


Name: _____


Chunking words


with prefixes and bases


un	fair
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 Prefixes are word parts that come at the beginning of words. When we see a short prefix at the beginning of a word, like **pre-**, **re-**, or **post-**, we know that it is a syllable chunk.

We can read words with prefixes like **postseason** chunk by chunk:

1. Look for a prefix you know like **pre-**, **re-**, or **post-**: 

2. Read just the first chunk of the word: 

3. Read just the end chunk, the base: 

4. Blend the two chunks together: **post + season**

5. Read the complete word: **postseason**

We can also use prefixes to help figure out the meaning of a word. Prefixes change or add to the meaning of the base word. One kind of prefix gives information about the **time** of an action.

- pre**heat (to heat before)

- re**play (to play again)

- fore**warn (to warn before)

- post**game (after the game)

What are the prefixes **pre-**, **re-**, **fore-**, and **post-** adding information about?

- time
- size
- number

Chunking words with prefixes and bases, continued



1. Read the passage.



2. Circle words that start with time prefixes **pre-**, **re-**, **fore-** and **post-**.

3. Check your work!
Copy down the words you found with time prefixes:

The Legal System

When someone is accused of killing a person, they go through a legal process. If the defendant pleads “not guilty,” there is often a preliminary hearing. At this hearing, the lawyers present evidence. The judge decides whether there is enough evidence to believe that the defendant might have committed a crime. The judge doesn’t decide whether the person is guilty. If there is enough evidence, that decision is postponed until the official trial with a jury. During the trial, the lawyers will revisit the evidence they shared at the preliminary hearing.

When someone is killed, the killer is not always found guilty of murder. Murder has to be premeditated. That means the killer used forethought to plan the crime ahead of time. It also means that he or she meant to kill the victim. Sometimes, the judge may feel that the defendant killed someone by accident, or he or she may have been acting in self defense.



4. Work with a partner. See how many words you can build from these prefixes plus base words. You may want to use a dictionary to check your work.

Prefixes	Base Words	
pre-	act	build
re-	cast	date
fore-	dawn	go
post-	head	mix
	play	see
	set	teen

Words we built
