in Part 3 if the word clearly has a prefix or has no prefix.