

How to Speak Greek

Useful Biological Prefixes and Suffixes

<u>Prefix or suffix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Examples</u>
a-	not, without	atypical
ab-	from, away	abnormal
acantho-	spine	Acanthocephala
-ad-	to, toward	dorsad, adhere
albi-	white	albicans
-algia	pain	neuralgia
amyl-	starch	amylopsin
an-	not, without	anhydrous
ana-	up, upon	anabolism
ancylo-	bent	ancylostoma
angio-	vessel	angiocarditis
ante-	before, in front of	anterior
anti-	against, opposed to	antitoxin, antibody
apo-	off, from, away from	apoplexy
aqua-	water	aquatic
-ase	designating an enzyme	amylase
auto-	self	autosuggestion
bi-	two, twice	biceps, bifocal
bio-	life	biology
brachy-	short	brachycardia

<u>Prefix or suffix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Examples</u>
brady-	slow	bradycardia
calor-	heat	calorimeter
-cara	head	<i>Toxocara</i>
cardia-	heart	bradycardia
-cephal-	head	Acanthocephala, cephalic
-cera	horn	brachycera
-cerca	tail	<i>Onchocerca</i>
cerebro-	brain	cerebrospinal
-chezia	defecate	hematochezia
chrom-	color	chromosome
-cidal	killing	bacteriocidal
corpus-	body	corpuscle
-cyst	bladder	oozyst
-cyte, cyto-	cell	cytoplasm
-dermic	skin	hypodermic
di-	two, twice	dichromic
dia-	through, between	diaphragm
dys-	bad, difficult	dyspepsia
-ectomy	cut out	appendectomy
em-, en-, endo-	in, into	embolism, endoskeleton
-emia	blood	anemia
entero-	intestine	enterokinase
epi-	on, above, upon	epiglottis
erythro-	red	erythrocyte
-fer-	to carry, to transport	afferent, efferent
-fract-	to break	fracture, refraction
-gastro-	stomach	pneumogastric

<u>Prefix or suffix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Examples</u>
-gen-	to produce, to begin	genetics, glycogen
-glosso-	tongue	hypoglossal
glyc-	glucose, sugar	glycosuria
-gnath-	jaw, cheek	gnathostoma
-gnosis	knowledge, to know	diagnosis
-graph	to write	cardiograph
-helminth	worm	anthelminthic
hemo-	blood	hemorrhage
hetero-	different, other	heterozygous
homo-	alike, same	homozygous
hydro-	water	hydrolytic
hyper-	over, more than	hypersecretion
hypo-	under, less than	hyposecretion
-iasis	infestation	onchocerciasis
inter-	between, together	intercostal
intra-	within	intrathoracic
ir-	not	irregular
-itis	inflammation	appendicitis
kata-, cata-	down	catabolism
kin-	to move or activate	kinetic
-lac-	milk	lactase, prolactin
leuco-, leuko-	white	leucocyte
-ology	science, knowledge	physiology
lymph-, lympho-	lymph	lymphocyte
-lysin, -lysis, -lytic	dissolve, destroy	hemolysis
macro-	large	macrophage
melan-, melen-	black	melanoma, melena

<u>Prefix or suffix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Examples</u>
-meter	measure	manometer
micro-	small	microorganism
-monas	a unit	Trichomonas
mono-	one	monocyte, monosaccharide
myo-	muscle	myosin, myoglobin
nema-	thread	nematode
neur-	relating to nerves	neurilemma
nephr-	kidneys	nephritis
-oid	like	lymphoid, ameboid
-ole	small	bronchiole
-oma	swelling, tumor	sarcoma
oncho-	hook	<i>Onchocerca</i>
onco-	mass, bulk	oncosphere
oo-	egg	oozyst
-opia	sight	myopia, hyperopia
-osis	condition or process	cyanosis, phagocytosis
os-, oste-, osteo-	bone	osteology, osteocyte
ovi-	egg	oviducy, ovipositor
para-	near, by, beside	parathyroid
patho-	disease, suffering	pathology
peri-	around, near	pericardium
phago-	to eat	phagocyte
-phil-	loving	basophil, eosinophil
piro-	pear	piroplasm
-plasm-	substance	cytoplasm, plasmolysis
platy-	broad	Platyhelminthes
-pnea	breathing	dyspnea

<u>Prefix or suffix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Examples</u>
pneumo-	air, lungs	pneumonia
-ped	foot	pseudoped
poly-	many	polysaccharide
post-	after, behind	postganglionic
pro-	before, giving rise to	proenzyme
proprio-	one's own	proprioceptors
pseudo-	false	pseudoped
psycho-	mind	psychology
pulmo-	lung	pulmonary
pyri-	pear	pyriform
-renal	kidney	adrenal
-rrhea	flow	diarrhea
sarco-	flesh, muscle	sarcoplasm
schizo-	to divide	schizont
soma-	body	somatic cell
-some	body	chromosome
-stadial	stage, period	transstadial
steato- , stea-	fat	steatorrhea
stercor-	feces	stercorolith, <i>stercoralis</i>
stoma-	mouth	<i>Ancylostoma</i>
-strongyle	cylinder	<i>Trichostrongylus</i>
-taxis	arrangement, directional movement in response to a stimulus	phototaxis
-thrombo-	clot, coagulation	thrombosis
-tode	like	nematode
-tome, -tomy	to cut	tonsillectomy
toxi-, toxo-	poison	toxin

<u>Prefix or suffix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Examples</u>
trans-	across, over, through	transstadial
tri-	three	triploid
tricho-	hair-like	<i>Trichostrongylus</i>
-trophic, tropho-	feeding	autotrophic
-tropic, tropism	turning	phototropic
-ule	small	saccule
-uria	pertains to urine	glycosuria
-uris	tail	<i>Trichuris</i>
vaso-	pertains to blood vessel	vasodilation
-zoite (-zoon)	animal	trophozoite