

Greek and Latin Word Roots

Root, Prefix, or Suffix	Meaning	Example	Origin
a-	not	atypical	Latin, Greek
act-	act	reaction	Latin
aero-	winged	aerobiology	Greek
alt-, alto-	high	altitude	Latin
amphi-	both	amphibian	Greek
ann-, anno-	year	annual	Latin
anthrop-	human	anthropologist	Greek
anti-	against	anticline	Greek
archeo_	ancient	archeology	Greek
arthro	joint	arthropod	Greek
astr-, astro	star	astronomy	Latin, Greek
auto-	self	autotroph	Greek
avi-	flight	aviation	Latin
bar-, baro-	pressure, heavy	barometer	Greek
bec-	beak	beccafico	Latin
bi-	two	bipedal	Latin
bio-	life	biology	Greek
brachio-	arm	brachiopod	Greek
bronto	thunder	Brontosaurus	Greek
cardi-	heart	cardiac	Greek
carpo-, -carpous	fruit	carpology	Greek

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caudal-, caudo-	tail	caudally	Latin
cent-, centi-	hundred	century	Latin
centr-, centri-	middle	centripetal	Greek
cephalo-	head	cephalopod	Greek
cera-, ceros-	horn	Ceratosaurus	Greek
cervi-	neck	cervix	Latin
cetio-	whale	Cetacean	Greek
-cheirus, chiros-	hand	chiropractor	Greek
chloro-	green	chlorophyll	Greek
chondro-	bony	chondroplast	Greek
chromato-, chromo-	color	chromatogram	Greek
chrono-	time	chronology	Greek
circum-	around	circumference	Latin
co-, com-, con-	with	covalent	Latin, Greek
coelo-	hollow, hole	coelum	Greek
conio	with disease	coniology	Greek
conico-	cone-shaped	conical	Greek
cranio-	skull	cranium	Greek
crypto-	hidden	cryptogram	Greek
curr-	run	current	Latin
cyano-	dark blue	cyanide	Greek

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cycl-, cyclo-	circle	cycle, cyclone	Greek
cyto-, -plast	cell	cytoplasm	Greek
dactylo-	finger	dactylography	Greek
de-	down	decomposer	Latin
deci-, deca	ten, tenth	decimal	Latin, Greek
deka-	ten times	dekameter	Greek
dendro-	tree	dendrolite	Greek
derm-	skin	epidermis	Greek
di-	two	diatomic	Greek
dino-	terrible	dinotherium	Greek
dia-	across, through	diameter	Greek
dict-	say, speak	prediction	Latin
dorm-	sleep	dormant	Latin
dorso-	back	dorsal	Latin
echino-	spiny	Echinoderm	Greek
eco-	environment	ecosystem	Greek
end-, endo-	within	endoplasmic	Greek
entomo-	insect	entomology	Greek
epi-	on top	epicenter	Greek
equ-	equal	equation	Latin
erecto-	upright	erected	Latin

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ex-	out of, out from	excretion	Greek
exo-	outside	exoskeleton	Greek
extra-	outside, beyond	extraterrestrial	Latin
fin-	end	final, infinite	Latin
flex-	bend	flexor, flexible	Latin
form	shape	transform	Latin
fract-	break	fracture	Latin
gastro-, gastro-	stomach	gastropod	Greek
gen-	begin, birth	generate	Greek
geo-	earth, dirt	geophagus	Greek
gnatho-, -gnathous	jaw	gnathonic	Greek
graph, gram	write	seismograph	Greek
gravi-	heavy	gravity	Latin
hecto-	one hundred times	hectogram	Greek
helio-	sun	heliograph	Greek
hemi-	half	hemisphere	Greek
hemo-, haemo-,	blood	hematology	Greek
hepato-	liver	hepatogenic	Greek
hepta-	seven	heptagon	Greek
herb	plant	herbivore	Latin
hetero-	different	heterotroph	Greek

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hex-	six	hexagon	Greek
homeo-, homo-	same	homeostasis	Greek
hydr-, hydro-	water	hydroelectric	Greek
hyper-	over	hyperactive	Greek
hypo-	under	hypodermic	Greek
ichthio-	fish	ichthyology	Greek
ign-	fire	igneous	Latin
ilio-	crocodile	Iliosaurus	Greek
in-	not	inorganic	Latin
inter-	between	interstellar	Latin
intra-	inside	intracellular	Latin
iso-	same	isotope	Greek
-itis	inflammation	arthritis	Greek
ject	throw	reject	Latin
kilo-	one thousand	kilometer	Greek
laphos, lophos,	crest	lophodont	Greek
lev-	raise	elevation	Latin
lipo-	fat, fatty	lipoid	Greek
lithic, litho-	stone	lithosphere	Greek
logy	word, study	geology	Greek
luna-	moon	lunar	Latin

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macr-, macro-	long, large	macrophage	Greek
magn-	great	magnify	Latin
mari-	sea	maritime	Latin
mechan-	machine	mechanical	Greek
mega-	great	megaphone	Greek
meso-	middle	mesophyll	Greek
meta-	change, after	metaphase	Latin, Greek
meter	measure	kilometer	Greek
micro-	small	microscope	Greek
mimus	imitator	mime	Latin
mono-	one, single	monomania	Greek
morph-	shape, form	metamorphosis	Greek
mort-	death	mortality	Latin
mucro-	pointed	mucron	Latin
multi-	many	multicellular	Latin
mut-	change	mutation	Latin
myco-	fungus	mycosis	Greek
neo-	new	Neolithic	Latin
nephro-	kidney	nephrosis	Greek
noct-, -nox	night	nocturnal	Latin
-nomy	sum of knowledge	astronomy	Greek

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non-	not	nonrenewable	Latin
nova	new	nova	Greek
nucl-	kernel, nut	nucleus	Latin
-nychus	claw	Dinonychus	Latin
oct-	eight	octopus	Greek
odonto-, -odont	tooth	odontograph	Greek
omni-	all	omnivore	Latin
onyx-	claws		Greek
oph-, opt-	eye	optical	Greek
-osis	condition, forming	metamorphosis	Greek
ornitho-	bird	ornithology	Greek
osteo-	bone	osteology	Greek
oto-	ear	otoscope	Greek
ov, ova-	egg	ovary	Latin
pachy-	thick	pachyderm	Greek
paleo-	ancient	paleontology	Greek
pan-	every	Pangaea	Greek
para-	beside	parallel	Greek
ped-, -pod-	foot	tripod	Latin
peloro-	monstrous	Pelorosaurus	Greek
pend-	hang	pendulum	Latin

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pent-	five	pentagon	Greek
per-	through	percolate	Latin
peri-	around	perimeter	Greek
petr-	rock	petrified	Greek
phag-, -phage	eat	esophagus	Greek
phase	stage	prophase	Greek
phil-	love	hydrophilic	Greek
phob-	fear	hydrophobic	Greek
phon-	sound	telephone	Greek
photo-	light	photograph	Greek
phyllo-, -phyllous	leaf, leafy	phyllopod	Greek
phys-	natural world	physics	Latin, Greek
picr-	bitter	picric acid	Greek
pict-	to paint	pictogram	Latin
-plasm	living substance	cytoplasm	Greek
-plast	cell	protoplast	Greek
plesio	almost, near	Plesiosaurus	Greek
pneumono-	of the lungs	pneumonia	Greek
poly-	many	polymer	Greek
pod	foot	cephalopod	Greek
port-	carry	report	Latin

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post-	after	posterior	Latin
pre-, pro-, proto-	before, forward	prophase	Latin, Greek
prim-	first	primitive	Latin
pseudo-	fake, false	pseudomorph	Greek
psitta-	parrot	psittacosis	Greek
psych-	mind	psychosis	Greek
ptero	wing	Apteryx	Greek
pyr-	fire	pyroclastic	Greek
quad-	four, fourth	quadruped	Latin
rad-	ray	radiation	Latin
raptor	thief	Velociraptor	Latin
re-	again	reproduce	Latin
retro-	backwards	retrospective	Latin
rex	king	regal	Latin
rhino-	nose	rhinoscopy	Greek
rufus	red, reddish brown	rufous	Latin
rupt-	break	erupt	Latin
sarco-	flesh	sarcinoma	Greek
saur	lizard	dinosaur	Greek
sci-	know	science	Latin
scope, -scop	look at	microscope	Greek

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sect-	cut	cross-section	Latin
sed-	settle, sit	sedimentary	Latin
semi-	half	semitropical	Greek
sequ-	follow	sequence	Latin
silico-	related to silicon	silicosis	Latin
solu-, -solv-	loosen	dissolve	Latin
somato-, -soma, -some	body	chromosome	Greek
spect-	look	inspect	Latin
sphere-	ball, globe	biosphere	Greek
spino	thorn, spine	spiny	Latin
stasis	not changing	homeostasis	Greek
stella-	star	interstellar	Latin
strat-	sheet, spread	stratus	Latin
struthio	ostrich	Struthionomys	Greek
sub-	under	submerge	Latin
super-	above, over	superposition	Latin
syn-	put together	photosynthesis	Greek
tele-	distant	telescope	Greek
termin-	end	terminate	Latin
terra-	land	terrain	Latin
tetra-, quadri-	four	quadrilateral	Greek

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therium, there,	beast	Megatherium	Greek
therm-	heat	thermometer	Greek
tops	face	triceratops	Greek
torno-	savage	tornado	Latin
trachy-	rough	trachyte	Greek
trans-	across	transform	Latin
tri-	three	tripod	Greek
trop, tropo-	turn	phototropic	Greek
tyrano	tyrant	tyranny	Latin/Greek
ultra-	extreme	ultrafilter	Latin
un-	not	unbalanced force	Latin, Greek
uni-	one	uniform	Latin
veloci-	speed	velocity	Latin
voc-	call	vocal	Latin
volcano-	from the earth	volcanology	Latin
volv-	turn, roll	revolve	Latin
vor-	devour, eat	herbivore	Latin
zoo, zoon	animal	Protozoa	Greek