

Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Prefix	Meaning
a-	without, lack of	cyst(o)-	pertaining to the bladder or any fluid-containing sac
ab-	away from	cyt(o)-	pertaining to a cell
abdomi(n)-	abdomen	dermat(o)-	pertaining to the skin
acr(o)-	pertaining to an extremity	di-	twice, double
ad-	to, toward	dia-	through, completely
aden(o)-	pertaining to a gland	dys-	difficult, painful, abnormal
an-	without, lack of	ect(o)-	out from
ana-	up, back, again	electro-	pertaining to electricity
angio-	vessel	end(o)-	within
ante-	before, forward	enter(o)-	pertaining to the intestines
anti-	against, opposed to	epi-	upon, on
arteri(o)-	artery	erythr(o)-	pertaining to red or to erythrocytes (red blood cells)
arthro-	pertaining to a joint	eu-	easy, good, normal
auto-	self	ex(o)-	outside
bi-	two	extra-	outside, in addition
bi(o)-	pertaining to life	gastr(o)-	pertaining to the stomach
blast(o)-	germ or cell	glyc(o)-	sugar
blephar(o)-	pertaining to an eyelid	gynec(o)-	pertaining to females or the female reproductive organs
brady-	slow	hemat(o)-	pertaining to blood
calc-	stone; also heel	hemi-	half
cardi(o)-	pertaining to the heart	hem(o)-	pertaining to blood
cephal(o)-	pertaining to the head	hepat(o)-	pertaining to the liver
cerebr(o)-	pertaining to the cerebrum, a part of the brain	hydr(o)-	water
cervic(o)-	pertaining to the neck or the uterine opening (cervix)	hyper-	over, excessive
chole-	pertaining to bile	hypo-	under, deficient
chondr(o)-	pertaining to cartilage	hyster(o)-	pertaining to the uterus
circum-	around, about	infra-	below
contra-	against, opposite	inter-	between
cost(o)-	pertaining to a rib	intra-	within
cyan(o)-	blue		

Continued

Common Prefixes—cont'd

Prefix	Meaning	Prefix	Meaning
iso-	equal	phag(o)-	pertaining to eating, ingesting, or engulfing
latero-	side	pharyng(o)-	pertaining to the throat or pharynx
leuk(o)-	pertaining to anything white or to leukocytes (white blood cells)	phleb(o)-	pertaining to a vein
lith(o)-	pertaining to a stone	pneum(o)-	pertaining to respiration, the lungs, or air
macro-	large	poly-	many
mal-	bad or abnormal	post-	after, behind
mening(o)-	pertaining to a membrane, particularly the meninges	pre-	before
micro-	small	pro-	before, in front of
mono-	one	proct(o)-	pertaining to the rectum
myel(o)-	pertaining to the spinal cord, the bone marrow, or myelin	pseud(o)-	false
my(o)-	pertaining to muscle	psych(o)-	pertaining to the mind
nas(o)-	pertaining to the nose	pulm(o)-	pertaining to the lung
ne(o)-	new	pyel(o)-	pertaining to kidney pelvis
nephr(o)-	pertaining to the kidney	py(o)-	pertaining to pus
neur(o)-	pertaining to a nerve or the nervous system	quadr(i)-	four
noct-	night	retr(o)-	backward or behind
olig(o)-	little, deficient, or minimal	rhin(o)-	pertaining to the nose
oophor(o)-	pertaining to the ovary	salping(o)-	pertaining to a tube
ophthalm(o)-	pertaining to the eye	scler(o)-	hard; also means pertaining to the sclera
orchid(o)-	pertaining to the testicles	semi-	half or partial
orchi(o)-	pertaining to the testicles	sub-	under, moderately
ortho-	straight or normal	super-	high, excessive, or more than normal
oste(o)-	pertaining to bone	supra-	above
ot(o)-	pertaining to the ear	tachy-	fast
para-	by the side of	thorac(o)-	pertaining to the chest
path(o)-	pertaining to disease	trans-	across
per-	through	tri-	three
peri-	around	uni-	one
		vas(o)-	vessel