

Mastering Prefixes and Suffixes with Pip

Learning objective: To understand how prefixes and suffixes change the meaning of root words and to use them accurately in writing.

Read the story about Pip the caterpillar's garden adventure. Use the word bank to identify how different prefixes and suffixes alter the meanings of the root words. Complete the questions below carefully.

Pip the caterpillar was busy organising his library of leaves. He felt a sense of pure happiness as he sorted his collection. Suddenly, he realised he had managed to misplace his favourite magnifying glass. 'Oh no!' he cried, feeling quite unlucky. He searched the garden, trying not to be careless with his precious books. Just as he began to worry that his tool would disappear forever, he spotted a glint of metal near a stone. It began to reappear as he moved a pile of petals. Pip felt joyful and immediately became more thoughtful about where he left his things.

Word bank: disappear · unlucky · misplace · happiness · joyful · careless · reappear · thoughtful

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

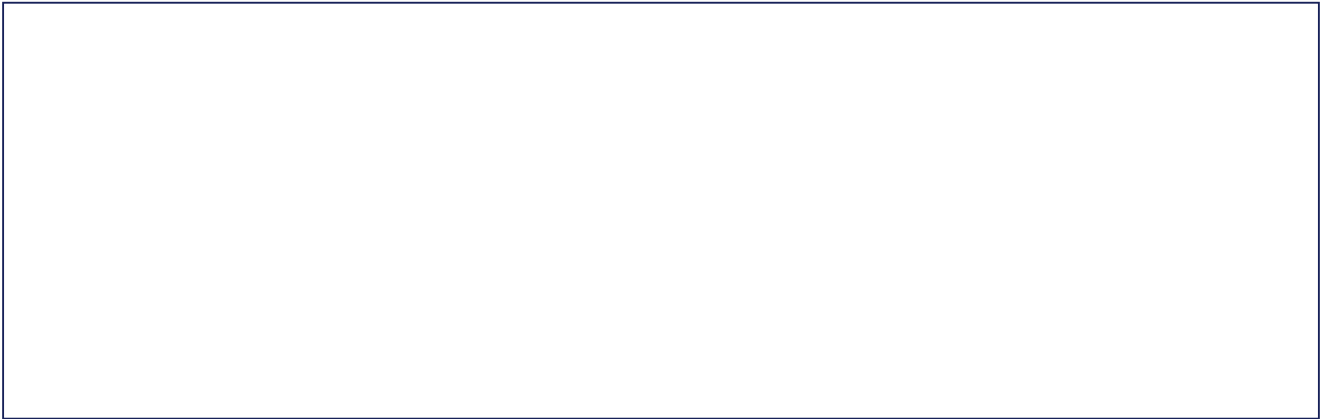
2. Which prefix in the text means 'wrongly' or 'badly'? Use this word in a new sentence. (2 marks)

3. Find two words in the passage that use the prefix 're-' or 'dis-'. Explain what these prefixes mean in the context of the story. (2 marks)

4. Why is the word 'unlucky' an antonym (opposite) of 'lucky'? Explain the function of the prefix 'un-'. (2 marks)

5. Add a suffix to the root word 'care' to create an adjective that describes someone who is not careful. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Pip the caterpillar wearing a tiny pair of glasses, holding a magnifying glass in his library of leaves. Label your drawing with three words from the word bank.



Extension challenge: Choose two root words from the text and create a table showing how adding different prefixes (e.g., mis-, un-, re-, dis-) or suffixes (e.g., -ness, -ful, -less) creates new words. Write a short paragraph using at least three of your new words.