Mastering Prefixes and Suffixes with Max and Pip

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

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of prefixes (like 'mis-', 'dis-', 'in-', 're-') and suffixes (like '-able', '-ous', '-ment', '-ify') to help Max the monkey and Pip the caterpillar solve their word puzzles.

Max the monkey is organising his collection of maths puzzles, but he often misplaces his tools. Pip the caterpillar loves to watch words disappear and reappear as they change their shape. Together, they are exploring how adding prefixes to the start and suffixes to the end of words can create new, exciting meanings for their adventures.

Word bank: misplace · disappear · enjoyable · courageous · replacement · identify · inaccurate · reappear · argument · joyful

1. Add the correct prefix from the list (dis-, mis-, in-) to these root words to create an antonym: 1) ____honest, 2) ____behave, 3) ____capable. (3 marks)

2. Max has a root word 'solve'. Add a suffix to turn this verb into an adjective. Write a sentence using your new word. (2 marks)

3. Explain how adding the suffix '-ment' changes the word 'argue'. What word class does it become? (2 marks)

4. Find two words in the word bank that use the prefix 're-'. Write them down and explain what the prefix 're-' means in these contexts. (3 marks)

5. Change the following adjectives into adverbs by adding the suffix '-ly': 1) brave, 2) happy, 3) quick. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey holding a large magnifying glass looking at a giant word 'HAPPY'. Show Pip the caterpillar sitting on top of the word, adding the suffix '-ness' to turn it into 'HAPPINESS'.

Extension challenge: Choose three root words of your own. Create a 'word family tree' by adding at least two different prefixes or suffixes to each root word, then write a short paragraph using at least four of your new words.