

Chapter 6

Amber and Mr Crumb watched disbelieving as Lucifer returned to the house proudly carrying the mouse in his mouth. They half-expected Mr Broom to miraculously reappear as his normal self at any moment. But the mouse lay motionless in the cat's mouth.

"Oh! You naughty boy!" they heard Miss Vile say as Lucifer disappeared back into the house. "You know how I disapprove of unnecessary killing!" There was a burst of uncontrollable laughter from her guests. Amber was overcome with emotion and large tears rolled down her cheeks. Mr Crumb indicated that it was time to leave and they quickly, but quietly, retraced their steps across the ant-infested garden. They scrambled through the hedge and were safely (or so they thought) on the other side before they dared speak.

"We must return and rescue him!" Amber burst out as soon as they were in the field.

"Shhhh! Not so loud!" Mr Crumb reminded her. "We don't want the witches to overhear us!"

"We can't just leave him!" Amber quietly sobbed.

"It's too late," said Mr Crumb, shaking his head. "I dislike leaving him as much as you do, but we would be putting our own lives at risk unnecessarily. We are now the only ones who can stop Esmeralda Evil from mistreating the schoolchildren. We must reconsider our options."

"We could tell the police," suggested Amber.

"They wouldn't believe our story," sighed Mr Crumb, "and if they did, the consequences for witches would be disastrous. They would be mistrusted for ever. They would never recover from such a scandal. Witches would have to stand trial all over again. I'm afraid we have to sort this out for ourselves."

Amber couldn't disagree with Mr Crumb's logic, but she felt sure they could enlist the help of someone. "I'll go back to Spellcaster and explain to Miss Canning," Amber decided. "She'll listen to me if you confirm my story." Mr Crumb doubted it (Miss Canning was one of the high witches who had presided over his ban from witchcraft all those years ago), but, as they didn't have any other plan, he nodded his head in agreement. They recovered the abandoned broomstick and, unaware of a certain cat who had followed them into the field, they remounted the broom and soared up into the night sky. Mr Crumb hadn't controlled a broomstick for years, but it all came back to him.

Although he oversteered the broomstick at first, he was soon in full control and was even confident enough to step on the gas and overtake a startled owl. He didn't decelerate until he was back over Grandad's house.





I can use prefixes to change the meaning of verbs.

A **prefix** is a letter or group of letters placed before a word to form a new word.
 The most frequently used ones are:
re- meaning back or again as in **revisit**.
dis- which reverses the meaning of the verb as in **disappear**.
over- meaning too much as in **overwork**.
un- which reverses the meaning of the word as in **untie**.
mis- meaning badly or wrongly as in **misbehave**.
de- meaning to do the opposite of as in **declutter**.
trans- meaning across or change as in **transform**.



Place an appropriate prefix from the brackets before the verb.

- 1 Mr Broomformed himself into a mouse so that he would not be seen. (re / trans)
- 2 But Lucifer caught him and heappeared inside the cat's mouth. (over / dis)
- 3 Amber and Mr Crumb waited expectantly for Mr Broom toappear. (un / re)
- 4 But Mr Broom hadreached himself – he had become a cat snack! (over / un)
- 5 Theyliked Lucifer intensely for what he had done to Mr Broom. (un / dis)
- 6 Amber was completelymoralised by what she had just witnessed. (dis / de)
- 7 She sadly realised she would never beunited with her old friend and teacher. (re / dis)
- 8 Back in the field, they had toconsider their next move. (un / re)
- 9 If word got out, the whole situation could easily behandled. (trans / mis)
- 10 Amber decided she shouldvisit Spellcaster and explain the situation to them. (re / un)
- 11 Mr Crumb thought Miss Canning mightunderstand their intentions. (mis / dis)
- 12 Amberagreed with Mr Crumb – they desperately needed assistance. (un / dis)
- 13 Mr Crumblocked the combination lock to the broomstick. (de / un)
- 14 Theymounted the broom and soared into the night sky. (trans / re)
- 15 They were bothaware that Lucifer was watching them from a distance. (over / un)

Extension Using the verbs with prefixes in the passage write you own sentences.





I can use prefixes to change the meaning of verbs.

A **prefix** is a letter or group of letters placed before a word to form a new word.
 The most frequently used ones are:
re- meaning back or again as in **revisit**.
dis- which reverses the meaning of the verb as in **disappear**.
over- meaning too much as in **overwork**.
un- which reverses the meaning of the word as in **untie**.
mis- meaning badly or wrongly as in **misbehave**.
de- meaning to do the opposite of as in **declutter**.
trans- meaning across or change as in **transform**.



Place an appropriate prefix before the verb.

- 1 Mr Broomformed himself into a mouse so that he would not be seen.
- 2 But Lucifer caught him and heappeared inside the cat's mouth.
- 3 Amber and Mr Crumb waited expectantly for Mr Broom toappear.
- 4 But Mr Broom hadreached himself – he had become a cat snack!
- 5 Theyliked Lucifer intensely for what he had done to Mr Broom.
- 6 Amber was completelymoralised by what she had just witnessed.
- 7 She sadly realised she would never beunited with her old friend and teacher.
- 8 Back in the field, they had toconsider their next move.
- 9 If word got out, the whole situation could easily behandled.
- 10 Amber decided she shouldvisit Spellcaster and explain the situation to them.
- 11 Mr Crumb thought Miss Canning mightunderstand their intentions.
- 12 Amberagreed with Mr Crumb – they desperately needed assistance.
- 13 Mr Crumblocked the combination lock to the broomstick.
- 14 Theymounted the broom and soared into the night sky.
- 15 They were bothaware that Lucifer was watching them from a distance.

Extension Using the verbs with prefixes in the passage write you own sentences.





I can use prefixes to change the meaning of verbs.

A **prefix** is a letter or group of letters placed before a word to form a new word.

The most frequently used ones are:

re- meaning back or again as in **revisit**.

dis- which reverses the meaning of the verb as in **disappear**.

over- meaning too much as in **overwork**.

un- which reverses the meaning of the word as in **untie**.

mis- meaning badly or wrongly as in **misbehave**.

de- meaning to do the opposite of as in **declutter**.

trans- meaning across or change as in **transform**.



Place an appropriate verb after the prefix in bold. (Hint: most of the verbs you need can be found in the passage.)

- 1 Mr Broom **trans**..... himself into a mouse so that he would not be seen.
- 2 But Lucifer caught him and he **dis**..... inside the cat's mouth.
- 3 Amber and Mr Crumb waited expectantly for Mr Broom to **re**.....
- 4 But Mr Broom had **over**..... himself – he had become a cat snack!
- 5 They **dis**..... Lucifer intensely for what he had done to Mr Broom.
- 6 Amber was completely **de**..... by what she had just witnessed.
- 7 Amber sadly realised that she would never be **re**..... with her old teacher and friend.
- 8 They **re**..... their steps across the garden **over**..... with nettles and **over**..... with ants.
- 9 Back in the field, they had to **re**..... their next move.
- 10 If word got out, the whole situation could easily be **mis**.....
- 11 Amber decided she should **re**..... Spellcaster Academy and explain the situation to them.
- 12 Mr Crumb thought Miss Canning might **mis**..... their intentions.
- 13 Amber **dis**..... with Mr Crumb – they desperately needed assistance.
- 14 Mr Crumb **un**..... the combination lock to the broomstick.
- 15 They **re**..... the broom and soared into the night sky.
- 16 They were both **un**..... that Lucifer was watching them from a distance.

Extension Using the verbs with prefixes in the passage write you own sentences.

