

Common Roots, Prefixes, & Suffixes

a = no, lacking, none
ab- = away from
ac- = to, toward
-aceus, aceous = of or pertaining to
ad- = to, toward
adeno- = gland
agri- = field, soil
-al = having the character of
alb- = white
-algia = pain

anter- = front
antho- = flower
anti- = against
anthropo- = man
ap- = to, toward
aqu- = water
archaeo- = primitive, ancient
arthro- = jointed
aster-, astr- = stars
-ate = used in forming nouns from verbs

-blast = sprout, germ
brachi- = having arms
branchi = having fins
brev- = short
bronch- = windpipe
calor- = heat
carb- = coal, carbon
cardi- = heart
carn- = meat
carp- = fruit

chrom-, chrome = color
chym- = juice
-cide = killing
circum- = around, about
cirro- = hairlike curls
co- = with, together
cocc- = seed
coel- = hollow
coll- = glue
com- = with, together

cuti- = skin
-cycle, cycl- = ring, circle
dactyl- = finger
decca- = ten
deci- = tenth
deliquesce- = become fluid
demi- = half
denti- = tooth
dent- = tooth
derm- = skin

alto- = high
ameb- = change, alternation
amphibi- = leading a double life
ampho-, amb- = both
an- = not, without
ana- = up
andro- = masculine, man
anemo- = wind
angio- = vessel
ante- = before, ahead of time

atom- = vapor
audi- = hear
auto- = self
bactr- = stick, club
barb- = beard
baro- = weight
bath- = depth, height
bene- = well, good
bi- = two, twice, double
bio- = life, living

carpal- = wrist
card- = tail
cell = storeroom, chamber
-cene = new, recent
centi- = hundredth
centr- = center
cephal- = head
cervic = neck
chem- = referring to chemistry
chlor- = green

con- = with, together
coni- = cone
contra- = against
corp- = body
cosmo- = world, order, form
cotyl- = cup
counter- = against
crypt- = hidden, covered
-cule, -culus = added to nouns to form diminutive
cumul- = heaped

cyst- = bladder, pouch
cyt, -cyte = cell, receptacle
di- = two, double
dia- = through, across
digit = finger, toe
din- = terrible
dis- = apart, out
dorm- = sleep
dors- = back
du-, duo- = two

-duct = lead
dynamo- = power
dyan = dark blue
dys- = ill, bad
ec- = out of, outside
echin- = spiny, prickly
eco- = house
ect- = outside, without
-ectomy = removal of
electro- = electric, electricity

ethno- = race, people
eu- = well, good
extra- = beyond, outside of
ex- = out of
-fer = bear, carry, produce
ferro- = iron
fibr- = fiber, thread
-fid, fis- = divided into, split
flect, flex = bend
flor- = flower

glottis = mouth of windpipe
glyco- = sweet
-gon = angle, corner
-gony = offspring
grade = step, division
-gram = writing, record
-graphy, graph = writing, record
-grav = heavy
gross = thick
gymno = naked

hetero- different
hex- = six
hibern- = winter
hipp- = horse
hist- = tissue
holo- = entire, whole
homo- = man
hort- = garden
hybrid = mongrel
hydr- = water

in- = to, toward, into; not
-ine = of, pertaining to
infra- below, beneath
inter- = between
intra = within, inside
-ion = go, come
-ism = state or condition of
iso- = equal, same
-itis = inflammation
kilo- = thousand

en- = in, into
-em = made of
-emia = blood
encephal- = brain
end-, ent- = within, in
ente- = intestines
-eous = nature of, like
epi- = on, above
-err = wander, go astray
erythro- = red

fluor- = fluorine
foli- leaf
fract- = break
galact-, gala- = milk; milky fluid
gastro- = stomach
geo- = land, earth
-gen, -gine = producer, farmer
-gene, gnee- = origin
-gest = carry, produce
glob- = all, round

gyn = female
gyr- = ring, circle, spiral
haem- = blood
-hal, -hale = breathe, breath
halo- = salt, sea
hecto- = hundred
-helminth = worm
hemi- = half
hepat- = liver
herb = grass

hygr- = wet, moist
hypo- = beneath, under, less
hyper- = above, over, beyond
hypho- = weaving
hypno- = sleep
-ia, iasis = disease of, condition of
-ic = added to nouns to form adjectives
ichthy- = fish
ign- = fire
im- = not

lachry = tear
lact- = milk
lat- = side, flank
-less = without
leuc- = white, light
lign- = wood
lin- = line
lingu- = tongue
ligu- = become fluid, liquid
lip- = fat

lith-, lite- = stone, petrifying
loc- = place
-logy = study
-lysis, -lyte, -lyst = dissolve, decompose
macro- = large
malle- = hammer
mamm- = breast
marg- = border, edge
mast- = breast
med- = middle

mono- = one, single
mont- = mountain
mort- = death
mov-, mot = move
morph- = shape, form
multi- = many
mycel- = threadlike
mycet- = fungus
myria- = many
mell- = soft

not- = back
nuc- = center
ob- = against
ocul- = eye
oct- = eight
odont- = tooth
-oid = similar in shape or form
olf- = smell
-oma = tumor
omni- = all

oxy- = sharp; acid; oxygen
pachy- = thick
paleo- = old; ancient
palm- = broad; flat
pan- = all
par- = besides; near; equal; bring; forth
path-; -pathy = disease; suffering
per- = through
peri- = around; on all sides
permea- = pass; go

-phyte; phyt- = plant
plan- = roaming; wandering
plasm-; plast- = form; formed into
pleur- = rib; lung
pneumo- = lungs; air
pod- = foot
poly- = many; several
por- = opening
port- = carry
post- = after; behind

meg- = great, million
mela-, melan- = black, dark
mes- = middle, half, intermediate
met-, meta- = between
meteor- = lofty, high, in air
meter, metry- = way of measuring
micro- = small
milli- = thousandth
mis- = wrong, incorrect
mole- = mass

nas- = nose
nemat- = thread
neo- = new; recent
nephro- = kidney
-ner- = moist; liquid
neur-; nerv- = nerve, tendon
noct-; nox- = night
-node = knot
-nomy; nome- = distribute, arrange, law
non- = not

oo- = egg
opthal- = eye
opt-; -opsy = eye; vision
orb- = circle, round, ring
orth- = straight; correct; right
oscu- = mouth
-osis = disease of
oste- = bone
-ous = full of; abounding in
ov- = egg

phag- = eat
pheno- = show
phil- = loving; fond
-phobia = excessive fear of
phon-; phone- = sound
-phore = bearer
photo- = light
phyc- = seaweed, algae
-phyll = leaf
physi- = nature, natural qualities

pom- = fruit
pro- = before; ahead of time
proto- = first, primary
psued- = false; deceptive
pter- = having wings
pulmo- = lung
puls- = drive; push
pyr- = heat; fire
quadr- = four; fourfold
quin- = five

radi-= ray; spoke of wheel
re-= again; back
rect-= correct; right
ren-= kidney
ret= net; made like a net
-rhage-= flow
-rhaphy= suture
-rhea= flow
rhin-= nose
rhiz= root

septic= putrefaction, infection
sex-= six
-sis= condition, state
solv-= loosen; free
somn-= sleep
son-= sound
spasm= tightening
spec-; spic-= look at
sperm-= seed
sphere-= ball

styl-= pillar
sub-= under; below
super-= over; above; on top
sur-= over; above; on top
sym-; syn-= together
tachy-= quick; swift
tarse-= ankle
tax-= arrangement
tele= far off; at a distance
terr-= earth
tetr-= four

-ule= diminutive
ultra-= beyond
ur-= urine
vas-= vessel
vect-= carry
ven-; vent-= come
ventr-= belly
vice-= in place of

rubr-= red
sacchari-= sugar
sapr-= rotten
saur-= lizard
sci-= know
scler-= hard
scope= look; observe
-scribe; script= write
semi-= half; partly
sept= partition; seven

-spire= breathe
spore= seed
stat-= standing; placed
stell-= stars
stern-= breast; chest
stom-; some= mouth
strat-= layer
stereo-= solid; in three dimensions
-stomy= to make an opening into
strict-= drawn tight

thall-= young shoot
therm-= heat
-tom= cut; slice
toxic-= poison
top-= place
trans-= across
tri-= three
trich-= hair
trop-= turning; changing
troph-= one who feeds; well fed

vig-= strong
vit-; viv-= life
volv-= roll; wander
vor-= devour; eat
xanthin-= yellow
zo-; zoa= animal
zyg-= yolk
zym= yeast