

Mastering Prefixes and Suffixes with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand and apply the use of prefixes and suffixes to change the meaning of root words, meeting the Year 5 English curriculum requirements.

Max the Monkey loves solving maths puzzles, but he also loves playing with words! Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of prefixes (like un-, dis-, mis-, re-, sub-, over-) and suffixes (like -ation, -ly, -ous, -ful, -less) to help Max complete his word puzzles.

Max the Monkey is organising his word collection. He has discovered that by adding a prefix to the start or a suffix to the end of a root word, he can create brand new meanings!

Word bank: unhappy · disappear · mislead · reappear · submerge · overcook · hesitation · joyful · careless · cautiously

1. Max has the root word 'happy'. Add a prefix to make it mean the opposite, and a suffix to make it an adjective meaning full of happiness. Write both new words below. (2 marks)

2. Explain the difference in meaning between the words 'careful' and 'careless'. How does the suffix change the definition? (2 marks)

3. Change the following verbs into nouns by adding the suffix '-ation': 'hesitate' and 'inform'. (2 marks)

4. Max is trying to follow a recipe, but he might 'overcook' the bananas. What does the prefix 'over-' mean in this context? Use it in a new sentence of your own. (2 marks)

5. Rewrite this sentence by adding a suffix to the verb 'walk' to show how the monkey moved: 'The monkey walked to the tree.' (Hint: use an adverb ending in -ly). (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey holding a sign that shows a root word (like 'play') and two branches coming off it showing words with a prefix (e.g., 're-play') and a suffix (e.g., 'play-ful').



Extension challenge: Choose three root words of your own. For each one, create a 'word family' by adding at least one prefix and one suffix to each root. Can you write a short, funny paragraph using at least four of your new words?