

# List of medical roots, suffixes and prefixes

This is a **list of roots, suffixes, and prefixes** used in medical terminology, their meanings, and their etymology. There are a few rules when using medical roots. Firstly, prefixes and suffixes, primarily in Greek, but also in Latin, have a droppable *-o-*. As a general rule, this *-o-* almost always acts as a joint-stem to connect two consonantal roots, e.g. *arthr-* + *-o-* + *logy* = *arthrology*. But generally, the *-o-* is dropped when connecting to a vowel-stem; e.g. *arthr-* + *itis* = *arthritis*, instead of *arthr-o-itis*. Secondly, medical roots generally go together according to language: Greek prefixes go with Greek suffixes and Latin prefixes with Latin suffixes. Although international scientific vocabulary is not stringent about segregating combining forms of different languages, it is advisable when coining new words not to mix different lingual roots.

## Prefixes and suffixes

The following is an alphabetical list of medical prefixes and suffixes, along with their meanings, origin, and an English example.

### A

Prefix or suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>a-, an-</b>	Denotes an absence of, without	Ancient Greek ἀ-/άν- (a-/an-), without, not	Apathy, Analgia
<b>ab-</b>	away	Latin	Abduction
<b>abdomin(o)-</b>	Of or relating to the abdomen	Latin (abdōmen), abdomen, fat around the belly	Abdomen
<b>-ac, -acal</b>	pertaining to	Greek -ακός (-akos)	cardiac, hydrophobic, pharmacomaniacal
<b>acanth(o)-</b>	thorn or spine	Ancient Greek ἀκανθα (akantha), thorn	acanthion, acanthocyte, acanthoma, acanthulus
<b>acous(io)-</b>	Of or relating to hearing	Greek ἀκουστικός (acoustikos), of or for hearing	acoumeter, acoustician
<b>acr(o)-</b>	extremity, topmost	Greek ἄκρον (akron), highest or farthest point	Acrocary, acromegaly, acroosteolysis, acroposthia
<b>-acusis</b>	hearing	Greek ἀκουστικός (acoustikos), of or for hearing	paracusis
<b>-ad</b>	toward, in the direction of		dorsad
<b>ad-</b>	increase, adherence, motion toward, very	Latin	Adduction
<b>aden(o)-, aden(i)-</b>	Of or relating to a gland	Ancient Greek ἀδής, ἀδέν- (adēn, aden-), an acorn; a gland	Adenocarcinoma, adenology, adenotome, adenotyphus
<b>adip(o)-</b>	Of or relating to fat or fatty tissue	Latin (adepts, adip-), fat	Adipocyte
<b>adren(o)-</b>	Of or relating to adrenal glands	Latin	adrenal artery
<b>-aemia (BrE)</b>	blood condition	Greek ἀναμία, without blood	Anaemia
<b>aer(o)-</b>	air, gas	Greek ἀήρ, ἄερος	Aerosinusitis
<b>aesthesio- (BrE)</b>	sensation	Greek αἴσθησις	Anesthesia
<b>-al</b>	pertaining to	Latin -alis	abdominal
<b>alb-</b>	Denoting a white or pale color	Latin <i>albus</i> , white	Albino

<b>alge(si)-</b>	pain	Greek ἄλγος	Analgesic
<b>-algia</b>	pain	Greek	Myalgia
<b>alg(i)o-</b>	pain	Greek	Myalgia
<b>allo-</b>	Denoting something as different, or as an addition	Ancient Greek ἄλλος (allos), another, other	Alloantigen, allopathy
<b>ambi-</b>	Denoting something as positioned on both sides; Describing both of two	Latin (ambi-, ambo), both, on both sides	Ambidextrous
<b>amnio-</b>	Pertaining to the membranous fetal sac (amnion)	Greek ἄμνιον	Amniocentesis
<b>amph-, amphi-</b>	on both sides	Greek ἀμφί (amphi)	Amphicrania, amphismela, amphomycin
<b>an-</b>	not, without	Greek	Analgesia
<b>ana-</b>	back, again, up	Greek	Anaplasia
<b>an(o)</b>	anus	Latin	
<b>andr(o)-</b>	pertaining to a man	Greek ἀνὴρ, ἀνδρ-	Andrology, android
<b>angi(o)-</b>	blood vessel	Greek ἀγγεῖον	Angiogram
<b>aniso-</b>	Describing something as unequal	Ancient Greek ἀνίσος (anisos), unequal	Anisotropic, anisocytosis
<b>ankyl(o)-, ancyl(o)-</b>	Denoting something as crooked or bent	Ancient Greek ἀγκύλος (ankýlos), crooked, curved	Ankylosis
<b>ante-</b>	Describing something as positioned in front of another thing	Latin (āntē), before, in front of	antepartum
<b>anti-</b>	Describing something as 'against' or 'opposed to' another	Ancient Greek ἀντι (anti), against	Antibody, antipsychotic
<b>apo-</b>	separated from, derived from	Ancient Greek ἀπό	Apoptosis
<b>arch(i,e,o)</b>	first, primitive		archinephron : first formed kidney
<b>arsen(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to a male; masculine	Greek (arsein)	
<b>arteri(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to an artery	Ancient Greek ἀρτηρία (artēría), a wind-pipe, artery (used distinctly versus a vein)	Artery, Arteriole
<b>arthr(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the joints, limbs	Ancient Greek αρθρος (arthros), a joint, limb	Arthritis
<b>articul(o)-</b>	joint	Latin articulum	Articulation
<b>-ary</b>	pertaining to	Latin -arius	biliary tract
<b>-ase</b>	enzyme	Greek διάσπασις, division	Lactase
<b>-asthenia</b>	weakness	Greek, ἀσθένεια	Myasthenia gravis
<b>atel(o)</b>	imperfect or incomplete development		atelocardia : imperfect development of the heart
<b>ather(o)-</b>	fatty deposit, Soft gruel-like deposit		Atherosclerosis
<b>-ation</b>	process	Latin	Habitation, Lubrication
<b>atri(o)-</b>	an atrium (esp. heart atrium)		atrioventricular
<b>aur(i)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the ear	Latin (auris), the ear	Aural
<b>aut(o)-</b>	self	Greek αὐτο-	Autoimmune
<b>aux(o)-</b>	increase; growth		auxocardia : enlargement of the heart

<b>axill-</b>	Of or pertaining to the armpit [uncommon as a prefix]	Latin (axilla), armpit	Axilla
<b>azo(to)</b>	nitrogenous compound		azothermia : raised temperature due to nitrogenous substances in blood

**B**

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>balano-</b>	Of the glans penis or glans clitoridis	Greek βάλανος - <i>balanos</i> , acorn, glans	Balanitis
<b>bi-</b>	twice, double	Latin	Binary
<b>bio-</b>	life	Ancient Greek βίος	Biology
<b>blast(o)-</b>	germ or bud	Greek βλαστός	Blastomere
<b>blephar(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the eyelid	Ancient Greek βλέφαρον ( <i>blépharon</i> ), eyelid	Blepharoplast
<b>brachi(o)-</b>	Of or relating to the arm	Latin (brachium), from Ancient Greek βραχίον ( <i>brachiōn</i> ), arm	Brachium of inferior colliculus
<b>brachy-</b>	Indicating 'short' or less commonly 'little'	Ancient Greek βραχύς ( <i>brachys</i> ), short, little, shallow	brachycephalic
<b>brady-</b>	'slow'	Ancient Greek βραδύς ( <i>bradys</i> ), slow	Bradycardia
<b>bronch(i)-</b>	bronchus		Bronchiolitis obliterans
<b>bucc(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the cheek	Latin (bucca), cheek	Buccolabial
<b>burs(o)-</b>	bursa (fluid sac between the bones)	Latin	Bursitis

**C**

Prefix or suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>capill-</b>	Of or pertaining to hair	Latin (capillus), hair	Capillus
<b>capit-</b>	Pertaining to the head (as a whole)	Latin (caput, capit-), the head	Capitation
<b>carcin(o)-</b>	cancer	Greek καρκίνος ( <i>karkinos</i> ), crab	Carcinoma
<b>cardi(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the heart	Ancient Greek καρδία ( <i>kardía</i> ), heart	Cardiology
<b>carp(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the wrist	Latin (carpus) < Ancient Greek καρπός ( <i>karpós</i> ), wrist; NOTE: This root should not be confused with the mirror root carp(o)- meaning fruit.	Carpopedal
<b>cata-</b>	down, under	Greek κατά ( <i>kata</i> )	Cataract
<b>-cele</b>	pouching, hernia	Ancient Greek κήλη ( <i>kēlē</i> )	Hydrocele, Varicocele
<b>-centesis</b>	surgical puncture for aspiration	Ancient Greek κέντησις ( <i>kentēsis</i> )	Amniocentesis
<b>cephal(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the head (as a whole)	Ancient Greek κεφαλή ( <i>képhalē</i> ), the head	Cephalalgia
<b>cerat(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the cornu; a horn	Ancient Greek κέρας, κερατ- ( <i>kéras</i> , <i>kerat-</i> ), a horn	Ceratoid
<b>cerebell(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the cerebellum	Latin (cerebellum), little brain	Cerebellum
<b>cerebr(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the brain	Latin (cerebrum), brain	Cerebrology
<b>cervic-</b>	Of or pertaining to the neck, the cervix	Latin (cervix, cervīc-), neck, cervix	Cervicodorsal
<b>chem(o)-</b>	chemistry, drug	Greek χημεία	Chemotherapy

<b>chir(o)-, cheir(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the hand	Ancient Greek χείρ, χειρο- (cheir, cheiro-), hand	Chiropractor
<b>chlor(o)-</b>	Denoting a green color	Ancient Greek χλωρός (chloros), green, yellow-green	Chlorophyll
<b>chol(e)-</b>	Of or pertaining to bile	Ancient Greek χολή (cholē), bile	Cholaemia
<b>cholecyst(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the gallbladder	Ancient Greek χοληκύστις (cholēkýstis), gallbladder < χολή (cholē), bile, gall + κύστις (kýstis), bladder	Cholecystectomy
<b>chondr(i)o-</b>	cartilage, gristle, granule, granular	Ancient Greek χονδρός (chondros)	Chondrocalcinosis
<b>chrom(ato)-</b>	color	Ancient Greek χρωμα	Hemochromatosis
<b>-cidal, -cide</b>	killing, destroying	Latin	bacteriocidal
<b>cili-</b>	Of or pertaining to the cilia, the eyelashes; eyelids	< Latin (cilium), eyelash; eyelid	Ciliary
<b>circum-</b>	Denoting something as 'around' another	Latin (circum), around	Circumcision
<b>cis-</b>	on this side	Latin (cis)	
<b>clast</b>	break	Greek κλαστός	osteoclast
<b>co-</b>	with, together, in association	Latin	coenzymes
<b>col-, colo-, colono-</b>	colon		Colonoscopy
<b>colp(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the vagina	Ancient Greek κόλπος (kólpos), bosom, womb; hollow, depth	Colposcopy
<b>com-</b>	with, together	Latin	
<b>contra</b>	against	Latin	Contraindicate
<b>cor-</b>	with, together	Latin	
<b>cor-, core-, coro-</b>	Of or pertaining to eye's pupil	Ancient Greek κόρη (kórē), girl, doll; pupil of the eye	Corectomy
<b>cordi-</b>	Of or pertaining to the heart [ <i>Uncommon as a prefix</i> ]	Latin (cor, cordi-), heart	Commotio cordis
<b>cornu-</b>	Applied to processes and parts of the body describing them likened or similar to horns	Latin (cornū), horn	
<b>coron(o)-</b>	crown	Latin corōna ("garland, crown")	
<b>cost(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the ribs	Latin (costa), rib	Costochondral
<b>cox-</b>	Of or relating to the hip, haunch, or hip-joint	Latin (coxa), hip	Coxopodite
<b>crani(o)-</b>	Belonging or relating to the cranium	Latin (cranium) < Ancient Greek κρᾶνίον (krānion), the cranium, skull, bones enclosing the brain	Craniology
<b>-crine</b>	to secrete	εκκρίνει ecrine	Endocrine
<b>cry(o)-</b>	cold	Greek κρύος	Cryoablation
<b>cutane-</b>	skin	Latin <i>cutis</i>	Subcutaneous
<b>cyan(o)-</b>	Denotes a blue color	Ancient Greek κύανος, κυάνεος (kýanos, kýaneos), blue	Cyanopsia
<b>cycl-</b>	circle, cycle	Greek κύκλος (kuklos)	
<b>cyph(o)-</b>	Denotes something as bent ( <i>uncommon as a prefix</i> )	Ancient Greek κυφός (kŷphós), bent, hunchback	Cyphosis
<b>cyst(o)-, cyst(i)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the urinary bladder	Ancient Greek κύστις (kýstis); bladder, cyst	Cystotomy

<b>cyt(o)-</b>	cell	Greek κύτος	Cytokine
<b>-cyte</b>	cell	Greek	Leukocyte

## D

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>dacryo-</b>	tear	Greek δάκρυ	
<b>dactyl(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to a finger, toe	Ancient Greek δάκτυλος (dáktylos), finger, toe	Dactylology
<b>de-</b>	away from, cessation	Latin de-	
<b>dent-</b>	Of or pertaining to teeth	Latin (dens, dentis), tooth	Dentist
<b>dermat(o)-, derm(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the skin	Ancient Greek δέρμα, δέρματ- (dérma, démat-), skin, human skin	Dermatology
<b>-desis</b>	binding	Greek δέσις (desis)	arthrodesis
<b>dextr(o)-</b>	right, on the right side	Latin <i>dexter</i>	Dextrocardia
<b>di-</b>	two	Greek δι-	Diplopia
<b>di-</b>	apart, separation	Latin	
<b>dia-</b>	(same as Greek meaning)	Ancient Greek διά (diá), through, during, across	Diacetyl
<b>dif-</b>	apart, separation	Latin	
<b>digit-</b>	Of or pertaining to the finger [rare as a root]	Latin (digitus), finger, toe	Digit
<b>-dipsia</b>	suffix meaning "(condition of) thirst"		polydipsia, hydropic, oligodipsia
<b>dis-</b>	separation, taking apart	Latin <i>dis-</i>	Dissection
<b>dors(o)-, dors(i)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the back	Latin (dorsum), back	dorsal, Dorsocephalad
<b>duodeno-</b>	duodenum, twelve: upper part of the small intestine (twelve inches long on average), connects to the stomach	Latin <i>duodeni</i>	Duodenal atresia
<b>dynam(o)-</b>	force, energy, power	Greek δύναμις (dunamis)	
<b>-dynia</b>	pain		Vulvodynia
<b>dys-</b>	bad, difficult	Greek δυσ-	Dysphagia, dysphasia

## E

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>-eal</b>	pertaining to	Latin	
<b>ec-</b>	out, away	Greek ἐκ- (ek-)	
<b>ect(o)-</b>	outer, outside	Greek ἐκτός	Ectopic pregnancy
<b>-ectasis, -ectasia</b>	expansion, dilation	Ancient Greek ἔκτασις	Bronchiectasis, Telangiectasia
<b>-ectomy</b>	Denotes a surgical operation or removal of a body part. Resection, excision	Ancient Greek ἐκτομή (ectomē), excision	Mastectomy
<b>-emesis</b>	vomiting condition	Greek ἔμεσις	Hematemesis
<b>-emia</b>	blood condition (AmE)	Greek ἀν-αιμία, without blood	Anemia
<b>encephal(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the brain. Also see Cerebro.	Ancient Greek ἐγκέφαλος (enképhalos), the brain	Encephalogram
<b>endo-</b>	Denotes something as 'inside' or 'within'	Ancient Greek ἐνδο- (endo-), inside, internal	Endocrinology, Endospore
<b>eosin(o)-</b>	Red	Eosin comes from Eos, the Greek word for 'dawn' and the name of the Greek Goddess of the Dawn.	Eosinophil granulocyte
<b>enter(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the intestine	Ancient Greek ἔντερον (énteron), intestine	Gastroenterology
<b>epi-</b>	[Same as Greek meaning: on, upon]	Ancient Greek ἐπι- (epi-), before, upon, on, outside, outside of	Epistaxis, epicardium, episclera, epidural
<b>episi(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the pubic region, the loins	Ancient Greek ἐπίσιον- (epísion), the pubic area, loins; vulva	Episiotomy
<b>erythr(o)-</b>	Denotes a red color	Ancient Greek ἐρυθρός (erythros), red	Erythrocyte
<b>-esophageal, -esophago</b>	gullet (AmE)	Greek οἰσοφάγος	
<b>esthesio-</b>	sensation (AmE)	Greek αἴσθησις	
<b>eu-</b>	true, good, well, new	Greek	Eukaryote
<b>ex-</b>	out of, away from	Latin	Exophthalmos
<b>exo-</b>	Denotes something as 'outside' another	Ancient Greek ἔξω- (exo-), outside of, external	Exoskeleton
<b>extra-</b>	outside	Latin	Extradural hematoma

## F

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>faci(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the face	Latin (faciēs), the face, countenance	Facioplegic
<b>fibr(o)</b>	fiber		Fibroblast
<b>filli-</b>	fine, hair like		
<b>-form, -iform</b>	Used to form adjectives indicating 'having the form of'	Latin (forma), form, shape	Cuneiform
<b>fossa</b>	A hollow or depressed area; trench or channel	Latin (fossa), ditch, pit	fossa ovalis
<b>front-</b>	Of or pertaining to the forehead	Latin (frōns, front-), the forehead	Frontonasal

## G

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>galact(o)-</b>	milk	Greek γάλα, γαλακτ-	Galactorrhea
<b>gastr(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the stomach	Ancient Greek γαστήρ (gastēr), γαστρ-, stomach, belly	Gastric bypass
<b>-gen</b>	(1) Denotes the sense 'born in, from' (2) Denotes the sense 'of a certain kind'	Ancient Greek -γενής (-genēs) < γεν-νάειν (gen-náein), to be born	(1) Endogen; (2) Heterogenous
<b>-genic</b>	Formative, pertaining to producing	Greek	Cardiogenic shock
<b>genu-</b>	Of or pertaining to the knee	Latin (genū), knee	Genu valgum
<b>gingiv-</b>	Of or pertaining to the gums	Latin (gingīva), gum	Gingivitis
<b>glauc(o)-</b>	Denoting a grey or bluish-grey colour	Ancient Greek γλαυκός (glaukos), grey, bluish-grey	Glaucoma
<b>gloss(o)-, glott(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the tongue	Ancient Greek γλῶσσα, γλῶττα (glōssa, glōtta), tongue	Glossology
<b>gluco-</b>	glucose	Greek γλυκός, sweet	Glucocorticoid
<b>glyco-</b>	sugar		Glycolysis
<b>gnath(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the jaw	Ancient Greek γνάθος (gnáthos), jaw	Gnathodynamometer
<b>-gnosis</b>	knowledge	Greek	diagnosis, prognosis
<b>gon(o)-</b>	seed, semen; also, reproductive	Ancient Greek γόνος	Gonorrhea
<b>-gram, -gramme</b>	record or picture	Greek γράμμα (gramma)	Angiogram
<b>-graph</b>	instrument used to record data or picture	Ancient Greek -γραφία (-graphía), written, drawn, graphic interpretation	Electrocardiograph
<b>-graphy</b>	process of recording		Angiography
<b>gyn(aec)o- (BrE), gyn(ec)o- (AmE)</b>	woman	Greek γυνή, γυναικ-	Gynecomastia

## H

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>halluc-</b>	to wander in mind	Classical Latin to wander in mind	Hallucinosi
<b>hemat-, haemato- (haem-, hem-)</b>	Of or pertaining to blood	Latin (hæma) < Ancient Greek αἷμα, αἱματ- (haima, haimat-), blood	Hematology, older form Haematology
<b>hema or hemo-</b>	blood (AmE)	Greek	Hematological malignancy
<b>hemangi or hemangio-</b>	blood vessels		
<b>hemi-</b>	one-half	Ancient Greek ἥμι- (hēmi-), "half"	Cerebral hemisphere
<b>hepat- (hepatic-)</b>	Of or pertaining to the liver	Ancient Greek ἥπαρ, ἥπατο- (hēpar, hēpato-), the liver	Hepatology
<b>heter(o)-</b>	Denotes something as 'the other' (of two), as an addition, or different	Ancient Greek ἕτερος (héteros), the other (of two), another; different	Heterogeneous
<b>hidr(o)-</b>	sweat	Greek ἰδρωτ-	Hyperhidrosis
<b>hist(o)-, histio-</b>	tissue	Greek ἱστός	Histology
<b>home(o)-</b>	similar	Ancient Greek ὅμοιος (homoios)	Homeopathy

<b>hom(o)-</b>	Denotes something as 'the same' as another or common	Ancient Greek ὁμο- (homo-), the same, common	Homosexuality
<b>humer(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the shoulder (or [rarely] the upper arm)	Incorrect Etymology < Latin (umerus), shoulder	Humerus
<b>hydr(o)-</b>	water	Greek ὕδωρ	Hydrophobe
<b>hyper-</b>	Denotes something as 'extreme' or 'beyond normal'	Ancient Greek ὑπέρ (hyper), over, above; beyond, to the extreme	Hypertension
<b>hyp(o)-</b>	Denotes something as 'below normal'	Ancient Greek ὑπ(ο)- (hypo-), below, under	Hypovolemia,
<b>hyster(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the womb, the uterus	Ancient Greek ὑστέρα (hystéra), womb	Hysterectomy

## I

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>-i-asis</b>	condition	Greek -ίαισις	Mydriasis
<b>iatr(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to medicine, or a physician [ <i>uncommon as a prefix; common as a suffix, see -iatry</i> ]	Ancient Greek ἰατρός (iātrós), healer, physician	Iatrochemistry
<b>-iatry</b>	Denotes a field in medicine of a certain body component	Ancient Greek ἰατρός (iātrós), healer, physician	Podiatry, Psychiatry
<b>-ic</b>	pertaining to	Greek -ικός (-ikos)	Hepatic artery
<b>-icle</b>	small	Latin	Ovarian follicle
<b>-ics</b>	organized knowledge, treatment	Latin -ica < Greek < -ικά	Obstetrics
<b>idio-</b>	self, one's own	Greek ἴδιος, idios, "one's own"	Idiopathic
<b>ileo-</b>	ileum	Greek ἰλεός	Ileocecal valve
<b>infra-</b>	below	Latin	Infrahyoid muscles
<b>inter-</b>	between, among	Latin	Interarticular ligament
<b>intra-</b>	within	Latin	Intracranial hemorrhage
<b>ipsi-</b>	same	Latin	Ipsilateral hemiparesis
<b>irid(o)-</b>	iris	Greek ἶρις	Iridectomy
<b>isch-</b>	restriction	Greek ἴσχω	Ischemia
<b>ischio-</b>	Of or pertaining to the ischium, the hip-joint	Ancient Greek ἰσχίον (ischión), hip-joint, ischium	Ischioanal fossa
<b>-ism</b>	condition, disease		Dwarfism
<b>-ismus</b>	spasm, contraction	Greek -ισμός	Hemiballismus
<b>iso-</b>	Denoting something as being 'equal'	Ancient Greek ἴσος (ísos), equal	Isotonic
<b>-ist</b>	one who specializes in	Greek -ιστής (-istes)	Pathologist
<b>-ite</b>	the nature of, resembling	Greek -ίτης	Hermaphrodite
<b>-itis</b>	inflammation		Tonsillitis
<b>-ium</b>	structure, tissue		pericardium



**K**

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>kal/i</b>	potassium		
<b>karyo-</b>	nucleus	Greek κάρυον, "nut"	Eukaryote
<b>kerat(o)-</b>	cornea (eye or skin)	Greek	Keratoscope
<b>kin(e)-, kin(o), kinesi(o)-</b>	movement	Greek κινέω	Kinesthesia
<b>koil(o)-</b>	hollow	Greek κοῖλος (koilos)	Koilocyte
<b>kyph(o)-</b>	humped	Greek κυφός	Kyphoscoliosis

**L**

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>labi(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the lip	Latin (labium), lip	Labiodental
<b>lacrim(o)-</b>	tear	Latin	Lacrimal canaliculi
<b>lact(i)-, lact(o)</b>	milk	Latin	Lactation
<b>lapar(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the abdomen-wall, flank	Ancient Greek λαπάρα (lapárā), flank	Laparotomy
<b>laryng(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the larynx, the lower throat cavity where the voice box is	Ancient Greek λάρυγξ, λαρυγγ- (lárynx, laryng-), throat, gullet	Larynx
<b>latero-</b>	lateral	Latin	Lateral pectoral nerve
<b>lei(o)-</b>	smooth	Greek λείος	Leiomyoma
<b>-leptosis, -lepsy</b>	attack, seizure	Greek λήψις	Epilepsy, narcolepsy
<b>lept(o)-</b>	light, slender	Greek λεπτός (leptos)	
<b>leuc(o)-, leuk(o)-</b>	Denoting a white color	Ancient Greek λευκός (leukos), white, bright	Leukocyte
<b>lingu(a)-, lingu(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the tongue	Latin (lingua), tongue	Linguistics
<b>lip(o)-</b>	fat	Greek λίπος	Liposuction
<b>lith(o)-</b>	stone, calculus	Greek λίθος	Lithotripsy
<b>log(o)-</b>	speech	Greek λόγος	
<b>-logist</b>	Denotes someone who studies a certain field: _____-logy	Ancient Greek λογιστής (logistēs), studier, practitioner	Oncologist, pathologist
<b>-logy</b>	Denotes the academic study or practice of a certain field; The study of	Ancient Greek λόγος (logos) study	hematology, urology
<b>lymph(o)-</b>	lymph	Greek λέμφορ, λύμφη	Lymphedema
<b>lys(o)-, -lytic</b>	dissolution	Greek	Lysosome
<b>-lysis</b>	Destruction, separation	Greek λύσις	Paralysis

## M

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>macr(o)-</b>	large, long	Greek μακρός	Macrophage
<b>-malacia</b>	softening	Greek μαλακία	Osteomalacia
<b>mamm(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the breast	Latin (mamma), breast; udder	Mammogram
<b>mammill(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the nipple	Latin (mamilla), nipple	
<b>manu-</b>	Of or pertaining to the hand	Latin (manus), hand	Manufacture
<b>mast(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the breast	Ancient Greek μαστός (mastós), breast, women's breast; man's pectoral muscle	Mastectomy
<b>meg(a)-, megal(o)-, -megaly</b>	enlargement	Greek μέγας	Splenomegaly
<b>melan(o)-</b>	black color	Ancient Greek μέλας, μελανο- (melas, melano-), black; dark	Melanin
<b>melos</b>	extremity	Ancient Greek μέλος	erythromelalgia
<b>mening(o)-</b>	membrane	Greek μῆνιγξ, μηνιγγ-	Meningitis
<b>mero-</b>	part	Greek μέρος (meros), part	merocrine, meroblastic
<b>mes(o)-</b>	middle	Ancient Greek μέσος (mesos), "middle"	Mesoderm
<b>meta-</b>	after, behind	Greek μετά	Metacarpus
<b>-meter</b>	instrument used to measure or count	Greek μέτρον	Sphygmomanometer
<b>-metry</b>	process of measuring	Greek -μετρία	Optometry
<b>metr(o)-</b>	Pertaining to conditions or instruments of the uterus	Ancient Greek μήτρᾱ (mētrā), womb, uterus	Metrorrhagia
<b>micro-</b>	denoting something as small, or relating to smallness	Ancient Greek μικρός (mikros), small	Microscope
<b>mon(o)-</b>	single	Greek μονός	Infectious mononucleosis
<b>morph(o)-</b>	form, shape	Greek μορφή	Morphology
<b>muscul(o)-</b>	muscle	Latin	Musculoskeletal system
<b>my(o)-</b>	Of or relating to muscle	Ancient Greek μῦς, μυ- (mys, my-), muscle; mouse; mussel	Myoblast
<b>myc(o)-</b>	fungus	Greek μύκης, μυκητ-	Onychomycosis
<b>myel(o)-</b>	Of or relating to bone marrow	Ancient Greek μυελόν (myelon), marrow; bone-marrow	Myeloblast
<b>myring(o)-</b>	eardrum	Latin myringa	Myringotomy
<b>myx(o)-</b>	mucus	Greek μύξα	Myxoma

## N

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>narc(o)-</b>	numb, sleep	Greek νάρκη	narcolepsy
<b>nas(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the nose	Latin (nāsum), nose	nasal
<b>necr(o)-</b>	death	Greek νεκρός	Necrotizing fasciitis
<b>neo-</b>	new	Greek νέος	Neoplasm
<b>nephr(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the kidney	Ancient Greek νεφρός (nephros), kidney	Nephrology
<b>nerv-</b>	Of or pertaining to nerves and the nervous system <i>[Uncommon as a root: neuro- mostly always used]</i>	Latin (nervus), tendon; nerve; Cognate with the Greek νευρον (neuron) (see below)	Nerve
<b>neur(i)-, neur(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to nerves and the nervous system	Ancient Greek νευρον (neuron), tendon, sinew; nerve	Neurofibromatosis
<b>normo-</b>	normal	Latin	Normocapnia

## O

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>ocul(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the eye	Latin (oculus), the eye	Oculist
<b>odont(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to teeth	Ancient Greek ὀδούς, ὀδοντ- (odoús, odont-), tooth	orthodontist
<b>odyn(o)-</b>	pain	Greek ὀδύνη	stomatodynia
<b>-oesophageal, oesophago-</b> (BrE)	gullet	Greek οἰσοφάγος	
<b>-oid</b>	resemblance to	Greek -οειδής	Sarcoidosis
<b>ole</b>	small or little	Latin	
<b>olig(o)-</b>	Denoting something as 'having little, having few'	Ancient Greek ὀλίγος (oligos), few	Oligotrophy
<b>om(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the shoulder	Ancient Greek ὀμός (ōmos), shoulder	Omoplate
<b>-oma</b> (singular), <b>-omata</b> (plural)	tumor, mass, collection	Greek -ωμα	Sarcoma, Teratoma
<b>omphal(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the navel, the umbilicus	Ancient Greek ὀμφαλός (omphalós), navel, belly-button	Omphalotomy
<b>onco-</b>	tumor, bulk, volume	Greek ὄγκος	Oncology
<b>onych(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the nail (of a finger or toe)	Ancient Greek < ὄνυξ, ὄνυχο- (ónyx, ónycho-), nail; claw; talon	Onychophagy
<b>oo-</b>	Of or pertaining to the an egg, a woman's egg, the ovum	Ancient Greek ὄν, ὄο- (ōn, ōo-), egg, ovum	Oogenesis
<b>oophor(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the woman's ovary	Neoclassical Greek ὄοφάρον (ōophóron), ovary, egg-bearing	Oophorectomy
<b>ophthalm(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the eye	Ancient Greek ὀφθαλμός (ophthalmós), the eye	Ophthalmology
<b>optic(o)-</b>	Of or relating to chemical properties of the eye	Middle French (optique) < Greek ὀπτικός (optikós); Cognate with Latin <i>oculus</i> , relating to the eye	Opticochemical
<b>or(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the mouth	Latin (ōs, or-), mouth	Oral
<b>orchi(o)-, orchid(o)-, orch(o)-</b>	testis	Greek ὀρχις (orkhis, orkhi-)	Orchiectomy, Orchidectomy

<b>orth(o)-</b>	Denoting something as straight or correct	Ancient Greek ὀρθός (orthos), straight, correct, normal	Orthodontist
<b>-osis</b>	a condition, disease or increase	Greek -ωσις	Harlequin type ichthyosis, Psychosis, osteoperosis
<b>osseo-</b>	bony	Latin	
<b>ossi-</b>	bone	Latin	Peripheral ossifying fibroma
<b>ost(e)-, oste(o)-</b>	bone	Greek ὀστέον	Osteoporosis
<b>ot(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the ear	Ancient Greek οὖς, ὠτ- (ous, ot-), the ear	Otopathy
<b>-ous</b>	pertaining to	Latin -osus	
<b>ovari(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the ovaries	Latin (ōvarium), ovary	Ovariectomy
<b>ovo-, ovi-, ov-</b>	Of or pertaining to the eggs, the ovum	Latin (ōvum), egg, ovum	Ovogenesis
<b>oxo-</b>	addition of oxygen	Greek ὀξύς	
<b>oxy-</b>	sharp, acid, acute, oxygen	Greek ὀξύς	

## P

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>pachy-</b>	thick	Greek παχύς	pachyderma
<b>palpebr-</b>	Of or pertaining to the eyelid [ <i>uncommon as a root</i> ]	Latin (palpebra), eyelid	Palpebra
<b>pan-, pant(o)-</b>	Denoting something as 'complete' or containing 'everything'	Ancient Greek πᾶς, παν- ( <i>pas, pan-</i> ), all, every	panophobia, panopticon
<b>papill-</b>	Of or pertaining to the nipple (of the chest/breast)	Latin (papilla), nipple; diminutive of papula (see below)	Papillitis
<b>papul(o)-</b>	Indicates papulosity, a small elevation or swelling in the skin, a pimple, swelling	Latin (papula), pimple, pustle; a small elevation or swelling in the skin	Papulation
<b>para-</b>	alongside of, abnormal	Ancient Greek παρά ( <i>para</i> )	
<b>-paresis</b>	slight paralysis	Greek πάρεσις	hemiparesis
<b>parvo-</b>	small	Latin parvus	Parvovirus
<b>path(o)-</b>	disease	Greek πάθος	Pathology
<b>-pathy</b>	Denotes (with a negative sense) a disease, or disorder	Ancient Greek πάθος (pathos), suffering, accident	sociopathy, neuropathy
<b>pauci-</b>	Few	Latin paucus	Pauci-immune
<b>ped-, -ped-, -pes</b>	Of or pertaining to the foot; -footed	Latin <i>pēs, pēd-</i> , foot	Pedoscope
<b>pelv(i)-, pelv(o)-</b>	hip bone	Latin	Pelvis
<b>-penia</b>	deficiency	Greek πένια	osteopenia
<b>peo-</b>	Of or pertaining to the penis	Greek πέος (peos)	Peotomy
<b>-pepsia</b>	Denotes something relating to digestion, or the digestive tract.	Ancient Greek πεπτός ( <i>peptós</i> ) cooked, digested < πέσσω ( <i>péssō</i> ) I boil, cook; digest	Dyspepsia
<b>per-</b>	through	Latin	
<b>peri-</b>	Denoting something with a position 'surrounding' or 'around' another	Ancient Greek περί ( <i>peri</i> ), around	Periodontal

<b>-pexy</b>	fixation	Greek πῆξις	Nephropexy
<b>phaco-</b>	lens-shaped	Greek φακός	phacolysis, phacometer, phacoscotoma
<b>-phage, -phagia</b>	Forms terms denoting conditions relating to eating or ingestion	Ancient Greek φαγία ( <i>phagia</i> ) eating < φαγεῖν ( <i>phagein</i> ) to eat	Sarcophagia
<b>-phago-</b>	eating, devouring	Greek -φάγος	phagocyte
<b>phagist-</b>	Forms nouns that denote a person who 'feeds on' the first element or part of the word	Ancient Greek φαγιστής ( <i>phagistēs</i> ) eater; see <i>-phagia</i>	Lotophagi
<b>-phagy</b>	Forms nouns that denotes 'feeding on' the first element or part of the word	Ancient Greek φαγία ( <i>phagia</i> ) eating; see <i>-phagia</i>	Anthropophagy
<b>phallo-</b>	phallus	Greek φάλλος ( <i>phallos</i> )	Aphallia
<b>pharmaco-</b>	drug, medication	Greek φάρμακον	pharmacology
<b>pharyng(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the pharynx, the upper throat cavity	Ancient Greek φάρυγξ, φαρυγγ- ( <i>phárynx</i> , <i>pháryng-</i> ), throat, windpipe; chasm	Pharyngitis, Pharyngoscopy
<b>-phil(ia)</b>	attraction for	Greek φιλία	Hemophilia
<b>phleb(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the (blood) veins, a vein	Ancient Greek φλέψ, φλεβ- ( <i>phleps</i> , <i>phlebo-</i> ), blood-vessel, vein	Phlebography, Phlebotomy
<b>-phobia</b>	exaggerated fear, sensitivity	Greek φόβος	arachnophobia
<b>phon(o)-</b>	sound	Greek φωνή	phonograph, symphony
<b>phos-</b>	Of or pertaining to light or its chemical properties, now historic and used rarely. See the common root <b>phot(o)-</b> below.	Ancient Greek φῶς, φωτ- ( <i>phōs</i> , <i>phōt-</i> ), light	Phosphene
<b>phot(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to light	Ancient Greek φῶς, φωτ- ( <i>phōs</i> , <i>phōt-</i> ), light	Photopathy
<b>piri-</b>	Pear	Latin <i>pirum</i> , pear	Piriformis
<b>phren(i)-, phren(o)-, phrenico</b>	the mind	Greek φρήν, φρεν-	Phrenic nerve, schizophrenia, diaphragm
<b>-plasia</b>	formation, development	Greek πλάσις	Achondroplasia
<b>-plasty</b>	surgical repair, reconstruction	Greek πλαστός	rhinoplasty
<b>-plegia</b>	paralysis	Greek πληγή	paraplegia
<b>pleio-</b>	more, excessive, multiple	Greek pleion	pleiomorphism
<b>pleur(o)-, pleur(a)</b>	Of or pertaining to the ribs	Latin ( <i>pleura</i> ) from Ancient Greek πλευρόν ( <i>pleurón</i> ), rib, side of the body	Pleurogenous
<b>-plexy</b>	stroke or seizure	Greek πλῆξις	Cataplexy
<b>pneum(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the lungs	Ancient Greek πνεύμων, πνευμον- ( <i>pneumōn</i> , <i>pneumon-</i> ), lung < πνεῦμα ( <i>pneuma</i> ), wind, spirit	Pneumonocyte, Pneumonia
<b>pneumat(o)-</b>	air, lung	Ancient Greek	
<b>pod-, -pod-, -pus</b>	Of or pertaining to the foot, -footed	Ancient Greek πούς, ποδ- ( <i>poús</i> , <i>pod-</i> ), foot	Podiatry
<b>-poiesis</b>	production		hematopoiesis
<b>polio-</b>	Denoting a grey color	Ancient Greek πολίος ( <i>poliós</i> ), grey	Poliomyelitis
<b>poly-</b>	Denotes a 'plurality' of something	Ancient Greek πολυς ( <i>polys</i> ), much, many	Polymyositis

<b>por(o)-</b>	pore, porous		
<b>porphyr(o)-</b>	Denotes a purple color	Ancient Greek πορπύρα ( <i>porphýra</i> ), purple	Porphyroblast
<b>post-</b>	Denotes something as 'after' or 'behind' another	Latin ( <i>post</i> ), after, behind	Postoperation, Postmortem
<b>pre-</b>	Denotes something as 'before' another (in [physical] position or time)	Medieval Latin ( <i>pre-</i> ) < (Classical) Latin ( <i>præ</i> ), before, in front of	Prematurity
<b>presby(o)-</b>	old age	Greek	Presbyopia
<b>prim-</b>	Denotes something as 'first' or 'most-important'	Latin <i>prīmus</i> , first, most important	Primary
<b>pro-</b>	Denotes something as 'before' another (in [physical] position or time)	Ancient Greek προ ( <i>pro</i> ), before, in front of	Procephalic
<b>proct(o)-</b>	anus, rectum		proctology
<b>prosop(o)-</b>	face	Greek ( <i>prosopon</i> ), face, mask	Prosopagnosia
<b>prot(o)-</b>	Denotes something as 'first' or 'most important'	Ancient Greek πρωτος ( <i>prōtos</i> ), first; principal, most important	Protoneuron
<b>pseud(o)-</b>	Denotes something false or fake	Ancient Greek	
<b>psych(e)-, psych(o)</b>	Of or pertaining to the mind	Ancient Greek ψυχή ( <i>psyché</i> ), breath, life, soul	Psychology, psychiatry
<b>pterygo-</b>	Pertaining to a wing	Greek	Lateral pterygoid plate
<b>psor-</b>	Itching		Psoriasis
<b>-ptosis</b>	falling, drooping, downward placement, prolapse		Apoptosis
<b>-ptysis</b>	(a spitting), spitting, hemoptysis, the spitting of blood derived from the lungs or bronchial tubes		hemoptysis
<b>pulmon-, pulmo-</b>	Of or relating to the lungs.	Latin ( <i>pulmo</i> , <i>pulmōn</i> -, <i>usually used in plural</i> ), a lung	pulmonary
<b>pyel(o)-</b>	pelvis	Ancient Greek (pyelos)	Pyelonephritis
<b>pyo-</b>	pus	Greek πύον	Pyometra
<b>pyro-</b>	fever	Greek πῦρ, πυρετός	Antipyretic

## Q

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>quadr(i)-</b>	four	Latin	quadriceps

## R

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>radio-</b>	radiation	Latin	radiowave
<b>re-</b>	again, backward	Latin	relapse
<b>rect(o)-</b>	rectum	Latin	
<b>ren(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the kidney	Latin (rēnes), kidney	renal
<b>reticul(o)-</b>	net	Latin	reticulocyte
<b>retro-</b>	backward, behind	Latin	retroversion, retroverted
<b>rhabd(o)-</b>	rod shaped, striated	Greek ῥάβδος	rhabdomyolysis
<b>rhachi(o)-</b>	spine	Greek ῥάχις	rachial, rachialgia, rachidian, rachiorpathy
<b>rhin(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the nose	Ancient Greek ῥίς, ῥίνο- (rhīs, rhīno-), nose	rhinoceros, rhinoplasty
<b>rhod(o)-</b>	Denoting a rose-red color	Ancient Greek ῥόδον (rhōdon), rose	rhodophyte
<b>-rrhage</b>	burst forth	Greek -ρραγία	Hemorrhage
<b>-rrhagia</b>	rapid flow of blood	Greek -ρραγία	
<b>-rrhaphy</b>	surgical suturing	Greek ῥαφή	
<b>-rrhea</b> (AmE)	flowing, discharge	Greek -ρροια	Galactorrhea, Diarrhea
<b>-rrhexis</b>	rupture	Greek ῥήξις	
<b>-rrhoea</b> (BrE)	flowing, discharge	Greek -ρροια	diarrhoea
<b>rubr(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the red nucleus of the brain	Latin (ruber), red	Rubrospinal

## S

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>salping(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the fallopian tubes	Ancient Greek σάλπιγξ, σαλπιγγ-, (sálpinx, salpingo-) trumpet ( <i>literally</i> )	Salpingectomy, Salpingopharyngeus muscle
<b>sangui-, sanguine-</b>	Of or pertaining to blood	Latin (sanguis, sanguin-), blood	Sanguine
<b>sarco-</b>	muscular, fleshlike	Greek σάρξ, σαρκ-	sarcoma
<b>schist(o)-</b>	split, cleft	Greek σχιστός (schistos)	
<b>schiz(o)-</b>	Denoting something 'split' or 'double-sided'	Ancient Greek σχίζω; Irregular formation of the verb σχίζειν (schizein), to cut, split	Schizophrenia
<b>scler(o)-</b>	hardness	Greek σκληρός	atherosclerosis
<b>-sclerosis</b>	hardening of the skin	Greek	Multiple sclerosis
<b>scoli(o)-</b>	twisted	Greek σκολιός (skolios)	scoliosis
<b>-scope</b>	instrument for viewing	Greek -σκόπος	stethoscope
<b>-scopy</b>	use of instrument for viewing	Greek -σκοπία	endoscopy
<b>scoto-</b>	darkness	Greek skotos	scotopic vision

<b>semi-</b>	one-half, partly	Latin	
<b>sial(o)-</b>	saliva, salivary gland	Greek σιάλος (sialos)	sialagogue
<b>sigmoid(o)-</b>	sigmoid, S-shaped curvature	Greek σιγμοειδής	sigmoid colon
<b>sinistr(o)-</b>	left, left side	Latin	
<b>sinus-</b>	Of or pertaining to the sinus	Latin (sinus), a curve, bend, bay	Sinusitis
<b>sito-</b>	food, grain	Greek σῖτος	
<b>somat(o)-, somatic-</b>	body, bodily	Greek σῶμα	
<b>-spadias</b>	slit, fissure	Greek	hypospadias, epispadias
<b>spasmo-</b>	spasm	Greek σπασμός	Spasmodic dysphonia
<b>sperma-, spermo-, spermat-</b>	semen, spermatozoa	Greek σπέρμα (sperma)	Spermatogenesis
<b>splanchn(i)-, splanchn(o)-</b>	viscera	Greek σπλάγχνον	
<b>splen(o)-</b>	spleen	Greek σπλήν, σπλην-	Splenectomy
<b>spondyl(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the spine, the vertebra	Greek σπόνδυλος / σφόνδυλος, (spóndylos, sphóndylos), the spine	Spondylitis
<b>squamos(o)-</b>	Denoting something as 'full of scales' or 'scaly'	Latin <i>sqāmōsus</i> , full of scales; scaly	Squamous cell
<b>-stasis</b>	stop, stand	Greek στάσις	
<b>-staxis</b>	dripping, trickling	Greek στακτός	
<b>sten(o)-</b>	Denoting something as 'narrow in shape' or pertaining to narrowness	Ancient Greek στενός (stenos); narrow, short	Stenography
<b>-stenosis</b>	abnormal narrowing in a blood vessel or other tubular organ or structure	Ancient Greek στενός (stenos), narrow; short	Stenosis, Restenosis
<b>steth(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the upper chest, chest, the area above the breast and under the neck	Ancient Greek στήθος (stēthos), chest, cuirass	Stethoscope
<b>sthen-</b>	strength, force, power	Greek σθένος	
<b>stom(a)</b>	mouth	Greek στόμα	stomatognathic system
<b>stomat(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the mouth	Ancient Greek στόμα, στοματ- (stóma, stomat-), mouth	Stomatogastric
<b>-stomy</b>	creation of an opening	Greek -στομία	colostomy
<b>sub-</b>	beneath	Latin	subcutaneous tissue
<b>super-</b>	in excess, above, superior	Latin	superior vena cava
<b>supra-</b>	above, excessive	Latin	supraorbital vein
<b>sy, syl-, sym-, syn-, sys-</b>	Indicates similarity, likeness, or being together; Assimilates before some consonants: before <i>l</i> to <b>syl-</b> , <i>s</i> to <b>sys-</b> , before a labial consonant to <b>sym-</b> .	Ancient Greek συν- ( <i>syn</i> ), with, together	Synalgia, synesthesia, syssarcosis



## T

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>tachy-</b>	Denoting something as fast, irregularly fast	Ancient Greek ταχύς (tachys), fast, quickly	Tachycardia
<b>-tension, -tensive</b>	pressure	Latin	Hypertension
<b>tetan-</b>	rigid, tense		tetanus
<b>thec-</b>	case, sheath	Ancient Greekθήκη (theke)	Intrathecal
<b>thel(e)-, thel(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to a nipple [ <i>uncommon as a prefix</i> ]	Ancient Greek θηλή (thēlē), a teat, nipple	Theleplasty
<b>thely-</b>	Denoting something as 'relating to a woman, feminine'	Ancient Greek θήλυς (thēlys), female, feminine	Thelygenous
<b>therap(o)-</b>	treatment	Ancient Greek (therapeía)	hydrotherapy
<b>therm(o)-</b>	heat	Ancient Greek θερμός (thermós)	
<b>thorac(i)-, thorac(o)-, thoracico-</b>	Of or pertaining to the upper chest, chest; the area above the breast and under the neck	Latin (thōrāx) < Ancient Greek θώραξ (thōrax), chest, cuirass	Thorax
<b>thromb(o)-</b>	Of or relating to a blood clot, clotting of blood	Ancient Greek θρόμβος (thrómbos), lump, piece, clot of blood	Thrombus, Thrombocytopenia
<b>thyr(o)-</b>	thyroid	Greek θυρεο-ειδής	
<b>thym(o)(ia)-</b>	emotions	Greek: "thymos," spirit, soul; courage; breath, mind, emotions	dysthymia
<b>-tic</b>	pertaining to	Greek -τικός	
<b>toco-</b>	childbirth	Greek τόκος	
<b>-tome</b>	cutting instrument	Greek τομή	
<b>-tomy</b>	act of cutting; incising, incision	Greek -τομία	Gastrotomy
<b>tono-</b>	tone, tension, pressure	Greek τόνος	
<b>-tony</b>	tension	Greek -τονία	
<b>top(o)-</b>	place, topical	Greek τόπος	Topical anesthetic
<b>tort(i)-</b>	twisted	Latin <i>tortus</i>	Torticollis
<b>tox(i)-, tox(o)-, toxic(o)-</b>	toxin, poison	Greek τοξικόν	Toxoplasmosis
<b>trache(a)-</b>	trachea	Greek τραχεία	Tracheotomy
<b>trachel(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the neck	Ancient Greek τράχηλος (tráchēlos), neck	tracheloplasty
<b>trans-</b>	Denoting something as moving or situated 'across' or 'through'	Latin (trāns), across, through	Transfusion
<b>trich(i)-, trichia, trich(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to hair, hair-like structure	Ancient Greek θρίξ, τριχ(ο)- (thríx, trich(o)-), hair	Trichocyst
<b>-tripsy</b>	crushing	Greek τρίψις	Lithotripsy
<b>-trophy</b>	nourishment, development	Greek -τροφία, τροφή	Pseudohypertrophy
<b>tympan(o)-</b>	eardrum	Greek τύμπανον	Tympanocentesis

## U

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>-ula, -ule</b>	small	Latin	Nodule
<b>ultra-</b>	beyond, excessive	Latin	
<b>umbilic-</b>	Of or pertaining to the navel, the umbilicus	Latin (umbilicus), navel, belly-button	Umbilical
<b>ungui-</b>	Of or pertaining to the nail, a claw	Latin (unguis), nail, claw	Unguiform, Ungual
<b>un(i)-</b>	one	Latin (unus)	Unilateral hearing loss
<b>ur(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to urine, the urinary system; (specifically) pertaining to the physiological chemistry of urine	Ancient Greek οὐρον (ouron), urine	Urology
<b>uri(c)-, urico-</b>	uric acid	Greek οὐρικός	
<b>urin-</b>	Of or pertaining to urine, the urinary system	Latin (ūrīna), urine < Ancient Greek οὐρον (ouron), see above.	Uriniferous
<b>uter(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the uterus or womb	Latin (uterus), womb, uterus	Uterus

## V

Prefix or suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Examples
<b>vagin-</b>	Of or pertaining to the vagina	Latin (vāgīna), sheath, scabbard	Vagina
<b>varic(o)-</b>	swollen or twisted vein	Latin varix	varicose
<b>vas(o)-</b>	duct, blood vessel	Latin	vasoconstriction
<b>vasculo-</b>	blood vessel	Latin <i>vāsculum</i>	
<b>ven-</b>	Of or pertaining to the (blood) veins, a vein ( <i>used in terms pertaining to the vascular system</i> )	Latin (vēna), blood-vessel, vein	Vein, Venospasm
<b>ventr(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the belly; the stomach cavities	Latin (venter), the belly, the stomach; the womb	Ventrodorsal
<b>ventricul(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the ventricles; any hollow region inside an organ	Latin (venter), the ventricles of the heart, the ventricles of the brain	Cardiac ventriculography
<b>-version</b>	turning	Latin <i>versiō</i>	anteversion, retroversion
<b>vesic(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the bladder	Latin (vēsīca), bladder; blister	Vesica
<b>viscer(o)-</b>	Of or pertaining to the internal organs, the viscera	Latin (viscera), internal organs; plural of (viscerum), internal organ	Viscera

## X

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>xanth(o)-</b>	Denoting a yellow color, an abnormally yellow color	Ancient Greek ξανθός (xanthós), yellow	Xanthopathy
<b>xen(o)-</b>	Foreign, different	Greek ξένος (xenos), stranger	Xenograft
<b>xer(o)-</b>	dry, desert-like	Greek ξερός (xeros), dry	Xerostomia

## Y

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>-y</b>	condition or process of	Latin -ia < Greek -ία	Surgery

## Z

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	Origin language and etymology	Example(s)
<b>zo(o)-</b>	animal, animal life	Greek ζῷον	zoology
<b>zym(o)-</b>	fermentation	Greek ζύμη	enzyme, lysozyme

## English meanings

This section contains lists of different root classification (e.g. body components, quantity, description, etc.). Each list is alphabetized by English meanings, with the corresponding Greek and Latin roots given.

### Roots of the body

#### Roots of bodily concepts

Bodily concept	Greek root	Latin root	Other root
<b>Digestion</b>	-pepsia	-	-
<b>Disease</b>	-pathy	-	-
<b>Eating</b>	-phagia	-	-

#### Roots of body parts and components

(Internal anatomy, external anatomy, body fluids, body substances)

Body part or component	Greek root	Latin root	Other root
<b>abdomen</b>	lapar(o)-	abdomin-	-
<b>aorta</b>	aort(o)-	aort(o)-	-
<b>arm</b>	brachi(o)-	-	-
<b>armpit</b>	-	axill-	-
<b>artery</b>	arteri(o)-	-	-
<b>back</b>	-	dors-	-
<b>big toe</b>	-	allic-	-
<b>bladder</b>	cyst(o)-	vesic(o)-	-

<b>blood</b>	haemat-, hemat- (haem-, hem-)	sangui-, sanguine-	-
<b>blood clot</b>	thromb(o)-	-	-
<b>blood vessel</b>	angi(o)-	vascul-, vas-	-
<b>body</b>	somat-, som-	corpor-	-
<b>bone</b>	oste(o)-	ossi-	-
<b>bone marrow, marrow</b>	myel(o)-	medull-	-
<b>brain</b>	encephal(o)-	cerebr(o)-	-
<b>breast</b>	mast(o)-	mamm(o)-	-
<b>chest</b>	steth(o)-	-	-
<b>cheek</b>	-Zygomatic	bucc-	-
<b>ear</b>	ot(o)-	aur(i)-	-
<b>eggs, ova</b>	oo-	ov-	-
<b>eye</b>	ophthalm(o)-	ocul(o)-	optic(o)- [ <i>French</i> ]
<b>eyelid</b>	blephar(o)-	cili-; palpebr-	-
<b>face</b>	prosop(o)-	faci(o)-	-
<b>fallopian tubes</b>	salping(o)-	-	-
<b>fat, fatty tissue</b>	lip(o)-	adip-	-
<b>finger</b>	dactyl(o)-	digit-	-
<b>forehead</b>	-	front(o)-	-
<b>gallbladder</b>	cholecyst(o)-	fell-	-
<b>genitals, sexually undifferentiated</b>	gon(o)-, phall(o)-	-	-
<b>gland</b>	aden(o)-	-	-
<b>glans penis or clitoridis</b>	balan(o)-	-	-
<b>gums</b>	-	gingiv-	-
<b>hair</b>	trich(o)-	capill-	-
<b>hand</b>	cheir(o)-, chir(o)-	manu-	-
<b>head</b>	cephal(o)-	capit(o)-	-
<b>heart</b>	cardi(o)-	cordi-	-
<b>hip, hip-joint</b>	-	cox-	-
<b>horn</b>	cerat(o)-	cornu-	-
<b>intestine</b>	enter(o)-	-	-
<b>jaw</b>	gnath(o)-	-	-
<b>kidney</b>	nephr(o)-	ren-	-
<b>knee</b>	gon-	genu-	-
<b>lip</b>	cheil(o)-, chil(o)-	labi(o)-	-
<b>liver</b>	hepat(o)- (hepatic-)	jecor-	-
<b>loins, pubic region</b>	episi(o)-	pudend-	-
<b>lungs</b>	pneumon-	pulmon(i)- (pulmo-)	-
<b>marrow, bone marrow</b>	myel(o)-	medull-	-

<b>mind</b>	psych-	ment-	-
<b>mouth</b>	stomat(o)-	or-	-
<b>muscle</b>	my(o)-	-	-
<b>nail</b>	onych(o)-	ungui-	-
<b>navel</b>	omphal(o)-	umbilic-	-
<b>neck</b>	trachel(o)-	cervic-	-
<b>nerve; the nervous system</b>	neur(o)-	nerv-	-
<b>nipple, teat</b>	thele-	papill-, mammill-	-
<b>nose</b>	rhin(o)-	nas-	-
<b>ovary</b>	oophor(o)-	ovari(o)-	-
<b>pelvis</b>	pyel(o)-	pelv(i)-	-
<b>penis</b>	pe(o)-	-	-
<b>pupil (of the eye)</b>	cor-, core-, coro-	-	-
<b>rib</b>	pleur(o)-	cost(o)-	-
<b>rib cage</b>	thorac(i)-, thorac(o)-	-	-
<b>shoulder</b>	om(o)-	humer(o)-	-
<b>sinus</b>	-	sinus-	-
<b>skin</b>	dermat(o)- (derm-)	cut-, cuticul-	-
<b>skull</b>	crani(o)-	-	-
<b>stomach</b>	gastr(o)-	ventr(o)-	-
<b>testis</b>	orchi(o)-, orchid(o)-	-	-
<b>throat (upper throat cavity)</b>	pharyng(o)-	-	-
<b>throat (lower throat cavity/voice box)</b>	laryng(o)-	-	-
<b>thumb</b>	-	pollic-	-
<b>tooth</b>	odont(o)-	dent(i)-	-
<b>tongue</b>	gloss-, glott-	lingu(a)-	-
<b>toe</b>	dactyl(o)-	digit-	-
<b>tumour</b>	cel-, onc(o)-	tum-	-
<b>ureter</b>	ureter(o)-	ureter(o)-	-
<b>urethra</b>	urethr(o)-, urethr(a)-	urethr(o)-, urethr(a)-	-
<b>urine, urinary System</b>	ur(o)-	urin(o)-	-
<b>uterine tubes</b>	sarping(o)-	sarping(o)-	-
<b>uterus</b>	hyster(o)-, metr(o)-	uter(o)-	-
<b>vagina</b>	colp(o)-	vagin-	-
<b>vein</b>	phleb(o)-	ven-	-
<b>vulva</b>	episi(o)-	vulv-	-
<b>womb</b>	hyster(o)-, metr(o)-	uter(o)-	-
<b>wrist</b>	carp(o)-	carp(o)-	-

## Roots of color

Color	Greek root in English	Latin root in English	Other root
<b>black</b>	melano-	nigr-	-
<b>blue</b>	cyano-	-	-
<b>gray, grey</b>	polio-	-	-
<b>green</b>	chlor(o)-	vir-	-
<b>purple</b>	porphyr(o)-	purpur-, purpureo-	-
<b>red</b>	erythr(o)-, rhod(o)-	rub-, rubr-	-
<b>red-orange</b>	citrh(o)-	-	-
<b>white</b>	leuc-, leuk-	alb-	-
<b>yellow</b>	xanth(o)-	flav-	jaun - <i>[French]</i>

## Roots of description

(Size, shape, strength, etc.)

Description	Greek root in English	Latin root in English	Other root
<b>bad, incorrect</b>	cac(o)-, dys-	mal(e)-	-
<b>bent, crooked</b>	ankyl(o)-	prav(i)-	-
<b>big</b>	mega-, megal(o)-	magn(i)-	-
<b>biggest</b>	megist-	maxim-	-
<b>broad, wide</b>	eury-	lat(i)-	-
<b>cold</b>	cry(o)-	frig(i)-	-
<b>dead</b>	necr(o)-	mort-	-
<b>equal</b>	is(o)-	equ(i)-	-
<b>false</b>	pseud(o)-	fals(i)-	-
<b>female, feminine</b>	thely-	-	-
<b>flat</b>	platy-	plan(i)-	-
<b>good, well</b>	eu-	ben(e)-, bon(i)-	-
<b>great</b>	mega-, megal(o)-	magn(i)-	-
<b>hard</b>	scler(o)-	dur(i)-	-
<b>heavy</b>	bar(o)-	grav(i)-	-
<b>hollow</b>	coel(o)-	cav(i)-	-
<b>huge</b>	megal(o)-	magn(i)-	-
<b>incorrect, bad</b>	cac(o)-, dys-	mal(e)-	-
<b>irregular</b>	poikil(o)	-	-
<b>large; extremely large</b>	mega-	magn(i)-	-
<b>largest</b>	megist-	maxim-	-
<b>long</b>	macr(o)-	long(i)-	-
<b>male, masculine</b>	arseno-	vir-	-

<b>narrow</b>	sten(o)-	angust(i)-	-
<b>new</b>	neo-	nov(i)-	-
<b>normal, correct</b>	orth(o)-	rect(i)-	-
<b>old</b>	paleo-	veter-	-
<b>sharp</b>	oxy-	ac-	-
<b>short</b>	brachy-	brev(i)-	-
<b>small</b>	micr(o)-	parv(i)- (rare)	-
<b>smallest</b>	-	minim-	-
<b>slow</b>	brady-	tard(i)-	-
<b>fast</b>	tachy-	celer-	-
<b>soft</b>	malac(o)-	moll(i)-	-
<b>straight</b>	orth(o)-	rect(i)-	-
<b>thick</b>	pachy-	crass(i)-	-
<b>varied, various</b>	poikilo-	vari-	-
<b>well, good</b>	eu-	ben(e)-	-
<b>wide, broad</b>	eury-	lat(i)-	-

## Roots of position

Description	Greek root in English	Latin root in English	Other root
<b>around</b>	peri-	circum-	-
<b>left</b>	levo-	laev(o)-, sinistr-	-
<b>middle</b>	mes(o)-	medi-	-
<b>right</b>	dexi(o)-	dextr(o)-	-
<b>surrounding</b>	peri-	circum-	-

## Roots of quantity

(Amount, quantity)

Description	Greek root in English	Latin root in English	Other root
<b>double</b>	diplo-	dupli-	-
<b>equal</b>	iso-	equi-	-
<b>few</b>	oligo-	pauci-	-
<b>half</b>	hemi-	semi-	demi- (French)
<b>many, much</b>	poly-	multi-	-
<b>twice</b>	dis-	bis-	-

# Article Sources and Contributors

**List of medical roots, suffixes and prefixes** *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=510118717> *Contributors:* 1exec1, Abanoub nader, Alansohn, Aliciasuzanne, Altenmann, Antonielly, Arturkjakub, Atomician, BD2412, Ben Ben, Bfigura, Bksambueno, Blanchardb, Bloomingdedalus, Bsplendens, CNutt20, Can't sleep, clown will eat me, Cappycollins, Cburnett, Cptjanie, Cyclonenim, DARTH SIDIOUS 2, DBigXray, Daisy27, DanielDeibler, Darkwyr, Davewho2, Davidruben, Dillard421, Dominus, Dr. F.C. Turner, EagleFan, Eug, Excirial, Fl, Galaxiaad, Gilliam, Glacialfox, Gogo Dodo, Hughcharlesparker, II MusLiM HyBRiD II, laconome, Indowiz, Ipoellet, Irandill, Ishkabob13, Iyw5001, J.delanoy, J04n, Jainnys, JamesBWatson, Janine 07, Jay8g, JerredS, Joanneslaght, John of Reading, Jwillbur, KC109, KakistocraticLaw, Kessy628, Khaled7stars, Khmir2467, Koavf, Kpanz20, L Kensington, LedgendGamer, Logiphile, Louism, Macedonian, MadGuy7023, Markacohen, Michael Hardy, MicroBio Hawk, Mild Bill Hiccup, Mitch Ames, Mrug2, Murrax, Niceguyedc, NickCT, NickPenguin, Nono64, NotWith, Novangelis, Omnipaedista, Open2universe, Ordinary Person, PacoBell, PaddyM, Palisadian, Pdcook, Peter Grey, PhilKnight, Philip Trueman, Pip2andahalf, Plasticup, Porterjoh, Rachid Linden, S ried, Sassie580, Schmlloof, Sextiliana, Skeptic1981, Skinny McGee, Studio 126, Sun Creator, Superiormind, TJRC, TamaraG282, Thingg, Wikipelli, William Avery, Wingspeed, Wonderjolie, Woohookitty, Yworo, 399 anonymous edits

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