

A Guide to Understanding Science
Common Prefixes & Suffixes

a-; an-	not; without; lacking; deficient	encphal-	brain
aden-	gland	epi –	upon; above; over
adip-	fat	eso-	inward; within; inner
aero-	air	ex-	out of; away from
agri-	field; soil	fibr-	fiber; thread
ameb-	change; alternation	-flect; -flex	bend
amni-	fetal membrane	foli-	leaf
amphi-; ampho-	both	fract-	break
amyl-	starch	gastr-	stomach
andro-	man; masculine	geo-	land; earth
aqu-	water	gluc-; glyc-	sweet; sugar
archaeo-	primitive; ancient	gymno-	naked; bare
arteri-	artery	gyn-	female
arthr-	joint; articulation	halo-	salt
-ase	forms names of enzymes	hapl-	simple
ather-	fatty deposit	hem-	blood
atmo-	vapor	herb-	grass; plants
auto-	self	hetero-	different; other
bacter-; bactr-	bacterium, stick; club	hist-	tissue
bi-	(Latin) two; twice	homo-	(Latin) man; human
bi-; bio-	(Greek) life; living	homo-	(Greek) same; alike
-blast-	sprout; germ; bud	hort-	garden
bronch-	windpipe	hydr-	water
de-	away from: down	hyper-	above; beyond; over
deca-	ten	hypo-	below; under; less
deci-	tenth	in-; il-; im-; ir-	to; toward; into
derm-	skin	infra-	below; beneath
di-; dipi-	(Latin) two; double	inter-	between
digit-	finger; toe	intra-	within; inside
dorm-	sleep	iso-	equal; same
dors-	back	-itis	inflammation; disease
dys-	bad; abnormal; difficult	-kary-	cell nucleus
ecto-	outside or	lact-	milk
-emia	blood	-less	without
en-; endo-; ent-	in; into; within	lip-	fat
		lumin-	light
		-lys-; -lyt-; -lyst	decompose; split; dissolve

macr-	large	sol-	sun
mamm-	breast	somn-	sleep
micro-	small; millionth	-sperm-	seed
mill-	thousandth	-spor-	seed
mono-	one; single	strat-	layer
morph-	shape; form	sub-	under; below
my-	muscle	super-; sur-	over; above; on
myc-	fungus		top
necr-	corpse; dead	sym-; syn-	together
nephro-	kidney	telo-	end
neur-	nerve	terr-	earth; land
ocul-	eye	tetr-	four
oct-	eight	-therm-	heat
olf-	smell	trache-	windpipe
omni-	all	trans-	across
oo-	egg	tri-	three
orb-	circle; round; ring	-troph-	nourishment; one
oscu-	mouth		who feeds
-osis	abnormal	uni-	one
	condition	ur-	urine
oste-	bone	vit-; viv-	life
oto-	ear	xyl-	wood
ov-	egg	zo-; -zoa	animal
paleo-	old; ancient	zyg-	joined together
-ped-	foot		
-ped-	child		
phag-	eat		
-phil-	loving; fond of		
photo-	light		
-phyll	leaf		
phyt-; -phyte	plant		
pino-	drink		
pleur-	lung; rib; side		
pneumo-	lungs; air		
-pod	foot		
poly-	many; several		
pseudo-	false; deceptive		
pulmo-	lung		
pyr-	heat; fire		
quadr-	four		
quin-	five		
ren-	kidney		
rhag-; -rrhage	burst forth		
rhiz-	root		
sacchar-	sugar		
sarc-	flesh		