
Prefix, Root Word, and Suffix Study Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

A **prefix** is a word part with a specific meaning at the beginning of a word.

A **suffix** is a word part with a specific meaning at the end of a word.

A **root word** is the main part of a word that contains its core meaning. Sometimes it is a word on its own, as in *unbelievable* (*believe* is the root word), and sometimes it cannot stand alone, as in *relocation* (*loc* is the root word). In either case, prefixes and suffixes can be added to root words, which might change either the meaning of the word (*reactivate*, *deactivate*) or its grammatical function (*transports* = present tense, *transported* = past tense, *transportation* = noun). Sometimes spelling changes when suffixes are added to root words (*noise*, *noisy*).

Learning **root words**, **prefixes**, and **suffixes** can help you because:

- If you recognize these word parts, it is easier to figure out what a word you don't know means.
- They can help you to spell words because you'll remember patterns.

Instructions: As you read this paragraph, underline all words that have prefixes or suffixes. Write them below the paragraph and then write a definition of the word. If you do not know the definition, use the Make-a-Word Game Chart to help you guess.

The Garbage Problem

Improper garbage disposal can cause contamination of subterranean water sources. Relocating garbage dumps doesn't necessarily solve this incredibly unhealthful problem. Laws preceding the discovery of this problem were predictably relaxed in terms of garbage disposal. Since the discovery, authorities have proceeded to toughen these laws and have injected funds into reevaluating ongoing practices. Interjection of environmental organizations has helped to convince an incredulous public of the depth of the problem and the need to recycle. Some garbage dumps have receded in size, but most have increased as the unbelievable amount of garbage produced continues to multiply unnecessarily.

Words with prefixes or suffixes

Meaning