

Scientific Prefixes & Suffixes

The vocabulary in biology may seem difficult to understand at times. The following list gives the meaning of prefixes, suffixes, and roots that are commonly used to form scientific terms. Whenever you find a new term in your study of biology, break it apart into suffixes, prefixes, and roots. Try to find these parts in the list below. Also you will find a section of these parts in your *Writers Inc* reference book.

Element	Definition	Element	Definition
<i>a-</i>	without	<i>multi-</i>	many
<i>ab-</i>	away from	<i>mut-</i>	to change
<i>ad-</i>	near	<i>myco-</i>	fungi
<i>aero-</i>	air	<i>neco-</i>	corpse
<i>alveus</i>	cavity	<i>neur-</i>	nerve
<i>arthron-</i>	joint	<i>nomen-</i>	name
<i>atrium-</i>	entrance room	<i>niga-</i>	black
<i>auto-</i>	self	<i>oculo-</i>	eye
<i>bacterio-</i>	bacteria	<i>oligo-</i>	few
<i>bi-</i>	two	<i>-oma</i>	tumor
<i>bio-</i>	life	<i>omni-</i>	all
<i>carnis-, carn-</i>	meat	<i>oo, ovum</i>	egg
<i>chele-</i>	claw	<i>osteo-</i>	bone
<i>chloro-</i>	green	<i>paleo-</i>	old
<i>chroma-</i>	color	<i>ped, pod</i>	foot
<i>-cide</i>	killer of	<i>peri-</i>	around
<i>con-</i>	with	<i>pestis</i>	plague
<i>cytis-</i>	pouch	<i>phaeo-</i>	brown
<i>-cyte, cyto-</i>	cell	<i>phage-</i>	to eat
<i>dermis-, derm-</i>	skin	<i>-phore</i>	bearer
<i>di-</i>	two	<i>photo-</i>	light
<i>ecto-</i>	on the outside	<i>-phyll</i>	leaf
<i>endo-</i>	inner, inside	<i>-phyte, phyto-</i>	plant
<i>epi-</i>	upon	<i>pino-</i>	to drink
<i>eu-</i>	true	<i>plankto-</i>	drifting
<i>exo-</i>	outside of	<i>poly-</i>	many
<i>feto-</i>	fetus	<i>pseudo-</i>	false
<i>gastro-</i>	stomach	<i>primordis-</i>	original
<i>-gen</i>	producing	<i>pro-</i>	first
<i>geo-</i>	earth	<i>renes-</i>	kidney
<i>gymno-</i>	naked	<i>reptilis-</i>	crawling
<i>halo-</i>	salt	<i>rhiza, rhizo-</i>	root
<i>hemato-</i>	blood	<i>rodere</i>	to gnaw
<i>hemi-</i>	half	<i>sacchrum</i>	sugar
<i>herb-</i>	plant	<i>sapros-</i>	rotten
<i>hetero-</i>	other	<i>-scopy</i>	observation
<i>histo-</i>	tissue	<i>soma-</i>	body
<i>homo-</i>	same, like	<i>sonus-</i>	sound
<i>hydro-</i>	water	<i>sperma-</i>	seed
<i>hyper-</i>	over	<i>spirare</i>	breathe
<i>hypo-</i>	under	<i>-stasis</i>	position
<i>inter-</i>	between	<i>taxis</i>	arrangement
<i>intra-</i>	within	<i>telo-</i>	end
<i>-itis</i>	infection	<i>therm-</i>	heat
<i>karyo-</i>	nucleus	<i>thrombos</i>	clot
<i>leuco-</i>	white	<i>trans-</i>	across
<i>locus</i>	place	<i>tri-</i>	three
<i>-logy</i>	study of	<i>tricho-</i>	hair
<i>lysis</i>	to loosen, break	<i>troph-</i>	feed
<i>macro-</i>	large	<i>umbilicus</i>	navel
<i>maxilla</i>	jaw	<i>uni-</i>	one
<i>mensis</i>	month	<i>vasculum</i>	vessel
<i>mesos-</i>	middle	<i>vor-</i>	to eat, devour
<i>meta-</i>	between	<i>xero-</i>	dry
<i>micro-</i>	small	<i>zoo-, zoa-</i>	animal
<i>mono-</i>	one	<i>zygon-</i>	yoke
<i>morph-</i>	form		

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Scientific Prefixes & Suffixes

Define the following terms using your prefix-suffix list. Underline the prefix and/or suffix in each biological term.

Example: Thermometer – therm means heat & meter means measure of so thermometer is an instrument used to measure heat.

1. biology
2. osteocyte
3. epidermis
4. polysaccharide
5. intracellular
6. hypodermic
7. monosaccharide
8. omnivore
9. prokaryote
10. autotroph

Using your prefix-suffix list, write the biological term for each of the following.

Example: A bacteria killer – *cide* means killer so the term is *bactericide*.

1. outside skeleton
2. outside of the cell
3. a one-celled organism
4. a term describing an organism made up of many cells
5. study of animals
6. a carbohydrate with two sugar units
7. a meat eater
8. an instrument to observe small items