

Word Part Detectives

Use word parts to find meaning clues.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

PREFIX CLUE

A prefix is a word part at the beginning of a word. It can help you predict the word's meaning.

overcook: over- means too much, so overcook means cook too much.

SUFFIX CLUE

A suffix is a word part at the end of a word. It can help you predict the word's meaning.

joyful: -ful means full of, so joyful means full of joy.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle PREFIX or SUFFIX for each word, then choose two words and explain which word part helped you sort each one.

1. misread

PREFIX

SUFFIX

2. preheat

PREFIX

SUFFIX

3. fearless

PREFIX

SUFFIX

4. disagree

PREFIX

SUFFIX

5. painter

PREFIX

SUFFIX

6. washable

PREFIX

SUFFIX

7. rewrite

PREFIX

SUFFIX

8. preview

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 that belongs in PREFIX and one new word that belongs in SUFFIX.

PREFIX _____

SUFFIX _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix. Put brackets around the base word and explain what the word means.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	misread	PREFIX	mis- is a prefix at the beginning and means wrongly.
2	preheat	PREFIX	pre- is a prefix at the beginning and means before.
3	fearless	SUFFIX	-less is a suffix at the end and means without.
4	disagree	PREFIX	dis- is a prefix at the beginning and can mean not or opposite.
5	painter	SUFFIX	-er is a suffix at the end and can mean a person who does something.
6	washable	SUFFIX	-able is a suffix at the end and means able to be.
7	rewrite	PREFIX	re- is a prefix at the beginning and means again.
8	preview	PREFIX	pre- is a prefix at the beginning and means before.

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:** replay, re- is at the beginning.
- **SUFFIX:** careless, -less is at the end.

Challenge: re[use]able means able to be used again.

For Part 2, students should identify the beginning prefix or ending suffix in each chosen word. Accept new examples that clearly contain the correct word part in the correct position.