

Affix Detective

Sort words by the clue that helps you decode them.

4.FFR.3.B "Use knowledge of morphology (suffixes, prefixes, root/base) to decode words."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PREFIX CLUE

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

misplace

SUFFIX CLUE

A suffix is a word part added to the end of a base word. It can change the word's meaning.

joyful

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word, then for Part 2, pick two words and explain which word part helped you decode each one.

1. reread

PREFIX

SUFFIX

2. preheat

PREFIX

SUFFIX

3. kindness

PREFIX

SUFFIX

4. dislike

PREFIX

SUFFIX

5. fearless

PREFIX

SUFFIX

6. payment

PREFIX

SUFFIX

7. unlock

PREFIX

SUFFIX

8. hopeful

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: Write one new word with a PREFIX clue and one new word with a SUFFIX clue.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Challenge: Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix, then tell what the word means.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	reread	PREFIX	re- is a prefix at the beginning that means again.
2	preheat	PREFIX	pre- is a prefix at the beginning that means before.
3	kindness	SUFFIX	-ness is a suffix at the end that names a quality or state.
4	dislike	PREFIX	dis- is a prefix at the beginning that can mean not or opposite.
5	fearless	SUFFIX	-less is a suffix at the end that means without.
6	payment	SUFFIX	-ment is a suffix at the end that can name an action or result.
7	unlock	PREFIX	un- is a prefix at the beginning that can mean to reverse an action.
8	hopeful	SUFFIX	-ful is a suffix at the end that means full of.

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:** rewrite
- **SUFFIX:** darkness

Challenge: Unhelpful means not providing help.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the affix, tell whether it is at the beginning or end, and connect it to the word's meaning. For Part 3, accept any correctly formed new word that fits the named category.