

*Common
Prefixes
and
Suffixes
used in science*

A

a-, ab- = separate, away or apart from
 acanth = prickly
 acer = without horns
 -aceus = resembling something
 acri = sharp
 acro- = extremity
 actino- = star-like
 -aeus = belonging to something
 ad- = to, near, or towards
 affinis- = liking
 agres = wild
 aja- = wing
 alb = white
 -alis = pertaining to something
 altissum = tall
 (alve)olar = small cavity
 ambi- = around
 ambly = blunt
 ambul = walk
 amnion = fetal membrane
 amoeb = to change
 amphi - double or both
 an- = without
 ana- = according to, leading to
 anchus = bend
 andro- = male
 anemo- = pertaining to wind
 angio- = vessel
 angusti- = narrow
 annulus = ring-like
 ante- = before/in front of
 anti- = against
 anus = posterior opening
 apo- = from
 apsid, apsis = arch-like
 aqua- = water
 arach- = spider-like
 arch- = ancient or old
 are = space
 -arium = where something is kept
 arrest = to stop
 ase = (designates an enzyme)
 astro- = star-like
 -aticus = place of growth
 aurium = cavity or opening
 atro- = black
 audio- = hearing
 auricle- = ear-like
 auto- = self
 axial = central or at the axis
 axis = central line

B

bas- = at the base of something
 bdella = sucker
 bell = pretty
 bi- = two or double
 -bilis = ability to do something
 bio = living or life
 -blast = cell, simple group of cells
 bore = north
 brachy- = short
 brancial = gills
 brevi- = short
 bronchus = breathing duct

buccal = mouth cavity
 bulb = like a bulb
 bullat = wrinkled
 -bundus = abundance of something
 burs = pouch

C

caecum- = part of intestine
 caerul = sky blue
 calli = beautiful
 calor = heat
 calyx = husk or covering, cup-like
 canine = dog-like
 capil = hair-like
 caput- = head-like
 cardia = heart
 carno- = flesh
 carpo- = fruit
 caud = tail or tail-like
 cav = opening
 cavus = hollow
 cent- = one hundred
 cephal = head or brain-like
 cera- = horn-like
 cerato- = horn-like
 -cerc = tail
 chaet = bristles
 chiasm = crossing
 chloro- = green
 choan- = funnel-shaped
 chondr = cartilage
 -chondrus = cartilaginous
 chord = string-like
 chorion = skin
 chrom = color
 chromo = colored
 chryso- = gold
 chyme = juice-like
 cilia = hair-like
 ciner = grey
 circum- = around
 clad = branch
 -ciast = break
 cloaca = sexual orifice
 cnem- = lower leg
 co-, com-, con-, = together
 coelo- = hollow
 coelom = body cavity
 con = with or having
 conch- = shell-like
 -condyle = knob-like
 constrict- = bring together
 contra = opposite
 coron = crown or surrounding
 corp = pertaining to the body
 cort-, cortex- = outer layer
 cosm- = spacial design
 -crania = head-like
 crassi- = thick, short
 cric- = ring-like
 crist- = crest
 cru- = leg-like
 crypto- = hidden
 cten- = comb-like
 cune- = wedge or wedge-like
 cusp = pointed

cuti- = skin
 cyano- = dark blue
 cycie, cyclo- = circular
 cyto- = jelly-like
 cyt = cell or cell-like

D

dactyl = finger or finger-like
 dasy- = shaggy
~~de~~ = down or away from
 deca-, deci- = ten or of ten
 demi = half
 dens/dent = tooth or tooth-like
 derm = skin
 di-, dia- = through, between, apart,
 across from
 di- = two
 dicho-, dica- = in pairs
 digit = finger-like
 dino = terrible
 diplo- = double
 disc = flat round plate
 distal = further, furthest away, away
 from something
 dodeca = twelve
 dorsal = back
 ductor, -ducens = leading
 duo = two
 dur = hard

E

e-, ex- = away from or out of
 echino - spiked or spiny
 ecto- = outer or outside
 effer = to carry away
 ek-, ekto- = outside
 elas = flat or stretchy
 elat - tall
 embio = living within
 en-, endo- = inner or inside
 engy = narrow or skinny
 -ensis = origin of something
 epi- = on or upon
 eq(ui) = equal to (horse-like)
 eryth- = red
 etimo- = sieve
 eu- = good; well, true
 -eus = resembling something
 ex- = from; out of
 exo = outside
 exiguus = slender
 extra- = outside

F

facie- = appearance of
 -factor = making
 falci- = sickle-shaped
 fasci- = band
 felis = cat or cat-like
 -ferens = carrying
 fibre- = thin strand
 filo-, fili- = soft, fine thread
 fin- = end or finish
 fistul = hollow
 flagella(um) = whip-like
 flavi- = yellow
 flex- = bent
 flocc- = soft woolly mass

follicle = small sac
funic = strand
furc = fork or fork-like
fusci- = brown

G

galacto- = milky
gam- = fused
gast- = stomache-like
-gen = producing
genit- = reproductive structure
germ = growth
geo- = earth-like
gladi = sword or sword-like
glen- = socket-like
glom- = spherical
gloss- = tongue
-glotta = tongue-like
gluteo- = hind-quarters, buttocks
gly = sweet
gnath- = jaw-like
gon = angle
grandi- = large
granul- = small particles
gula- = throat
gymno- = naked
gyno- = female
gyro- = turning

H

hal = salty
hamat = hook or hook-like
haplo- = single
helminth = worm or worm-like
hemo- = blood, blood-like
hemi- = half
hepa- = liver
hepta- = seven
hetero- = different or other
hexa- = six
hibe = winter
hippo- = horse-like
hirsu = hairy
hirti- = hairy with long hairs
histo- = webbed
holo- = whole or entire
homo- = same or man
horm- = stimulating
humo- = fluid or liquid
hyal- = translucent
hydr = water
hyoid = Y or U shaped (wishbone)
hyo- = Y-shaped
hyper- = above
hypo- = beneath

I

-ichthyes = fish-like or fish
-icola = a dweller
-icus = belonging to something
-ida = like
-iform = like something
ileum = twist or twisted
in- = within, not, or on
incis = to cut or cut
incus = anvil-shaped
infra- = below
inter- = between

intra- = inside or within
iris- = originally multicolored
iso- = equal to/equal
-itis, -itus = inflamed or swollen

J

juxt = to mix

K

kilo = one thousand

L

labia- = lips
lacer- = tear, tearing, or torn
lacto- = milk-like
lacun = space
laevi- = smooth
lamina- = a thin, uniform sheet
lanci- = lance shaped
latera- = along the side
lati- = wide or broad
laxi- = loose
ledi- = scale
-lemma = husk or covering
lepido- = scaly/having scales
lepto- = slender
leuco- = white
lip = fat
luteo- = yellow
levator = rising or to raise
ligament = strap or attachment
-lingus = tongue
lipid = fatty material
lob- = lobe or region
-logy, -ology = study something
longi- = long
lopho- = ridge or crest
lucid = clear
lumen = cavity
lymph- = body fluid
lys = to split or break
lyt = to burst

M

macro- = large
macula = mark or spot
magni = enlarge
major = greater
maniac- = love
marine- = water
maritime = from the sea
marsu = pouch
maxi = large
maxim = greatest
media- = central
mega-, megalo- = large
mela- = black
meno = moon-shaped
-mer = part
meso- = middle
meta- = after, coming later, next
micro- = small
milli = thousand or 1/100th
min = smaller
minor = lessor
mito = tiny thread
mono- = single/one
morph- = to change
multi-, multus- = many

myo- = muscle
myrio- = countless
myz = sucker

N

nano- = dwarf
ne- = not; free from
necros- = death or dead
necto = swimming
nema = hair
neo- = new
neuro = nerve
nephro- = kidney or kidney-like
neuro- = nerve-like
nicti- = blinking
node = knot or constricted
-nomic = named as, law
non- = not
nona = nine
noto- = back
nove- = nine
nudi= naked
null(i) = none or zero

O

ob- = against something
obtus = blunt
ochro- = yellow
octo- = eight
oculo- = eye
odont- = tooth-like
odor = smell
-oid = in the form of
oleo = greasy
olfact = to smell
oligo- = few
-ology = study of...
-omos = shoulder
onto = existing
oo = egg
opercul- = lid, door
ophio- = snake-like
or = mouth
ortho = straight
os-, osteo- = bone
ostium- = hole
-osus = abundance of something
ovum = egg, egg-like
oxy- = acidic; sharp

P

pachy- = thick
palaeo- = old
pallid = pale
-pallium = thin covering
pan- = all, universal
para- = near, alongside, associate with
parie- = wall
parvi- = small
pectin- = comb-like
ped-, = child
pend- = suspended or hanging
penta- = five
per- = through
peri- = around
persic = peach colored
phaeo- = brown; dark
phag-, phage- = to eat

phanero- = easily seen
 phil- = affinity or love
 phloe = sap or sap-like
 -phore = bearer
 photo-, phos-, = light
 phyl- = containing
 -physis = growth
 -phyte, phyto- = plant or plant-like
 micro- = bitter
 -pile = felt
 pinnat = feather-shaped
 pisi- = pea-like
 plac- = flat plate
 -plasm = fluid or formless substance
 -plat, platy- = flat
 pleio- = few
 plesio = near or close to
 pleuro- = from the side
 plex- = interlacing threads
 pluri- = several
 pneu = air
 pod = foot or footed
 -podium = footed
 polio = grey
 poly- = many
 por- = opening
 porphyro- = purple
 port- = gateway
 post = after
 potamo- = river
 prae-, pre- = before/in front of
 pre = first or before
 prim- = first
 pro- = before, prior, first
 proto- = first
 pseudo- = false or fake
 psych- = brain
 pteri- thin, wing, or fern-like
 ptero- = wing; winged
 pubi- = mature
 pulmo- = lung
 pyg- rear or posterior
 pyri- = pear-like
 pyro- = fire
 pyrro- = fire-colored (reddish orange)

Q

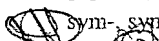
quad-, = four
 quin = five

R

rachi- = spine-like
 radi- = round or root
 ram = branching
 re- = again
 rect- = straight
 renal- = kidney or kidney-like
 retic- = network
 retro- = back or reverse
 rheo- = flow
 rhodo = red; rosy
 rhizo- = root-like
 rostrum- = projection
 rota- = to rotate or to circle
 rub(rum) = red
 rumin- = chewing

S

sac- = bag
 sacc = sweet
 sagitt- = arrow-like
 sapro- = dead or decaying
 sarc- = flesh
 saur = lizard
 scal- = scale-like
 schisto- = split
 schizo- = deeply divided
 sclera- = hard or dry
 seba- = wax or wax-like
 sect = cut
 selen- = moon-like
 sem- = male
 semi = half
 sept = seven
 sex = six
 simper- = always
 sept- division or seven
 sessile- = not moving
 sesqui- = one and a half
 sex = six
 sinus = duct
 siphon = tube
 soma = body
 somni = sleep
 sperm = seed
 sphen- = wedge
 shinct = to close or closing
 spirac- = vent
 stachyo- = spiked
 steno- = narrow
 stereo- = double, more than one
 stero- = spatial, solid
 stoma- = opening
 strat- = layer
 styl-, style = pillar-like, point, or cylinder-like
 sub- = beneath
 sulcus- = groove
 super- = above
 sur- = above

 sym-, syn- = together

T

tact- = touch
 tard = late
 taxis- = movement
 tect- = covering
 tel = across, far end
 temp- = time
 tenui- = slender/thin
 tephro- = ash grey
 termin- = ending
 terni- = groups of three
 test- = covering
 tetra- = four
 -thalamus = chamber
 theca- = covering
 -therm = heat or temperature
 thermo- = warm
 -tome = a cut
 trachy- = rough
 trans- = across
 tri-, tri- = three

trem = hole
 tri = three
 tribo- = lubricate
 -trichia = hair or hair-like
 troch- = pulley-wheel
 troph- = feed
 tuber- = lump
 turbin- = spiral
 tylo- = having knots

U

ulo = wooly
 ultra = above
 uni- = one
 unci- = hook
 uro- = tail
 -utus = possession

V

valva- = valve
 vas = vessel
 vent- = below or underneath
 verdi = green
 verm- = worm
 villus- = finger-like
 viridi- = green
 visu- = sight
 vita(e) = life
 vitell- = pertaining to eggs
 vitr- = glass-like
 vivi- = living

X

xantho- = yellow
 xero- = dry
 xiphi- = sword-like
 xylo- = woody

Z

zantho- = yellow
 zoo- = animal
 zygo- = fusion or yolk
 -zyme = yeast