

Year 3 – Summer Block 3 – Word Families – Root Words, Prefixes and Suffixes

Notes and Guidance

- From previous steps covered in KS1, children should be familiar with some prefixes and suffixes. They should know that these are groups of letters that make no sense alone but can be added to the start or end of words to change the original meaning of the word.
- In this step, children will look at identifying root words and understand how words are related in the way they are formed.
- Root words cannot be separated into smaller words, as they are already in their simplest form. However, a root word can be made longer by adding a prefix or suffix, for example; *lock*; *lock* + *er* = *locker*, *lock* + *ing* = *locking*, *un* + *lock* = *unlock*.
- Using the familiar prefix 'un' and the suffixes '-ing', '-ed', '-er', '-ment', '-ness', '-ful', '-less' and the comparative and superlative suffixes '-er' and '-est', children will be able to identify the relationship between words.
- They will also be able to identify the root word that connects these words.

Focused Questions

- Underline the root words in the following words.
- Sort the words into correct groups: prefix, suffix or root?
- Match the prefix or suffix to the correct root word.
- Match words which have the same meaning, e.g 'unlock' and 'open'.

Step 3: Root Words, Prefixes and Suffixes

Introduction

Identify the odd ones out from the underlined words below.

The old ginger cat lay endlessly on his red mat just sleeping all day long. He was the laziest cat in the house, who got no enjoyment from chasing birds, mice or even frogs. He would rest inside alone and simply wait to be fed from a bowl until he was full.

Introduction

Identify the odd ones out from the underlined words below.

'rest' is a verb and is not adding the suffix '-est'.

'full' is an adjective not to be confused with the suffix '-ful'.

All the other underlined words have suffixes added to a root word.

The old ginger cat lay endlessly on his red mat just sleeping all day long. He was the laziest cat in the house, who got no enjoyment from chasing birds, mice or even frogs. He would rest inside alone and simply wait to be fed from a bowl until he was full.

Varied Fluency 1

Underline the root word in the following words.

disappear

autograph

powerless

fruitful

actually

busier

Varied Fluency 1

Underline the root word in the following words.

disappear

autograph

powerless

fruitful

actually

bus(+y)ier

Varied Fluency 2

Circle the prefix or suffix in each word.

thoughtful

weightless

interestingly

learner

higher

Varied Fluency 2

Circle the prefix or suffix in each word.

thoughtful

weightless

interestingly

learner

higher

Varied Fluency 3

Circle the prefix or suffix that can be added to all of the root words below.

auto-

-est

-ly

regular

earth

important

Varied Fluency 3

Circle the prefix or suffix that can be added to all of the root words below.

auto-

-est

-ly

regular

earth

important

Varied Fluency 4

Complete the sentences below by choosing the correct word.

misshapen

shapely

shapeless

My jumper is now _____ after being in the washing machine.

The buns were _____ mounds of sponge.

The _____ snow-covered mountain was a landmark.

Varied Fluency 4

Complete the sentences below by choosing the correct word.

misshapen

shapely

shapeless

My jumper is now **misshapen** after being in the washing machine.

The buns were **shapeless** mounds of sponge.

The **shapely** snow-covered mountain was a landmark.

Application 1

Find all the possible combinations of prefixes and suffixes with the root word 'open'.

un-

-est

-less

-er

auto-

-ly

Application 1

Find all the possible combinations of prefixes and suffixes with the root word 'open'.

unopen, opener, openly

un-

-est

-less

-er

auto-

-ly

Reasoning 1

Anita says,



I have added the suffix '-ly' to all of these words.

quick

actual

love

friend

hero

fast

Which words do not work and why?

Reasoning 1

Anita says,



I have added the suffix
'-ly' to all of these words.

quick

actual

love

friend

hero

fast

Which words do not work and why?
'fast' because...

'hero' because...

Reasoning 1

Anita says,



I have added the suffix '-ly' to all of these words.

quick

actual

love

friend

hero

fast

Which words do not work and why?

'fast' because 'fastly' is not a grammatically correct word used to describe how fast something is.

'hero' because the word should become 'heroically' not 'heroly'.

Reasoning 2

Which word is the odd one out? Explain your answer.

untie

unable

understand

unlock

Reasoning 2

Which word is the odd one out? Explain your answer.

untie

unable

understand

unlock

'understand' because...

Reasoning 2

Which word is the odd one out? Explain your answer.

untie

unable

understand

unlock

Example answer:

'understand' because the other three words add the prefix 'un-' to make the opposite meaning of each root word.