

Greek and Latin Root Words

a-, an-	not, without	bath-	depth, height	corp-	body
ab-	away from, out from	bene-	well, good	cort-, cortic-	outer layer
-able	capable of	benth-	the depths of ocean	cosmo-	world, order, form
ac-	to, toward	bi- (Latin)	two twice	cotyl-	cup
-aceous	of or pertaining to	bi-, bio- (Greek)	life, living	counter-	against
acou-, acous-	hear	bin	two	crani-	skull
ad-	to, toward	-blast-	sprout, germ, bud	cresc-, cret-	begin to grow
aden-	gland	brachi-	arm	crypt-	hidden, covered
adip-	fat	brachy-	short	cry-	ice, frozen (L)
aer-, aero-	air	brady-	slow	crys-	golden (G)
agri-	field, soil	branchi-	fin	-cul-, -cule	small, diminutive
alb-	white	brev-	short	cumul-	heaped
alg-, -algia	pain	bronch-	windpipe	cuti-	skin
allelo	one another, parallel	cac-	bad	cyan-	blue
alto-	high	calor-	heat	-cycle, cycl-	ring, circle
ambi-	both	cambi-	change, exchange	-cyst-	sac, pouch, bladder
ameb-	change, alternation	canc-	cancer	cyt-, -cyte, -cyto	cell, hollow container
amni-	fetal membrane	capill-	hair	dactyl-	finger
amphi-, ampho-	both, double	capit-	head	de-	away from, down
amyl-	starch	caps	box, chest	deca-	ten
an-	without, not	carb	carbon	deci-	tenth
ana-	up, back, again	carcin-	cancer	dele	destroy
andro-	man, masculine	cardi-	heart	deliquesc-	become fluid
anemo-	wind	carn-	meat, flesh	demi-	half
ang-	choke, feel pain	carot-	carrot	dendr-	tree
ang	vessel, case, duct	carp-	fruit	dent-	tooth
anim-	life, breath	carpal-	wrist	derm-	skin
annu-	year	cata-	breakdown, downward	di-, dipl- (Latin)	two, double
-ant	agent or instrument of	caud-	tail	di-, dia- (Greek)	through, across, apart
ante-	before, ahead of time	-cell-	chamber, small room	dia- (Latin)	day
anter-	front	cen-, cene-	now, recent	digit-	finger, toe
anth-	flower	cente-	pierce	din	terrible
anti-	against, opposite	centi-	hundredth	dis-	apart, out
anthropo-	man, human	centr-	center	dom	a house
-ap-, -aph-	touch	cephal-	head	domin-	lord
api-	apex, top	cerat-	horn	domin	master
apo-, ap-	away from	cerebr-	brain	dorm-	sleep
apsi-	juncture	cervic-	neck	dors-	back
aqu-	water	-cess	stop	-drom	run, race
archaeo-	primitive, ancient	chel-	claw	du-, duo-	two
archeg-		chem-	dealing with chemicals	dupl-	double
arteri-	artery	chir-	hand	duc, duct	to lead
arthr-	joint, articulation	chlor-	green	dynam-	power
asc	bag, sack	chondr	cartilage; a grain, corn	dys-	bad, abnormal
-ase	forms names of enzymes	chord	a string	e-, ex-	away from, out of
aster-, astr-	star	chrom-, -chrome	color	ec-	out of, away from
-ate	verb form – the act of	chron-	time	echin-	spiny, prickly
anther-	fatty deposit	-chym-	juice	eco-,	house
aqua-	water	-cid-, -cis-	cut, kill, fall	-ect, ecto-	outside of
-ation	noun form – the act of	cili	eyelash, short hair	-elle	small
atmo-	vapor	circa-, circum-	around, about	-emia	blood
audi-	hear	cirru-	hairlike curls	en-, endo-, ent-	in, into, within
aur-	ear	clad	a branch	-en	made of
auto-	self	co-, con-	with, together	encephal-	in, into, brain
avi	bird	cocc-	seed, berry	endo-	in, into, within
bac	rod, stick, club	coel-	hollow	enter-	intestine, gut
bacter-, bactr-	bacterium	coll-	glue	entom-	insects
barb-	beard	com-	with, together	-eous	nature of, like
baro-	weight	con-	with, together	epi-	upon, above, over
basidi	small pedestal	coni-	cone	-er	one connected with
		contra-	against	-err-	wander, go astray
				erythro-	red
				-escent	becoming

eso- inward, within, inner
 -ette small
 eu- well, good, true
 eury- widen
 ex- out of, away from
 extra- beyond, outside
 facil easy
 -fer- bear, carry, produce
 ferment yeast
 ferro- iron
 fertil- fruitful
 filia- son, daughter
 fibr- fiber, thread
 -fid, fiss- split, divided into
 flagell- a whip
 -flect, -flex bend
 flor- flower
 flu-, fluct-, flux flow
 foli- leaf
 -form- shape
 fract- break
 fruct- fruit
 fund- bottom, floor
 -fy to make, do
 -gam- marriage
 gamet- husband, wife
 gastr- stomach
 geo- land, earth
 -gen, -gine, geno producer, former
 -gene- origin, birth
 gener- beget, race
 germ- sprout, bud
 -gest- carry, produce, bear
 -glen- eyeball
 -glob- ball, round, sphere
 gloss- tongue
 gluc-, glyc- sweet, sugar
 glut- buttock
 gnath- jaw
 -gon- angle, corner
 -grad- step
 -gram, graph record, writing
 grav- heavy
 greg- herd
 -gross- thick
 guan-, guano dung
 gymno- naked, bare
 gyn- female
 gyr- ring, circle, spiral
 -hal-, -hale breathe, breath
 halo- salt
 hapl- simple
 hector- hundred
 helic- spiral
 -helminth- worm
 hem- blood
 hemi- half
 hepar-, hepat- liver
 herb- grass, plants
 -here- to stick
 hered- heir, inherit
 hes-, hesit- to stick
 hetero- different, other
 hex- six
 hibern- winter
 hidr- sweat
 hipp- horse
 hist- tissue
 holo- entire, whole

homo- (Latin) man, human
 homo-, homeo- (Greek) same, alike
 hort- garden
 hybrid mongrel, mixture
 hydr- water
 hydr- moist, wet
 hyper- above, beyond over
 hyph- weaving, web
 hypno- sleep
 hypo- below, under, less
 hyster- womb, uterus
 -iae person afflicted with disease
 -iasis disease, abnormal condition
 -ic (adjective former), having to do with
 ichthy fish
 ign- fire
 in-, il-, im-, ir- (Latin) not, without
 in-, il-, im-, ir- (Greek) to, toward, into
 in- very, thoroughly
 -ine of or pertaining to
 infra- below, beneath
 integ- whole, complete
 inter- within, inside
 intra- between
 io- to go
 -ion going or entering; small
 -ism a state or condition, belief in
 iso- equal, same
 -ist person who deals with
 -ite one connected with
 -itis inflammation, disease
 -ium refers to a part of the body
 jug to join
 -kary- cell nucleus
 kel- tumor, swelling
 kerat- horn
 kilo- thousand
 kine- move
 lachry- tear
 lact- milk
 lamell- small place
 lat- broad, wide
 later- side
 latus borne, carried
 leio- smooth
 -less without
 leuc-, leuk- white, bright, light
 lign- wood
 limn- lake
 lin- line
 lingu- tongue
 lip- fat
 lit- seashore
 lith-, -lite stone, petrifying
 loc- place
 -log- word, speech
 -logist one who studies
 -logy study of
 -lumen light
 lumin- light

-lys, -lyt, -lyst decompose, split, dissolve
 macr- large
 magn-, magni- great, large
 malac- soft
 malle- hammer
 mamm- breast
 mar- the sea
 marg- border, edge
 mast- breast
 med- middle
 meg- million, great
 meio- less
 mela-, melan- black, dark
 mens- table
 -mer part
 mes- middle, half, intermediate
 met-, meta- between, along, after
 metab change
 -meter, -metry measurement
 micro- small, millionth
 milli- thousandth
 mis- wrong, incorrect
 -mis, -mit send
 mito- thread
 mole- mass
 mono- one, single
 mort- death
 mot- move
 morph- shape, form
 multi- many
 mut- change
 my- muscle
 myc- fungus
 mycel- threadlike
 myriad- many
 moll- soft
 nas- nose
 necr- corpse, dead
 nemat- thread
 neo- new, recent
 neprho- kidney
 -ner- moist, liquid
 neur- nerve
 neutr- neither
 noct- night
 -node knot
 -nom-, -nomy ordered knowledge, law
 nom name
 non- not
 norm- rule, measure
 not- back
 nov- night
 nuc- center
 nucl- little nut, nucleus
 nutri- feed, nourish
 ob- against
 ocul- eye
 oct- eight
 odont- tooth
 -od form, appearance
 oeci-, oeco- house, dwelling
 -oid like
 olf- smell
 oligo- few, little

-oma abnormal condition, tumor
 omni- all
 onc- mass, tumor
 oo- egg
 opt- eye
 orb- circle, round, ring
 -orium, -ory place for something
 ornith- bird
 orth- straight, correct, right
 oscu- mouth
 -ose full of
 -osis abnormal condition
 osmo push
 oste bone
 oto- ear
 -ous full of
 ov-, -a, -um egg
 oxy- sharp, acid, oxygen
 pachy- thick
 paleo- old, ancient
 palm- broad, flat
 pan- all
 par-, para- beside, near, equal
 para, pare arrange, make ready
 paren- parent
 path-, -pathy disease, suffering
 -ped- (Latin) foot
 -ped- (Greek) child
 pend- to hang
 pent- five
 per- through
 pet- broad, spread out
 pet- seek, attack
 peri- around
 permea- pass, go
 phag- eat
 pharan cleft, gully
 pheno- show
 pher- carry, bear
 -phil- loving, fond of
 phlo- bark
 phob- fear, dread
 phon-, -phone sound
 -phor-, pher- bear, carry
 phos light
 photo- light
 phren- mind, diaphragm
 phyc- seaweed, algae
 phyl- related group, tribe
 -phyll leaf
 phyt-, phyte plant
 pil hair
 pino- drink
 pinn- feather
 plan- roaming, wandering
 plasm-, -plast- form, formed into
 platy- flat
 pleur- lung, rib, side
 -plic- fold
 plum- feather
 pneumo- lungs, air
 -pod foot
 -polar of the pole
 poly- many, several
 por- opening
 port- carry
 post- after, behind

pom apple, fruit
 pre- before, ahead of time
 pred- plunder, game hunted
 prim- first
 prion saw
 pro- forward, favoring, before
 proto- first, primary
 pseudo- false, deceptive
 psilo- bare
 psych- mind
 pter- having wings or fins
 pulmo- lung
 puls- drive, push
 pyr- heat, fire
 quadr- four
 quin- five
 rad- root
 radi- ray
 re- again, back
 rect- right, correct
 ren- kidney
 replic- fold back
 rept- creep, crawl
 respir- breath
 ret- net, made like a net
 rhag-, -rrhage burst forth
 rhe-, rrhea flow
 rhin- nose
 rhiz- root
 rhodo- rose
 roto- wheel
 rubr- red
 sacchar- sugar
 sapr- rotten
 sarc- flesh
 saur- lizard
 schis-, schiz- split, divide
 sci- know
 scler- hard
 -scop- look, device for seeing
 -scribe, -script write
 semi- half, partly
 sept- partition, seven
 -septic infection, putrefaction
 set-. seta bristle
 sex- six
 -sis condition, state, process
 sitos- food
 sol- sun
 solv- loosen, free
 som-, soma-, -some body
 somn- sleep
 son- sound
 spec-, spic- look at
 -sperm- seed
 -spher- ball, round
 spir-, -spire breathe
 -spor- seed
 sta- to stand
 stat-, -stasis standing, placed, staying
 stell- stars
 stern- chest, breast

stom-, -stome mouth
 strat- divide, arrange
 stereo- solid, 3-dimensional
 stig- mark
 strict- drawn tight
 styl- pillar
 sub- under, below
 super-, sur- over, above, on top
 sym-, syn- together
 tachy- quick, swift
 tarso- ankle
 tax- arrange, put in order
 tele- far off, distant
 telo- end
 tens stretched
 terr- earth, land
 tetr- four
 thall- young shoot
 -the-, -thes- put
 -thel- cover a surface
 therm heat
 -thesis an arranging
 thylac- sack, pouch
 thym- the mind
 -tin stretch
 tom cut, slice
 ton tone, tension
 toxic poison
 top place
 trache- windpipe
 tract- drawn
 trans- across
 tri- three
 trich- hair
 -trop- turn, change
 -troph- nourishment, one who feeds
 turb- whirl
 turg- swell; swollen
 -ul-, -ule diminutive, small
 ultra- beyond
 uni- one
 ur- urine
 -ura tail
 vacu empty
 vacc- cow
 valen-, valent- strength
 vari- change
 vas- vessel
 vect- carry
 ven-, vent- come
 ventr- belly, underside
 ver- true, truth
 -verge turn, slant
 vert to turn
 vertebr- a joint
 vesic- bladder
 vestig trace, footprint
 vig- strong
 vir-, virul- poisonous
 vit-, viv- life
 volv- roll, wander
 -vor- devour, eat
 xanth- yellow
 xero- dry
 xyl- wood
 zo-, -zoa animal
 zyg- a yoke; joining together