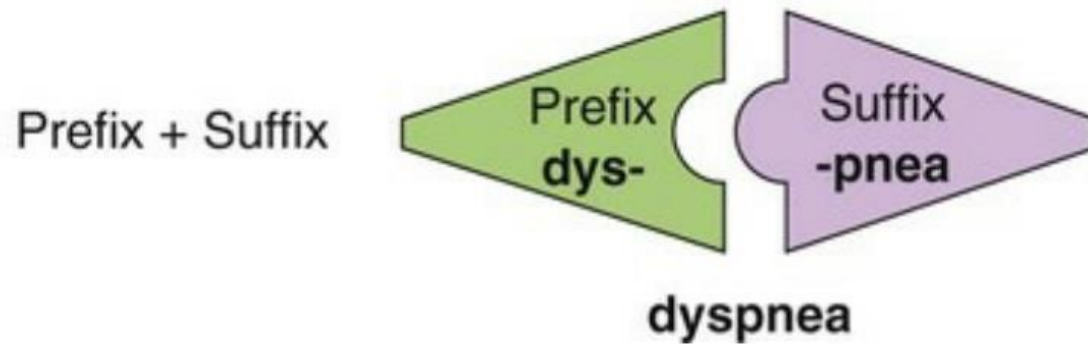
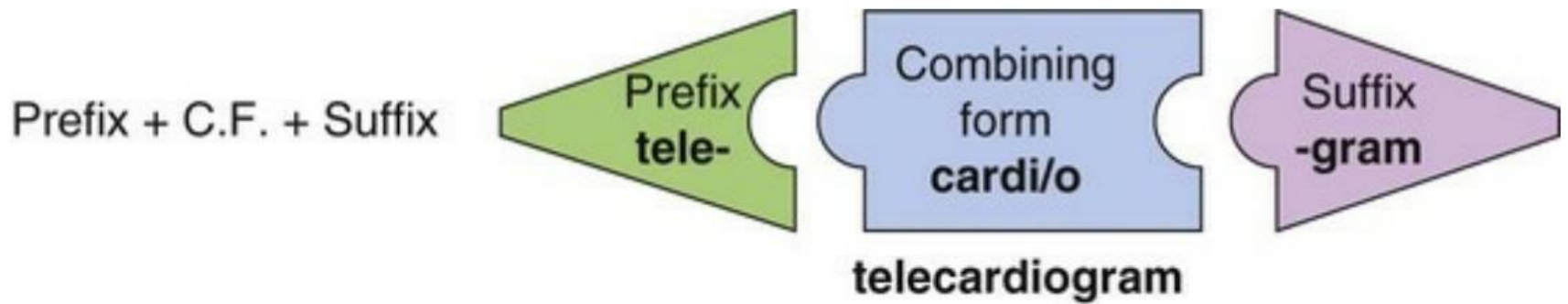


# Basic Word Structure





## Combining Vowel

- Previously, you learned the word **perineuritis**. In that example, the suffix -itis joined the root –neur- quite easily.
- Sometimes roots and suffixes do not go together as well.

## Combining Vowel

---

For example, if the root **hemat** was combined with the suffix **-logy**, the word would be spelled **hematology**. Try pronouncing this word. You will find it difficult.

---

To make this word easier to pronounce, the letter “**o**” is added to the end of the root to make the word **hematology**. The “**o**” is called a combining vowel.

## Combining Vowel

---

As you can see, with the combining vowel added, the word is much easier to pronounce. The combining vowel is usually “o.”

---

It can be used to connect a root to a suffix (as in the above example) or to join two roots.

## Combining Vowel

---

When connecting a root to a suffix, the combining vowel is used only when the suffix starts with a consonant, such as in the word “**hematology**” above.

---

If the suffix starts with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) the combining vowel is not needed.

---

For example, in the word **arthritis**, we do not add the combining vowel to **arthr** because the suffix **-itis** starts with a vowel.

# Combining Vowel

- As stated above, the combining vowel can also be used to joint **two roots**.
- For example, in the word “**osteoarthritis**,” the combining vowel joins the roots oste and arthr.

<b>oste</b>	<b>o</b>	<b>arthr</b>	<b>-itis</b>
root	combining vowel	root	suffix
<b>bone</b>		joint	inflammation

# Word Roots

A word root is the fundamental portion of a word that contains the basic meaning.

For example, the word root *cardi* means “heart”.

Most medical word roots come directly from Greek and Latin terms.



# Combining forms

Combining forms are the word root and a combining vowel that enable two parts to be connected.

For example, the word root *cardi* + the combining vowel *-o-* can form words relating to the basic meaning “heart,” such as *cardiology*, the practice that studies, diagnoses, and treats disorders of the heart.

### List of roots and combining forms

<b>aer(o)</b>	air; gas	<b>iatr(o)</b>	physician, treatment
<b>andro</b>	masculine	<b>idio</b>	unknown
<b>athero</b>	plaque; fatty substance	<b>karyo</b>	nucleus
<b>bio-</b>	life	<b>leuk(o)</b>	white
<b>carcin(o)</b>	cancer	<b>lip(o)</b>	fat
<b>chondro</b>	cartilage	<b>melan(o)</b>	dark, black
<b>chrono</b>	time	<b>orth(o)</b>	straight, normal
<b>cry(o)</b>	cold	<b>path(o)</b>	disease
<b>cyan(o)</b>	blue	<b>pharmaco</b>	drug, medicine
<b>dorsi</b>	back	<b>pseud(o)</b>	false
<b>erythr(o)</b>	red	<b>pyro</b>	fever, heat
<b>etio</b>	cause	<b>sidero</b>	iron
<b>home(o), homo</b>	same, constant	<b>somat(o)</b>	body
<b>hydr(o)</b>	water	<b>terato</b>	monster

	COMBINING FORM	MEANING	EXAMPLE
	acanth(o)	spiny; thorny	<i>acanthoid</i> [ä-KÄN-thöyd], spine-shaped
	actin(o)	light	<i>actinotherapy</i> [ÄK-tin-ö-THÄR-ä-pē], ultraviolet light therapy used in dermatology
→	aer(o)	air; gas	<i>aerogen</i> [ÄR-ö-jēn], gas-producing microorganism
→	alge, algesi, algio, algo	pain	<i>algospasm</i> [ÄL-gō-spāzm], pain caused by a spasm
	amyl(o)	starch	<i>amylophagia</i> [ÄM-ī-lō-FÄ-jē-ä], abnormal craving for starch
	andro	masculine	<i>androblastoma</i> [ÄN-drō-bläs-TÖ-mä], testicular tumor
→	athero	plaque; fatty substance	<i>atheroma</i> [äth-ēr-Ö-mä], swelling on the surface of an artery from a fatty deposit
	bacill(i)	bacilli; bacteria	<i>bacilliform</i> [bä-SĪL-ī-fōrm], rod-shaped like a bacterium
	bacteri(o)	bacteria	<i>bacteriogenic</i> [bäk-TĒR-ē-ö-JĚN-ĭk], caused by bacteria
	bar(o)	weight; pressure	<i>barostat</i> [BÄR-ö-stät], pressure-regulating device
	bas(o), basi(o)	base	<i>basophilic</i> [BÄ-sō-FĪL-ĭk], having an affinity for basic dyes (said of tissue)
→	bio-	life	<i>biopsy</i> [BĪ-öp-sē], sampling of tissue from living patients
→	blasto	immature cells	<i>glioblastoma</i> [GLĪ-ö-bläs-TÖ-mä], growth consisting of immature neural cells
	cac(o)	bad; ill	<i>cacomelia</i> [käk-ö-MĚ-lē-ä], congenital limb deformity
	calc(o), calci(o)	calcium	<i>calcipenia</i> [käl-sĭ-PĚ-nē-ä], calcium deficiency
	carcin(o)	cancer	<i>carcinogen</i> [kär-SĪN-ö-jēn], cancer-producing substance
	chem(o)	chemical	<i>chemolysis</i> [kēm-ÖL-ī-sĭs], chemical decomposition
	chlor(o)	chlorine, green	<i>chlouresis</i> [klō-yū-RĚ-sĭs], excretion of chloride in urine
→	chondrio, chondro	cartilage, grainy, gritty	<i>chondrocyte</i> [KÖN-drō-sĭt], cartilage cell
	chore(o)	dance	<i>choreoathetosis</i> [KÖR-ē-ö-äth-ē-TÖ-sĭs], abnormal body movements
	chrom, chromat, chromo	color	<i>chromatogenous</i> [krō-mä-TÖJ-ē-nūs], producing color
→	chrono	time	<i>chronometry</i> [krō-NÖM-ē-trē], measurement of time intervals

COMBINING FORM	MEANING	EXAMPLE
chyl(o)	chyle, a digestive juice	<i>chylopoiesis</i> [KĪ-lō-pōy-Ē-sīs], production of chyle in the intestine
chym(o)	chyme, semifluid production of chyme in the stomach	<i>chymopoiesis</i> [KĪ-mō-pōy-Ē-sīs], present during digestion
cine(o)	movement	<i>cineradiography</i> [SĪN-ĕ-rā-dē-ŌG-rā-fē], imaging of an organ in motion
coni(o)	dust	<i>coniometer</i> [kō-nē-ŌM-ĕ-tēr], device for measuring dust
→ crin(o)	secrete	<i>crinogenic</i> [krĭn-ō-JĒN-ĭk], causing secretion; <i>endocrine</i> [EN-do-krin], a gland that secretes internally into systemic circulation
cry(o)	cold	<i>cryocautery</i> [KRĪ-ō-KĂW-tēr-ē], destruction of tissue by freezing
crypt(o)	hidden; obscure	<i>cryptogenic</i> [krĭp-tō-JĒN-ĭk], of obscure origin
cyan(o)	blue	<i>cyanopsia</i> [sĭ-ă-NŌP-sē-ă], condition following a cataract operation in which all objects appear blue
cycl(o)	circle; cycle; ciliary body	<i>cyclectomy</i> [sĭ-KLĚK-tō-mē], removal of a part of a ciliary body
cyst(o), cysti	bladder, cyst, cystic duct	<i>cystoid</i> [SĪS-tōyd], bladder-shaped
→ cyt(o)	cell	<i>cytoarchitecture</i> [SĪ-tō-ĂR-kĭ-tĕk-chūr], arrangement of cells in tissue
→ dextr(o)	right, toward the right	<i>dextrocardia</i> [DĚKS-trō-KĂR-dē-ă], displacement of the heart to the right
dips(o)	thirst	<i>dipsomania</i> [dĭp-sō-MĂ-nē-ă], alcoholism
dors(o), dorsi	back	<i>dorsalgia</i> [dōr-SĂL-jē-ă], upper back pain
dynamo	force; energy	<i>dynamometer</i> [dĭ-nă-MŌM-ĕ-tēr], instrument for measuring muscular power
echo	reflected sound	<i>echocardiogram</i> [ĕk-ō-KĂR-dē-ō-grăġ], ultrasound recording of the heart
electr(o)	electricity; electric	<i>electrocardiogram</i> [ē-lĕk-trō-KĂR-dē-ō-grăġ], graphic record of heart's electrical currents
→ eosin(o)	red; rosy	<i>eosinophilic</i> [ē-ō-sĭn-ō-FĪL-ĭk], staining readily with certain dyes
ergo	work	<i>ergograph</i> [ĔR-gō-grăġ], instrument for measuring work of muscular contractions
→ erythr(o)	red, redness	<i>erythroclasis</i> [ĕr-ĭ-THRŌK-lă-sĭs], fragmentation of red blood cells

COMBINING FORM	MEANING	EXAMPLE
esthesio	sensation, perception	<i>esthesiometry</i> [ēs-thē-zē-ŌM-ē-trē], measurement of tactile sensibility
ethmo	ethmoid bone	<i>ethmonasal</i> [ēth-mō-NĀ-sāl], relating to the ethmoid and nasal bones
etio	cause	<i>etiopathology</i> [Ē-tē-ō-pā-THŌL-ō-jē], study of the cause of an abnormality or disease
fibr(o)	fiber	<i>fibroplastic</i> [fī-brō-PLĀS-tīk], producing fibrous tissue
fluor(o)	light; luminous; fluorine	<i>fluorochrome</i> [FLŪR-ō-krōm], fluorescent contrast medium
fungi	fungus	<i>fungicide</i> [FŪN-jī-sīd], substance that destroys fungi
galact(o)	milk	<i>galactophoritis</i> [gā-LĀK-tō-fō-RĪ-tīs], inflammation of the milk ducts
gen(o)	producing; being born	<i>genoblast</i> [JĒN-ō-blāst], nucleus of a fertilized ovum
gero, geront(o)	old age	<i>gerontology</i> [jār-ōn-TŌL-ō-jē], study of the problems of aging
gluco	glucose	<i>glucogenic</i> [glū-kō-JĒN-īk], producing glucose
glyco	sugars	<i>glycopenia</i> [glī-kō-PĒ-nē-ā], sugar deficiency
gonio	angle	<i>goniometer</i> [gō-nē-ŌM-ē-tēr], instrument for measuring angles
granulo	granular	<i>granuloma</i> [grān-yū-LŌ-mā], small, granular lesion
gyn(o), gyne, gyneco	women	<i>gynopathy</i> [gī-NŌP-ā-thē], disease peculiar to women
home(o), homo	same; constant	<i>homeoplasia</i> [HŌ-mē-ō-PLĀ-zhē-ā], formation of new, similar tissue
hydr(o)	hydrogen, water	<i>hydrocephaly</i> [hī-drō-SĒF-ā-lē], condition characterized by excessive fluid accumulation in the head
hypn(o)	sleep	<i>hypnogenesis</i> [hīp-nō-JĒN-ē-sīs], induction of sleep
iatr(o)	physician; treatment	<i>iatrogenic</i> [ī-āt-rō-JĒN-īk], produced or caused by treatment or diagnostic procedure
ichthy(o)	dry; scaly; fish	<i>ichthyotoxism</i> [īK-thē-ō-TŌK-sīzm], poisoning by fish
idio	distinct; unknown	<i>idiopathic</i> [ĪD-ē-ō-PĀTH-īk], of unknown origin (said of a disease)

	COMBINING FORM	MEANING	EXAMPLE
➔	immun(o)	safe; immune	<i>immunodeficient</i> [ĪM-yū-nō-dē-FĪSH-ĕnt], lacking in some essential immune function
	kal(i)	potassium	<i>kalemia</i> [kā-LĒ-mē-ā], presence of potassium in the blood
➔	karyo	nucleus	<i>karyolysis</i> [kār-ē-ŌL-ĭ-sĭs], destruction of a cell nucleus
	ket(o), keton(o)	ketone; acetone	<i>ketogenesis</i> [kē-tō-JĔN-ĕ-sĭs], metabolic production of ketones
	kin(o), kine	movement	<i>kinesthesia</i> [KĪN-ĕs-TĔĒ-zhē-ā], perception of movement
	kinesi(o), kineso	motion	<i>kinesiology</i> [kĭ-nē-sē-ŌL-ō-jē], study of movement
	kyph(o)	humpback	<i>kyphoscoliosis</i> [KĪ-fō-skō-lē-Ō-sĭs], kyphosis combined with scoliosis
	lact(o), lacti	milk	<i>lactogen</i> [LĀK-tō-jĕn], agent that stimulates milk production
➔	latero	lateral, to one side	<i>lateroduction</i> [LĀT-ĕr-ō-DŪK-shŭn], movement to one side
	lepto	light, frail, thin	<i>leptomeninges</i> [lēp-tō-mĕ-NĪN-jĕz], two delicate layers of meninges
➔	leuk(o)	white	<i>leukoblast</i> [LŪ-kō-blāst], immature white blood cell
	lip(o)	fat	<i>lipoblast</i> [LĪ-pō-blāst], embryonic fat cell
	lith(o)	stone	<i>lithotomy</i> [ĭ-THŌT-ō-mĕ], operation for removal of stones
	log(o)	speech, words, thought	<i>logopathy</i> [lŏg-ŌP-ā-thĕ], speech disorder
	lys(o)	dissolution	<i>lysemia</i> [ĭi-SĔ-mē-ā], dissolution of red blood cells
➔	macr(o)	large; long	<i>macromelia</i> [māk-rō-MĔ-lē-ā], abnormally sized limb
➔	medi(o)	middle; medial plane	<i>mediolateral</i> [MĔ-dē-ō-LĀT-ĕr-āl], relating to the medial plane and one side of the body
	meg(a), megal(o)	large; million	<i>megaloencephaly</i> [MĔG-ā-lyō-ĕn-SĔF-ā-lĕ], abnormally large brain
➔	melan(o)	black; dark	<i>melanoderma</i> [MĔL-ā-nō-DĔR-mā], abnormal skin darkening
	mes(o)	middle; median	<i>mesocephalic</i> [MĔZ-ō-sĕ-FĀL-ĭk], having a medium-sized head
➔	micr(o)	small; one-millionth; tiny	<i>microorganism</i> [MĪ-krō-ŌR-gān-ĭzm], tiny organism

	COMBINING FORM	MEANING	EXAMPLE
	<b>mio</b>	smaller; less	<i>miopragia</i> [mī-ō-PRĀ-jē-ă], lessened functional activity
	<b>morph(o)</b>	structure; shape	<i>morphology</i> [mōr-FÖL-ō-jē], study of the structure of animals and plants
	<b>narco</b>	sleep; numbness	<i>narcolepsy</i> [NĀR-kō-lēp-sē], sleep disorder
	<b>necr(o)</b>	death; dying	<i>necrology</i> [nē-KRÖL-ō-jē], study of the cause of death
	<b>noct(i)</b>	night	<i>nocturia</i> [nök-TŪ-rē-ă], urination at night
➔	<b>normo</b>	normal	<i>normocyte</i> [NÖR-mō-sīt], normal red blood cell
➔	<b>nucle(o)</b>	nucleus	<i>nucleotoxin</i> [NŪ-klē-ō-TÖK-sin], poison that acts upon a cell nucleus
	<b>nyct(o)</b>	night	<i>nyctalopia</i> [nik-tă-LŌ-pē-ă], reduced ability to see at night
	<b>oncho, onco</b>	tumor	<i>oncolysis</i> [ōng-KÖL-ī-sis], destruction of a tumor
	<b>orth(o)</b>	straight; normal	<i>orthodontics</i> [ōr-thō-DÖN-tīks], dental specialty concerned with correction of tooth placement
	<b>oxy</b>	sharp; acute; oxygen	<i>oxyphonia</i> [ōk-sē-FÖN-nē-ă], shrillness of voice
	<b>pachy</b>	thick	<i>pachyonychia</i> [PĀK-ē-ō-NĪK-ē-ă], abnormal thickening of the nails
➔	<b>path(o)</b>	disease	<i>pathogen</i> [PĀTH-ō-jēn], disease-causing substance
➔	<b>phago</b>	eating; devouring; swallowing	<i>phagocyte</i> [FĀG-ō-sīt], cell that ingests bacteria and other particles
	<b>pharmaco</b>	drugs; medicine	<i>pharmacology</i> [FĀR-mă-KÖL-ō-jē], the science of drugs, including their sources, uses, and interactions
	<b>phon(o)</b>	sound; voice; speech	<i>phonometer</i> [fō-NÖM-ē-tēr], instrument for measuring sound
	<b>phot(o)</b>	light	<i>photometer</i> [fō-TÖM-ē-tēr], instrument for measuring light
➔	<b>physi, physio</b>	physical; natural	<i>physiotherapy</i> [FĪZ-ē-ō-THĀR-ă-pē], physical therapy
	<b>physo</b>	air; gas; growing	<i>physocèle</i> [FĪ-sō-sēl], swelling due to gas
	<b>phyt(o)</b>	plant	<i>phytoxin</i> [fī-tō-TÖK-sin], substance from plants that is similar to a bacterial toxin
➔	<b>plasma, plasm</b>	formative; plasma	<i>plasmapheresis</i> [PLĀZ-mă-fē-RĒ-sis], separation of blood into parts

	COMBINING FORM	MEANING	EXAMPLE
	poikilo	varied; irregular	<i>poikilocyte</i> [PÖY-kī-lō-sīt], irregularly shaped red blood cell
➔	pseud(o)	false	<i>pseudodiabetes</i> [SŪ-dō-dī-ä-BĒ-tēz], false positive test for sugar in the urine
	pyo	pus	<i>pyocyst</i> [PĪ-ō-sĭst], cyst filled with pus
➔	pyreto	fever	<i>pyretogenous</i> [pī-rē-TÖ]-ē-nūs], causing fever
	pyro	fever; fire; heat	<i>pyrogenic</i> [pī-rō-JĔN-ĭk], causing fever
➔	radio	radiation; x-ray; radius	<i>radiography</i> [RĀ-dē-ÖG-rā-fē], x-ray examination
➔	salping(o)	tube	<i>salpingectomy</i> [sāl-pĭn-JĔK-tō-mē], removal of the fallopian tube
	schisto	split	<i>schistocytosis</i> [SKĪS-tō-sī-TÖ-sĭs], bladder fissure
	schiz(o)	split; division	<i>schizophrenia</i> [skĭz-ō-FRĔ-nē-ä, skĭts-ō-FRĔ-nē-ä], a spectrum of mental disorders often with a disorder in perception
	scler(o)	hardness; hardening	<i>scleroderma</i> [sklēr-ō-DĔR-mä], thickening and hardness of the skin
	scolio	crooked; bent	<i>scoliometer</i> [skō-lē-ÖM-ē-tēr], instrument for measuring curves
	scoto	darkness	<i>scotograph</i> [SKÖ-tō-grāf], appliance for helping the blind to write
➔	sidero	iron	<i>sideropenia</i> [SĪD-ēr-ō-PĔ-nē-ä] abnormally low level of iron in the blood
	sito	food; grain	<i>sitotoxin</i> [sī-tō-TÖK-sĭn], any food poison
	somat(o)	body	<i>somatogenic</i> [SÖ-mä-tō-JĔN-ĭk], originating in the body
	somn(o), somni	sleep	<i>somnambulism</i> [söm-NĀM-byū-lĭzm], sleepwalking
	sono	sound	<i>sonomotor</i> [sön-ō-MÖ-tēr], relating to movements caused by sound
	spasmo	spasm	<i>spasmolytic</i> [SPĀZ-mō-LĪT-ĭk], agent that relieves spasms
➔	spher(o)	round; spherical	<i>spherocyte</i> [SFĔR-ō-sīt], spherical red blood cell
➔	spir(o)	breath; breathe	<i>spiroscope</i> [SPĪ-rō-skōp], device for measuring lung capacity
➔	squamo	scale; squamous	<i>squamofrontal</i> [SKWĀ-mō-FRÖN-tāl], relating to the squamous part of the frontal bone



	COMBINING FORM	MEANING	EXAMPLE
	staphyl(o)	grapelike clusters	<i>staphylococcus</i> [STÄF-ĭ-lō-KÖK-ŭs], a common species that is the cause of a variety of infections
	steno	narrowness	<i>stenocephaly</i> [stĕn-ō-SĔF-ă-lĕ], narrowness of the head
➔	stere(o)	three-dimensional	<i>stereology</i> [STĚR-ē-ÖL-ō-jĕ], study of three-dimensional aspects of a cell
	strepto	twisted chains; streptococci	<i>streptococcus</i> [strĕp-tō-KÖK-ŭs], a common organism that can cause various infections
➔	styl(o)	peg-shaped	<i>styloid</i> [STĪ-lōyd], peg-shaped; said of a bony growth
➔	syring(o)	tube	<i>syringitis</i> [sĭ-rĭn-JĪ-tĭs], inflammation of the eustachian tube
➔	tel(o), tele(o)	distant; end; complete	<i>telophase</i> [TĚL-ō-fāz], final stages of mitosis or meiosis
➔	terato	monster (as a malformed fetus)	<i>teratogen</i> [TĚR-ă-tō-jĕn], agent that causes a malformed fetus
	therm(o)	heat	<i>thermometer</i> [thĕr-MÖM-ĕ-tĕr], an instrument for measuring temperature
	tono	tension; pressure	<i>tonometer</i> [tō-NÖM-ĕ-tĕr], instrument for measuring pressure
	top(o)	place; topical	<i>topography</i> [tō-PÖG-ră-fĕ], description of a body part in terms of a specific surface area
	tox(i), toxico, toxo	poison; toxin	<i>toxipathy</i> [tök-SĪP-ă-thĕ], disease due to poisoning
➔	tropho	food; nutrition	<i>trophocyte</i> [TRÖF-ō-sĭt], cell that provides nutrition
	vivi	life	<i>viviparous</i> [vĭ-VĪP-ă-rŭs], giving birth to living young
	xanth(o)	yellow	<i>xanthoderma</i> [zăn-thō-DĚR-mă], yellowish skin
	xeno	stranger	<i>xenophobia</i> [zĕn-ō-FÖ-bĕ-ă], extreme fear of strangers or foreigners
	xer(o)	dry	<i>xerasia</i> [zĕ-RĀ-zhĕ-ă], dry and brittle hair condition
	xiph(o)	sword; xiphoid	<i>xiphocostal</i> [ZĪF-ō-KÖS-tăł], relating to the xiphoid process and the ribs
	zo(o)	life	<i>zooblast</i> [ZÖ-ō-blăst], animal cell
	zym(o)	fermentation; enzyme	<i>zymogram</i> [ZĪ-mō-grăm], strips of paper for testing for location of enzymes

# Prefixes

- Prefixes are word parts that modify the meaning of the word or word root. They attach to the beginning of words.
- Prefixes tend to indicate size, quantity, position, presence of, and location.
- When trying to understand a word with a prefix, you can take apart the word, find the meaning of each part, and then determine the meaning of the entire word.

### List of prefixes

<b>dys-</b>	abnormal; difficult	<b>micro-</b>	small
<b>ect(o)-</b>	outside	<b>peri-</b>	around
<b>end(o)-</b>	within	<b>pre-</b>	before
<b>epi-</b>	over	<b>post-</b>	after
<b>hyper-</b>	above normal	<b>sub-</b>	less than, under, inferior
<b>hypo-</b>	below normal	<b>super-</b>	more than, above, superior
<b>inter-</b>	between	<b>supra-</b>	above, over
<b>intra-</b>	within	<b>tachy-</b>	fast
<b>mal-</b>	bad; inadequate	<b>ultra-</b>	beyond, excessive
<b>meg(a)-</b>	large	<b>un-</b>	not

PREFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
a-	without	<i>asepsis</i> [ā-SĚP-sīs], without living organisms
ab-, abs-	away from	<i>abduct</i> [āb-DŮKT], to draw away from a position
ad-	toward, to	<i>adduct</i> [ā-DŮKT], to draw toward the body, as a limb
ambi-	both, around	<i>ambidextrous</i> [ām-bē-DĚKS-trūs], having ability on both the right and left sides (said of the hands)
an-	without	<i>anencephalic</i> [ān-ēn-sě-FĀL-ĭk], without a brain
ana-	up, toward	<i>anaphylactic</i> [ĀN-ā-fi-LĀK-tĭk], exaggerated reaction to an antigen or toxin
ante-	before	<i>antemortem</i> [ĀN-tē-mōr-tēm], before death
anti-	against	<i>antibacterial</i> [ĀN-tē-bāk-TĚR-ē-āl], preventing the growth of bacteria
apo-	derived, separate	<i>apobiosis</i> [āp-ō-bī-Ō-sīs], death of a part of a living organism
aut(o)-	self	<i>autoimmune</i> [āw-tō-ĭ-MYŪN], against an individual's own tissue
bi-	twice, double	<i>biparous</i> [BĪP-ā-rūs], bearing two young
brachy-	short	<i>brachyoesophagus</i> [BRĀK-ē-ě-sōf-ā-gūs], abnormally short esophagus
brady-	slow	<i>bradycardia</i> [brād-ē-KĀR-dē-ā], abnormally slow heartbeat
cata-	down	<i>cataplexy</i> [KĀT-ā-plĕk-sē], sudden extreme muscle weakness
circum-	around	<i>circumoral</i> [sēr-kūm-ŌR-āl], around the mouth
co-, col-, com-, con-, cor-	together	<i>codominant</i> [kō-DŌM-ĭ-nānt], having an equal degree of dominance (said of two genes)
contra-	against	<i>contraindicated</i> [kōn-trā-ĭn-dĭ-KĀ-tĕd], not recommended
de-	away from	<i>demyelination</i> [dē-MĪ-ě-lĭ-NĀ-shŭn], loss of myelin
di-, dif-, dir-, dis-,	not, separated	<i>disarticulation</i> [dĭs-ār-tĭk-yū-LĀ-shŭn], amputation of a joint
dia-	through	<i>diaplacental</i> [dĭ-ā-plā-SĚN-tāl], passing through the placenta

PREFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
dys-	abnormal; difficult	<i>dysfunctional</i> [dĭs-FŪNK-shŭn-əl], functioning abnormally
ect(o)-	outside	<i>ectopic</i> [ĕk-TŌP-ĭk], occurring outside the normal place, as a pregnancy occurring outside of the uterus
end(o)-	within	<i>endoabdominal</i> [ĔN-dŏ-ăb-DŌM-ĭ-năl], within the abdomen
epi-	over	<i>epicondyle</i> [ĕp-ĭ-KŌN-dĭl], projection over or near the condyle
eu-	well, good, normal	<i>eupepsia</i> [yŭ-PĔP-sĕ-ă], normal digestion
ex-	out of, away from	<i>exhale</i> [ĔKS-hăl], breathe out
exo-	external, on the outside	<i>exogenous</i> [ĕks-Ō]-ĕ-nŭs], produced outside of the organism
extra-	without, outside of	<i>extracorporeal</i> [ĕks-tră-kŏr-PŌ-rĕ-ăl], outside of the body
hemi-	half	<i>hemiplegia</i> [hĕm-ĭ-PLĔ-jĕ-ă], paralysis on one side of the body
hyper-	above normal; overly	<i>hyperactive</i> [hĭ-pĕr-ĂK-tĭv], abnormally restless and inattentive
hypo-	below normal	<i>hypoglycemia</i> [hĭ-pŏ-glĭ-SĔ-mĕ-ă], low blood sugar
infra-	positioned beneath	<i>infrasternal</i> [ĭn-fră-STĔR-năl], below the sternum
inter-	between	<i>interdental</i> [ĭn-tĕr-DĔN-tăl], between the teeth
intra-	within	<i>intramuscular</i> [ĭN-tră-MŪS-kyŭ-lăr], within the substance of the muscles
iso-	equal, same	<i>isometric</i> [ĭ-sŏ-MĔT-rĭk], of the same dimensions
mal-	bad; inadequate	<i>malabsorption</i> [măl-ăb-SŌRP-shŭn], inadequate absorption
meg(a)-, megal(o)-	large	<i>megacephaly</i> [mĕg-ă-SĔF-ă-lĕ], abnormal enlargement of the head
mes(o)-	middle, median	<i>mesoderm</i> [MĔZ-ŏ-dĕrm], the middle layer of skin
meta-	after	<i>metacarpus</i> [MĔT-ă-KĂR-pŭs], bones attached to the carpus

PREFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
micr(o)-	small, microscopic	<i>microplasia</i> [mī-krō-PLĀ-zhē-ă], stunted growth, as in dwarfism
mon(o)-	single	<i>monomania</i> [mön-ō-MĀ-nē-ă], obsession with a single thought or idea
multi-	many	<i>multiarticular</i> [MŪL-tē-är-TĪK-yū-lär], involving many joints
olig(o)-	few; little; scanty	<i>oligospermia</i> [öl-ĭ-gō-SPĚR-mē-ă], low sperm count
pan-, pant(o)-	all, entire	<i>panarthritis</i> [pän-är-THRĪ-tĭs], arthritis involving all joints
par(a)-	beside; abnormal; involving two parts	<i>parakinesia</i> [pär-ă-kĭ-NĚ-zhē-ă], motor abnormality
per-	through, intensely	<i>peraxillary</i> [pēr-ĀK-sĭ-lār-ē], through the axilla
peri-	around, about, near	<i>periappendicitis</i> [PĚR-ē-ă-pĕn-dĭ-SĪ-tĭs], inflammation of the tissue surrounding the appendix
pluri-	several, more	<i>pluriglandular</i> [plū-rĭ-GLĀN-dū-lär], of several glands
poly-	many	<i>polyarteritis</i> [pöl-ē-är-tēr-Ī-tĭs], inflammation of a number of arteries
post-	after, following	<i>postmortem</i> [pöst-MÖR-tĕm], after death
pre-	before	<i>prenatal</i> [prē-NĀ-tăl], before birth
pro-	before, forward	<i>prodrome</i> [PRŌ-drŏm], a symptom or group of symptoms that occurs before a disease shows up
quadra-, quadri-	four	<i>quadriplegia</i> [kwäh-dri-PLĚ-jē-ă], paralysis of all four limbs
re-	again, backward	<i>reflux</i> [RĚ-flŭks], backward flow
retro-	behind, backward	<i>retroversion</i> [rĕ-trŏ-VĚR-shŭn], a turning backward, as of the uterus
semi-	half	<i>semicomatose</i> [sĕm-ē-KŌ-mă-tŏs], drowsy and inactive, but not in a full coma
sub-	less than, under, inferior	<i>subcutaneous</i> [süb-kyū-TĀ-nē-ŭs], beneath the skin
super-	more than, above, superior	<i>supercute</i> [sū-pĕr-ă-KYŪT], more acute
supra-	above, over	<i>supramaxillary</i> [sū-pră-MĀK-sĭ-lār-ē], above the maxilla

PREFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
syl-, sym-, syn-, sys-	together	<i>symbiosis</i> [šim-bē-Ō-sīs], mutual interdependence
tachy-	fast	<i>tachycardia</i> [TĂK-i-KAR-de-a], rapid heartbeat
trans-	across, through	<i>transocular</i> [trăns-ŎK-yū-lăr], across the eye
ultra-	beyond, excessive	<i>ultrasonic</i> [ül-tră-SŎN-ĭk], relating to energy waves of higher frequency than sound waves
un-	not	<i>unconscious</i> [ün-KŎN-shūs], not conscious
uni-	one	<i>uniglandular</i> [yū-nĭ-GLĂN-dū-lăr], involving only one gland

# Suffixes

- Suffixes can also be combining forms at the end of terms.
- Many suffixes have several variations that can make the compound word a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb.
- **Some suffixes form both verbs and nouns so it may be important to look at the sentence in which it appears to determine the exact meaning.**



# Suffixes

- For example, **hemorrhage** can mean both “to bleed profusely” (verb) or “profuse bleeding” (noun).
- In the sentence, “It is possible to **hemorrhage** profusely from certain injuries,” **hemorrhage** is a verb.
- In the sentence, “The **hemorrhage** was caused by an injury to his leg,” hemorrhage is a noun.

## List of suffixes

<b>-algia</b>	pain	<b>-ism</b>	condition, disease
<b>-asthenia</b>	weakness	<b>-itis</b>	inflammation
<b>-blast</b>	immature, forming	<b>-kinesia</b>	movement
<b>-cide</b>	destroying, killing	<b>-logy</b>	study of, practice
<b>-crine</b>	secreting	<b>-lysis</b>	destruction of
<b>-cyte</b>	cell	<b>-megaly</b>	enlargement
<b>-derma</b>	skin	<b>-oid</b>	like, resembling
<b>-dynia</b>	pain	<b>-oma</b>	tumour
<b>-edema</b>	swelling	<b>-pathy</b>	disease
<b>-ema</b>	condition	<b>-penia</b>	deficiency
<b>-emia</b>	blood	<b>-plegia</b>	paralysis
<b>-esthesia</b>	sensation	<b>-rrhea</b>	flowing
<b>-form</b>	in the shape of	<b>-spasm</b>	contraction
<b>-gen</b>	producing	<b>-stenosis</b>	narrowing
<b>-ic</b>	pertaining to	<b>-uria</b>	urine

SUFFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
-ad	toward	<i>cephalad</i> [SĔF-ă-lăd], toward the head
-algia	pain	<i>neuralgia</i> [nū-RĀL-jē-ă], nerve pain
-asthenia	weakness	<i>neurasthenia</i> [nūr-ăs-THĔ-nē-ă], condition with vague symptoms, such as weakness
-blast	immature, forming	<i>astroblast</i> [ĂS-trō-blăst], immature cell
-cele	hernia	<i>cystocele</i> [SĪS-tō-sēl], hernia of the urinary bladder
-cidal	destroying, killing	<i>suicidal</i> [sū-ĭ-SĪD-ăl], likely to kill oneself
-cide	destroying, killing	<i>suicide</i> [SŪ-ĭ-sĭd], killing of oneself; <i>bacteriocide</i> [băk-TĒR-ē-ō-sĭd], agent that destroys bacteria

SUFFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
-clasis	breaking	<i>osteoclasia</i> [ŎS-tē-ŎK-lā-sīs], intentional breaking of a bone
-clast	breaking instrument	<i>osteoclast</i> [ŎS-tē-ŏ-klāst], instrument used in osteoclasia
-crine	secreting	<i>endocrine</i> [ĚN-dŏ-křin], gland that secretes hormones into the bloodstream
-crit	separate	<i>hematocrit</i> [HĚ-mā-tŏ-křit, HĚM-ā-to-křit], percentage of volume of a blood sample that is composed of cells
-cyte	cell	<i>thrombocyte</i> [THRŎM-bŏ-sīt], blood platelet
-cytosis	condition of cells	<i>erythrocytosis</i> [ě-RĪTH-rŏ-sī-tŏ-sīs], condition with an abnormal number of red blood cells in the blood
-derma	skin	<i>scleroderma</i> [sklĕr-ŏ-DĚR-mā], hardening of the skin
-desis	binding	<i>arthrodesis</i> [ār-THRŎD-ě-sīs, ār-thrŏ-DĚ-sīs], stiffening of a joint
-dynia	pain	<i>neurodynia</i> [nūr-ŏ-DĪN-ě-ā], nerve pain
-ectasia	expansion; dilation	<i>neur ectasia</i> [nūr-ěk-TĀ-zhě-ā], operation with dilation of a nerve
-ectasis	expanding; dilating	<i>bronchiectasis</i> [brŏng-kĕ-ĚK-tā-sīs], condition with chronic dilation of the bronchi
-ectomy	removal of	<i>appendectomy</i> [āp-ěn-DĚK-tŏ-mĕ], removal of the appendix
-edema	swelling	<i>lymph edema</i> [lĭmf-ě-DĚ-mā], swelling as a result of obstructed lymph nodes
-ema	condition	<i>empyema</i> [ěm-pĭ-Ě-mā], pus in a body cavity
-emesis	vomiting	<i>hematemesis</i> [hĕ-mā-TĚM-ě-sīs], vomiting of blood
-emia	blood	<i>anemia</i> [an-N-mĕ-ā], deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin
-emic	relating to blood	<i>uremic</i> [yū-RĚ-mĭk], having excess urea in the blood
-esthesia	sensation	<i>paresthesia</i> [pār-ěs-THĚ-zhě-ā], abnormal sensation, such as tingling
-form	in the shape of	<i>uniform</i> [YŪ-nĭ-fŏrm], having the same shape throughout
-gen	producing, coming to be	<i>carcinogen</i> [kār-SĪN-ŏ-jĕn], cancer-causing agent
-genesis	production of	<i>pathogenesis</i> [pāth-ŏ-JĚN-ě-sīs], production of disease
-genic	producing	<i>iatrogenic</i> [ĭ-āt-rŏ-JĚN-ĭk], induced by treatment

SUFFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
-globin	protein	<i>hemoglobin</i> [hē-mō-GLŎ-bĭn], protein of red blood cells
-globulin	protein	<i>immunoglobulin</i> [ĭm-yū-nō-GLŎB-yū-lĭn], one of certain structurally related proteins
-gram	a recording	<i>electrocardiogram</i> [e-LEK-tro-kar-de-grām], brain scan
-graph	recording instrument	<i>encephalograph</i> [ĕn-SĔF-ă-lŏ-grăf], instrument for measuring brain activity
-graphy	process of recording	<i>echocardiography</i> [ĔK-ŏ-kăr-dĕ-ŎG-ră-fĕ], graphic record of the electric activity of the heart
-iasis	pathological condition or state	<i>psoriasis</i> [sŏ-RĪ-ă-sĭs], chronic skin disease
-ic	pertaining to	<i>gastric</i> [GĂS-trĭk], relating to the stomach
-ics	treatment, practice, body of knowledge	<i>orthopedics</i> [ŏr-thŏ-PĔ-dĭks], medical-practice concerned with treatment of skeletal disorders
-ism	condition, disease, doctrine	<i>dwarfism</i> [DWŎRF-ĭzm], condition characterized by abnormally small size
-itis (pl., -itides)	inflammation	<i>nephritis</i> [nĕ-FRĪ-tĭs], kidney inflammation; <i>neuritides</i> [nū-RĪT-ĭ-dĕz], inflammations of nerves
-kinesia	movement	<i>bradykinesia</i> [brăd-ĭ-kĭn-Ē-zhĕ-ă], decrease in movement
-kinesis	movement	<i>hyperkinesis</i> [hĭ-pĕr-kĭ-NE-sĭs], excessive muscular movement
-lepsy	condition of	<i>catalepsy</i> [KĂT-ă-lĕp-sĕ], condition characterized by seizures of extreme rigidity
-leptic	having seizures	<i>cataleptic</i> [kăt-ă-LĔP-tĭk], person with catalepsy
-logist	one who practices	<i>dermatologist</i> [dĕr-mă-TŎL-ŏ-jĭst], one who practices dermatology
-logy	study, practice	<i>dermatology</i> [dĕr-mă-TŎL-ŏ-jĕ], study and treatment of skin disorders
-lysis	destruction of	<i>electrolysis</i> [ĕ-lĕk-TRŎL-ĭ-sĭs], permanent removal of unwanted hair
-lytic	destroying	<i>thrombolytic</i> [thrŏm-bŏ-LĪT-ĭk], dissolving a thrombus
-malacia	softening	<i>osteomalacia</i> [ŎS-tĕ-ŏ-mă-LĂ-shĕ-ă], gradual softening of bone
-mania	obsession	<i>monomania</i> [mŏn-ŏ-MĂ-nĕ-ă], obsession with one idea
-megaly	enlargement	<i>cephalomegaly</i> [SĔF-ă-lŏ-MĔG-ă-lĕ], abnormal enlargement of the head
-meter	measuring device	<i>ophthalmometer</i> [ŏf-thăl-MŎM-ĕ-tĕr], device for measuring cornea curvature

SUFFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
-metry	measurement	<i>optometry</i> [öp-TÖM-ě-trē], specialty concerned with measurement of eye function
-oid	like, resembling	<i>cardioid</i> [KĀR-dē-öyd], resembling a heart
-oma (pl., -omata)	tumor, neoplasm	<i>myoma</i> (pl., <i>myomata</i> ) [mī-Ō-mă (mī-ō-MĀ-tă)], neoplasm of muscle tissue
-opia	vision	<i>diplopia</i> [dī-PLŌ-pē-ă], double vision
-opsia	vision	<i>chloropsia</i> [klō-RŌP-sē-ă], condition of seeing objects as green
-opsy	view of	<i>biopsy</i> [BĪ-öp-sē], cutting from living tissue to be viewed
-osis (pl., -oses)	condition, state, process	<i>halitosis</i> [hăl-ĭ-TŌ-sĭs], chronic bad breath
-ostomy	opening	<i>colostomy</i> [kō-LŌS-tō-mē], surgical opening in the colon
-oxia	oxygen	<i>anoxia</i> [ăn-ŌK-sē-ă], lack of oxygen
-para	bearing	<i>primipara</i> [prĭ-MĪP-ăr-ă], woman who has given birth once
-paresis	slight paralysis	<i>monoparesis</i> [mön-ō-pă-RĒ-sĭs], paralysis of only one extremity
-parous	producing; bearing	<i>viviparous</i> [vĭ-VĪP-ă-rūs], bearing living young
-pathy	disease	<i>osteopathy</i> [ös-tē-ŌP-ă-thē], bone disease
-penia	deficiency	<i>leukopenia</i> [lū-kō-PĒ-nē-ă], condition with fewer than normal white blood cells
-pepsia	digestion	<i>dyspepsia</i> [dĭs-PĔP-sē-ă], impaired digestion
-pexy	fixation, usually done surgically	<i>nephropexy</i> [NĚF-rō-pĕk-sē], surgical fixation of a floating kidney
-phage, -phagia, -phagy	eating, devouring	<i>polyphagia</i> [pöl-ē-FĀ-jē-ă], excessive eating
-phasia	speaking	<i>aphasia</i> [ă-FĀ-zhē-ă], loss of or reduction in speaking ability
-pheresis	removal	<i>leukapheresis</i> [lū-kă-fē-RĒ-sĭs], removal of leukocytes from drawn blood
-phil	attraction; affinity for	<i>cyanophil</i> [SI-ăn-nō-fĭl], element that turns blue after staining
-philia	attraction; affinity for	<i>hemophilia</i> [hē-mō-FĪL-ē-ă], blood disorder with tendency to hemorrhage
-phobia	fear	<i>acrophobia</i> [ăk-rō-FŌ-bē-ă], fear of heights
-phonia	sound	<i>neuraphonia</i> [nūr-ă-FŌ-nē-ă], loss of sounds
-phoresis	carrying	<i>electrophoresis</i> [ē-lĕk-trō-FŌR-ē-sĭs], movement of particles in an electric field

SUFFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
-phoria	feeling; carrying	<i>euphoria</i> [yū-FÖR-ē-ă], feeling of well-being
-phrenia	of the mind	<i>schizophrenia</i> [skiz-ō-FRĚ-nē-ă, skit-sō-FRĚ-nē-ă], term for a common psychosis
-phthisis	wasting away	<i>hemophthisis</i> [hē-MÖF-thī-sis], anemia
-phylaxis	protection	<i>prophylaxis</i> [prō-fī-LĂK-sis], prevention of disease
-physis	growing	<i>epiphysis</i> [ĕ-PĪF-ī-sis], part of a long bone distinct from and growing out of the shaft
-plakia	plaque	<i>leukoplakia</i> [lū-kō-PLĀ-kē-ă], white patch on the mucous membrane
-plasia	formation	<i>dysplasia</i> [dīs-PLĀ-zhē-ă], abnormal tissue formation
-plasm	formation	<i>protoplasm</i> [PRŌ-tō-plāzm], living matter
-plastic	forming	<i>hemoplastic</i> [hē-mō-PLĀS-tik], forming new blood cells
-plasty	surgical repair	<i>rhinoplasty</i> [RĪ-nō-plās-tē], plastic surgery of the nose
-plegia	paralysis	<i>quadriplegia</i> [KWĀH-dri-PLĚ-jē-ă], paralysis of all four limbs
-plegic	one who is paralyzed	<i>quadriplegic</i> [kwāh-dri-PLĚ-jik], person who has quadriplegia
-pnea	breath	<i>eupnea</i> [yūp-NĚ-ă], easy, normal respiration
-poiesis	formation	<i>erythropoiesis</i> [ĕ-RĪTH-rō-pöy-Ē-sis], formation of red blood cells
-poietic	forming	<i>erythropoietic</i> [ĕ-RĪTH-rō-pöy-ĕt-ik], of the formation of red blood cells
-poietin	one that forms	<i>erythropoietin</i> [ĕ-RĪTH-rō-pöy-ĕ-tin], an acid that aids in the formation of red blood cells
-porosis	lessening in density	<i>osteoporosis</i> [ŌS-tē-ō-pō-RŌ-sis], lessening of bone density
-ptosis	falling down; drooping	<i>blepharoptosis</i> [blĕf-ă-RŌP-tō-sis], drooping eyelid
-rrhage	discharging heavily	<i>hemorrhage</i> [HĚM-ō-răj], to bleed profusely
-rrhagia	heavy discharge	<i>tracheorrhagia</i> [trā-kē-ō-RĀ-jē-ă], hemorrhage from the trachea
-rrhaphy	surgical suturing	<i>herniorrhaphy</i> [HĚR-nē-ŌR-ă-fē], surgical repair of a hernia
-rrhea	a flowing, a flux	<i>dysmenorrhea</i> [dīs-mĕn-ŌR-ē-ă], difficult menstrual flow

SUFFIXES	MEANING	EXAMPLE
-rrhexis	rupture	<i>cardiorrhexis</i> [kär-dē-ō-RĚK-sis], rupture of the heart wall
-schisis	splitting	<i>spondyloschisis</i> [spön-dĭ-LÖS-kĭ-sis], failure of fusion of the vertebral arch in an embryo
-scope	instrument (especially one used for observing or measuring)	<i>microscope</i> [Mĭ-krō-skōp], instrument for viewing small objects
-scopy	use of an instrument for observing	<i>microscopy</i> [mĭ-KRÖS-kō-pē], use of microscopes
-somnia	sleep	<i>insomnia</i> [ĭn-SÖM-nē-ă], inability to sleep
-spasm	contraction	<i>esophagospasm</i> [ě-SÖF-ă-gō-spăzm], spasm of the walls of the esophagus
-stalsis	contraction	<i>peristalsis</i> [pěr-ĭ-STĀL-sis], movement of the intestines by contraction and relaxation of its tube
-stasis	stopping; constant	<i>homeostasis</i> [HÖ-mē-ō-STĀ-sis], state of equilibrium in the body
-stat	agent to maintain a state	<i>bacteriostat</i> [bäk-TĚR-ē-ō-stăt], agent that inhibits bacterial growth
-static	maintaining a state	<i>hemostatic</i> [hē-mō-STĀT-ĭk], stopping blood flow within a vessel
-stenosis	narrowing	<i>stenostenosis</i> [STĚN-ō-stě-NÖ-sis], narrowing of the parotid duct
-stomy	opening	<i>colostomy</i> [kō-LÖS-tō-mē], surgical opening in the colon
-tome	cutting instrument, segment	<i>osteotome</i> [ÖS-tē-ō-tōm], instrument for cutting bone
-tomy	cutting operation	<i>laparotomy</i> [LĀP-ă-RÖT-ō-mē], incision in the abdomen
-trophic	nutritional	<i>atrophic</i> [ā-TRÖF-ĭk], of a wasting state, often due to malnutrition
-trophy	nutrition	<i>dystrophy</i> [DĭS-trō-fē], changes that result from inadequate nutrition
-tropia	turning	<i>esotropia</i> [ěs-ō-TRÖ-pē-ă], crossed eyes
-tropic	turning toward	<i>neurotropic</i> [nūr-ō-TRÖP-ĭk], localizing in nerve tissue
-tropy	condition of turning toward	<i>neurotropy</i> [nūr-ÖT-rō-pē], affinity of certain contrast mediums for nervous tissue
-uria	urine	<i>pyuria</i> [pĭ-YŪ-rē-ă], pus in the urine
-version	turning	<i>retroversion</i> [rě-trō-VĚR-zhŭn], a turning backward (said of the uterus)



# Test yourself

1. osteo myel itis  
(bone) (inflammation)
2. Endo cardio graphy  
(within) (visual examining)
3. Synd dactyly  
(together)
4. Ultra violet  
(beyond)
5. Hyper sensitive  
(overly)
6. entero patho genic  
(disease) (causing)
7. Hypo dermic  
(beneath)

8. Hypno therapy  
(sleep)
9. Syno ost sis  
(together) (condition)
10. Supra tonsillar  
(above)
11. Hemi cranio tomy  
(half) (cutting)
12. Geronto phobia  
(old people) (fear)
13. Intra glandular  
(within)
14. Leuko blast  
(white)

# Plurals:

The rules commonly used to form plurals of medical terms are as follows:

For words ending in **a**, retain the **a** and add **e**. Examples: bursa: bursae; vertebra vertebrae

For words ending in **is**, drop the **is** and add **es**. Examples: anastomosis: anastomoses; epiphysis: epiphyses; metastasis: metastases.

For words ending in **ex** and **ix**, drop the **ex** or **ix** and add **ices**. Example: apex: apices.

# Plurals:

The rules commonly used to form plurals of medical terms are as follows:

For words ending in **on**, drop the on and add **a**. Examples:  
ganglion: ganglia;  
spermatozoon: spermatozoa.

For words ending in **um**, drop the um and add **a**. Examples:  
bacterium bacteria;  
diverticulum diverticula; ovum  
ova

# Plurals:

The rules commonly used to form plurals of medical terms are as follows:

For words ending in **us**, drop the **us** and add **i**. Examples: bronchus bronchi; nucleus nuclei. Two exceptions to this rule are viruses and sinuses.

Additional rules are used to form plurals in other word families. Examples: anomaly anomalies; biopsy biopsies; femur femora; foramen foramina; iris irides; phalanx phalanges; thorax thoraces.

Thank You

