

Pip's Puzzling Prefix Challenge

Learning objective: To understand and apply prefixes 'dis-', 're-', and 'mis-' to change word meanings.

Read the story below about Pip the bookworm caterpillar. Look closely at the underlined words. Answer the questions that follow to show how well you understand how prefixes change the meaning of root words.

Pip the bookworm caterpillar was busy organising his library. He had a tendency to misplace his favourite bookmark, which would often disappear behind a stack of encyclopaedias. When he finally found it, the bookmark would reappear as if by magic! One afternoon, Pip decided to rethink his filing system because he had started to misread the labels on the shelves. He did not want to disobey the library rules by putting history books in the science section. Pip and his friend Nova the owl had to agree on the new system, although they did occasionally disagree about where to put the books about star patterns.

Word bank: disappear · reappear · misplace · disobey · rethink · misread · disagree

1. What does the prefix 're-' mean in the word 'rethink'? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

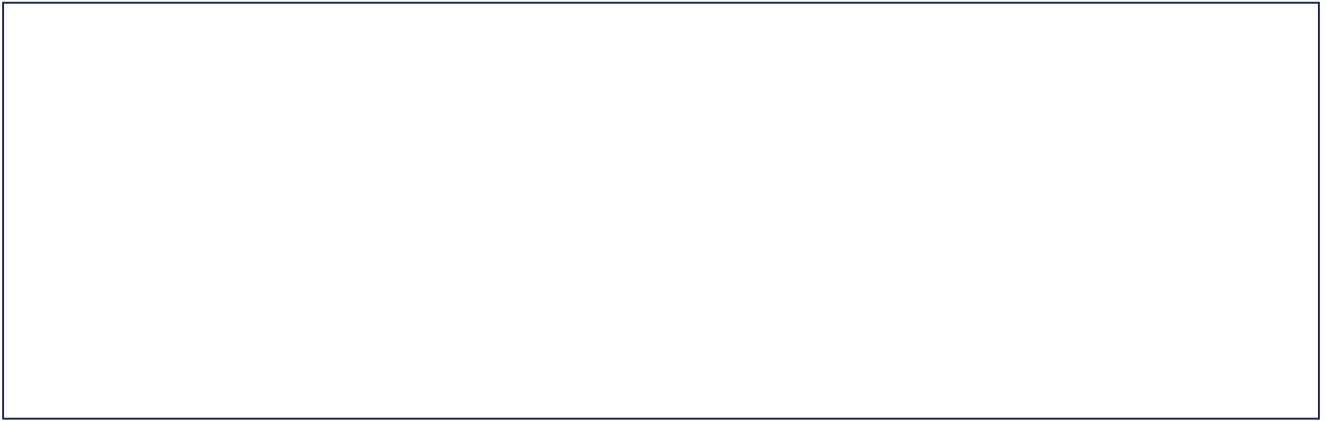
2. If Pip were to 'misread' a label, what has he done wrong? (1 mark)

3. Find a word in the passage that uses the prefix 'dis-' to mean the opposite of 'appear'. (1 mark)

4. Write a sentence of your own using the word 'disagree'. (2 marks)

5. Why might someone 'disobey' a rule? Use your own words. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar sitting in his library, surrounded by towers of books and his missing bookmark.



Extension challenge: Choose two root words from the list below and create four new words by adding different prefixes to them: 'place', 'order', 'view', 'play'.