



Build-a-Word Game

■ Instructions:

1. Cut out each of the cards below.

Each card contains one unit of meaning (a morpheme). Prefixes are written in **green**, suffixes are written in **red**, and root words are written in **black**. Some blank cards have been included so that you can add more words as your child becomes more familiar with the game. A list of common prefixes and suffixes can be found at: http://teacher.scholastic.com/reading/bestpractices/vocabulary/pdf/prefixes_suffixes.pdf

2. Talk to your child about the meaning of the prefixes, suffixes and root words.

The meanings of each of the prefixes and suffixes are provided.

3. Choose one root word and see how many new words you and your child can make by adding prefixes and/or suffixes.

If your child comes up with a word that doesn't exist tell them what the real word is

(ie.

take

ed

 = **taked** is not a word, the past tense is **took**).

4. Write down each of the new words you make.

Tell your child if the spelling of a word changes when you add a prefix/suffix

(ie.

move

ed

 = **moved** not moveed).

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 with different root words.

6. Have your child independently create as many words as possible.

Have your child explain the meaning of these new words to you.

■ **Prefixes:**

un = *not*

dis = *not, opposite*

trans = *across*

re = *again*

pre = *before*

mis = *wrongly*



un

re

dis

pre

trans

mis

■ Root Words:



care

kind

fix

sense

port

trust

agree

run

■ Root Words:



move

able

sort

cover

take

read

view

clean

■ Root Words:



complete

help

■ **Suffixes:**

ing = *in the present*

ly = *characteristic of*

ed = *in the past*

less = *without*

able = *can be done*

s = *more than one*



ing

ly

ed

less

able

s

■ **Suffixes:**

er = *comparative (more)*
or *person who is doing*
the action

ful = *characteristic of*

est = *without*



er

ful

est

Extra Cards:


