Prefixes: The Three R’s

Prefixes are syllables added to the beginning of words that change their meaning. The prefix re means “again.”

Directions: Read the story. Then follow the instructions.

Kim wants to find ways she can save the Earth. She studies the “three R’s”—reduce, reuse and recycle. Reduce means to make less. Both reuse and recycle mean to use again.

Add re to the beginning of each word below. Use the new words to complete the sentences.

_____ build  _____ fill
_____ read   _____ tell
_____ write  _____ run

1. The race was a tie, so Dawn and Kathy had to ___________ it.
2. The block wall fell down, so Simon had to ___________ it.
3. The water bottle was empty, so Luna had to ___________ it.
4. Javier wrote a good story, but he wanted to ___________ it to make it better.
5. The teacher told a story, and students had to ___________ it.
6. Toni didn’t understand the directions, so she had to ___________ them.
Prefixes

Directions: Change the meaning of the sentences by adding the prefixes to the bold words.

The boy was **lucky** because he guessed the answer **correctly**.
The boy was (un)____________ because he guessed the answer (in)____________.

When Mary **behaved**, she felt **happy**.
When Mary (mis)________________, she felt (un)________________.

Mike wore his jacket **buttoned** because the dance was **formal**.
Mike wore his jacket (un)____________ because the dance was (in)__________________.

Tim **understood** because he was **familiar** with the book.
Tim (mis)________________ because he was (un)__________________ with the book.