

Biology Root Words & Suffixes

ROOT WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
a- / an-	without, not	anaerobic
Amphi	both, double	amphibian
Anti	Against	antibody
Aqua	Water	aquatic
Archae	Ancient	Archaeobacteria, archaeology
Auto	Self	Autotroph,
Bi	Two, double, twice	Bipedal,
Bio	Life, living	Biology, biosphere
Chromo	Colored	chromosome
-cide	Killer	Pesticide, herbicide
Circa-, circum	Around, about	Circumference, circumnavigate
Cyte, cyto	Cell	Cytoplasm, lymphocyte
Derm-	Skin	epidermis
Di-	Two, double	disaccharide
Dys	Bad	dysfunctional
Eco	House	Ecology, ecosystem
Ella	Small	organelle
Endo	In, within	Endocytosis, endoskeleton
Eu	True	eubacteria
Ex-, exo	Out of, from, outer	Exocytosis, exoskeleton
Herb	Plants	Herbicide, herbivore
Heteros	Different, other	heterozygous
Homo	Human being	Hominoid
Homos	Alike, same	homozygous
Hydro	Water	hydrolysis
Hyper	Above, beyond	Hypertonic, hypertrophy
Hypo	Below, under	Hypertonic, hypothermia
Intra	Within, inside	intracellular
Iso	Equal	Isotonic, isometric
-itis	Disease, inflammation	dermatitis
Kilo	Thousand	kilometer
Logos, -logy	Study of	Biology, geology
Lys, -lysis	Destroy, break	Lysogenic cycle, lysosome
Meta	Change	Metabolism, metamorphosis
Micro	Small	Microscope, micrometer
Mono	One, single	Monocyte, monosaccharide
Morph	Shape, form	metamorphosis
Neuro	Nerve	neuron
Omnis	All	omnivore
Oo, ovi, ovum	Egg	Oocyte, ovary
Osmos	To push	Osmosis, chemiosmosis
Paleo	Ancient	paleontology
Para	Beside, near	parasite
Pathos	suffering	Pathogen, pathology

ROOT WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
Pod, pedis	Foot	pseudopod
Phage	To eat	Esophagus, phagocyte
Photo	Light	photosynthesis
Phoresis	To carry	electrophoresis
Pilus	Hair	pili
Poly	Many	Polysaccharide, polymer
Post	After, behind	posterior
Pseudo	False	pseudopod
Re	Again	reproduce
Semi	Half	semicircle
Skleros	Hard	Sclera, atherosclerosis
Solvere	To loosen	Solvent, dissolve
Soma	Body	Autosome, lysosome
Stasis	Staying	homeostasis
Stoma	Mouth	stomata
Sub	Under, below	Submarine, subspecies
Super	Above, upper	superior
Supra	Above, upon	supraspinatus
Syn	Together	synthesis
Terra	Earth	terrestrial
Tetra	Four	tetrapod
Therm	Heat	endotherm
Topos	Place	isotope
Tox	Poison	Toxin, toxicity
Trans	Across	Transport, transpiration
Tri	Three	triploid
Troph	Food, nutrition, nourish	Atrophy, autotroph, heterotroph
Uni	One	unicellular
Vore	One who eats	Omnivore, carnivore
Zo	Animal	zoology
Zygous	Joined	homozygous

SUFFIXES

SUFFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE
-ose	Simple sugar	glucose, lactose, maltose
-in	Protein	Actin, fibrin, insulin
-ine	Amino acid	Proline, methionin
-ol	Alcohol	Butanol, methanol
-ase	Enzyme	Lactose, helicase, polymerase
-ate	Contains oxygen	Carbonate, phosphate, sulfate
-oma	Cancer	Lymphoma, carcinoma
-one	Hormone	Testosterone, progesterone
-sis	Process	Photosynthesis, hydrolysis