

Learn Root Words, Prefixes, and Suffixes

How to use: Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Identify the root word in a longer word
- 2 Recognise common prefixes and suffixes and explain what they mean
- 3 Sort words correctly into root-only, has-a-prefix, and has-a-suffix categories

MINI LESSON

Many English words are built from smaller parts. The root word is the base word that carries the main meaning. A prefix is added to the beginning of the root to change its meaning. A suffix is added to the end of the root to change its meaning or grammatical role.

Root Words

A root word is a complete word that can stand on its own. For example, "play", "kind", "happy", and "read" are all root words. You can add parts to them to make new words.

Common Prefixes

- un- = not (unhappy, unkind, unable)
- re- = again (reread, rewrite, redo)
- pre- = before (preview, prepay, preheat)
- mis- = wrongly (mistake, misread, misplace)
- dis- = not / opposite (disagree, disappear, dislike)

Common Suffixes

- -ful = full of (careful, joyful, helpful)
- -less = without (helpless, careless, fearless)
- -ness = state of (kindness, sadness, darkness)
- -er / -or = person who (teacher, actor, farmer)
- -ing = action happening now (reading, jumping, singing)

! To find the root word: remove the prefix AND the suffix, and see what is left. That is your root.

Parts of a Word

un-

help

-ful

prefix

= not

root

= assist

suffix

= full of

unhelpful

= not full of help

Tip: remove prefix and suffix to find the root word.

Prefixes vs Suffixes

Prefixes

- un- = not
- re- = again
- pre- = before
- mis- = wrongly
- dis- = not

Suffixes

- ful = full of
- less = without
- ness = state of
- er = person who
- ing = happening now

EXERCISES — SORT & MATCH

Write each word in the correct column.

WORDS TO SORT

play

kind

help

light

unhappy

rewrite

dislike

preview

joyful

kindness

fearless

teacher

Root Only

Has a Prefix

Has a Suffix

EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the best answer.

What is a root word?

- A word added to the beginning of another word
- The base word that carries the main meaning before any parts are added
- A word that always ends in -ful or -less

What does the prefix "un-" mean?

- Again
- Before
- Not

Which word contains a prefix?

- hopeful
- misplace
- darkness

What does the suffix "-ful" mean?

- Without
- Full of
- Person who

Which word contains a suffix?

- redo
- preheat
- sadness

What is the root word in "unhelpful"?

- unhelpful
- help
- ful

What does "rewrite" mean?

- Write before
- Write wrongly
- Write again

Which word means "without fear"?

- fearful
- fearless
- fearness

Which part of a word is added to the END?

- Prefix
- Root
- Suffix

What is the root word in "preview"?

- pre
- view
- eview

ASSESSMENT

PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Identifies the root word in at least five words that contain a prefix or suffix.
- Sorts all 12 word chips correctly into the three buckets.
- Explains what at least two different prefixes or suffixes mean with an example word for each.