

Max the Monkey's Word-Building Workshop

Learning objective: To understand and apply prefixes (un-, mis-, dis-) and suffixes (-ing, -ed, -ful, -less) to root words.

Read the short story below about Max the monkey. Identify the root words that have been changed by adding a prefix at the beginning or a suffix at the end. Answer the questions to show how well you can build new words!

Max the monkey was feeling quite unhappy because he had managed to misplace his favourite banana basket. He searched everywhere, but he was being very careless and knocked over a stack of books. Luckily, his friend Pip the caterpillar was there to be helpful. Pip had been playing in the garden all morning. 'I dislike it when I lose things,' sighed Max. Suddenly, he spotted his basket near the tree. He felt fearless again and jumped for joy! Max thanked Pip for being such a wonderful friend.

Word bank: unhappy · helpful · careless · dislike · playing · jumped · misplace · fearless

1. Find two words in the story that use a prefix (a group of letters added to the start of a word). Write them below. (2 marks)

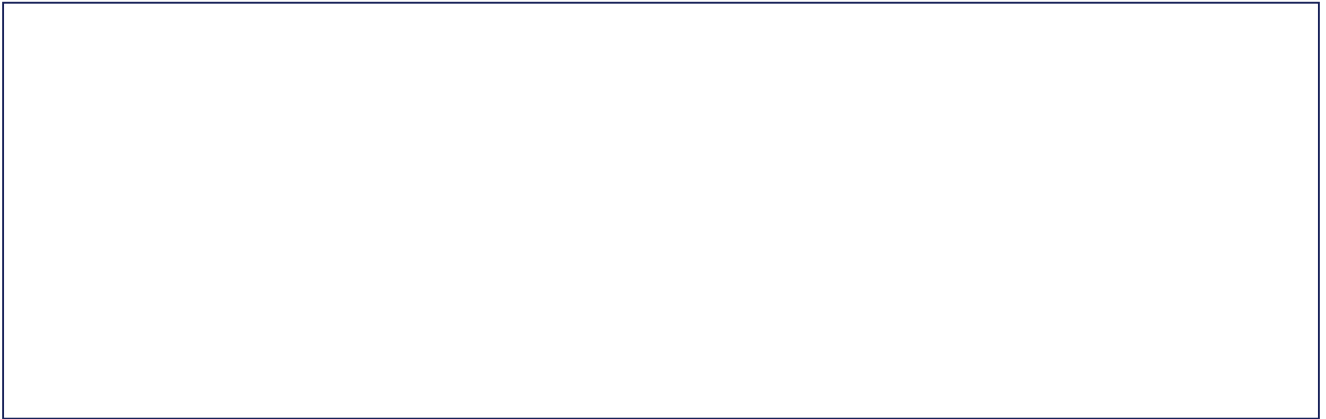
2. The word 'helpful' is made of the root word 'help' and a suffix. What is the suffix in 'helpful'? (1 mark)

3. Look at the word 'playing'. If the root word is 'play', why did we add the suffix '-ing'? (2 marks)

4. Change the root word 'kind' into two different words by adding a prefix or a suffix. (2 marks)

5. Explain what happens to the meaning of the word 'happy' when you add the prefix 'un-' to the front. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey and Pip the caterpillar working together in a garden. Label your drawing with one word that has a prefix and one word that has a suffix.



Extension challenge: Choose three root words from your maths or science books. See how many new words you can make by adding different prefixes and suffixes to them. Create a table to show your results.