

Scientific Prefixes and Suffixes

a-; an-	not; without; lacking; deficient
ab-	away from; out from
-able	capable of
ac-	to; toward
-aceous	of or pertaining to
acou-; acous-	hear
ad-	to; toward
aden-	gland
adip-	fat
aero-	air
agri-	field; soil
-al	having the character of
alb-	white
alg-; algia	pain
alto-	high
ambi-	both
ameb-	change; alternation
amni-	fetal membrane
amphi-; amphi-	both
amyl-	starch
ana-	up; back; again
andro-	man; masculine
anemo-	wind
ang-	choke; feel pain
angi-	blood vessel; duct
ante-	before; ahead of time
anter-	front
antho-	flower
anti-	against; opposite
anthropo-	man; human
-ap; -aph-	touch
apo-; ap-	away from
aqu-	water
archeo-	primitive; ancient
-ary; -arium	denotes a place for something
arteri-	artery
arthr-	joint; articulation
-ase	forms names of enzymes
aster-; astr	star
-ate	verb form – the act of
ather-	fatty deposit
-ation	noun form – the act of

atmo-	vapor
audi-	hear
aur-	ear
auto-	self
bacter-; bactr-	bacterium; stick; club
barb-	beard
baro-	weight
bath-	depth; height
bene-	well; good
bi-	(Latin) two; twice
bi-; bio-	(Greek) life; living
-blast-	sprout; germ; bud
brachi-	arm
brachy-	short
brady-	slow
branchi-	fin
brev-	short
bronch-	tube
cac-	bad
calor-	heat
capill-	hair
capit-	head
carcin-	cancer
cardi-	heart
carn-	meat; flesh
carp-	fruit
carpal-	wrist
cata-	breakdown; downward
caud-	tail
-cell-	chamber; small room
cen-; -cene	now; recent
cente-	pierce
centi-	hundredth
centr-	center
cephal-	head
cerat-	horn
cerebr-	brain
cervic-	neck
chel-	claw
chem.-	dealing with chemicals
chir-	hand
chlor-	green
chondr-	cartilage
chrom-; -chrome	color
chron-	time

-chym-	juice
-cid-; -cis-	cut; kill; fall
circa-; circum-	around; about
cirru-	hairlike curls
co-	with; together
cocc-	seed; berry
coel-	hollow
coll-	glue
coni-	cone
contra-	against
corp-	body
cort-; cortic-	outer layer
cosmo-	world; order; form
cotyl-	cup
counter-	against
crani-	body
cresc-; cret-	begin to grow
crypt-	hidden; covered
-cul-; -cule	small; diminutive
cumul-	heaped
cuti-	skin
cyan-	blue
-cycle; cycl-	ring; circle
-cyst-	sac; pouch; bladder
cyt-; -cyte	cell; hollow container
dactyl-	finger
de-	away from; down
deca-	ten
deci-	tenth
deliquesc-	become fluid
demi-	half
dendr-	tree
dent-	tooth
derm-	skin
di-; dipl-	(Latin) two; double
di-; dia-	(Greek) through; across; apart
dia-	(Latin) day
digit-	finger; toe
din-	terrible
dis-	apart; out
dorm-	sleep
dors-	back
du-; duo-	two
-duct	lead
dynam-	power

dys-	bad; abnormal; difficult
ec-	out of; away from
echin-	spiny; prickly
eco-	house
ecto-	outside of
-elle	small
-emia	blood
en-; endo-; ent-	in; into; within
-en	made of
encephal-	brain
enter-	intestine; gut
entom-	insects
-eous	nature of; like
epi-	upon; above; over
-err-	wander; go astray
erythro-	red
-escent	becoming
eso-	inward; within; inner
eu-	well; good; true; normal
eury-	widen
ex-	out of; away from
extra-	beyond; outside
-fer-	bear; carry; produce
ferro-	iron
fibr-	fiber; thread
-fid; fiss-	split; divided into
-flect; -flex	bend
flor-	flower
flu-; fluct-	flux; flow
foli-	leaf
fract-	break
-gam-	marriage
gastr-	stomach
geo-	land; earth
-gen; -gine	producer; former
-gene-	origin; birth
-gest-	carry; produce; bear
-glen-	eyeball
-glob-	ball; round
gloss-	tongue
gluc-; glyc-	sweet; sugar
glut-	buttock
gnath-	jaw
-gon	angle; corner
-grad-	step

-gram	graph record; writing
grav-	heavy
-gross-	thick
gymno-	naked; bare
gyn-	female
gyr-	ring; circle; spiral
-hal-; -hale	breathe; breath
halo-	salt
hapi-	simple
hecto-	hundred
-helminth-	worm
hem-	blood
hemi-	half
hepar-; hepat-	liver
herb-	grass; plants
hetero-	different; other
hex-	six
hibern-	winter
hidr-	sweat
hipp-	horse
hist-	tissue
holo-	entire; whole
homo-	(Latin) man; human
homo-	(Greek) same; alike
hort-	garden
hydr-	water
hygr-	moist; wet
hyper-	above; beyond; over
hyph-	weaving; web
hypno-	sleep
hypo-	below; under; less
hyster-	womb; uterus
-iac	person afflicted with disease
-iasis	disease; abnormal condition
-ic	(adjective former)
ichthy-	fish
ign-	fire
in-; il-; im-; ir-	not
in-; il-; im-; ir-	to; toward; into
in-	very; thoroughly
-ine	of or pertaining to
infra-	below; beneath
inter-	between
intra-	within; inside
-ism	a state or condition

iso-	equal; same
-ist	person who deals with
-itis	inflammation; disease
-ium	refers to a part of the body
-kary-	cell nucleus
kel-	tumor; swelling
kerat-	horn
kilo-	thousand
kine-	move
lachry-	tear
lact-	milk
lat-	side
leio-	smooth
-less	without
leuc-; leuk-	white; bright; light
lign-	wood
lin-	line
lingu-	tongue
lip-	fat
lith-; -lite	stone; petrifying
loc-	place
-log-	word; speech
-logist	one who studies
-logy	study of
lumin-	light
-lys-; -lyt-; -lyst	decompose; split; dissolve
macr-	large
malac-	soft
malle-	hammer
mamm-	breast
marg-	border; edge
mast-	breast
med-	middle
meg-	million; great
mela-; melan-	black; dark
-mer	part
mes-	middle; half; intermediate
met-; meta-	between; along; after
-meter; -metry	measurement
micro-	small; millionth
milli-	thousandth
mis-	wrong; incorrect
mito-	thread
mole-	mass
mono-	one; single

mort-	death
-mot-	move
morph-	shape; form
multi-	many
mut-	change
my-	muscle
myc-	fungus
mycel-	threadlike
myria-	many
moll-	soft
nas-	nose
necr-	corpse; dead
nemat-	thread
neo-	new; recent
nephro-	kidney
-ner-	moist; liquid
neur-	nerve
noct-; nox-	night
-node	knot
-nom-; -nomy	ordered knowledge; law
non-	not
not-	back
nuc-	center
ob-	against
ocul-	eye
oct-	eight
odont-	tooth
-oid	form; appearance
olf-	smell
oligo-	few; little
-oma	abnormal condition; tumor
omni-	all
onc-	mass; tumor
oo-	egg
ophthalm-	eye
opt-	eye
orb-	circle; round; ring
-orium; -ory	place for something
ornith-	bird
orth-	straight; correct; right
oscu-	mouth
-osis	abnormal condition
oste-	bone
oto-	ear
-ous	full of

ov-	egg
oxy-	sharp; acid; oxygen
pachy-	thick
paleo-	old; ancient
palm-	broad; flat
pan-	all
par-; para-	beside; near; equal
path-; -pathy	disease; suffering
-ped	foot
-ped-	child
pent-	five
per-	through
peri-	around
permea-	pass; go
phag-	eat
pheno-	show
-phil-	loving; fond of
phon-; -phone	sound
-phore; pher-	bear; carry
photo-	light
phren-	mind; diaphragm
phyc-	seaweed; algae
phyl-	related group
-phyll	leaf
physi-	nature; natural qualities
phyt-; -phyte	plant
pino-	drink
pinni-	feather
plan-	roaming; wandering
plasm-; -plast-	form; formed into
platy-	flat
pleur-	lung; rib; side
pneumo-	lungs; air
-pod	foot
poly-	many; several
por-	opening
port-	carry
post-	after
pom-	apple
pre-	before
prim-	first
quadr-	four
quin-	five
radi-	ray
re-	again; back

rect-	right; correct
ren-	kidney
ret-	net; made like a net
rhag-; -rrage	burst forth
rhe-; -rrhea	flow
rhin-	nose
rhiz-	root
rhodo-	rose
roto-	wheel
rubr-	red
sacchar-	sugar
sapr-	rotten
sarc-	flesh
saur-	lizard
schis-; schiz-	split; divide
sci-	know
scler-	hard
-scop-	look; device for seeing
-scribe; -script	write
semi-	half; partly
sept-	partition; seven
-septic	infection; putrefaction
sess-	sit
sex-	six
-sis	condition; state
sol-	sun
solv-	loosen; free
som-; somat-; -some	body
somn-	sleep
son-	sound
spec-; spic-	look at
-sperm-	seed
-spher-	ball; round
spir-; -spire	breathe
-spor-	seed
stat-; -stasis	standing; placed; staying
stell-	stars
sten-	narrow
stern-	chest; breast
stom-; -stome	mouth
strat-	layer
stereo-	solid; three-dimensional
strict-	drawn tight
styl-	pillar
sub-	under; below

super-; sur-	over; above; on top
sym-; syn-	together
tachy-	quick; swift
tarso-	ankle
tax-	arrange; put in order
tele-	far off; distant
telo-	end
terr-	earth; land
tetr-	four
thall-	young shoot
-the; -thes-	put
-thel-	cover a surface
-therm-	heat
-tom-	cut; slice
toxico-	poison
top-	place
trache-	windpipe
trans-	across
tri-	three
trich-	hair
-trop-	turn; change
-troph-	nourishment; one who heals
turb-	whirl
-ul-; -ule	diminutive; small
ultra-	beyond
uni-	one
ur-	urine
-ura	tail
vas-	vessel
vect-	carry
ven-; vent-	come
ventr-	underside
-verge	turn; slant
vig-	strong
vit-; viv-	life
volv-	roll; wander
-vor-	devour; eat
xanth-	yellow
xero-	dry
xyl-	wood
zo-; -zoa	animal
zyg-	joined together
zym-	yeast

