Modifying Verbs Using the Prefixes dis-, de-, mis-, over- and re- Warm-Up

The Prefix de-

Prefixes change the meaning of the root word.

How does this prefix change the meaning of these root words?

de activate

de fuse   The prefix de- means to 'take away' or 'reduce'

de code

E.g: I had to **decode** the secret message before I could find the treasure.

The Prefix dis-

Prefixes change the meaning of the root word.

How does this prefix change the meaning of these root words?

dis connect

dis appoint

dis courage

The prefix dis- means 'not' or 'the opposite of'

E.g: I tried to **discourage** my friend from playing a practical joke.

The Prefix mis-

Prefixes change the meaning of the root word.

How does this prefix change the meaning of these root words?

mis treat

mis read   The prefix mis- means 'wrong' or 'false'

mis place

E.g: My nan will often **misplace** her reading glasses that she needs when using the laptop.

The Prefix over-

Prefixes change the meaning of the root word.

How does this prefix change the meaning of these root words?

over take

over sleep   The prefix over- means 'too much'

over act

E.g: I **overslept** this morning, meaning I was late for school.

The Prefix re-

Prefixes change the meaning of the root word.

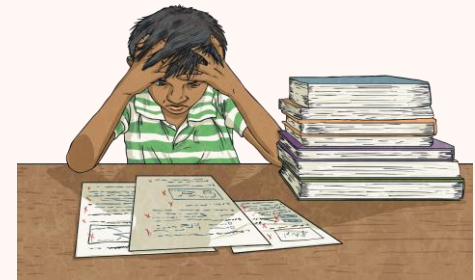How does this prefix change the meaning of these root words?

re do

re read   the prefix re- means to 'do again'

re turn

e.g: It is important to **reread** your work to check it for errors.

Spin the Wheel Please

Spin the wheel to choose a root word, decide on the correct prefix needed to modify the verb?

On your whiteboard, write your new verb. Then use it in a sentence to show that you understand its meaning.

Can some words have more than one verb prefix added to them?

Which prefix will you choose?

Spin

Which Prefix?

Can you sort these root words according to the prefix they could be given?

There are some that can be given two of the prefixes – can you find them?

de-	dis-	mis-	over-	re-
deactivate	disconnect	misbehave	overtake	restructure
devalue	disallow	misinform	overwork	rebuild
		mislaid		reconnect
		mistake		rework
				reactivate
				retake

activate   behave   structure   connect   work   connect

inform   value   laid   build   allow   take

How do the different prefixes alter the meaning of these words?

Click on the words to match with the prefixes then click here to reveal answers

Have I Made a Mistake?

Read the following text and identify the verbs with the wrong verb prefixes.

Can you decide which prefix they should have?

I had been really looking forward to our camping trip but before we even left home, things started to go wrong. Firstly we *overslept* on the morning of our departure. Then, on the way there our car was going so slowly that everyone was *overtaking* us. We realised that one of our tyres had *deflated* so we had to stop to change it.

Finally, we arrived at our campsite where we pitched our tent quickly because we were all so hungry. We managed to *overcook* our sausages on the campfire: they were almost black! So, we had to *recook* some more.

After an eventful day, we decided to get some sleep and hope for a better day tomorrow. Unfortunately, our tent collapsed in the middle of the night so we had to *rebuild* it in the dark. Therefore, we decided to *return* home this morning and camp in our lounge instead!

Click on the words to reveal answers

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Quick Quiz 1

Read the following sentences and decide which prefix is needed to change the underlined root word:

1. I often **misspell** complicated words so I get low marks on my spelling tests.

2. We always **recycle** our waste to save the environment.

3. The compost will **decompose** quickly with all those worms in it.

4. Don't **overfill** the jug or it might spill.

Click on the words to reveal answers

Quick Quiz 2

Make the following root words into verbs by matching with one of the verb prefixes: dis–, de–, mis–, over– or re–.

dis-

de-

mis-

over-

re-

flate

play

form

engage

manage

estimate

embark

react

treat

inform

Click on the words to reveal answers