

7

Word Parts

3.A.1.2.1 3.A.2.2.1

Words are built up from parts that are called **prefixes**, **roots**, and **suffixes**.

A **root** is the main part of the word. It is a word by itself. Prefixes and suffixes add on to the root. They are not words on their own. **Prefixes** always come *before* the root. **Suffixes** come *after* it. For example, the word unhelpful is made up of the prefix un, the root help, and the suffix ful. In this word, the prefix un means “not.” The suffix ful means “full of.” So the word unhelpful means “not full of help.”

Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
dis	not	<u>dis</u> agree, <u>dis</u> appear
in	not	<u>in</u> correct, <u>in</u> expensive
mis	bad	<u>mis</u> behave, <u>mis</u> match
non	not	<u>non</u> sense, <u>non</u> fiction
pre	before or in front of	<u>pre</u> test, <u>pre</u> view
re	again or back	<u>re</u> run, <u>re</u> view
un	not	<u>un</u> lucky, <u>un</u> happy

Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
able, ible	able to, given to	like <u>able</u> , collect <u>ible</u>
ful	full of	care <u>ful</u> , wonder <u>ful</u>
less	without or not	use <u>less</u> , care <u>less</u>
ly	in a certain way	slow <u>ly</u> , bad <u>ly</u>
ment	action or result	amazement, entertainment
ness	being that way	dark <u>ness</u> , happi <u>ness</u>
or	someone who does something	operator, instructor

Some words are made up of two words. These are called **compound words**. For example, raindrop is a compound word. It joins the words rain and drop. It also joins the meaning of each word. A raindrop is a drop of rain.

Solve You can figure out what words mean by breaking them down into their parts.

Examples

1 In which word does in mean not?

- (A) instruct
- (B) inactive
- (C) insurance
- (D) income

D I S C U S S	<p>(A) This word means to teach. It does not mean <u>not</u>.</p> <p>(B) Something that is <u>inactive</u> is “not active.” The prefix <u>in</u> here means <u>not</u>.</p>	<p>(C) Insurance is a kind of protection. It has nothing to do with <u>not</u>.</p> <p>(D) Income is money you earn or are paid. It has nothing to do with <u>not</u>.</p>
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Practice It

2 What does the suffix less mean in the word fearless?

- (A) before
- (B) without
- (C) full of
- (D) scary

3 Darius felt that Kevin was being disrespectful to him. What does disrespectful mean?

- (A) full of respect
- (B) someone who shows respect
- (C) not having respect
- (D) the act of showing respect



Hint—Remember, you are looking for the meaning of the suffix, not the meaning of the root *fear*.