Root words and prefixes

A **root word** is the most basic form of a word, for example, *match*. You can add letters to the beginning or end of a root word to make a new word like <u>mis</u>match or *matching*.

Letters that are added to the front of a root word are called **prefixes**.

Example: <u>un</u>happy, <u>dis</u>appoint, <u>pre</u>view, <u>re</u>visit

Prefixes have different meanings. Different prefixes are added to a root word to create different words.

Examples: mis + heard = misheard (which means you didn't hear correctly)

un + heard = unheard (which means it wasn't heard at all)

 Draw a line from the prefix in the left-hand column of the table to its correct meaning in the right-hand column.

Prefix	Meaning
auto-	across
mis-	below
trans-	notsmall
sub-	calf
mini-)CII

2. Complete the table below. Write the meaning of each prefix in the third column. Write the new word in column four.

Prefix	Root word	Meaning of the prefix	New word
auto-	pilot		
micro-	scope		
under-	value		
un-	finished		
trans-	atlantic		



Suffixes

A root word is the most basic form of a word, for example, *tidy*. You can add a letter or a group of letters to the beginning or end of a root word to make up new words like *untidy* or *tidying*.

Letters that are added to the end of a root word are called suffixes.

Suffixes can change a word without changing the meaning of the word.

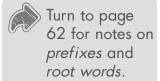
Examples: biscuit – biscuits (change from a singular to a plural)

drive - drives - driving - driven (change in tense)

Suffixes can also change a word and change the part of speech of a word.

Examples: sad + ness = sadness (change an adjective to an abstract noun)

teach + er = teacher (create new words called derivatives)



- 1. Identify all the suffixes in the sentences below. Underline the suffixes and decide if the suffix is forming a plural (write **P**), changing the tense (write **T**), creating a new word (write **N**) or changing the part of speech (write **S**) of the root word. The first one has been done for you.
 - a) I have just written my History test.
 - b) There was a lot of laughter at the comedy show.
 - c) My aunt has two children.
 - d) David cycles to school on one of his two bicycles.
 - e) The bus driver avoided the accident by swerving around the cars.
 - f) Sarah paints anything her imagination can dream of.
 - g) Learners at that school practised hard for the swimming gala.
- 2. Complete the table below by adding suffixes to change the root word into the necessary part of speech.

Root word	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
concentrate			
admire			
tired			
anger			
mild			

