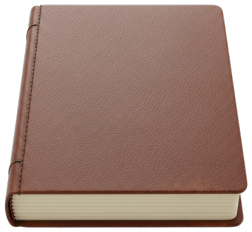
Deconstructing Words

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: To read a long word, **take it apart**. Find the **base word** in the middle, then look for a **prefix** before it and a **suffix** after it: **un** + help + **ful**.

Meaning clue: un- means *not*, re- means *again*, -ful means *full of*, -less means *without*.



1. Find the base word

Circle the base word hiding in each long word.

1. The base word in unhappy is _____. (un) (happy) (hap)
2. The base word in replaying is _____. (re) (lay) (play)
3. The base word in thankful is _____. (thank) (ful) (than)
4. The base word in fearless is _____. (less) (fear) (ear)
5. The base word in teacher is _____. (teach) (each) (her)
6. The base word in quickly is _____. (ly) (quick) (lick)

Deconstructing Words

Grade 3

2. Split it up

Circle the way the word is broken into parts.

1. sunshine = _____
   - sun + shine
   - su + nshine
   - suns + hine

2. unkind = _____
   - unk + ind
   - un + kind
   - u + nkind

3. painter = _____
   - pain + ter
   - pa + inter
   - paint + er

4. rebuilding = _____
   - re + build + ing
   - reb + uild + ing
   - re + bui + lding

Answer Key

Deconstructing Words · Grade 3

1. Find the base word

1. The base word in unhappy is **happy**. — un | **happy** | hap
2. The base word in replaying is **play**. — re | lay | **play**
3. The base word in thankful is **thank**. — **thank** | ful | than
4. The base word in fearless is **fear**. — less | **fear** | ear
5. The base word in teacher is **teach**. — **teach** | each | her
6. The base word in quickly is **quick**. — ly | **quick** | lick

2. Split it up

1. sunshine = **sun + shine** — **sun + shine** | su + nshine | suns + hine
2. unkind = **un + kind** — unk + ind | **un + kind** | u + nkind
3. painter = **paint + er** — pain + ter | pa + inter | **paint + er**
4. rebuilding = **re + build + ing** — **re + build + ing** | reb + uild + ing | re + bui + lding