

Name: _____ # _____

PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES



Focus:

Prefixes and suffixes are added to base words to change the meaning.

Have you ever been to the movies? What do you watch before the actual movie begins? If you said previews--you are correct! Check out the word *preview*. There are two parts; the base word and the prefix. The base word is the main part of the word. A prefix is a letter or group of letters that is added to the beginning of the base word. Prefixes have their own meaning, which in turn changes the meaning of the entire word. In the word *preview*, the prefix is *pre* and the base word is *view*. *Pre* means before. *View* means to see or watch. Therefore, the term *preview* means to watch something before a certain time. If you know the meaning of a certain prefix, you can often figure out words that use that prefix. For example, what do you think *pretest* means? What about *preplan*?

Here are some prefixes to remember:

Prefix	Meaning	Example
dis	opposite of	dislike
mis	incorrectly	misuse
pre	before	prepay
re	again, back	reread, replay
un	not, opposite of	unhappy, untie

Read each sentence. Underline the word that contains a prefix. Then write the meaning of that word.

1. My mother thought she misplaced her silver necklace. _____
2. On her birthday the necklace reappeared in her purse. _____
3. She discovered the missing jewelry on her way to work. _____
4. My mother was relieved when the necklace rejoined her other jewelry in her jewelry box.

Add a prefix from the chart above to the word in parenthesis. Be sure the new word makes sense.

5. Does Sally have (match) clothes? _____
6. Some people (approve) of loud music. _____
7. Molly's jacket was too tight, so she (buttoned) it. _____
8. Marley (spelled) three words on her spelling test. _____
9. The boys (paid) the money they borrowed from their sister. _____

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A prefix changes the meaning of a base word when it is added to the beginning. A suffix also changes the meaning of a base word; however, a suffix is added to the end.

Have you ever been really happy about something? If you are really happy, someone might say you are *cheerful*. The base word here is *cheer* and the suffix is *ful*. The suffix *ful* means "full of." The term *cheerful* means "full of cheer."

Another suffix is the letter *y* meaning "like, as." You add a *y* to the end of a noun to create an adjective. For example, look at this sentence: *Melanie was excited about the snowy day*. In this sentence the suffix *y* was added to the end of the noun/ base word *snow*. The new word *snowy* is now used to describe the day as snowy.

Suffix	Meaning	Example
able	able to be	drinkable
er	one who	speaker
ful	full of	careful
less	without	careless
or	one who	sailor
y	like, as	smelly

Read the sentences. Underline each word that has a suffix. Then write the meaning of that word.

1. The rock star wears colorful pants during his performance. _____
2. My mother always tells me to keep my room spotless. _____
3. The lady in red is the owner of my favorite restaurant. _____
4. The band director led the group with his baton. _____
5. Claire and Grace are graceful ballet dancers. _____

Add a suffix from the chart above to each of these words. Then use your new word to write a sentence.

6. wonder

7. worth

8. enjoy
