Prefix power: answers and notes

What your child practised: the prefixes un-, dis-, mis-, re-, pre- and sub-, and how they change a word's meaning (Year 3).

Page 1 · Warm up

unhappy · **re**build · **un**fair · **re**fill

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary, e.g. preheat: pre + heat, heat before · recycle: re + cycle, use again.

Page 2 · A. Match

re- → **again** · pre- → **before** · sub- → **under, below** · mis- → **wrongly**

Page 3 · B. un-, dis- or mis-

disagree · **un**lucky · **mis**behave · **dis**appear · **mis**spell · **un**well

Page 3 · C. Meanings

rewrite: **write again**
preview: **see before** (look at something before it happens or is shown)
submarine: **a boat that goes under the sea**
misplace: **put in the wrong place**, lose for a while

Page 3 · D. Sentences

Answers will vary, e.g. "I dislike cold peas." "I will reread my story."

Page 3 · Challenge

No: it's **disagree**. Both un- and dis- mean "not", so you have to remember which one each word uses. Try saying both aloud: "disagree" is the one you've heard before.

Watch out for

- **Using un- where dis- belongs** (unagree, unappear). Make a short list of dis- words to learn: disagree, disappear, dislike, disobey, dishonest.
- **Mixing up prefix meanings**, like thinking re- means "not". Link each one to a word they know well: re- as in replay, pre- as in preview, sub- as in submarine.
- **Dropping a letter**: mis + spell keeps both s's (misspell); dis + satisfied keeps both s's (dissatisfied).

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Spot it out and about:** look for prefixes on signs and packets (preheat, rewrite, unlock) and say what each means.
- **Opposite game:** say a word (kind, like, tidy); your child adds un- or dis- to make its opposite.
- **In the game:** Chapter 5, Word Family Tree, looks at word families and the suffix -ly.