

What are Prefixes and Suffixes?

Worksheet

Prefixes and suffixes are letter sequences added to root words — prefixes at the start (un-, re-, dis-) and suffixes at the end (-tion, -ness, -ful) — to create new words and meanings.

Questions

1. What does the prefix 'un-' mean?
A) again
B) not
C) before
D) many
2. Which suffix makes an adjective into a noun?
A) -ful
B) -ness
C) -ly
D) -able
3. Analyze 'uncomfortably': how many morphemes?
A) 2 (un + comfortably)
B) 3 (un + comfort + ably)
C) 4 (un + comfort + able + ly)
D) 5
4. What does 'dis-' prefix mean?
A) not
B) again
C) before
D) too much
5. Build a word: unhappy + suffix -ness
6. Analyze 'disagreement': prefix + root + suffix
7. Create a word from 'care': care + un- + -ful + -ness
8. Define: What is a prefix?
9. Define: What is a suffix?
10. Define: Examples of un- prefix?

Answer Key

1. B) not — un- negates: unhappy = not happy. re- = again; pre- = before.
2. B) -ness — -ness creates nouns from adjectives: happy → happiness. -ly creates adverbs.
3. D) 5 — un- (prefix) + comfort (root) + -able (suffix) + -ly (suffix) = 4 morphemes.
4. A) not — dis- negates or reverses: dislike, disconnect, disagree (opposite of agree).
5. unhappy = adjective (un- + happy) Add -ness (makes noun): unhappiness Meaning: the state of being unhappy
6. dis- (prefix) + agree (root) + -ment (suffix) Meaning: lack of agreement
7. care → careful (care + -ful) careful → uncaring (un- + care) → careless (care + -less) careless + -ness → carelessness (state of being careless)
8. A letter sequence added to the START of a root word to modify its meaning (un-, re-, dis-).
9. A letter sequence added to the END of a root word to change its word class or add meaning (-tion, -ness, -ly).
10. unhappy, unlock, unusual, unfair, uncertain, unclear, undo, unwell

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