

Pre AP Biology Prefix, Suffix and Root Word List

Word Part	Meaning	Word Part	
a-, an-	no; lacking; none	cardi-	
ab-	away from; out from	carp-	fruit
ac-		carpal-	
-aceus; -aceous	of or pertaining to	caud-	tail
acou-	hearing	cell-	storeroom; chamber
acr-; acro-	extreme; peak	-cene	new; recent
ad-	to; toward	centi-	hundredth
adeno-		centr-	center
agri-	field, soil	cephal-	
-al	having character of	cervic-	
alb-	white	chem-	referring to chemistry
-algia		chlor-	green
alto-	high	chrom-; -chrome	color
ameb-	change; alternation	chym-	juice
amphibi-	leading a double life	-cide	killing
ampho-; amb-	both	circum-	around; about
an-		cirru-	hairlike curls
ana-	up	co-	with; together
andro-	masculine; man	cocc-	
anemo-	wind	coel-	hollow
angio-	vessel	coll-	
ante-	before; ahead of time	com-	with; together
antero-		con-	with; together
antho-	flower	coni-	cone
anti-		contra-	against
anthropo-	man	corp-	body
ap-	to; toward	cosmo-	world; order; form
aqu-		cotyl-	cup
archaeo-	primitive; ancient	counter-	against
arthro-		crypt-	hidden; covered
aster-; astr-	stars	-cule; -culus	added to nouns to form diminutive
-ate	used in forming verbs from nouns	cucmul-	heaped
-ation	used in forming nouns from verbs	cuti-	skin
atom-	vapor	cyan-	dark blue
audi-	hear	-cycle; cycli-	ring; circle
auto-		cyst-	
bactr-	stick; club	cyt-; -cyte	cell; receptacle
barb-	beard	dacty-	finger
baro-	weight	deca-	ten
bath-	depth; height	deci-	tenth
bene-	well; good	deliquesc-	become fluid
bi-		demi-	
bio-; bi-	life; living	dendr-	tree
-blast		dent-	
brachi-	having arms	derm-	
branchi-	having fins	di-	
brev-	short	dia-	through; across
bronch-	windpipe	digit	finger; tow
calor-	heat	din-	terrible
carb-	coal; carbon	dis-	apart; out

Pre AP Biology Prefix, Suffix and Root Word List

Word Part	Meaning	Word Part	Meaning
dorm-		gyr-	ring; circle; spiral
dors-		haem-; hem-	blood
du-; duo	two	hepat-	liver
-duct	lead	herb-	grass
-duct	lead	hetero-	different; other
dynam-	power	hex-	six
dys-	ill; bad	hibern-	winter
ec-	out	hipp-	horse
echin-	spiny; prickly	hist-	
eco-	house	holo-	entire; whole
ect-	outside; without	homo-	
electro-	electric; electricity	homo-	
en-	in; into	hort-	garden
-en	made of	hybrid	
encephal-	brain	hydr-	
end-; ent-	within; in	hygr-	wet; moist
enter-	intestines	hypo-	beneath; under; less
-eous	nature of; like	hyper-	above; beyond; over
epi-	on; above	hypho-	weaving
-err	wander; go astray	hypno-	sleep
erythro-	red	-ic	added to nouns to form adjectives
ethno-	race; people	ichthy-	
eu-	well; good	ign-	fire
extra-	beyond; outside of	im-	not
ex-	out of	in-	to; toward; into
-fer	bear; carry; produce	in-	not
ferro-	iron	-ine	of or pertaining to
fibr-	fiber; thread	infro-	below, beneath
-fid; fis-	divided into; split	inter-	between
-flect; -flex	bend	intra-	within; inside
flor-	f	-ion	go; come
fluor-	fluorine	-ism	a state or condition
foli-	leaf	iso-	equal; same
fract-	break	-itis	
galact-; galax-	milk; milky fluid	kilo-	thousand
gastro-		lachry-	tear
geo-	land; earth	lact-	milk
-gen; -gine	producer; former	lat-	side; flank
-gene; gene-	origin	-less	without
-gest	carry; produce	leuc-	white; bright; light
glob-	ball; round	lign-	wood
glottis		lin-	line
-gon	angle; corner	lingu-	tongue
-gony	offspring; generation; coming into being	liqu-	become fluid, liquid
-grade	step; division	lip-	fat
-gram	writing; record	lith-; -lite	stone; petrifying
-graphy;	-graph writing; record	loc-	
grav-		-logy	study
gross	thick	-lysis; -lyte; -lyst	dissolve; decompose
gymno-		macr-	
gyn-		mal-	bad; evil

Pre AP Biology Prefix, Suffix and Root Word List

Word Part	Meaning	Word Part	Meaning
malle-	hammer	opt-; opsy	eye; vision
mamm-	breast	orb-	circle; round; ring
marg-	border; edge	orth-	straight; correct; right
mast-	breast	oscu-	mouth
med-	middle	oste-	bone
meg-	great; million	-ous	full of; abounding in
mela-; melan-	black; dark	ov-	egg
mes-	middle; half; intermediate	oxy-	sharp; acid; oxygen
met-; meta-	between; along; after	pachy-	thick
meteor-	lofty, high, in air	paleo-	old; ancient
-meter; -metry	way of measuring, instrument for measuring	palm-	broad; flat
metro-	uterus	pan-	all
micro-	small	par-	beside; near; equal; bring forth
milli-	thousandth	path-; -pathy	disease; suffering
mis-	wrong; incorrect	-ped	foot
mito-	thread; filament	pent-	five
mole-	mass	per-	through
mono-	one; single	permea-	pass; go
mont-	mountain	phag-	eat
mort-	death	pheno-	show
mov-; -mot	move	phil-	living; fond of
morph-	shape; form	phon-; -phone	sound
multi-	many	-phore	bearer
mycel-	threadlike	photo-	light
mycet-	fungus	phyc-	seaweed; algae
myria-	many	-phyll	leaf
moll-	soft	physi-	nature; natural qualities
nas-	nose	-phte; phyt-	plant
nemat-	thread	plan-	roaming; wandering
neo-	new; recent	plasm-; -plast	form; formed into
nephro-	kidney	pleur-	rib; lung
-ner-	moist; liquid	pneumo-	lungs; air
neur-; nerv-	nerve; tendon	-pod	foot
noct-; nox-	night	poly-	many; several
-node	knot	por-	opening
-nomy; -nome	distribute; arrange; law	port-	carry
non-	not	post-	after; behind
not-	back	pom-	fruit
nuc-	center	pre-	before; ahead of time
ob-	against	pro-	forward; favoring
ocul-	eye	procto-	rectum; anus
oct-	eight	proto-	first; primary
odont-	tooth	pseud-	false; deceptive
-oid	like in form or shape	pter-	having wings or fins
olf-	smell	pulmo-	lung
omni-	all	puls-	drive; push
oo-	egg	pyr-	heat; fire
opthal-	eye	quadr-	four; four-fold

Pre AP Biology Prefix, Suffix and Root Word List

Word Part	Meaning	Word Part	Meaning
quin-	five	toxico-	poison
radi-	ray; spoke of a wheel; energy in rays	top-	place
re-	again; back	trans-	across
rect-	correct; right	tri-	three
ren-	kidney	trich-	hair
ret-	net; made like a net	troph-	one who feeds; well fed
rhin-	nose	trop-	turning; changing
rhiz-	root	-ule	diminutive
rubr-	red	ultra-	beyond
saccharo-	sugar	ur-	urine
sapr-	rotten	vas-	vessel
saur-	lizard	vect-	carry
scler-	hard	ven-; vent-	come
sci-	know	ventr-	belly
scope	look; observe	vice-	in place of
-scribe;	script write	vig-	strong
semi-	half; partly	vit-;	viv- life
sept-	partition; seven	volv-	roll; wander
septic	putrefaction; infection	vor-	devour; eat
sex-	six	xanthin-	yellow
-sis	condition; state	zo-; -zoa	animal
sol-	sun	zyg-	yolk
solv-	loosen; free	zym-	yeast
somn-	sleep		
son-	sound		
spec-; spic-	look at		
sperm-	seed		
spher-	ball		
-spire	breathe		
spore	seed		
stat-	standing; placed		
stell-	stars		
stern-	breast; chest		
stom-; -stome	mouth		
strat-	layer		
stereo-	solid; three dimensions		
strict-	drawn tight		
styl-	pillar		
sub-	under; below		
super-	over; above; on top		
sur-	over; above; on top		
sym-; syn-	together		
tachy-	quick; swift		
tarso-	ankle		
tax-	arrangement		
tele-	far off; at a distance		
terr-	earth		
tetr-	four		
thall	young shoot		
therm-	heat		
-tom	cut; slice		