

# ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

## WORD ROOTS, PREFIXES, SUFFIXES, & COMBINING FORMS

### PREFIXES

**a-, an-** *absence, lack* anaerobic (in the absence of oxygen)  
**ab-** *departing from* abnormal  
**acou-** *hearing* acoustics (the science of sound)  
**ac-, acro-** *extreme, extremity, peak* acrodermatitis (inflammation of the skin of the extremities)  
**ad-** *to, toward* adorbital (toward the orbit)  
**aden-, adeno-** *gland* adeniform (resembling a gland in shape)  
**adren-** *toward the kidney* adrenal gland, located adjacent to the kidney  
**aero-** *air* aerobic respiration  
**af-** *toward* afferent neurons, which carry impulses to CNS  
**agon-** *contest* agonistic and antagonistic muscles  
**alb-** *white* corpus albicans of the ovary (white scar tissue)  
**aliment-** *nourish* alimentary canal (digestive tract)  
**allel-** *of one another* alleles (alternative gene expressions)  
**amphi-** *both, on two sides* amphibian (living both in water and on land)  
**ana-** *apart, up, again* anaphase (phase of mitosis in which chromosomes separate)  
**anastomos-** *come together* arteriovenous anastomosis (connection between an artery and a vein)  
**angi-** *vessel* angiitis (inflammation of a lymph or blood vessel)  
**angin-** *choked* angina pectoris (choked feeling in the chest)  
**ant-, anti-** *opposed to, inhibiting* anticoagulant (substance that prevents blood coagulation)  
**ante-** *preceding, before* antecubital (in front of the elbow)  
**aort-** *great artery* aorta of the heart  
**ap-, api-** *tip, extremity* apex of the heart  
**append-** *hang* appendicular skeleton  
**aqua-, aque-** *water* aqueous solution  
**areola-** *open space* areolar connective tissue  
**arrect-** *upright* arrector pilli muscles, which make hairs stand erect  
**arthr-, arthro-** *joint* arthropathy (any joint disease)  
**artic-** *joint* articular surfaces of bones (connection points)  
**atri-** *vestibule* atria (upper chambers of the heart)  
**auscult-** *listen* auscultatory method for measuring blood pressure  
**aut-, auto-** *self* autogeneous (self-generated)  
**ax-, axi-, axo-** *axis, axle* axial skeleton  
**azyg-** *unpaired* azygous organ (unpaired structure)  
**baro-** *pressure* baroreceptors, which monitor blood pressure  
**bi-** *two* bicuspid (having two cusps)  
**bili-** *bile* bilirubin (a bile pigment)  
**bio-** *life* biology (study of life)  
**blast-** *bud, germ* blastocyte (undifferentiated embryonic cell)  
**brachi-** *arm* brachial plexus of PNS supplies the arm  
**brady-** *slow* bradycardia (abnormally slow heart rate)  
**brev-** *short* fibularis brevis (a short leg muscle)  
**broncho-** *bronchus* bronchospasm (spasmodic contraction of bronchial muscle)  
**bucco-** *cheek* buccolabial (pertaining to cheek and lip)  
**calor-** *heat* calories (unit of energy)  
**capill-** *hair* capillaries (smallest blood vessels)  
**caput-** *head* decapitate (to remove the head)  
**carcin-** *cancer* carcinogenic (causes cancer)  
**cardi-, cardio-** *heart* cardiotoxic (harmful to the heart)  
**carneo-** *flesh* trabeculae carnae (muscle ridges in the ventricles of the heart)  
**carot-** *carrot* carotene (orange pigment)  
**carot-** *stupor* carotid artery, blockage of which causes fainting)  
**cata-** *down* catabolism (chemical breakdown)  
**caud-** *tail* caudal (directional term)  
**cec-** *blind* cecum of large intestine, which is a blind-ended pouch  
**cele-** *abdominal* celiac artery, located in the abdomen  
**cephal-** *head* cephalometer (instrument that measures the head)

**cerebro-** *brain (esp. cerebrum)* cerebrospinal (of the brain and spinal cord)  
**cervic-** *neck* cervical (of the cervix)  
**chiasm-** *crossing* optic chiasma (the point where optic nerves cross)  
**chole-** *bile* cholecystokinin (a bile-secreting hormone)  
**chondr-** *cartilage* chondrogenic (giving rise to cartilage)  
**chrom-** *colored* chromosomes, which stain darkly  
**cili-** *small hair* ciliated epithelium  
**circum-** *around* circumnuclear (surrounding the nucleus)  
**clavic-** *key* clavicle (a "skeleton key")  
**co-, con-** *together* concentric  
**coccy-** *cuckoo* coccyx, which is beak-shaped  
**coel-** *hollow* coelom (the ventral body cavity)  
**commis-** *united* commissures (connections between the two hemispheres of the brain)  
**contra-** *against, opposite* contraceptive (preventing conception)  
**corn-, cornu-** *horn* stratum corneum (the outer layer of the skin)  
**corp-** *body* corpse  
**cort-** *bark* cortex (the outer layer of the brain and kidney)  
**cost-** *rib* intercostal (between the ribs)  
**crani-** *skull* craniotomy (skull operation)  
**crypt-** *hidden* cryptorchidism (non-descent of the testes)  
**cuspid-** *pointed* bicuspid valves of the heart  
**cutic-** *skin* cuticle of the nail  
**cyan-** *blue* cyanosis (blue skin color due to lack of oxygen)  
**cyst-** *sac, bladder* cystitis (inflammation of urinary bladder)  
**cyt-** *cell* cytology (study of the cell)  
**de-** *reversal, loss* deactivation  
**decid-** *falling off* deciduous (milk) teeth  
**den-, dent-** *tooth* dentin of the tooth  
**dendr-** *tree, branch* dendrites (branches of the neuron)  
**derm-** *skin* dermis (the deep layer of skin)  
**desm-** *bond* desmosome, which binds adjacent epithelial cells  
**di-** *twice, double* dimorphic (having two forms)  
**dia-** *through, between* diaphragm (wall between two areas)  
**dialys-** *separate, break apart* kidney dialysis, in which waste is removed from the blood  
**diastol-** *stand apart* cardiac diastole (the space between successive contractions of the heart)  
**diure-** *urinate* diuretic (drug that increases urine output)  
**dors-** *the back* dorsal, dorsum  
**duc-, duct-** *lead, draw* ductus deferens (the tube that carries sperm into the urethra)  
**dys-** *difficult, faulty* dyspepsia (disturbed digestion)  
**ec-, ex-, ecto-** *out, outside* excrete (to remove from the body)  
**ectop-** *displaced* ectopic pregnancy, which occurs outside of the uterus  
**edem-** *swelling* edema (accumulation of water in body tissues)  
**ef-** *away* efferent nerve fibers, which carry impulses away from CNS  
**ejac-** *to shoot forth* ejaculation of semen  
**embol-** *wedge* embolus (obstructive object in bloodstream)  
**en-, em-** *in, inside* encysted (enclosed in cyst or capsule)  
**enceph-** *brain* encephalitis (inflammation of the brain)  
**endo-** *within, inner* endocytosis (taking of particles into a cell)  
**entero-** *intestine* enterologist (one who studies intestinal disorders)  
**epi-** *over, above* epidermis (the outer layer of skin)  
**erythr-** *red* erythrocyte (red blood cell)  
**eso-** *within* esophagus  
**eu-** *well* eusthesia (normal state of the senses)  
**excret-** *separate* excretory system  
**exo-** *outside, outer layer* exophthalmos (abnormal protrusion of the eye from the orbit)  
**extra-** *outside, beyond* extracellular (outside the cell)

**extrins-** *from the outside* extrinsic regulation of the heart  
**fasci-, fascia-** *bundle, band* superficial and deep fascia  
**fenestr-** *window* fenestrated capillaries  
**ferr-** *iron* ferritin (an iron storage protein)  
**flagell-** *whip* flagellum (tail of a sperm cell)  
**flat-** *blow, blown* flatulence  
**folli-** *bag, bellows* hair follicle  
**fontan-** *fountain* fontanelles of the fetal skull  
**foram-** *opening* foramen magnum of the skull  
**foss-** *ditch* fossa ovalis of the heart  
**gam-, gamet-** *married, spouse* gametes (sex cells)  
**gangli-** *swelling, knot* dorsal root ganglia of the spinal nerves  
**gastr-** *stomach* gastrin (a hormone related to gastric acid secretion)  
**germin-** *grow* germinal epithelium of the gonads  
**gero-, geront-** *old man* gerontology (study of aging)  
**gest-** *carried* gestation (the period between conception and birth)  
**glauc-** *gray* glaucoma, which causes gradual blindness  
**glom-** *ball* glomeruli (capillary clusters in the kidneys)  
**glosso-** *tongue* glossopathy (any disease of the tongue)  
**gluco-, glyco-** *sweet* glycolysis (breakdown of glucose)  
**glute-** *buttock* gluteus maximus (largest buttock muscle)  
**gnost-** *knowing* gnostic sense (awareness of self)  
**gompho-** *nail* gomphosis (joint between tooth and jaw)  
**gon-, gono-** *seed, offspring* gonads (the sex organs)  
**gust-** *taste* gustatory sense (sense of taste)  
**hapt-** *fasten, grasp* happen (a partial antigen)  
**hema-, hemo-** *blood* hematoma (mass of clotted blood)  
**hemato-** *blood* hematocyst (cyst containing blood)  
**hemi-** *half* hemiglossal (pertaining to one half of the tongue)  
**hepta-** *liver* hepatitis (inflammation of the liver)  
**hetero-** *different, other* heterogeneous  
**hiat-** *gap* hiatus of the diaphragm (opening for esophagus)  
**hippo-** *horse* hippocampus of the brain, which is shaped like a seahorse  
**hirsut-** *hairy* hirsutism (excessive body hair)  
**hist-** *tissue* histology (study of tissues)  
**holo-** *whole* holocrine glands, whose secretions are whole cells  
**hom-, homo-** *same* homocentric (having the same center)  
**hormon-** *to excite* hormones  
**humor-** *a fluid* humoral immunity (immunity via antibodies in body fluids)  
**hyal-** *glass, clear* hyaline cartilage, which has no visible fibers  
**hydr-, hydro-** *water* dehydration (loss of body water)  
**hyper-** *excess* hypertension (excessive tension)  
**hypno-** *sleep* hypnosis (sleep-like state)  
**hyster-, hystero-** *uterus, womb* hysterectomy (removal of the uterus)  
**ile-** *intestine* ileum (last portion of the small intestine)  
**im-** *not impermeable* (not permeable)  
**inter-** *between* intercellular (between cells)  
**intercal-** *insert* intercalated discs (connections between heart muscle cells)  
**intra-** *within, inside* intracellular (inside the cell)  
**iso-** *equal, same* isothermal (at the same temperature)  
**jugul-** *throat* jugular veins  
**juxta-** *near, close to* juxtaglomerular complex (cell cluster next to a glomerulus)  
**karyo-** *kernel, nucleus* karyotype (assemblage of nuclear chromosomes)  
**kera-** *horn* keratin (water-repellent protein of the skin)  
**kilo-** *thousand* kilocalorie (one thousand calories)  
**kin-, kines-** *move* kinetic energy  
**labi-, labri-** *lip* labial frenulum (membrane joining lip to gum)  
**lact-** *milk* lactose (milk sugar)  
**lacun-** *space, cavity, lake* lacunae (spaces occupied by cartilage and bone cells)  
**lamell-** *small plate* concentric lamellae (bone matrix rings in compact bone)  
**lat-** *wide* latissimus dorsi (a broad back muscle)  
**laten-** *hidden* latent period of a muscle twitch  
**later-** *side* lateral (directional term)  
**leuko-** *white* leukocyte (white blood cell)  
**leva-** *raise, elevate* levator labii superioris (muscles that elevates the upper lip)  
**lingua-** *tongue* lingual tonsil, which is adjacent to the tongue  
**lip-, lipo-** *fat, lipid* lipophagy (cell with fat in its cytoplasm)  
**lith-** *stone* cholelithiasis (gallstones)  
**luci-** *clear* stratum lucidum (clear layer of the epidermis)  
**lut-** *yellow* corpus luteum (yellow, hormone-secreting structure in the ovary)  
**macro-** *large* macromolecule (large molecule)  
**magn-** *large* foramen magnum (largest opening of the skull)  
**mal-** *bad, abnormal* malfunction (abnormal functioning of an organ)  
**mamm-** *breast* mammary gland  
**mast-** *breast* mastectomy (removal of a mammary gland)  
**meat-** *passage* external acoustic meatus (the ear canal)  
**medi-** *middle* medial (directional term)  
**medull-** *marrow* medulla (middle portion of the kidney)  
**mega-** *large* megakaryocyte (large precursor cell of platelets)  
**meio-** *less* meiosis (nuclear division that halves the number of chromosomes)  
**melan-** *black* melanocytes, which secrete the black pigment melanin)  
**men-, menstru-** *month* menses (cyclic menstrual flow)  
**meningo-** *membrane* meningitis (inflammation of the membranes of the brain)  
**mer-, mero-** *a part* merocrine glands, whose secretions do not include the cell  
**meso-** *middle* mesoderm (middle germ layer)  
**meta-** *beyond, between* metatarsus (part of the foot between the tarsus and phalanges)  
**metro-** *uterus* endometrium (lining of the uterus)  
**micro-** *small* microscope (instrument for looking at very small things)  
**mictur-** *urinate* micturition (the act of voiding the bladder)  
**mito-** *thread, filament* mitochondria (filament-like structures in cells)  
**mnem-** *memory* amnesia (loss of memory)  
**mono-** *single* monoglyceride (a single-sugar carbohydrate)  
**morpho-** *form* morphology (study of form and structure)  
**muliti-** *many* multinuclear (having several nuclei)  
**mur-** *wall* intramural (within a body or an organ)  
**muta-** *change* mutation (a change in base sequence of DNA)  
**myelo-** *spinal cord, marrow* myeloblasts (bone marrow cells)  
**myo-** *muscle* myocardium (heart muscle)  
**nano-** *dwarf* nanometer (one-billionth of a meter)  
**narco-** *numbness* narcotic (a drug producing stupor or numbed sensations)  
**natri-** *sodium* atrial natriuretic peptide (a sodium-regulating hormone)  
**necro-** *death* necrosis (tissue death)  
**neo-** *new* neoplasm (an abnormal growth)  
**nephro-** *kidney* nephritis (inflammation of the kidney)  
**neuro-** *nerve* neurophysiology (physiology of the nervous system)  
**noci-** *harmful* nociceptors (pain receptors)  
**nom-** *name* innominate artery  
**noto-** *back* notochord (embryonic structure preceding the vertebral column)  
**nucle-** *pit, kernel* nucleus  
**nutri-** *feed, nourish* nutrition  
**ob-** *before, against* obstruction  
**oculo-** *eye* monocular (pertaining to one eye)  
**odonto-** *teeth* orthodontist  
**olfact-** *smell* olfactory nerves  
**oligo-** *few* oligodendrocytes (neuroglial cells with few branches)  
**onco-** *a mass* oncology (study of cancer)  
**oo-** *egg* oocyte (precursor of female gamete)  
**ophthalmo-** *eye* ophthalmology (study of the eyes and related diseases)  
**orb-** *circular* orbicularis oculi (muscle that encircles the eye)  
**orchi-** *testis* cryptorchidism (non-descent of the testes)  
**org-** *living* organism

**ortho-** *straight* orthopedic (correcting of musculoskeletal deformities)  
**osm-** *smell* anosmia (loss of sense of smell)  
**osmo-** *pushing* osmosis  
**osteo-** *bone* osteodermis (bony formations in the skin)  
**oto-** *ear* otoscope (device for examining the ear)  
**ov-, ovi-** *egg* ovum, oviduct  
**oxy-** *oxygen* oxygenation (saturation of substance with oxygen)  
**pan-** *all, universal* panacea (a cure-all)  
**papill-** *nipple* dermal papillae (projections of dermis into epidermis)  
**para-** *beside, near* paranuclear (beside the nucleus)  
**pect-** *breast* pectoralis major (a large chest muscle)  
**pelv-** *a basin* pelvic girdle, which cradles the pelvic organs  
**peni-** *tail* penis  
**penna-** *feather* bipennate muscles, whose fascicles have a feathered appearance  
**pent-** *five* pentose (a 5-carbon sugar)  
**pep-, peps-, pept-** *digest* pepsin (a digestive enzyme)  
**per-, permea-** *through* permeable (can be passed through)  
**peri-** *around* perianal (situated around the anus)  
**phago-** *eat* phagocyte (cell that engulfs and digests particles or cells)  
**pheno-** *show, appear* phenotype (physical appearance)  
**phleb-** *vein* phlebitis (inflammation of the veins)  
**pin-, pino-** *drink* pinocytosis (engulfing of small particles by a cell)  
**platy-** *flat, broad* platysma (a broad, flat neck muscle)  
**pleur-** *side, rib* pleural serosa (membrane lining the thoracic cavity)  
**plex-** *net, network* brachial plexus (network of nerves that supplies the arm)  
**pneumo-** *air* pneumothorax (air in the thoracic cavity)  
**pod-** *foot* podiatry (treatment of foot disorders)  
**poly-** *multiple* polymorphism (having multiple forms)  
**post-** *after, behind* posterior (behind a specific part)  
**pre-, pro-** *before, ahead of* prenatal (before birth)  
**procto-** *rectum, anus* proctoscope (instrument for examining the rectum)  
**pron-** *bent forward* prone, pronate  
**propri-** *one's own* proprioception (awareness of body parts and movement)  
**pseudo-** *false* pseudotumor (false tumor)  
**psycho-** *mind, psyche* psychogram (chart of personality traits)  
**ptos-** *fall* ptosis (upper eyelid droop)  
**pub-** *of the pubis* puberty  
**pulmo-** *lung* pulmonary artery, which carries blood to the lungs  
**pyo-** *pus* pyocyst (a cyst that contains pus)  
**pyro-** *fire* pyrogen (a fever-inducing substance)  
**quadr-, quadr-** *four-sided* quadratus lumborum (a square-shaped muscle)  
**re-** *back, again* reinfect  
**rect-** *straight* rectus abdominis, rectum  
**ren-** *kidney* renin (enzyme secreted by the kidney)  
**retin-, retic-** *net, network* endoplasmic reticulum (a network of membranous sacs in a cell)  
**retro-** *backward, behind* retrogression (to move backward in development)  
**rheum-** *watery flow, flux* rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatic fever  
**rhin-, rhino-** *nose* rhinitis (inflammation of the nose)  
**rug-** *fold, wrinkle* rugae (folds of the stomach, gallbladder, and urinary bladder)  
**sagitt-** *arrow* sagittal (directional term)  
**salta-** *leap* saltatory spasm (sudden, violent, involuntary muscle contraction)  
**sanguin-** *blood* sanguine (the color of dried blood)  
**sarco-** *flesh* sarcomere (unit of contraction in skeletal muscle)  
**saphen-** *visible, clear* great saphenous vein (superficial vein of the thigh and leg)  
**sclero-** *hard* sclerosis (stiffening of a tissue or organ)  
**seb-** *grease* sebum (skin oil)  
**semi-** *half* semicircular

**sens-** *feeling* sensation, sensory  
**septi-** *rotten* sepsis (infection)  
**sero-** *serum-related* serological tests, which assess blood conditions  
**serrat-** *saw* serratus anterior (a chest wall muscle with a jagged edge)  
**sin-, sino-** *a hollow* sinuses of the skull  
**soma-** *body* somatic nervous system  
**somn-** *sleep* insomnia (inability to sleep)  
**sphin-** *squeeze* sphincter  
**splanchn-** *organ* splanchnic nerve, which supplies the abdominal viscera  
**spondyl-** *vertebra* ankylosing spondylitis (rheumatoid arthritis of the spine)  
**squam-** *scale, flat* squamous epithelium  
**steno-** *narrow* stenosis (abnormal narrowing of a blood vessel or valve)  
**strat-** *layer* strata of the epidermis  
**stria-** *furrow, streak* striations of skeletal and cardiac muscle tissue  
**sub-** *beneath, under* sublingual (beneath the tongue)  
**sucr-** *sweet* sucrose (table sugar)  
**sudor-** *sweat* sudoriferous glands (sweat glands)  
**super-** *above, upon* superior (above something)  
**supra-** *above, upon* supracondylar (above a condyle)  
**sym-, syn-** *together* synapse (region of communication between two neurons)  
**synerg-** *work together* synergism  
**systol-** *contraction* systole (contraction of the heart)  
**tachy-** *rapid* tachycardia (abnormally rapid heartbeat)  
**tact-** *touch* tactile sense  
**telo-** *the end* telophase (last phase of mitosis)  
**templ-, tempo-** *time* temporal summation of nerve impulses  
**tens-** *stretched* muscle tension  
**terti-** *third* fibularis tertius (one of three fibularis muscles)  
**tetan** rigid tetanus of the muscles  
**therm-** *heat* thermometer  
**thromb-** *clot* thrombocytopenia, thrombus  
**thyro-** *a shield* thyroid gland  
**tissu-** *woven* tissue  
**tono-** *tension* tonicity, hypertonic  
**tox-** *poison* toxicology (study of poisons)  
**trab-** *beam, timber* trabeculae (spicules of bone in spongy bone tissue)  
**trans-** *across, through* transpleural (through the pleura)  
**trapez-** *table* trapezius (four-sided muscle of the upper back)  
**tri-** *three* trifurcation (division into three branches)  
**trop-** *turn, change* tropic hormones, which target endocrine glands  
**troph-** *nourish* trophoblast, from which the fetal portion of placenta develops  
**tuber-** *swelling* tuberosity (bump on a bone)  
**tunic-** *covering* tunica albuginea (covering of the testis)  
**tympan-** *drum* tympanic membrane (the eardrum)  
**ultra-** *beyond* ultraviolet radiation  
**vacc-** *cow* vaccines, the first of which were made from cowpox  
**vagin-** *a sheath* vagina  
**valen-** *strength* valence shell  
**venter-, ventr-** *abdomen, belly* ventral (directional term), ventricle  
**vent-** *wind* pulmonary ventilation  
**vert-** *turn* vertebral column  
**vestibul-** *a porch* vestibule (anterior entryway to mouth and nose)  
**vibr-** *shake, quiver* vibrissae (hairs of the nasal vestibule)  
**viscero-** *organ, viscera* visceroinhibitory (inhibiting of visceral movement)  
**viscos-** *sticky* viscosity (resistance to flow)  
**vita-** *life* vitamin  
**vitre-** *glass* vitreous humor (clear jelly of the eye)  
**viv-** *live* in vivo  
**vulv-** *a covering* vulva (female external genitalia)

**zyg-** *a yoke, twin* zygote

## COMBINING FORMS

**aneurysm** *a widening* aortic aneurysm, in which a weak spot causes enlargement of blood vessel  
**arbor** *tree* arbor vitae of the cerebellum (treelike pattern of white matter)  
**basal** *base* basal lamina of epithelial basement membrane  
**cervix** *neck* cervix of the uterus  
**cochlea** *snail shell* cochlea of the inner ear, which is coiled like a snail shell  
**concha** *shell* nasal conchae (coiled shelves of bone in nasal cavity)  
**corona** *crown* coronal suture of the skull  
**delta** *triangular* deltoid muscle  
**dura** *hard* dura matter (tough outer meninx)  
**gene** *beginning* genetics  
**lamina** *layer, sheet* basal lamina of the epithelial basement membrane  
**lumen** *light* lumen (center of a hollow structure)  
**lymph** *water* lymphatic circulation (return of clear fluid to the bloodstream)  
**macula** *spot* macula lutea (yellow spot on the retina)  
**mater** *mother* dura mater (a membrane that envelops the brain)  
**pectus** *breast* pectoralis major (a large chest muscle)  
**pia** *tender, gentle* pia mater (delicate inner membrane around the brain and spinal cord)  
**pili** *hair* arrector pili muscles of the skin, which make hairs stand erect  
**plexus** *net, network* brachial plexus (network of nerves that supplies the arm)  
**semen** *seed, sperm* semen (discharge of the male reproductive system)  
**septum** *fence* nasal septum  
**stroma** *mattress* stroma (connective tissue framework of some organs)  
**vagus** *wanderer* the vagus nerve, which travels from the brain into the abdominopelvic cavity  
**vas** *vessel, duct* vasoconstriction, vas deferens  
**villus** *shaggy hair* microvilli, which appear like hairs in light microscopy

## SUFFIXES

**-able** *able to, capable of* viable (able to exist)  
**-ac** *referring to cardiac* (referring to the heart)  
**-algia** *pain in a certain part* neuralgia (pain along the course of a nerve)  
**-apsi** *juncture* synapse (where two neurons communicate)  
**-ary** *associated with* coronary (associated with the heart)  
**-asthen** *weakness* myasthenia gravis (a disease involving paralysis)  
**-blast** *bud, germ* osteoblast  
**-bryo** *swollen* embryo  
**-cide** *destroy or kill* germicide (an agent that kills germs)  
**-cipit** *head* occipital  
**-clast** *break* osteoclast (a cell that dissolves bone matrix)  
**-crine** *separate* endocrine organs, which secrete hormones into the blood  
**-cyte** *cell* osteocyte, adipocyte  
**-dips** *thirst, dry* polydipsia (excessive thirst associated with diabetes)  
**-ectomy** *cutting out* appendectomy (surgical removal of the appendix)  
**-ell, -elle** *small* organelle  
**-emia** *condition of the blood* anemia (deficiency of red blood cells)  
**-esthesi** *sensation* anaesthesia (lack of sensation)

**-ferrent** *carry* efferent nerves, which carry impulses away from the CNS  
**-form, -forma** *shape* cribriform plate of the ethmoid bone  
**-fuge** *driving out* vermifuge (a substance that expels worms of the intestine)  
**-gen** *an agent that initiates* pathogen (any disease-producing agent)  
**-glea, -glia** *glue* neuroglia (connective tissue of the nervous system)  
**-gram** *a record, data* electrocardiogram (recording showing action of the heart)  
**-graph** *instrument for recording data* electrocardiograph (instrument used to make electrocardiograms)  
**-ia** *condition* insomnia (condition of not being able to sleep)  
**-iatrics** *medical specialty* geriatrics (branch of medicine dealing with old age and associated diseases)  
**-ism** *condition* hyperthyroidism  
**-itis** *inflammation* gastritis (inflammation of the stomach)  
**-lemma** *sheath, husk* sarcolemma (plasma membrane of a muscle cell)  
**-logy** *study of* pathology (the study of disease)  
**-lysis** *loosening, breaking down* hydrolysis (chemical decomposition that takes up water)  
**-malacia** *soft* osteomalacia (a process that leads to bone softening)  
**-mania** *obsession, compulsion* erotomania (exaggeration of the sexual passions)  
**-nata** *birth* prenatal (before birth)  
**-nom** *govern* autonomic nervous system  
**-odyn** *pain* coccygodynia (pain in the coccyx region)  
**-oid** *like, resembling* cuboid (shaped like a cube)  
**-oma** *tumor* lymphoma (a tumor of the lymphatic tissues)  
**-opia** *of the eye* myopia (nearsightedness)  
**-ory** *referring to, of* auditory (related to hearing)  
**-pathy** *disease* osteopathy (any disease of the bone)  
**-phasia** *speech* aphasia (lack of ability to speak)  
**-phil, -philo** *like* hydrophilic (water-loving)  
**-phobia** *fear* acrophobia (fear of heights)  
**-phragm** *partition* diaphragm, which separates the thoracic and abdominal cavities  
**-phylax** *guard, preserve* prophylaxis (to guard in advance, as in preventative treatment)  
**-plas** *grow* neoplasia (an abnormal growth)  
**-plasm** *form, shape* cytoplasm  
**-plasty** *reconstruction of a part* rhinoplasty (surgical reconstruction of the nose)  
**-plegia** *paralysis* paraplegia (paralysis of the lower half of the body or lower limbs)  
**-rrhagia** *flow, discharge* diarrhea (abnormal emptying of the bowels)  
**-scope** *instrument of examination* stethoscope (instrument used to listen to body sounds)  
**-some** *body* chromosome  
**-sorb** *suck in* absorb  
**-stalsis** *compression, constriction* peristalsis (muscular contractions that propel food along the digestive tract)  
**-stasis** *arrest, fixation* hemostasis (arrest of bleeding)  
**-stitia** *come to stand* interstitial fluid, which exists between cells  
**-stomy** *make an artificial opening* enterostomy (formation of an artificial opening into the intestine through the abdominal wall)  
**-tegm** *to cover* integumentary (of the skin and other body coverings)  
**-tomy** *to cut* appendectomy (surgical removal of the appendix)  
**-trud** *thrust* detrusor muscle  
**-ty** *condition of, state* immunity (condition of resistance to infection)  
**-uria** *urine* polyuria (passage of an excessive amount of urine)  
**-zyme** *ferment* enzyme