Mastering Prefixes and Suffixes with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To understand and apply prefixes and suffixes to root words to change their meaning, meeting the Grade 3 National Curriculum requirements.

Read each task carefully. Use your knowledge of root words and how prefixes (like un-, dis-, mis-) and suffixes (like -ation, -ly, -ous) change the meaning of words. Work through the challenges to help Max the monkey solve his math puzzles and Zara the zebra create her art patterns.

Max the monkey is busy sorting his math puzzle pieces. He adds prefixes to the start of root words to create opposites or new meanings. Zara the zebra is nearby, adding suffixes to the end of root words to turn them into adjectives or adverbs to describe her beautiful, patterns.

Word bank: unhappy · disappear · mistake · happiness · joyful · quickly · careful · reappear · unimportant · colorful

1. Max has the root word 'happy'. Add a prefix and a suffix to this word to create two different words. Explain how the meaning of the root word changes in each case. (2 marks)

2. Identify the prefix in the word 'disappear'. Write a new word using the same prefix that also means 'to do the opposite of'. (2 marks)

3. Zara wants to describe her painting. Take the root word 'care' and add a suffix to make it into an adjective. Then, use that word in a sentence about an artist. (2 marks)

4. Max finds the word 'mistake'. Is 'mis-' a prefix or a suffix? Explain what 'mis-' usually suggests when added to a root word. (2 marks)

5. Add the correct suffix (-ly) to the word 'quick' to create an adverb. Write a sentence explaining how a cheetah might move. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey holding a sign that says 'UN-DO' and Zara the zebra painting a 'COLOURFUL' picture. Label one prefix and one suffix in your drawing.

Extension challenge: Choose three root words from the word bank. Challenge yourself to create a 'word family' for each one by adding as many different prefixes and suffixes as you can to form new words.