

Mastering Morphology: Prefixes and Suffixes with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To understand how prefixes and suffixes alter the meaning and word class of root words.

Read the story of Pip's library adventure below. Identify the root words within the highlighted terms, then use your knowledge of morphology to answer the following questions.

Pip the Bookworm spent his morning in the Great Archive. He felt **fearless** as he climbed the towering shelves. He had to **reappear** at the top level to find a dusty map. Pip noticed the librarian, a wise tortoise, looking **thoughtful** while sorting scrolls. Sometimes, Pip would **miscalculate** the distance between books, but his **happiness** grew with every page he turned. He carefully avoided the **uncomfortable** creaky floorboards that would **disobey** his quiet footsteps by squeaking loudly.

Word bank: reappear · miscalculate · disobey · fearless · happiness · thoughtful · uncomfortable · submerge

1. Identify the root word in 'fearless' and explain how the suffix '-less' changes its meaning. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the prefix 'mis-' in 'miscalculate' changes the verb. Can you provide another example of a word starting with 'mis-'? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the prefixes 're-' and 'dis-'. Use examples from the text to justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. What might happen to the meaning of the word 'happiness' if you removed the suffix '-ness' and replaced it with '-ful'? Explain the grammatical change that occurs. (2 marks)

5. Justify why 'uncomfortable' is an adjective. How does the prefix 'un-' contribute to the state of the object being described? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the Bookworm in his library. Include three labels for items in your drawing that use prefixes or suffixes (e.g., 'unorganized papers', 'helpful ladder', 'rearranged books').



Extension challenge: Create a 'Morphology Matrix'. Choose three root words (e.g., 'read', 'act', 'kind'). Create a table showing how many different words you can form by adding various prefixes and suffixes. Write a short paragraph using at least four of your newly created words to describe a fictional journey.