

Max's Magnificent Word Factory

Learning objective: To identify and understand the impact of prefixes and suffixes on root words.

Read the story carefully and answer the questions below. Use your knowledge of word parts to help you.

Max the monkey was busy in his jungle laboratory. He loved to solve maths puzzles, but today he was exploring the magic of language. Max discovered that by adding a prefix to the start of a root word, or a suffix to the end, he could change its meaning entirely. He picked up the word 'happy' and added the prefix 'un-'. Suddenly, the word transformed into 'unhappy'. He quickly added the suffix '-ness' to the word 'kind' to create 'kindness', which made him feel warm and fuzzy inside. Max noticed that some words, like 'disappear', used a prefix to show the opposite of an action. He carefully wrote these new words on his chalkboard, feeling very proud. He realised that learning prefixes and suffixes was just like solving a complex puzzle. By breaking words down into smaller parts, he could unlock the meaning of even the longest, most difficult words. Max smiled, knowing that his word factory would help all his friends learn to read and write with even more confidence and joy.

Word bank: prefix · suffix · root word · disappear · joyful · unhappy · kindness

1. Which prefix did Max add to the word 'happy' to change its meaning? (1 mark)

2. What suffix did Max add to 'kind' to create a new word? (1 mark)

3. Why does Max compare learning about prefixes and suffixes to solving a puzzle? (2 marks)

4. What does the word 'disappear' mean, based on the prefix used? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max is a good teacher for his friends? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey in his jungle laboratory standing next to a large chalkboard covered in words that have prefixes and suffixes highlighted in bright colours.



Extension challenge: Choose three root words from the text and create two new words for each by adding different prefixes and suffixes. For example: 'happy' becomes 'unhappy' and 'happily'.