

# The Morphological Masterclass with Kit the Fox

*Learning objective: To understand and apply prefixes and suffixes to root words, exploring how they alter word meaning and grammatical function.*

Kit the Fox is building a 'Word Machine' to help him solve complex puzzles. To make the machine work, you must help Kit combine root words with the correct prefixes and suffixes from the bank. For each question, construct a new word that fits the sentence, then explain how the prefix or suffix has changed the meaning of the root word.

*Word bank: un- · dis- · re- · mis- · sub- · -ful · -less · -ness · -able · -tion · agree · appear · place · colour · joy · marine · calculate · active*

**1. Kit found a map that was hard to read. He had to [re + calculate] the route. Explain why the prefix 're-' changes the meaning of the verb 'calculate'. (2 marks)**

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**2. The painting was filled with [colour + ful] patterns. If we changed the suffix to '-less', how would the meaning of the sentence shift? Justify your answer. (2 marks)**

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**3. The secret code was [dis + appear]ing from the screen. What does the prefix 'dis-' suggest about the state of the code? (2 marks)**

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**4. Max the monkey felt great [joy + ness] while solving the puzzle. Explain why this word is grammatically incorrect and provide the correct suffix to form a noun. (2 marks)**

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**5. Compare and contrast the prefixes 'un-' and 'mis-'. Provide one original example for each to demonstrate your understanding. (2 marks)**

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**6. What might happen to the meaning of the word 'marine' if you added the prefix 'sub-'? Explain the definition of the new word. (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a diagram of Kit's 'Word Machine'. Show root words entering a funnel on the left, and new, complex words with prefixes and suffixes emerging from a gear-driven slot on the right.



*Extension challenge: Create a 'Prefix and Suffix Tree'. Choose a root word (e.g., 'agree') and create as many branches as possible by adding different prefixes and suffixes. For each new word, write a complex sentence that uses it in context, ensuring the word is used to add precision to your writing.*