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.

ANSWER KEY # Affix Detective

GRADE 4 · 4.FFR.3.B

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.