

# Word Roots, Prefixes, Suffixes, and Combining Forms

## Word Prefixes and Combining Forms

**a-, an-** *absence or lack* acardia, lack of a heart; anaerobic, in the absence of oxygen  
**ab-** *departing from* away from abnormal, departing from normal  
**acou-** *hearing* acoustics, the science of sound  
**ac-, acro-** *extreme or extremity; peak* acrodermatitis, inflammation of the skin of the extremities  
**ad-** *to or toward* adorbital, toward the orbit  
**aden-, adeno-** *gland* adeniform, resembling a gland in shape  
**adren-** *toward the kidney* adrenal gland, adjacent to the kidney  
**aero-** *air* aerobic respiration, oxygen-requiring metabolism  
**af-** *toward* afferent neurons, carry impulses to the CNS  
**agon-** *contest* agonistic and antagonistic muscles, which oppose each other  
**alb-** *white* corpus albicans of the ovary, a white scar tissue  
**aliment-** *nourish* alimentary canal, or digestive tract  
**allel-** *of one another* alleles, alternative expressions of a gene  
**amphi-** *on both sides; of both kinds* amphibian, an organism capable of living in water and on land  
**ana-** *apart, up, again* anaphase of mitosis, chromosomes separate  
**anastomos-** *come together* arteriovenous anastomosis, a connection between an artery and a vein  
**aneurysm** *a widening* aortic aneurysm, a weak spot that causes enlargement of the blood vessel  
**angi-** *vessel* angiitis, inflammation of a lymph vessel or blood vessel  
**angin-** *choked* angina pectoris, a choked feeling in the chest due to dysfunction of the heart  
**ant-, anti-** *opposed to; preventing or inhibiting* anticoagulant, a substance that prevents blood coagulation  
**ante-** *preceding; before* antecubital, in front of the elbow  
**aort-** *great artery* aorta  
**ap-, api-** *tip, extremity* apex of the heart  
**append-** *hang to* appendicular skeleton  
**aqua-, aque-** *water* aqueous solutions  
**arbor** *tree* arbor vitae of the cerebellum, the treelike pattern  
**areola-** *open space* areolar connective tissue  
**arrect-** *upright* arrector pili muscles, which make hairs stand erect  
**arthr-, arthro-** *joint* arthropathy, any joint disease  
**artic-** *joint* articular surfaces of bones, the points of connection  
**atri-** *vestibule* atria, upper chambers of the heart  
**auscult-** *listen* auscultatory method for measuring blood pressure  
**aut-, auto-** *self* autogenous, self-generated  
**ax-, axi-, axo-** *axis, axle* axial skeleton, axis of vertebral column  
**azyg-** *unpaired* azygous vein, an unpaired vessel  
**baro-** *pressure* baroreceptors for monitoring blood pressure  
**basal** *base* basal lamina of epithelial basement membrane  
**bi-** *two* bicuspid, having two cusps  
**bili-** *bile* bilirubin, a bile pigment  
**bio-** *life* biology, the study of life and living organisms  
**blast-** *bud or germ* blastocyte, undifferentiated embryonic cell  
**brachi-** *arm* brachial plexus of nervous system supplies arm  
**brady-** *slow* bradycardia, abnormally slow heart rate  
**brev-** *short* peroneus brevis, a short leg muscle  
**broncho-** *bronchus* bronchospasm, spasmodic contraction of bronchial muscle  
**bucco-** *cheek* buccolabial, pertaining to the cheek and lip  
**calor-** *heat* calories, a measure of energy  
**capill-** *hair* blood and lymph capillaries  
**caput-** *head* decapitate, remove the head  
**carcin-** *cancer* carcinogen, a cancer-causing agent  
**cardi-** *cardio- heart* cardiotoxic, harmful to the heart  
**carneo-** *flesh* trabeculae carneae, ridges of muscle in heart ventricles  
**carot-** *(1) carrot, (2) stupor* (1) carotene, an orange pigment; (2) carotid arteries in the neck, blockage causes fainting  
**cata-** *down* catabolism, chemical breakdown

**caud-** *tail* caudal (directional term)  
**cec-** *blind* cecum of large intestine, a blind-ended pouch  
**cele-** *abdominal* celiac artery, in the abdomen  
**cephal-** *head* cephalometer, an instrument for measuring the head  
**cerebro-** *brain, especially cerebrum* cerebrospinal, pertaining to the brain and spinal cord  
**cervic-, cervix** *neck* cervix of the uterus  
**chiasm-** *crossing* optic chiasma, where optic nerves cross  
**chole-** *bile* cholesterol; cholecystokinin, a bile-secreting hormone  
**chondr-** *cartilage* chondrogenic, giving rise to cartilage  
**chrom-** *colored* chromosome, so named because they stain darkly  
**cili-** *small hair* ciliated epithelium  
**circum-** *around* circumnuclear, surrounding the nucleus  
**clavic-** *key* clavicle, a "skeleton key"<sup>7</sup>  
**co-, con-** *together* concentric, common center, together in the center  
**coccy-** *cuckoo* coccyx, which is beak-shaped  
**cochlea** *snail shell* cochlea of the inner ear, which is coiled like a shell  
**coel-** *hollow* coelom, the ventral body cavity  
**commis-** *united* gray commissure of the spinal cord connects the two columns of gray matter  
**concha** *shell* nasal conchae, coiled shelves of bone in the nasal cavity  
**contra-** *against* contraceptive, agent preventing conception  
**corn-, cornu-** *horn* stratum corneum, outer layer of the skin composed of (horny) cells  
**corona** *crown* coronal suture of the skull  
**corp-** *body* corpse  
**cort-** *bark* cortex, the outer layer of the brain, kidney, adrenal glands, and lymph nodes  
**cost-** *rib* intercostal, between the ribs  
**crani-** *skull* craniotomy, a skull operation  
**crypt-** *hidden* cryptomenorrhea, a condition in which menstrual symptoms are experienced but no external loss of blood occurs  
**cuspid-** *pointed* bicuspid, tricuspid valves of the heart  
**cutic-** *skin* cuticle of the nail  
**cyan-** *blue* cyanosis, blue color of the skin due to lack of oxygen  
**cyst-** *sac, bladder* cystitis, inflammation of the urinary bladder  
**cyt-** *cell* cytology, the study of cells  
**de-** *undoing, reversal, loss, removal* deactivation, becoming inactive  
**decid-** *falling off* deciduous (milk) teeth  
**delta** *triangular* deltoid muscle, roughly triangular in shape  
**den-, dent-** *tooth* dentin of the tooth  
**dendr-** *tree, branch* dendrites, telodendria, both branches of a neuron  
**derm-** *skin* dermis, deep layer of the skin  
**desm-** *bond* desmosome, which binds adjacent epithelial cells  
**di-** *twice, double* dimorphism, having two forms  
**dia-** *through, between* diaphragm, muscular wall between cavities  
**dialys-** *separate, break apart* kidney dialysis, in which waste products are removed from the blood  
**diastol-** *stand apart* cardiac diastole, period between contractions  
**diure-** *urinate* diuretic, a drug that increases urine output  
**dors-** *the back* dorsal; dorsum; dorsiflexion  
**duc-, duct** *lead, draw* ductus deferens which carries sperm from the epididymis into the urethra during ejaculation  
**dura** *hard* dura mater, tough outer meninx  
**dys-** *difficult, faulty, painful* dyspepsia, disturbed digestion  
**ec-, ex-, ecto-** *out, outside, away from* excrete, to remove materials from the body  
**ectop-** *displaced* ectopic pregnancy; ectopic focus for initiation of heart contraction  
**edem-** *swelling* edema, accumulation of water in body tissues  
**ef-** *away* efferent nerve fibers, which carry impulses away from the central nervous system  
**ejac-** *to shoot forth* ejaculation of semen  
**embol-** *wedge* embolus, an obstructive object traveling in the bloodstream  
**en-, em-** *in, inside* encysted, enclosed in a cyst or capsule  
**enceph-** *brain* encephalitis, inflammation of the brain  
**endo-** *within, inner* endocytosis, taking particles into a cell  
**entero-** *intestine* enterologist, one who specializes in the study of intestinal disorders

**epi-** *over, above* epidermis, outer layer of skin  
**erythr-** *red* erythema, redness of the skin, erythrocyte, red blood cell  
**eso-** *within* esophagus  
**eu-** *well* eusthesia, a normal state of the senses  
**excret-** *separate* excretory system  
**exo-** *outside, outer layer* exophthalmos, an abnormal protrusion of the eye from the orbit  
**extra-** *outside, beyond* extracellular, outside the body cells of an organism  
**extrins-** *from the outside* extrinsic regulation of the heart  
**fasci-, fascia-** *bundle, band* superficial and deep fascia  
**fenestr-** *window* fenestrated capillaries  
**ferr-** *iron* transferrin, ferritin, both iron-storage proteins  
**flagell-** *whip* flagellum, the tail of a sperm cell  
**flat-** *blow, blown* flatulence  
**folli-** *bag, bellows* hair follicle  
**fontan-** *fountain* fontanelles of the fetal skull  
**foram-** *opening* foramen magnum of the skull  
**foss-** *ditch* fossa ovalis of the heart; mandibular fossa of the skull  
**gam-, gamet-** *married, spouse* gametes, the sex cells  
**gangli-** *swelling, or knot* dorsal root ganglia of the spinal nerves  
**gastr-** *stomach* gastrin, a hormone that influences gastric acid secretion  
**gene** *beginning, origin* genetics  
**germin-** *grow* germinal epithelium of the gonads  
**gero-, geront-** *old man* gerontology, the study of aging  
**gest-** *carried* gestation, the period from conception to birth  
**glauc-** *gray* glaucoma, which causes gradual blindness  
**glom-** *ball* glomeruli, clusters of capillaries in the kidneys  
**glosso-** *tongue* glossopathy, any disease of the tongue  
**gluco-, glyco-** *gluconeogenesis*, the production of glucose from noncarbohydrate molecules  
**glute-** *buttock* gluteus maximus, largest muscle of the buttock  
**gnost-** *knowing* the gnostic sense, a sense of awareness of self  
**gompho-** *nail* gomphosis, the term applied to the joint between tooth and jaw  
**gon-, gono-** *seed, offspring* gonads, the sex organs  
**gust-** *taste* gustatory sense, the sense of taste  
**hapt-** *fasten, grasp* haptin, a partial antigen  
**hema-, hemato-, hemo-** *blood* hematocyst, a cyst containing blood  
**hemi-** *half* hemiglossal, pertaining to one-half of the tongue  
**hepat-** *liver* hepatitis, inflammation of the liver  
**hetero-** *different or other* heterosexuality, sexual desire for a person of the opposite sex  
**hiat-** *gap* the hiatus of the diaphragm, the opening through which the esophagus passes  
**hippo-** *horse* hippocampus of the brain, shaped like a seahorse  
**hirsut-** *hairy* hirsutism, excessive body hair  
**hist-** *tissue* histology, the study of tissues  
**holo-** *whole* holocrine glands, whose secretions are whole cells  
**hom-, homo-** *same* homeoplasia, formation of tissue similar to normal tissue; homocentric, having the same center  
**hormon-** *to excite* hormones  
**humor-** *a fluid* humoral immunity, which involves antibodies circulating in the blood  
**hyal-** *clear* hyaline cartilage, which has no visible fibers  
**hydr-, hydro-** *water* dehydration, loss of body water  
**hyper-** *excess* hypertension, excessive tension  
**hypno-** *sleep* hypnosis, a sleeplike state  
**hypo-** *below, deficient* hypodermic, beneath the skin, hypokalemia, deficiency of potassium  
**hyster-, hystero-** *uterus or womb* hysterectomy, removal of the uterus; hysterdynia, pain in the womb  
**ile-** *intestine* ileum, the last portion of the small intestine  
**im-** *not* impermeable, not permitting passage, not permeable  
**inter-** *between* intercellular, between the cells  
**intercal-** *insert* intercalated discs, the end membranes between adjacent cardiac muscle cells  
**intra-** *within, inside* intracellular, inside the cell  
**iso-** *equal, same* isothermal, equal, or same, temperature  
**jugul-** *throat* jugular veins, prominent vessels in the neck

**juxta-** *near, close to* juxtaglomerular apparatus, a cell cluster next to a glomerulus in the kidneys  
**karyo-** *kernel, nucleus* karyotype, the assemblage of the nuclear chromosomes  
**kera-** *horn* keratin, the water-repellent protein of the skin  
**kilo-** *thousand* kilocalories, equal to 1000 calories  
**kin-, kines-** *move* kinetic energy, the energy of motion  
**labi-, labri-** *lip* labial frenulum, membrane which joins the lip to gum  
**lact-** *milk* lactose, milk sugar  
**lacun-** *space, cavity, lake* lacunae, the spaces occupied by cells of cartilage and bone tissue  
**lamell-** *small plate* concentric lamellae, rings of bone matrix in compact bone  
**lamina** *layer, sheet* basal lamina, part of the epithelial basement membrane  
**lat-** *wide* latissimus dorsi, a broad muscle of the back  
**laten-** *hidden* latent period of a muscle twitch  
**later-** *side* lateral (directional term)  
**leuko-** *white* leukocyte, white blood cell  
**leva-** *raise, elevate* levator labii superioris, muscle that raises upper lip  
**lingua-** *tongue* lingual tonsil, adjacent to the tongue  
**lip-, lipo-** *fat, lipid* lipophage, a cell that has taken up fat in its cytoplasm  
**lith-** *stone* cholelithiasis, gallstones  
**luci-** *clear* stratum lucidum, clear layer of the epidermis  
**lumen** *light* lumen, center of a hollow structure  
**lut-** *yellow* corpus luteum, a yellow, hormone-secreting structure in the ovary  
**lymph** *water* lymphatic circulation, return of clear fluid to the bloodstream  
**macro-** *large* macromolecule, large molecule  
**macula** *spot* macula lutea, yellow spot on the retina  
**magn-** *large* foramen magnum, largest opening of the skull  
**mal-** *bad, abnormal* malfunction, abnormal functioning of an organ  
**mamm-** *breast* mammary gland, breast  
**mast-** *breast* mastectomy, removal of a mammary gland  
**mater** *mother* dura mater, membrane that envelops the brain  
**meat-** *passage* external acoustic meatus, the ear canal  
**medi-** *middle* medial (directional term)  
**medull-** *marrow* medulla, the middle portion of the kidney, adrenal gland, and lymph node  
**mega-** *large* megakaryocyte, large precursor cell of platelets  
**meio-** *less* meiosis, cell division that halves chromosome number  
**melan-** *black* melanocytes, which secrete the black pigment melanin  
**men-, menstru-** *month* menses, the cyclic menstrual flow  
**meningo-** *membrane* meningitis, inflammation of the membranes of the brain  
**mer-, mero-, a part** merocrine glands, the secretions of which do not include the cell  
**meso-** *middle* mesoderm, middle germ layer  
**meta-** *beyond, between, transition* metatarsus, the part of the foot between the tarsus and the phalanges  
**metro-** *uterus* endometrium, the lining of the uterus  
**micro-** *small* microscope, an instrument used to make small objects appear larger  
**mictur-** *urinate* micturition, the act of voiding the bladder  
**mito-** *thread, filament* mitochondria, small, filament-like structures located in cells  
**mnem-** *memory* amnesia •  
**mono-** *single* monospasm, spasm of a single limb  
**morpho-** *form* morphology, the study of organism structure  
**multi-** *many* multinuclear, having several nuclei  
**mur-** *wall* intramural ganglion, a nerve junction within an organ  
**muta-** *change* mutation, change in the base sequence of DNA  
**myelo-** *spinal cord, marrow* myeloblasts, cells of the bone marrow  
**myo-** *muscle* myocardium, heart muscle  
**nano-** *dwarf* nanometer, one-billionth of a meter  
**narco-** *numbness* narcotic, producing stupor or numb sensation

**natri-** *sodium* atrial natriuretic peptide, a sodium-regulating hormone  
**necro-** *death* necrosis, tissue death  
**neo-** *new* neoplasm, an abnormal growth  
**nephro-** *kidney* nephritis, inflammation of the kidney  
**neuro-** *nerve* neurophysiology, the physiology of the nervous system  
**noc-** *harmful* nociceptors, receptors for pain  
**nom-** *name* innominate artery; innominate bone  
**noto-** *back* notochord, embryonic structure that precedes vertebrae  
**nucle-** *pit, kernel, little nut* nucleus  
**nutri-** *feed, nourish* nutrition  
**ob-** *before, against* obstruction, impeding or blocking up  
**oculo-** *eye* monocular, pertaining to one eye  
**odonto-** *teeth* orthodontist, one who specializes in proper positioning of the teeth in relation to each other  
**olfact-** *smell* olfactory nerves  
**oligo-** *few* oligodendrocytes, neuroglial cells with few branches  
**onco-** *a mass* oncology, study of cancer  
**oo-** *egg* oocyte, precursor of female gamete  
**ophthalmo-** *eye* ophthalmology, the study of the eyes  
**orb-** *circular* orbicularis oculi, muscle that encircles the eye  
**orchi-** *testis* cryptorchidism, failure of the testes to descend  
**org-** *living* organism  
**ortho-** *straight, direct* orthopedic, correction of deformities of the musculoskeletal system  
**osm-** *smell* anosmia, loss of sense of smell  
**osmo-** pushing osmosis  
**osteo-** *bone* osteoderma, bony formations in the skin  
**oto-** *ear* otoscope, a device for examining the ear  
**ov-, ovi-** *egg* ovum, oviduct  
**oxy-** *oxygen* oxygenation, the saturation of a substance with oxygen  
**pan-** *all, universal* panacea, a cure-all  
**papill-** *nipple* dermal papillae, projections of the dermis into the epidermal area  
**para-** *beside, near* paranuclear, beside the nucleus  
**pect-, pectus** *breast* pectoralis major, a large chest muscle  
**pelv-** *a basin* pelvic girdle, which cradles the pelvic organs  
**peni-** *a tail* penis; penile urethra  
**penna-** *feather* unipennate, bipennate muscles, whose fascicles have feathered appearance  
**pent-** *five* pentose, a 5-carbon sugar  
**pep-, peps-, pept-** *digest* pepsin, a digestive enzyme of the stomach; peptic ulcer  
**per-, permea-** *through* permeate; permeable  
**peri-** *around* perianal, situated around the anus  
**phago-** *eat* phagocyte, a cell that engulfs and digests particles, cells or cellular debris  
**pheno-** *show, appear* phenotype, the appearance of an individual  
**phleb-** *vein* phlebitis, inflammation of the veins *pia tender* *pia mater*, delicate inner membrane around the brain and spinal cord  
**pili** *hair* arrector pili muscles of the skin, which make the hairs stand erect  
**pin-, pino-** *drink* pinocytosis, the engulfing of small water droplets by a cell  
**platy-** *flat, broad* platysma, broad, flat muscle of the neck  
**pleur-** *side, rib* pleural serosa, the membrane that lines the thoracic cavity and covers the lungs  
**plex-, plexus** *net, network* brachial plexus, the network of nerves that supplies the arm  
**pneumo-** *air, wind* pneumothorax, air in the thoracic cavity  
**pod-** *foot* podiatry, the treatment of foot disorders  
**poly-** *multiple* polymorphism, multiple forms  
**post-** *after, behind* posterior, places behind (a specific) part  
**pre-, pro-** *before, ahead of* prenatal, before birth  
**procto-** *rectum, anus* proctoscope, instrument for examining rectum  
**pron-** *bent forward* prone; pronate  
**propri-** *one's own* proprioception, awareness of body parts and movement

**pseudo-** *false* pseudotumor, a false tumor  
**psycho-** *mind, psyche* psychogram, a chart of personality traits  
**ptos-** *fall* renal ptosis, a condition in which the kidneys drift below their normal position  
**pub-** *of the pubis* puberty  
**pulmo-** *lung* pulmonary artery, which brings blood to the lungs *pus* pyocyst, a cyst that contains pus  
**pyro-** *fire* pyrogen, a substance that induces fever  
**quad-, quadr-** *four-sided* quadriceps femoris, a thigh muscle  
having  
four heads  
**re-** *back, again* reinfect  
**rect-** *straight* rectus abdominis, rectum  
**ren-** *kidney* renal, renin, an enzyme secreted by the kidney  
**retin, retic-** *net, network* endoplasmic reticulum, a network of membranous sacs within a cell  
**retro-** *backward, behind* retrogression, to move backward in development  
**rheum-** *watery flow, change, or flux* rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatic fever  
**rhin-, rhino-** *nose* rhinitis, inflammation of the nose  
**ruga-** *fold, wrinkle* rugae, the folds of the stomach, gallbladder, and urinary bladder  
**sagitt-** *arrow* sagittal (directional term)  
**salta-** *leap* saltatory conduction, the rapid conduction of impulses along myelinated neurons  
**sanguin-** *blood* consanguineous, indicative of a genetic relationship between individuals  
**sarco-** *flesh* sarcomere, unit of contraction in skeletal muscle  
**saphen-** *visible, clear* great saphenous vein, superficial vein of the thigh and leg  
**sclero-** *hard* sclerodermatitis, inflammatory thickening and hardening of the skin  
**seb-** *grease* sebum, the oil of the skin  
**semen** *seed, sperm* semen, the discharge of the male reproductive system  
**semi-** *half* semicircular, having the form of half a circle  
**sens-** *feeling* sensation; sensory  
**septi-** *rotten* sepsis, infection; antiseptic  
**septum** *fence* nasal septum  
**sero-** *serum* serological tests, which assess blood conditions  
**serrat-** *saw* serratus anterior, a muscle of the chest wall that has a jagged edge  
**sin-, sino-** *a hollow* sinuses of the skull  
**soma-** *body* somatic nervous system  
**somn-** *sleep* insomnia, inability to sleep  
**sphin-** *squeeze* sphincter  
**splanchn-** *organ* splanchnic nerve, autonomic supply to abdominal viscera  
**spondyl-** *vertebra* ankylosing spondylitis, rheumatoid arthritis affecting the spine  
**squam-** *scale, flat* squamous epithelium, squamous suture of the skull  
**steno-** *narrow* stenocoriasis, narrowing of the pupil  
**strat-** *layer* strata of the epidermis, stratified epithelium  
**stria-** *furrow, streak* striations of skeletal and cardiac muscle tissue  
**stroma** *spread out* stroma, the connective tissue framework of some organs  
**sub-** *beneath, under* sublingual, beneath the tongue  
**sucr-** *sweet* sucrose, table sugar  
**sudor-** *sweat* sudoriferous glands, the sweat glands  
**super-** *above, upon* superior, quality or state of being above others  
**supra-** *above, upon* supracondylar, above a condyle  
**sym-, syn-** *together, with* synapse, the region of communication between two neurons  
**synerg-** *work together* synergism  
**systol-** *contraction* systole, contraction of the heart  
**tachy-** *rapid* tachycardia, abnormally rapid heartbeat

**tact-** *touch* tactile sense  
**telo-** *the end* telophase, the end of mitosis  
**tempi-, tempo-** *time* temporal summation of nerve impulses  
**tens-** *stretched* muscle tension  
**terti-** *third* fibularis tertius, one of three fibularis muscles  
**tetan-** *rigid, tense* tetanus of muscles  
**therm-** *heat* thermometer, an instrument used to measure heat  
**thromb-** *clot* thrombocyte; thrombus  
**thyro-** *a shield* thyroid gland  
**tissu-** *woven* tissue  
**tono-** *tension* tonicity; hypertonic tox- *poison* toxicology, study of poisons  
**trab-** *beam, timber* trabeculae, spicules of bone in spongy bone tissue  
**trans-** *across, through* transpleural, through the pleura  
**trapez-** *table* trapezius, the four-sided muscle of the upper back  
**tri-** *three* trifurcation, division into three branches  
**trop-** *turn, change* tropic hormones, whose targets are endocrine glands  
**troph-** *nourish* trophoblast, from which develops the fetal portion of the placenta  
**tuber-** *swelling* tuberosity, a bump on a bone  
**tunic-** *covering* tunica albuginea, the covering of the testis  
**tymp-** *drum* tympanic membrane, the eardrum  
**ultra-** *beyond* ultraviolet radiation, beyond the band of visible light  
**vacc-** *cow* vaccine  
**vagin-** *a sheath* vagina  
**vagus** *wanderer* the vagus nerve, which starts at the brain and travels into the abdominopelvic cavity  
**valen-** *strength* valence shells of atoms  
**venter, ventr-** *abdomen, belly* ventral (directional term); ventricle  
**vent-** *the wind* pulmonary ventilation  
**vert-** *turn* vertebral column  
**vestibul-** *a porch* vestibule, the anterior entryway to the mouth and nose  
**vibr-** *shake, quiver* vibrissae, hairs of the nasal vestibule  
**villus** *shaggy hair* microvilli, which have the appearance of hair in light microscopy  
**viscero-** *organ, viscera* visceroinhibitory, inhibiting the movements of the viscera  
**viscos-** *sticky* viscosity, resistance to flow  
**vita-** *life* vitamin  
**vitre-** *glass* vitreous humor, the clear jelly of the eye  
**viv-** *live in* vivo  
**vulv-** *a covering* vulva, the female external genitalia  
**zyg-** *a yoke, twin* zygote

### Suffixes

**-able** *able to, capable of* viable, ability to live or exist  
**-ac** *referring to* cardiac, referring to the heart  
**-algia** *pain in a certain part* neuralgia, pain along the course of a nerve  
**-apsi** *junction* synapse, where two neurons communicate  
**-ary** *associated with, relating to* coronary, associated with the heart  
**-asthen** *weakness* myasthenia gravis, a disease involving paralysis  
**-bryo** *swollen* embryo  
**-cide** *destroy or kill* germicide, an agent that kills germs  
**-cipit** *head* occipital  
**-clast** *break* osteoclast, a cell that dissolves bone matrix  
**-crine** *separate* endocrine organs, which secrete hormones into the blood  
**-dips** *thirst, dry* polydipsia, excessive thirst associated with diabetes  
**-ectomy** *cutting out, surgical removal* appendectomy, cutting out of the appendix  
**-ell, -elle** *small* organelle  
**-emia** *condition of the blood* anemia, deficiency of red blood cells  
**-esthesi** *sensation* anesthesia, lack of sensation

**-ferent** *carry* efferent nerves, nerves carrying impulses away from the CNS  
**-form, -forma** *shape* cribriform plate of the ethmoid bone  
**-fuge** *driving out* vermifuge, a substance that expels worms of the intestine  
**-gen** *an agent that initiates* pathogen, any agent that produces disease  
**-glea, -glia** *glue* neuroglia, the connective tissue of the nervous system  
**-gram** *data that are systematically recorded, a record* electrocardiogram, a recording showing action of the heart  
**-graph** *an instrument used for recording data or writing* electrocardiograph, an instrument used to make an electrocardiogram  
**-ia** *condition* insomnia, condition of not being able to sleep  
**-iatrics** *medical specialty* geriatrics, the branch of medicine dealing with disease associated with old age  
**-ism** *condition* hyperthyroidism  
**-itis** *inflammation* gastritis, inflammation of the stomach  
**-lemma** *sheath, husk* sarcolemma, the plasma membrane of a muscle cell  
**-logy** *the study of* pathology, the study of changes in structure and function brought on by disease  
**-lysis** *loosening or breaking down* hydrolysis, decomposition of a compound as a result of adding water to a chemical bond  
**-malacia** *soft* osteomalacia, a process leading to bone softening  
**-mania** *obsession, compulsion* erotomania, exaggeration of the sexual passions  
**-nata** *birth* prenatal development  
**-nom** *govern* autonomic nervous system  
**-odyn** *pain* coccygodynia, pain in the region of the coccyx  
**-oid** *like, resembling* cuboid, shaped as a cube  
**-oma** *tumor* lymphoma, a tumor of the lymphatic tissues  
**-opia** *defect of the eye* myopia, nearsightedness  
**-ory** *referring to, of* auditory, referring to hearing  
**-pathy** *disease* osteopathy, any disease of the bone  
**-phasia** *speech* aphasia, lack of ability to speak  
**-phil, -philo** *like, love* hydrophilic, water-attracting molecules  
**-phobia** *fear* acrophobia, fear of heights  
**-phragm** *partition* diaphragm, which separates the thoracic and abdominal cavities  
**-phylax** *guard, preserve* prophylaxis, to guard in advance, as in preventive treatment  
**-plas** *grow* neoplasia, an abnormal growth  
**-plasm** *form, shape* cytoplasm  
**-plasty** *reconstruction of a part, plastic surgery* rhinoplasty, reconstruction of the nose through surgery  
**-plegia** *paralysis* paraplegia, paralysis of the lower half of the body or lower limbs  
**-rrhagia** *abnormal or excessive discharge* metrorrhagia, uterine hemorrhage  
**-rrhea** *flow or discharge* diarrhea, abnormal emptying of the bowels  
**-scope** *instrument used for examination* stethoscope, instrument used to listen to sounds of parts of the body  
**-some** *body* chromosome  
**-sorb** *suck in* absorb  
**-stalsis** *compression* peristalsis, muscular contractions that propel food along the digestive tract  
**-stasis** *arrest, fixation* hemostasis, arrest of bleeding  
**-stitia** *come to stand* interstitial fluid, between the cells  
**-stomy** *establishment of an artificial opening* enterostomy, the formation of an artificial opening into the intestine through the abdominal wall  
**-tegm** *cover* integument  
**-tomy** *to cut* appendectomy, surgical removal of the appendix  
**-trud** *thrust* protrude, detrusor muscle  
**-ty** *condition of, state* immunity, condition of being resistant to infection or disease  
**-uria** *urine* polyuria, passage of an excessive amount of urine  
**-zyme** *ferment* enzyme