

# Identify Base Words, Prefixes, and Suffixes

A **base word** can stand alone and has meaning by itself. A **prefix** is a word part added to the beginning of a **base word**. A **suffix** is a word part added to the end of a base word. **Prefixes** and **suffixes** change the meaning of the word. Look at the example below.

## preheated

The **base word** is *heat*.

The **prefix** is *pre-*. It means *before*.

The **suffix** is *-ed*. It makes the verb past tense.



### Some Common Prefixes

pre-, un-, re-, dis-, in-

### Some Common Suffixes

-ful, -ly, -ed, -ing, -ness,  
-ment, -less

**Directions: Identify the parts of each word below.**

|     |                  |                    |                              |                     |
|-----|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.  | softly           |                    | base word: <b>soft</b>       | suffix: <b>ly</b>   |
| 2.  | disagree         | prefix: <b>dis</b> | base word: <b>agree</b>      |                     |
| 3.  | sadness          |                    | base word: <b>sad</b>        | suffix: <b>ness</b> |
| 4.  | truthful         |                    | base word: <b>truth</b>      | suffix: <b>ful</b>  |
| 5.  | reappear         | prefix: <b>re</b>  | base word: <b>appear</b>     |                     |
| 6.  | incorrect        | prefix: <b>in</b>  | base word: <b>correct</b>    |                     |
| 7.  | unhelpful        | prefix: <b>un</b>  | base word: <b>help</b>       | suffix: <b>ful</b>  |
| 8.  | prepayment       | prefix: <b>pre</b> | base word: <b>pay</b>        | suffix: <b>ment</b> |
| 9.  | incompletely     | prefix: <b>in</b>  | base word: <b>complete</b>   | suffix: <b>ly</b>   |
| 10. | unspeakable      | prefix: <b>un</b>  | base word: <b>speak</b>      | suffix: <b>able</b> |
| 11. | misunderstanding | prefix: <b>mis</b> | base word: <b>understand</b> | suffix: <b>ing</b>  |
| 12. | disappointment   | prefix: <b>dis</b> | base word: <b>appoint</b>    | suffix: <b>ment</b> |