

Adding Prefixes and Suffixes to Build Words

Directions

1. Remind your child that we can add prefixes and suffixes to base words to build new words. A base word can stand alone and has meaning (for example, cat, bench, eat, walk).
 - A **prefix** is a word part that is added to the beginning of a base word that changes its meaning. Examples of prefixes are **un-**, **re-**, **im-**. When the prefix **un-** is added to the base word **lucky**, the word changes from **lucky** to **unlucky**. The prefix **un-** means “not,” so unlucky means not lucky.
 - A **suffix** is a word part that is added to the end of a base word that changes its meaning. Examples of suffixes include **-er**, **-ful**, **-ness**. When the suffix **-er** is added to the base word **work**, the word changes from **work** to **worker**. The suffix **-er** means “one who,” so worker means one who works.
2. Cut out the prefix and suffix cards. Place them face down in a stack.
3. Provide your child with the base word activity sheets and ask your child to read the base words. Discuss the meaning of any unknown base words.
4. Ask your child to:
 - Select a card from the stack and read the prefix or suffix.
 - Find a base word on the activity sheets to add the prefix or suffix to build a new (real) word.
 - Read the new word and tell whether a prefix or suffix was added.
 - Discuss the meaning of the new word.

Example

The diagram illustrates the example activity. It shows two activity sheets, a stack of cards, and a card labeled "im" being placed on the "possible" word on Sheet 1.

Adding Prefixes and Suffixes to Build Words Activity Sheet 1

	agree	
	school	
	cheer	
	able	
	paint	er
	possible	

im

Adding Prefixes and Suffixes to Build Words Activity Sheet 2

mis	behave	
	art	
	sense	
	tender	
	call	
	child	

Activity Sheet 1 Key

agree	school	cheer	able	paint	possible
agreement	preschool	cheerful cheerer	unable	painter	impossible

Activity Sheet 2 Key

behave	art	sense	tender	call	child
misbehave	artful	nonsense	tenderness	caller recall	childish

prefix and suffix cards



pre	un	im
mis	non	re
ful	er	ment
ist	ness	ish

Adding Prefixes and Suffixes to Build Words Activity Sheet 1

agree

school

cheer

able

paint

possible

Adding Prefixes and Suffixes to Build Words Activity Sheet 2

behave

art

sense

tender

call

child