GRAMMAR

Prefixes

Name _____ Date _____

I can use prefixes like un-, re-, pre- and mis- to work out what a word means.

1 The rule

A prefix goes at the start of a word and changes its meaning: un- and dis- mean not, re- means again, pre- before, mis- wrongly.

I **reread** the story because I **misread** a word.

2 Look and say



unlock
open the lock



unpack
take things out



reread
read again



refill
fill again



preheat
heat before



dislike
not like



misspell
spell wrongly

disappear
go out of sight

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Sort the words

Name _____ Date _____

Read each word. What does its prefix mean? Write it in the right box.

1 Word bank

misread | misspell | dislike | preschool | unkind | rewrite | preheat | redo | prepay | preview | replay | mislead | disagree | refill | unsafe | misplace

not	again	before	wrongly
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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GRAMMAR · PREFIXES

Find it in a sentence

Name _____ Date _____

Read each sentence. Circle the word with a prefix.

1. I misplaced my keys.
2. It is unsafe to run here.
3. Please reread the story.
4. Preheat the oven first.
5. We disagree about the game.
6. The coin will disappear.
7. Let's replay the game.
8. That rule is unfair.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Write it

Name _____ Date _____

Add un-, re-, pre- or mis- to make a word that matches the meaning.

1. not happy = _____

2. tell again = _____

3. spell wrongly = _____

4. not able = _____

5. view before = _____

6. fill again = _____

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: prefixes

1 Sort the words

not: unkind, unsafe, dislike, disagree

again: redo, rewrite, replay, refill

before: preview, preheat, prepay, preschool

wrongly: misread, misspell, mislead, misplace

2 Find it in a sentence

1. misplaced 2. unsafe 3. reread 4. Preheat 5. disagree 6. disappear 7. replay 8. unfair

3 Write it

1. unhappy 2. retell 3. misspell 4. unable 5. preview 6. refill

4 Teaching tip

Cover the prefix with a finger and read the base word, then uncover it and ask what changed. Knowing a dozen prefixes helps children work out hundreds of new words.

Watch for: Thinking every word that starts with these letters has a prefix, as in uncle or reach. If no base word is left after you take the letters away, it is not a prefix.

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