Bio Root Words

Some Prefixes and Suffixes Commonly Used in Biology

**a - without, not - asexual, atypical**

**ab - away from - aboral, abnormal**

**acro - tip - acrosome, acromegaly**

**ad - toward - adoral, adductor**

**algia - pain - neuralgia, analgesic**

**amphi - both - amphiaster, amphibian**

**anti - against - antibiotic, antitoxin**

**aqua - water - aquatic, aqueous**

**arch - old, first - archenteron, archeology**

**arthro - joint - arthropod, arthritis**

**-ase- enzyme- helicase, ligase**

**auto - self - autonomy,autopsy**

**bi - twice - biceps, bilateral**

**bio - life - biology, abiogenesis**

**blast - primitive - blastula, blastocoele**

**calci - lime - calciferous, calcium**

**carcino- cancer- carcinogen, carcinoma**

**cardi - heart - pericardium, cardiac**

**cephalo - head - cephalic, cephalothorax**

**chroma - color - chromatophore, chromosome**

**coele - hollow - blastocoele, coelom**

**corp - body - corpuscle, corpulent**

**dactyl - finger - polydactylous, pterodactyl**

**dia - through - diaphragm, dialysis**

**de - away - defacate - decerebrate**

**derma - skin - dermis, endoderm**

**diplo - two - diploblastic, diploid**

**ecto - outer - ectoplasma, ectoderm**

**emia - infection - leukemia, uremia**

**endo - inner - endoplasm, endoderm**

**entero - intestine - enterokinase, coelenteron**

**epi - above - epidermis, epithelium**

**erythro - red - erythrocyte, erythema**

**exo - outer - exoskeleton, expiration**

**fero - to carry - calciferous, odoriferous**

**fibra - thread - myofibril, fibrinogen**

**fili - thread - filigorm, filarial**

**fissur - split - fission, fissure**

**fore - in front of - forelimb, fore rain**

**gastro - stomach - gastrovascular, epigastric**

**gen - origin - genetics, abiogenesis**

**gest - to produce - gestation, progesterone**

**gly - sugar - glycogen, hypoglycemia –can also see as glu**

**hemo - blood - hemoglobin, hemophilia**

**hepa - liver - hepatic, hepatitis**

**hetero - different - heterogamete**

**histo - tissue - histology, histoplasmosis**

**holo - whole - holozoic, holophytic**

**homo - same - homozygous, homology**

**hydro - water - hydrozoa, hydranth**

**hyper - above, excess - hypertension, hypertrophy**

**hypo - below - hypostome, hypophysis**

**iasis - infestation - ascariasis, filariasis**

**in - not - invertebrate, inorganic**

**-in- protein- actin, myosin**

**inter - between - intercellular, interphase**

**intra - within - intracellular, intravenous**

**iso - similar - isogamete, isotonic**

**itis - inflammation - nephritis, appendicitis**

**lat - side - bilateral, latissimus**

**leuco - white - leucocyte, leukemia**

**lip - fat - lipase, lipoid**

**logos - study, discourse - zoology, entomology**

**lysis - dissolving - plasmolysis, histolysis**

**macro - large - macronucleus, macroscopic**

**meso - middle - mesoderm, mesenchyme**

**mega - big - megakaryocyte, acromegaly**

**meta - after - metaphase, metazoa**

**micro - small - microscope, micronucleus**

**mito - thread - mitosis, mitochondria**

**monos - one - monoscious, monogamous**

**morpho - form - morphology, amorphous**

**muta - change - mutation, mutant**

**myo - muscle - myology, perimysium**

**nephros - kidney - nephrestome, protonephridia**

**not - back notochord, pronotum**

**oid - similar to - arachnoid, cretinoid**

**ortho - straight - orthogenesis, orthopteran**

**-ose- sugar- glucose, sucrose**

**ous - having - biramous, homozygous**

**para - beside - parathyroid, parasite**

**peri - around - periosteum, pericardium**

**phore - to bear – mastagophoren, chromatophore**

**plasm - formed - protoplasm, plasmolysis**

**pneumo - lung - pneumatophore, pneumonia**

**poly - many - polychaete, polyambrony**

**pod - foot - pseudopodia, gastropod**

**pro - before - prothorax, prophase**

**pseudo - false - pseudopodium, pseudocoele**

**ptera - wing - deptera, pterodactyl**

**re - again - reproduce, regenerate**

**ren - kidney - renal, adrenal**

**soma - body - chromosome, sytosome**

**sub - under - submaxillary, sublingual**

**supra - over - suprarenal, suprabranchial**

**syn - together - synapse, syncytium**

**tarso - ankle - tarsal, metatarsus**

**ta - to have - ciliata, vertebrata**

**tele - last - telephase, telencephalon**

**tri- triplo - triple - triploblastic, triploid**

**vas - vessel - vas deferens, vascular**

**vita - life - vitamins, vital**

**zoos - animal - protozoan, zoology**