

Mastering Morphology: Prefixes and Suffixes with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand and apply the rules for adding common prefixes (such as re-, dis-, mis-, over-, un-) and suffixes (such as -ation, -ly, -ous, -ful, -less) to root words.

Max the Monkey loves solving maths puzzles, but he needs your help to decode these word patterns! Read each instruction carefully and apply your knowledge of morphology to transform these root words.

Max has been busy sorting his collection of fruit. He keeps track of everything using his trusty notebook. Use your linguistic skills to help him label his findings correctly.

Word bank: disappoint · reorganise · miscalculate · thoughtless · courageous · transformation · calmly · overjoyed

1. Max has a habit of miscalculating his fruit totals. Explain the meaning of the prefix 'mis-' in this context. How does it change the root word 'calculate'? (2 marks)

2. Add the correct suffix to the root word 'courage' to describe Max's bravery. Explain why you chose that specific suffix. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the suffixes '-ful' and '-less'. Use the root word 'thought' to demonstrate how these suffixes change the meaning of the word. (2 marks)

4. Max wants to reorganise his bookshelf. Justify why the prefix 're-' is appropriate here. What might happen if he used the prefix 'dis-' instead? (2 marks)

5. Identify the root word in 'transformation'. If Max were to change the root word to 'inform', how would the suffix '-ation' change the word's class? (2 marks)

6. Create two new words using the prefix 'over-' and two using the suffix '-ly'. Ensure they are used correctly within a sentence. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Morphology Tree' where the roots of the tree are root words (like 'happy'), and the branches represent different prefixes and suffixes that grow into new, complex words.



Extension challenge: Research the etymology of the prefix 'sub-'. Write a short paragraph explaining how this prefix functions in historical or scientific contexts, providing three examples of words that use it.