

Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning
a-	without, away from
ab-	away from
ad-	towards
an-	without
ante-	before, in front of
anti-	against
auto-	self
bi-	two
brady-	slow
circum-	around
di-	two
dys-	painful, difficult
endo-	within, inner
epi-	upon, over, above
eu-	normal, good
hemi-	half
hetero-	different
homo-	same
hydro-	water
hyper-	over, above
hypo-	under, below
infra-	under, beneath, below
inter-	among, between
intra-	within, inside
macro-	large

Prefix	Meaning
micro-	small
mono-	one
multi-	many
neo-	new
nulli-	none
pan-	all
para-	beside, beyond, near
per-	through
peri-	around or about
poly-	many
post-	behind or after
pre-	before, in front of
pseudo-	false
quad-	four
retro-	backward, behind
semi-	partial, half
sub-	below, under
super-	above, excess
supra-	above
tachy-	rapid, fast
trans-	through, across
tri-	three
ultra-	beyond, excess
uni-	one

Combining Forms

Combining Form	Meaning
abdomin/o	abdomen
acous/o	hearing
acr/o	extremities
aden/o	gland
adenoid/o	adenoids
adip/o	fat
adren/o	adrenal glands
adrenal/o	adrenal glands
aer/o	air
agglutin/o	clumping
albin/o	white
albumin/o	albumin
alveol/o	alveolus; air sac
ambly/o	dull or dim
amni/o	amnion
an/o	anus
andr/o	male
angi/o	vessel
ankyl/o	stiff joint
anter/o	front
anthrac/o	coal
anxi/o	anxiety
aort/o	aorta
append/o	appendix
appendic/o	appendix
aque/o	water
arteri/o	artery
arthr/o	joint
articul/o	joint
atel/o	incomplete
ather/o	fatty substance, plaque
atri/o	atrium
audi/o	hearing
audit/o	hearing
aur/o	ear
auricul/o	ear
azot/o	nitrogenous waste
bacteri/o	bacteria
balan/o	glans penis
bi/o	life
blast/o	primitive cell
blephar/o	eyelid
bronch/o	bronchus

Combining Form	Meaning
bronchus/o	bronchiole
bronchiol/o	bronchiole
bucc/o	cheek
burs/o	sac
calc/o	calcium
carcin/o	cancer
cardi/o	heart
carp/o	wrist
caud/o	tail
cec/o	cecum
cephal/o	head
cerebell/o	cerebellum
cerebr/o	cerebrum
cervic/o	neck, cervix
cheil/o	lip
chem/o	chemical, drug
chol/e	bile, gall
cholangi/o	bile duct
cholecyst/o	gallbladder
choledoch/o	common bile duct
chondr/o	cartilage
chori/o	chorion
chrom/o	color
cis/o	to cut
clavicul/o	clavicle, collar bone
coagul/o	clotting
coccyg/o	coccyx, tailbone
cochle/o	cochlea
col/o	colon
colon/o	colon
colp/o	vagina
coni/o	dust
conjunctiv/o	conjunctiva
core/o	pupil
corne/o	cornea
coron/o	heart
cost/o	rib
crani/o	skull
crin/o	secrete
cry/o	cold
crypt/o	hidden
culd/o	cul-de-sac
cutane/o	skin
cyan/o	blue

Combining Form	Meaning
cycl/o	ciliary muscle
cyst/o	bladder
cyt/o	cell
dacry/o	tear; tear duct
dent/o	tooth
derm/o	skin
dermat/o	skin
diaphor/o	profuse sweating
diaphragmat/o	diaphragm
dipl/o	double
dist/o	away from
dors/o	back of body
duoden/o	duodenum
electr/o	electricity
embryo/o	embryo
encephal/o	brain
enter/o	small intestines
epididym/o	epididymis
epiglott/o	epiglottis
episi/o	vulva
epitheli/o	epithelium
erg/o	work
erythr/o	red
esophag/o	esophagus
esthesi/o	feeling, sensation
estr/o	female
fasci/o	fibrous band
femor/o	femur, thigh bone
fet/o	fetus
fibr/o	fibers
fibrin/o	fibers, fibrous
fibul/o	fibula
fluor/o	fluorescence, luminous
gastr/o	stomach
gingiv/o	gums
glauc/o	gray
gli/o	glue
glomerul/o	glomerulus
gloss/o	tongue
glyc/o	sugar
glycos/o	sugar, glucose
gonad/o	sex glands
granul/o	granules
gynec/o	female

Combining Form	Meaning
hem/o	blood
hemangi/o	blood vessel
hemat/o	blood
hepat/o	liver
hidr/o	sweat
hist/o	tissue
home/o	sameness
humer/o	humerus, upper arm bone
hydr/o	water
hymen/o	hymen
hyster/o	uterus
ichthy/o	scaly, dry
ile/o	ileum
ili/o	ilium
immun/o	immune, protection
infer/o	below
ir/o	iris
irid/o	iris
ischi/o	ischium
jejun/o	jejunum
kal/i	potassium
kerat/o	cornea, hard, horny
keton/o	ketone
kyph/o	hump
labi/o	lip
labyrinth/o	labyrinth
lacrim/o	tears
lact/o	milk
lamin/o	lamina
lapar/o	abdomen
laryng/o	larynx, voice box
later/o	side
leiomy/o	smooth muscle
leuk/o	white
lingu/o	tongue
lip/o	fat
lith/o	stone
lob/o	lobe
lord/o	swayback, curve
lumb/o	loin, lower back
lymph/o	lymph
lymphaden/o	lymph node
lymphangi/o	lymph vessel
mamm/o	breast

Combining Form	Meaning
mandibul/o	mandible, lower jawbone
mast/o	breast
maxill/o	maxilla, upper jaw bone
meat/o	meatus
medi/o	middle
medull/o	medulla
melan/o	black
men/o	menses, menstruation
mening/o	meninges
meningi/o	meninges
ment/o	mind
metacarp/o	metacarpus, hand bones
metatars/o	metatarsals, foot bones
metr/o	uterus
morph/o	shape
muscul/o	muscle
mut/a	genetic change, mutation
my/o	muscle
myc/o	fungus
myel/o	spinal cord, bone marrow
myocardi/o	heart muscle
myos/o	muscle
myring/o	eardrum
narc/o	stupor
nas/o	nose
nat/o	birth
natr/o	sodium
necr/o	death
nephr/o	kidney
neur/o	nerve
noct/i	night
o/o	egg
ocul/o	eye
odont/o	tooth
olig/o	scanty
omphal/o	navel, umbilicus
onc/o	tumor
onych/o	nail
oophor/o	ovary
ophthalm/o	eye
opt/o	eye, vision
optic/o	eye
or/o	mouth
orch/o	testes
orchi/o	testes
orchid/o	testes

Combining Form	Meaning
organ/o	organ
orth/o	straight, upright
oste/o	bone
ot/o	ear
ov/o	egg
ovari/o	ovary
ox/i	oxygen
ox/o	oxygen
pachy/o	thick
palat/o	palate
pancreat/o	pancreas
papill/o	optic disk
parathyroid/o	parathyroid gland
part/o	childbirth
patell/o	patella, knee cap
path/o	disease
ped/o	foot, child
pelv/o	pelvis
pericardi/o	pericardium
perine/o	perineum
phac/o	lens
phag/o	eat, swallow
phalang/o	phalanges, bones of fingers and toes
pharmac/o	drug
pharyng/o	throat, pharynx
phas/o	speech
phleb/o	vein
phon/o	sound
phot/o	light
phren/o	diaphragm, mind
pil/o	hair
pineal/o	pineal gland
pituitar/o	pituitary gland
plant/o	sole of the foot
pleur/o	pleura
pneum/o	lung, air
pneumon/o	lung, air
poli/o	gray matter
pont/o	pons
poster/o	back
presby/o	old age
proct/o	anus and rectum
prostat/o	prostate
prosth/o	addition
proxim/o	near
psych/o	mind

Combining Form	Meaning	Combining Form	Meaning
pub/o	pubis	ten/o	tendon
pulmon/o	lung	tend/o	tendon
pupill/o	pupil	tendin/o	tendon
py/o	pus	test/o	testes
pyel/o	renal pelvis	testicul/o	testes
pylor/o	pylorus	thalam/o	thalamus
radi/o	radiation, X-ray, radius, forearm bone	therm/o	heat
radicul/o	nerve root	thorac/o	chest
rect/o	rectum	thromb/o	clot
ren/o	kidney	thym/o	thymus
retin/o	retina	thyr/o	thyroid gland
rhabdomy/o	skeletal muscle	thyroid/o	thyroid gland
rhin/o	nose	tibi/o	tibia, shin bone
rhytid/o	wrinkle	tom/o	to cut
roentgen/o	X-ray	tonsill/o	tonsils
sacr/o	sacrum	tox/o	toxic, poison
salping/o	fallopian tubes, uterine tubes, eustachian tubes	toxic/o	toxic, poison
sanguin/o	blood	trache/o	trachea, windpipe
scapul/o	scapula, shoulder blade	trich/o	hair
schiz/o	divided	tympan/o	eardrum
scler/o	hard, sclera	uln/o	ulna, forearm bone
scoli/o	crooked, bent	ungu/o	nail
seb/o	sebum, oil	ur/o	urine, urinary tract
sect/o	cut	ureter/o	ureter, urinary tube
sial/o	saliva	urethr/o	urethra
sialaden/o	salivary gland	urin/o	urine
sigmoid/o	sigmoid colon	uter/o	uterus
sinus/o	sinus, cavity	uve/o	vascular
somat/o	body	vagin/o	vagina
somn/o	sleep	valv/o	valve
son/o	sound	valvul/o	valve
spermat/o	sperm	varic/o	varicose veins
sphygm/o	pulse	vas/o	vas deferens
spin/o	spine, backbone	ven/o	vein
spir/o	breathing	ventr/o	belly
splen/o	spleen	ventricul/o	ventricle
spondyl/o	vertebrae, backbone	vertebr/o	vertebra, backbone
staped/o	stapes	vesic/o	bladder
stern/o	sternum, breast bone	vesicul/o	seminal vesicle
steth/o	chest	viscer/o	internal organ
stomat/o	mouth	vitre/o	glassy
super/o	above	vulv/o	vulva
synovi/o	synovial membrane	xanth/o	yellow
system/o	system	xer/o	dry
tars/o	ankle		

Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Suffix	Meaning
-ac	pertaining to	-gravida	pregnancy
-al	pertaining to	-ia	state, condition
-algesia	pain, sensitivity	-iac	pertaining to
-algia	pain	-iasis	abnormal condition
-an	pertaining to	-iatrist	physician
-apheresis	removal, carry away	-ic	pertaining to
-ar	pertaining to	-ical	pertaining to
-arce	beginning	-ile	pertaining to
-ary	pertaining to	-ior	pertaining to
-asthenia	weakness	-ism	state of
-blast	immature, embryonic	-itis	inflammation
-capnia	carbon dioxide	-kinesia	movement
-cele	hernia, protrusion	-lepsy	seizure
-centesis	puncture to withdraw fluid	-listhesis	slipping
-chalasis	relaxation	-lith	stone
-cise	cut	-lithiasis	condition of stones
-clasia	to surgically break	-logist	one who studies
-crine	to secrete	-logy	study of
-cusis	hearing	-lucent	to shine through
-cysis	state of pregnancy	-lysis	destruction
-cyte	cell	-malacia	softening
-cytosis	more than the normal number of cells	-mania	excessive excitement
-derma	skin	-manometer	instrument to measure pressure
-desis	stabilize, fuse	-megaly	enlargement, large
-dipsia	thirst	-meter	instrument for measuring
-dynia	pain	-metry	process of measuring
-eal	pertaining to	-ole	small
-ectasia	dilation	-oma	tumor, mass
-ectasis	dilatation, expansion	-opaque	nontransparent
-ectomy	surgical removal, excision	-opia	vision
-ectopia	displacement	-opsy	view of
-emesis	vomit	-orexia	appetite
-emia	blood condition	-ory	pertaining to
-esthesia	feeling, sensation	-ose	pertaining to
-gen	that which produces	-osis	abnormal condition
-genesis	produces, generates	-osmia	smell
-genic	producing	-ostomy	surgically create an opening
-globin	protein	-otia	ear condition
-globulin	protein	-otomy	cutting into, incision
-gram	record, picture	-ous	pertaining to
-graph	instrument for recording	-para	to bear (offspring)
-graphy	process of recording	-paresis	weakness

Suffix	Meaning
-pathy	disease
-penia	abnormal decrease, too few
-pepsia	digestion
-pexy	surgical fixation
-phage	eat, swallow
-phagia	eat, swallow
-phasia	speech
-philia	to have an attraction for
-phobia	irrational fear
-phonia	voice
-phoresis	carrying
-plakia	plate
-plasia	growth, formation, development
-plasm	growth, formation, development
-plasty	surgical repair
-plegia	paralysis
-pnea	breathing
-poiesis	formation
-porosis	porous
-prandial	pertaining to a meal
-ptosis	drooping
-ptysis	spitting
-rrhage	excessive, abnormal flow
-rrhaphy	suture

Suffix	Meaning
-rrhea	discharge, flow
-rrhexis	rupture
-salpinx	fallopian tube
-sclerosis	hardening
-scope	instrument for viewing
-scopic	to view inside
-scopy	process of visually examining
-spermia	condition of sperm
-stasis	standing still
-stenosis	narrowing
-sthenia	strength
-taxia	muscular coordination
-tension	pressure
-therapy	treatment
-thorax	chest
-tic	pertaining to
-tocia	labor, childbirth
-tome	instrument used to cut
-tripsy	surgical crushing
-trophy	nourishment, development
-tropia	to turn
-tropin	stimulate
-ule	small
-uria	condition of the urine