Prefix power: answers

Practised: adding prefixes (un-, dis-, mis-, re-, in-, il-, im-, ir-) to root words without changing the root's spelling (Years 3–4 spelling).

Page 1 · Warm up

redo · **disappear** · **misbehave**

Page 2 · Try it together

unhappy (not happy) · **dislike** (not like) · **mislead** (lead wrongly) · **rebuild** (build again) · **impolite** (not polite) · **irregular** (not regular).

Other real words are fine too, such as **unlike**. Check any surprises in a dictionary together.

Page 2 · A. Ring the spelling

impossible · **misspell** · **illegal** · **disappear** · **irregular** · **incorrect**

Page 3 · B. Add the prefix

immature · **in**active · **ir**responsible · **im**patient · **il**legible · **im**perfect

Page 3 · C. One word for each meaning

1. **rewrite** · 2. **misbehave** · 3. **disagree** · 4. **unkind** · 5. **reappear**

Page 3 · D. Sentence

Sentences vary. Check the word is spelt correctly: **disappear** has one s and two p's; **impossible** has double s.

Challenge: Leo is right. The prefix is **mis** and the root word is **spell**. You add the prefix without dropping any letters, so the s at the end of mis and the s at the start of spell both stay: **misspell**.

Watch out for

- **Using un- or in- where il-, im- or ir- is needed**, like "unpossible" or "inlegal". Point to the root's first letter: l → il-, m or p → im-, r → ir-.
- **Dropping a letter**, like "mispell" or "iregular". Write the prefix and root in two colours, then join them.
- **Doubling where there's no double**, like "dissappear". The root is appear, so there's only one s (from dis).

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Opposites game:** say a word (kind, legal, possible, agree). Your child gives the opposite with a prefix.
- **Prefix spotting:** look for prefixes on signs and packets on a walk or at home.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Beat Beach, is about when to double the last letter before an ending.