

Biological Terms - Prefix-Suffix Starter List

The following are a list of prefixes which are commonly used in the scientific and technological world.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
a-, an-	not, without, less	abiotic, anaerobic
ad-	to, attached to	adsorption
amphi-	both	amphibian
ana-	away, throughout, again	analysis
anthropo-	referring to man	anthropology
anti-	against	antimitotic
arche-	ancient, primitive, beginning	archeology
arth-	joint, jointed	arthritis
auto-	self	autogenous
bi-	two, twice, double	bipolar, binocular
bio-	related to life	biology
blast-, blasto-	an embryonic layer or cell	blastomere
carn-	flesh	carnivore
cata-	decomposition, degradation	catabolism
cephal-	head	cephalic
chloro-	green, containing chloride	chlorophyll, chloride
chrom-	coloured	chromosome
cyst-	bladder	cystitis
cyto-	cell	cytology
de-	undoing of, removal of, from	dehydration
di-	double	disaccharide
dia-	through, across	diameter
diplo-	twofold, double	diploid
dis-	apart, away	dissolve
end-	in	endemic
ecto-	outside	ectoderm
endo-	within, internal	endoskeleton
epi-	upon, above	epidermis
erythro-	red	erythrocyte
eu-	proper, good, true	eukaryotic
ex-	out, from	excise
exo-	outer, external	exoskeleton

extra-	outside of, beyond	extracellular
gam-	unit of sexual fusion	gamete
gastro-	stomach	gastric
gen-	origin, development	genetics, genesis
geo-	earth	geology
gyn-	female reproductive organs	gynecology
haplo-	single	haploid
heme-, hemo-	blood	hemotologist
herb-	pertaining to plants	herbicide
herp-	pertaining to snakes. reptiles	herpetology
hetero-	different, other	heterozygous
histo-	tissue	histology
homo-, homeo-	same, similar, like	homogeneous
hydro-	pertaining to water	hydrolysis
hyper-	above, more than normal	hyperactive
hypo-	below, less than normal	hypodermic
ichthy-	referring to fish	ichthyology
inter-	between	intercellular
intra-	within, inside	intracellular
iso-	equal	isotonic
leuc-, leuk-	white	leucocyte
lysis-	a releasing, loosening, to burst	lysis
macro-	large	macromolecule
meso-	middle	mesoderm
meta-	late, following, changed in position or form	metamorphosis
micro-	small	microbiology
milli-	a thousandth part	millimetre
mille-	a thousand	millepede
mito-	thread	mitosis
mono-	one	monocular
morph-	form	morphology
multi-	consisting of many units	multicellular
myo-	muscle	myoglobin
neuro-	nerve	neurology
ophthalm-	referring to the eye	ophthalmology

omni-	all	omnipotent
oo-	pertaining to eggs	oology
osteo-	bone	osteocyte
ovul-, ova-	egg	ovary
para-	beside	parasitism
path-	disease	pathogenic
peri-	around	perimeter
photo-	pertaining to light	photosynthesis
phyto-	pertaining to plants	phytohormone
plasm-	formative substance	plasmablasts
poly-	many	polyandry
post-	after	postnatal
pre-	before	prepupal
pri-	first	primary
pro-	before	protoderm
proto-	first	protozoa
pseudo-	false	pseudopod
re-	back, again	repeat
rhiz-	pertaining to roots, rootlike	rhizoid
somat-, soma-	body	somatic
sperma-, spermato-	seed	spermatozoa
sporo-	spore	sporophyte
stoma-, stome-	mouth	stomata
sub-	below, under, smaller	subspecies
sym-, syn-	together, with	synthesis
supra-, super-	above, over	superovulation
tel-, tele-	distant, end	telophase
tetra-	four	tetrapod
therm-	heat	thermometer
trans-	across, through, over	transfer
tri-	three	triploid
troph-	to feed or eat	trophblast
uni-	consisting of one	unicellular

The following are a list of suffixes which are commonly used in the scientific and technological world.

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-biosis	mode of living	symbiosis
-chrome	colour	mercurochrome
-cide	killer, a killing	insecticide
-cyst	pouch, sac	trichocyst
-derm, -dermis	skin, layer	epidermis
-emis	blood	anaemia
-fer	to carry or bear	transfer
-gamy	marriage, sexual fusion	polygamy
-gen	producing, an agent that produces	hydrogen
-genesis	origination or development of	oogenesis
-hydrate	a compound formed by the union of water	carbohydrate
-ite	a division or part	somite
-itis	inflammation or infection	appendicitis
-logy	discourse, study	biology
-lysis	loosening, separation, splitting	plasmolysis
-mer	a part	polymer
-meter	a measurement	diameter
-morph	form	endomorph
-osis	a condition, disease	prognosis
-phase	a stage, condition, appearance	metaphase
-phage	eater	bacteriophage
-phyll	leaf	chlorophyll
-phyte	plant	epiphyte
-plasm	formative substance	cytoplasm
-plast	an organized particle or granule	chloroplast
-pod	foot	arthropod
-some	body	chromosome
-stasis	a stationary condition	homeostasis
-stat	stationary, still	hemostat
-tension	pressure	hypertension
-therm	heat	homeotherm
-trophy	a turning, responding to a stimuli	pleiothrophy
-vor	feeding	carnivore