

Max's Magnificent Word Machine

Learning objective: To identify and understand the impact of prefixes and suffixes on word meanings.

Read the story below carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow using your knowledge of how word endings and beginnings change a word's meaning.

Max the monkey sat in his treehouse with his favourite tool: the Word Machine. Max loved maths, but he also enjoyed playing with language. He took the word 'happy' and added the prefix 'un-' to the front. Suddenly, his screen flashed 'unhappy'. Max giggled; he knew that 'un-' meant not, so the word now meant the opposite of happy. Next, he tried adding a suffix to the end of a word. He took 'kind' and added the suffix '-ness'. The screen displayed 'kindness'. Max smiled, thinking about how suffixes like '-ness' turn adjectives into nouns. He decided to experiment further. He took the word 'appear' and added the prefix 'dis-'. The word became 'disappear'. Max watched as his snack seemed to vanish into thin air! He realised that prefixes and suffixes are like tiny puzzle pieces that change how words work. By adding 're-', 'un-', 'dis-', '-ful', or '-less', Max could create a brand-new vocabulary. He spent the rest of the afternoon feeling very joyful as he turned 'care' into 'careless' and 'place' into 'replace'. It was the most productive day in the forest.

Word bank: prefix · suffix · unhappy · kindness · disappear · joyful

1. What prefix did Max add to the word 'appear' to make it mean the opposite? (1 mark)

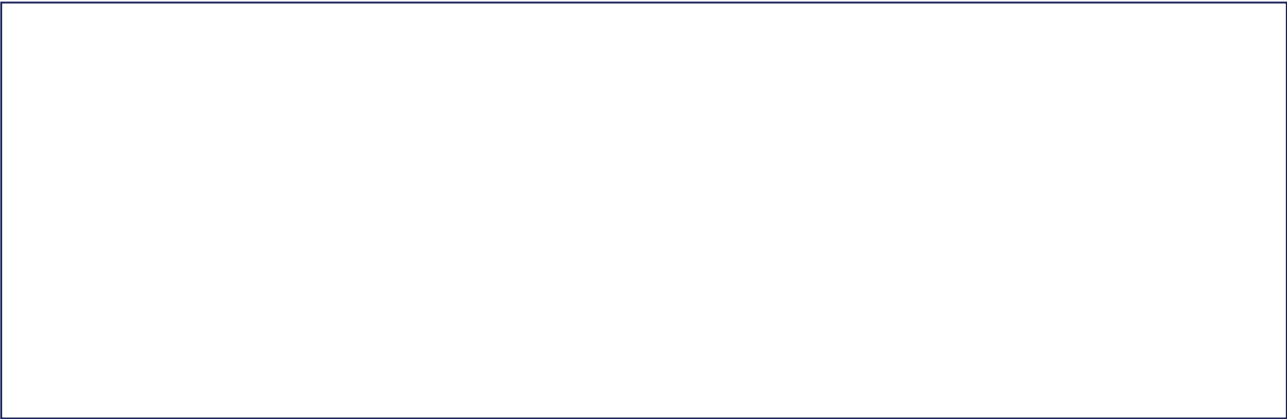
2. Which suffix did Max add to the word 'kind' to turn it into a noun? (1 mark)

3. Why does Max think prefixes and suffixes are like puzzle pieces? (2 marks)

4. How did Max feel about his day of learning, and what evidence from the text supports this? (2 marks)

5. If you could create a new word using a prefix or a suffix, which would you choose and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey sitting in his treehouse using his Word Machine, with floating words like 'unhappy' and 'kindness' popping out of it.



Extension challenge: Choose three root words and find out how many different prefixes and suffixes you can add to them to make new words. Write them in a table.