

Mastering Prefixes and Suffixes with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To understand and use prefixes and suffixes to change the meaning of root words.

Read the short story below about Pip the Bookworm. Identify how prefixes (added to the start) and suffixes (added to the end) change the root words. Answer the questions that follow to test your knowledge.

Pip the Bookworm was having a busy morning in the library. He noticed that some words seemed to be playing hide-and-seek! When Pip felt 'unhappy', he knew he just needed to read a book to feel 'joyful' again. He watched a butterfly 'reappear' from behind a large dictionary. Pip tried to be careful, as he did not want to be 'careless' with the fragile pages. Sometimes, two of his friends would 'disagree' about which story was best, but Pip always settled the argument with his great 'kindness'. He reminded them that it is easy to 'misunderstand' a plot if you do not read every single word carefully.

Word bank: disagree · careless · reappear · joyful · misunderstand · unhappy · kindness

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

2. Look at the word 'careless'. What is the root word, and how does the suffix '-less' change its meaning? (2 marks)

3. Add a prefix to the word 'agree' to create an antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) found in the text. (1 mark)

4. Identify the suffix in the word 'kindness'. What type of word does this suffix help create? (2 marks)

5. Write a new sentence using the word 'misunderstand'. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the Bookworm sitting on a giant stack of books, wearing a tiny pair of glasses, with speech bubbles showing words with prefixes and suffixes floating around him.



Extension challenge: Choose three root words of your own, such as 'happy', 'play', or 'view'. Write them down and see how many different prefixes and suffixes you can add to each to make new, valid words.