## Useful Biological Prefixes and Suffixes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix or suffix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a-</td>
<td>not, without</td>
<td>atypical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ab-</td>
<td>from, away</td>
<td>abnormal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>acantho-</td>
<td>spine</td>
<td>Acanthocephala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ad-</td>
<td>to, toward</td>
<td>dorsad, adhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>albi-</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>albicans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-algia</td>
<td>pain</td>
<td>neuralgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amyl-</td>
<td>starch</td>
<td>amylase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an-</td>
<td>not, without</td>
<td>anhydrous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ana-</td>
<td>up, upon</td>
<td>anabolism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ancylo-</td>
<td>bent</td>
<td>ancylostoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angio-</td>
<td>vessel</td>
<td>angiocardiitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ante-</td>
<td>before, in front of</td>
<td>anterior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-</td>
<td>against, opposed to</td>
<td>antitoxin, antibody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apo-</td>
<td>off, from, away from</td>
<td>apoplexy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aqua-</td>
<td>water</td>
<td>aquatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ase</td>
<td>designating an enzyme</td>
<td>amylase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auto-</td>
<td>self</td>
<td>autosuggestion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bi-</td>
<td>two, twice</td>
<td>biceps, bifocal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bio-</td>
<td>life</td>
<td>biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brachy-</td>
<td>short</td>
<td>brachycardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix or suffix</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brady-</td>
<td>slow</td>
<td>bradycardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>calor-</td>
<td>heat</td>
<td>calorimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cara</td>
<td>head</td>
<td><em>Toxocara</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cardia-</td>
<td>heart</td>
<td>bradycardia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cephal-</td>
<td>head</td>
<td>Acanthocephala, cephalic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cera</td>
<td>horn</td>
<td>brachycera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cerca</td>
<td>tail</td>
<td><em>Onchocerca</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cerebro-</td>
<td>brain</td>
<td>cerebrospinal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-chezia</td>
<td>defecate</td>
<td>hematochezia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chrom-</td>
<td>color</td>
<td>chromosome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cidal</td>
<td>killing</td>
<td>bacteriocidal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corpus-</td>
<td>body</td>
<td>corpuscle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cyst</td>
<td>bladder</td>
<td>oocyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-cyte, cyto-</td>
<td>cell</td>
<td>cytoplasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-dermic</td>
<td>skin</td>
<td>hypodermic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>di-</td>
<td>two, twice</td>
<td>dichromic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dia-</td>
<td>through, between</td>
<td>diaphragm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dys-</td>
<td>bad, difficult</td>
<td>dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ectomy</td>
<td>cut out</td>
<td>appendectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>em-, en-, endo-</td>
<td>in, into</td>
<td>embolism, endoskeleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-emia</td>
<td>blood</td>
<td>anemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entero-</td>
<td>intestine</td>
<td>enterokinase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>epi-</td>
<td>on, above, upon</td>
<td>epiglottis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>erythro-</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>erythrocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-fer-</td>
<td>to carry, to transport</td>
<td>afferent, efferent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-fract-</td>
<td>to break</td>
<td>fracture, refraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gastro-</td>
<td>stomach</td>
<td>pneumogastri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix or suffix</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gen-</td>
<td>to produce, to begin</td>
<td>genetics, glycogen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-glosso-</td>
<td>tongue</td>
<td>hypoglossal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glyc-</td>
<td>glucose, sugar</td>
<td>glycosuria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gnath-</td>
<td>jaw, cheek</td>
<td>gnathostoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-gnosis</td>
<td>knowledge, to know</td>
<td>diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-graph</td>
<td>to write</td>
<td>cardiograph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-helminth</td>
<td>worm</td>
<td>anthelminthic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hemo-</td>
<td>blood</td>
<td>hemorrhage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hetero-</td>
<td>different, other</td>
<td>heterozygous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>homo-</td>
<td>alike, same</td>
<td>homozygous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hydro-</td>
<td>water</td>
<td>hydrolytic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hyper-</td>
<td>over, more than</td>
<td>hypersecretion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hypo-</td>
<td>under, less than</td>
<td>hyposecretion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-iasis</td>
<td>infestation</td>
<td>onchocerciasis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inter-</td>
<td>between, together</td>
<td>intercostal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intra-</td>
<td>within</td>
<td>intrathoracic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ir-</td>
<td>not</td>
<td>irregular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-itis</td>
<td>inflammation</td>
<td>appendicitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kata-, cata-</td>
<td>down</td>
<td>catabolism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kin-</td>
<td>to move or activate</td>
<td>kinetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-lac-</td>
<td>milk</td>
<td>lactase, prolactin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leuco-, leuko-</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>leucocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ology</td>
<td>science, knowledge</td>
<td>physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lymph-, lympho-</td>
<td>lymph</td>
<td>lymphocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-lysin, -lysis, -lytic</td>
<td>dissolve, destroy</td>
<td>hemolysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>macro-</td>
<td>large</td>
<td>macrophage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>melan-, melen-</td>
<td>black</td>
<td>melanoma, melena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix or suffix</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-meter</td>
<td>measure</td>
<td>manometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>micro-</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>microorganism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-monas</td>
<td>a unit</td>
<td>Trichomonas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mono-</td>
<td>one</td>
<td>monocyte, monosaccharide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>myo-</td>
<td>muscle</td>
<td>myosin, myoglobin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nema-</td>
<td>thread</td>
<td>nematode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neur-</td>
<td>relating to nerves</td>
<td>neurilemma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neph-</td>
<td>kidneys</td>
<td>nephritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-oid</td>
<td>like</td>
<td>lymphoid, ameboid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ole</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>bronchiole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-oma</td>
<td>swelling, tumor</td>
<td>sarcoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oncho-</td>
<td>hook</td>
<td>Onchocerca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>onco-</td>
<td>mass, bulk</td>
<td>oncosphere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo-</td>
<td>egg</td>
<td>oocyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-opia</td>
<td>sight</td>
<td>myopia, hyperopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-osis</td>
<td>condition or process</td>
<td>cyanosis, phagocytosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>os-, oste-, osteo-</td>
<td>bone</td>
<td>osteology, osteocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ovi-</td>
<td>egg</td>
<td>oviducy, ovipositor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>para-</td>
<td>near, by, beside</td>
<td>parathyroid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patho-</td>
<td>disease, suffering</td>
<td>pathology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peri-</td>
<td>around, near</td>
<td>pericardium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phago-</td>
<td>to eat</td>
<td>phagocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-phil-</td>
<td>loving</td>
<td>basophil, eosinophil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piro-</td>
<td>pear</td>
<td>piroplasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-plasm-</td>
<td>substance</td>
<td>cytoplasm, plasmodiosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>platy-</td>
<td>broad</td>
<td>Platyhelminthes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-pnea</td>
<td>breathing</td>
<td>dyspnea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix or suffix</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pneumo-</td>
<td>air, lungs</td>
<td>pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ped</td>
<td>foot</td>
<td>pseudoped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poly-</td>
<td>many</td>
<td>polysaccharide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post-</td>
<td>after, behind</td>
<td>postganglionic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pro-</td>
<td>before, giving rise to</td>
<td>proenzyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proprio-</td>
<td>one's own</td>
<td>proprioceptors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pseudo-</td>
<td>false</td>
<td>pseudoped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>psycho-</td>
<td>mind</td>
<td>psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pulmo-</td>
<td>lung</td>
<td>pulmonary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pyri-</td>
<td>pear</td>
<td>pyriform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-renal</td>
<td>kidney</td>
<td>adrenal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-rrhea</td>
<td>flow</td>
<td>diarrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sarco-</td>
<td>flesh, muscle</td>
<td>sarcoplasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>schizo-</td>
<td>to divide</td>
<td>schizont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seta, setae</td>
<td>bristle</td>
<td>trailing setae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soma-</td>
<td>body</td>
<td>somatic cell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-some</td>
<td>body</td>
<td>chromosome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-stadial</td>
<td>stage, period</td>
<td>transstadial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steato-, stea-</td>
<td>fat</td>
<td>steatorrhea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stercor-</td>
<td>feces</td>
<td>stercorolith, <em>stercoralis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stoma-</td>
<td>mouth</td>
<td><em>Ancylostoma</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-strongyle</td>
<td>cylinder</td>
<td><em>Trichostrongylus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-taxis</td>
<td>arrangement, directional movement in response to a stimulus</td>
<td>phototaxis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-thrombo-</td>
<td>clot, coagulation</td>
<td>thrombosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tode</td>
<td>like</td>
<td>nematode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tome, -tomy</td>
<td>to cut</td>
<td>tonsillectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefix or suffix</td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toxi-, toxo-</td>
<td>poison</td>
<td>toxin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trans-</td>
<td>across, over, through</td>
<td>transstadial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tri-</td>
<td>three</td>
<td>triploid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tricho-</td>
<td>hair-like</td>
<td><em>Trichostrongylus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-trophic, tropho-</td>
<td>feeding</td>
<td>autotrophic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-tropic, tropism</td>
<td>turning</td>
<td>phototropic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ule</td>
<td>small</td>
<td>saccule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-uria</td>
<td>pertains to urine</td>
<td>glycosuria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-uris</td>
<td>tail</td>
<td><em>Trichuris</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vaso-</td>
<td>pertains to blood vessel</td>
<td>vasodilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-zoite (-zoon)</td>
<td>animal</td>
<td>trophozoite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>