

Mastering Prefixes and Suffixes with Pip

Learning objective: To identify and use prefixes and suffixes to change the meaning of words, as per the Year 4 National Curriculum.

Read the story below about Pip the bookworm. Look closely at the highlighted words. Use the word bank to help you answer the questions about how prefixes and suffixes change the meaning of root words.

Pip the caterpillar loves to read in the library. One morning, he felt very cheerful because he had found a new book about stars. He decided to reread the first chapter. Suddenly, he noticed the pages were untidy and disorganized. 'Oh no,' he thought, 'I must not misplace my bookmark!' He looked carefully at the shelves. He was hopeful that he would find his friend Nova the owl. Pip felt fearless as he climbed the tall ladder, even though the task seemed endless.

Word bank: re- (again) · dis- (not or opposite) · mis- (wrongly) · -ful (full of) · -less (without) · -ly (in a way that is)

1. Find a word in the passage that uses the prefix 're-'. What does this prefix mean in the context of the story? (2 marks)

2. The root word 'tidy' becomes 'untidy' in the text. What does the prefix 'un-' mean here? (2 marks)

3. Look at the word 'fearless'. Explain what the suffix '-less' does to the root word 'fear'. (2 marks)

4. Find one word ending in '-ly' in the passage. What is the root word, and how does the suffix change it? (2 marks)

5. Write a sentence using the word 'disappoint'. Explain if you used a prefix or a suffix. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar wearing a tiny backpack, climbing a giant stack of books in the library. Label one book with a word that uses a prefix and one with a word that uses a suffix.



Extension challenge: Can you think of three other words that use the suffix '-ful'? Write them down and use one in a sentence about Nova the owl exploring the night sky.