

LIFE SCIENCES 11

ROOTS, PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES USED IN BIOLOGY

a-, an-	without	carn-	meat, flesh
ab-	away from	carp-	fruit
-aceous	of or pertaining to	carpal-	wrist
aero-	air, gas, oxygen	caud-	tail
agri-	field, soil	-cell-	chamber, small room
-al	having the character of	centi-	hundredth
alb-	white	centri-	center, middle
alg-, -algia	pain	cephalo-	head
alto-	high	cerebr-	brain
ambi-, amphi-	both	cervic-	neck
amyl-	starch	chem-	dealing with chemical
ana-	up, back, again	chloro-	green
andro-	man, masculine	chondr-	cartilage
ang-	choke, feel pain	chrom-, -chrome	color
angio-	vessel, container	chron-	time
anter-	front	-chym-	juice
antho-	flower	-cide, -cis-	cut, kill, fall
anti-	against	circa-, circum-	around, about
anthropo-	man, human	co-	with, together
aqua-	water	coel-	cavity
archeo-, archae-	ancient	coni-	cone
-ary, -arium	like, resembling	-costa	rib
arteri-	artery	counter-	against
arthro-	joint	crani-	skull
-ase	enzyme	-cul-, -cule	small, diminutive
-ate	the act of (verb form)	cuti-	skin
anther-	fatty deposit	cyan-	blue
atmo-	vapour	-cyst	sac, capsule, pouch, bladder
audi-	hear	cyt-, -cyte	cell, hollow container
aur-	ear	deca-	ten
auto-	self	deci-	tenth
avi	bird	demi-	half
bacter-, bactr-	bacterium, stick, club	dendr-	tree
baro-	weight	dent-, -don't-	tooth
bath-	depth, height	derm-	skin
bene-	well, good	deuteron-	second
beta-	second	di-, dipl- (Latin)	two
bi- (Latin)	two, twice	di-, dia- (Greek)	across, through, apart
bi-, bio- (Greek)	life	dia-	day
-blast-	that which will germinate	digit-	finger, toe
brachi-	arm	diplo-	double
branchi-	fin	dis-, dys-	ill or bad
bronch-	windpipe	dorm-	sleep
capill-	hair	dors-	back
carcino-	cancer	du-, duo-	two
cardio-	heart	-duct	leads to

dynam-	power	holo-	entire, whole
e-, ef-, ek-	out of, from	homo- (Latin)	man, human
echin-	spiny, prickly	homo, homeo (Greek)	same, alike
ecto-	on the outside of	hort-	garden
-ectomy	removal	hydr-	water
-emia	blood	hyper	above, excessive
endo-, em-, -en	inner	hyphno-	sleep
encephal-	brain	hypo	below, under, less
enter-	intestine, gut	hyster-	womb, uterus
entom-	insect	-ia, -iasis	disease, abnormal condition
-eous	nature of, like	-ichthy-	fish
epi-	upon, above	ign-	fire
erythro-	red	infra-	below, beneath
eso-	inward, within, inner	inter-	between, within, inside
eu-	true	intra-	within
ex-	out	intro-	into
excit-	to stimulate	iso-	same
extra-	beyond, outside	-ist	person who deals with
-fer	bearer	-itis	inflammation of
ferro-	iron	-ium	refers to a part of the body
fibr-	fibre, thread	-kary-	cell nucleus
-fid, fiss-	split, divided into	kilo-	thousand
-flect, -flex	bend	kin-, kine-	move, motion
flor-	flower	lact-	milk
foli-	leaf	lat-	side
fract-	break	-less	without
gastr-	stomach	leuco-, leuko-	white, bright, light
-gene-	origin, birth	lign-	wood
geo	earth	lingu-	tongue
-glob-	ball, round	lip-	fat
gluc-, glyc-	sweet, sugar	-logist	one who studies
glut-	buttock	-logy	study of
-gon	angle, corner	lumin-	light
-grad-	step	-lys, -lyt, -lyst	decompose, split, dissolving
-gram, -graph	record, writing	macro	large
grav-	heavy	mal	bad
-gross-	thick	malle-	hammer
gymno	naked, bare	mamm-	breast
gyn-	female	marg-	border, edge
halo-	salt	mast-	breast
hapl-	single, simple	maxilla-	jaw
-helminth-	worm	med-	middle
hem-, haem-	blood	meg-, mega-	million, great, very large
hemi-	half	mes-	middle, half, intermediate
hepar-, hepato-	liver	meta-	beyond or after
herb-	non-woody plant	-meter, -metry	measurement
heter-	other	micro-	small
hex-	six	milli-	thousandth
hibern-	winter	mis-	wrong, incorrect
hist-	tissue	mole-	mass

mono-	one	pleur-	lung, rib, side
morph-	shape, form	ply-	many, several
mort-	death	pnemo-	lungs, air
multi-	many	-pod	foot
mut-	change	por-	opening
my-, myo-	muscle	port-	carry
nas-	nose	poly	many
necr-	corpse, dead	post	after, behind
nemat-	thread	pre-	before, ahead of time
neo-	new	prim-	first
nephro-	kidney	pro-	in favour of
neur-	nerve	-proctum	anus
noct-, nov-	night	proto-	first
-node	knot	pseudo-, psych-	false
-nom, -nomy	ordered knowledge, law	pter-	having wing or fins
non-	not	pulmo-	lung
noto-	dorsal, back	pyr-	heat, fire
nuc-	centre	quadr-	four
ocul-	eye	quin-	five
oct-	eight	radi-	ray
odont-	tooth	re, retro	again
-oma	tumour or swelling	rect-	right, correct
ophthalm-	eye	ren-	kidney
orb-	circle, round, ring	rhag-, -rrhage	burst forth
-orium, -ory	place for something	rhe-, -rhage	flow or discharge
ornith-	bird	rhin-	nose
orth-	straight	rhiz-	root
oscu-	mouth	sacchar-	sugar
-osis	act, condition	sal-	salt
oste-	bone	sapr-	dead
oto-	ear	saur-	lizard
ov-, oo-	egg	sci-	know
oxy-	sharp, acid, oxygen	-scribe, -script	write
paleo-	old, ancient	semi-	half, partly
palm-	broad, flat	sept-	partition, seven
pan	all	-septic	infection, putrefaction
path-	disease	sess-	sit
-ped-, pod	foot	sex-	six
peri-	around	-sis	condition, state
permea	pass, go	sol-	sun
phag-	eating	solv-	loosen, free
-phil-	loving, fond of	son-	sound
phon-, -phone	sound	-sperm-	seed
photo-	light	-spher-	ball, round
phyl-	related group	spir-, -spire	breathe
-phyll	leaf	spor-	spore, seed
physio-	nature, natural qualities	stat, -stasis	stop, stand
-phyto	plant	stell-	stars
pino-	to drink	stern-	chest, breast
platy-	flat	stom-, -stome	mouth

sub-	under, below	-troph-	nourishment
super-, sur-, supra-	over, above, on top	-ul-, -ule	diminutive, small
sym, syn	binding together	ultra-	beyond
tachy-	quick, swift	uni-	one
tax-	group, division, arrange	ur-	urine
tel-, tele-	far away, distant	vas-	vessel
telo-	end	ventr-	belly, underside
terr-	earth, land	-verge	turn, slant
tetr-	four	vig-	strong
therm-	heat	vit-, viv-	life, living
toxi-, toxico-	poison	-vor-	devour, eat
trache-	windpipe	xyl-	wood
trans-	across	zo-	animal
tri-	three	zyg-	united, joined together
trich-	hair, flagellum		