



Word Parts Made Fun

Help your child unlock new words using prefixes, suffixes, and roots

Audience: Parents & Caregivers

Based on professional development by Dr. Chase Young | LiTerrific.com

What Are Word Parts?

Many English words are built from smaller parts: **prefixes** (beginning), **roots** (middle), and **suffixes** (ending). When your child learns these building blocks, they can figure out the meaning of words they've never seen before.

Example: If your child knows *un-* means "not" and sees the word *unfamiliar*, they can work out it means "not familiar" without being told.

Common Prefixes to Know

Prefix	Meaning	Examples Your Child Already Knows
un-	not	unhappy, unfair, undo, unlike
re-	again	redo, replay, rewrite, return
pre-	before	preview, preschool, preheat
mis-	wrong	mistake, misunderstand, mismatch
over-	too much	overdo, overflow, overreact
non-	not	nonfiction, nonsense, nonstop

Fun Activities at Home

Invent a Word

Combine real prefixes, roots, and suffixes to make up words. Can your child define *prethinkify*? (pre- + think + -ify = to prepare your thoughts in advance). Take turns inventing words and challenging each other.

Opposite Day Storytelling

Tell a story, then retell it by swapping prefixes to change the meaning. A scary story with *unusual*, *uneasy*, *nonhuman* becomes a calm story with *usual*, *comfortable*, *human*. Kids love the absurdity.

Root Word Detective

Pick a root your child is learning (like *fract* = to break) and hunt for words that use it: *fraction*, *fracture*, *infraction*, *refract*. Keep a "detective notebook" of roots and the words they unlock.

Break Down Big Words

When your child encounters a long word, help them break it apart rather than just telling them the meaning. "*Unbelievable*" = un (not) + believe + able (can be) = "something that can't be believed."



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