Latin Terms

Origins of Scientific Words

Root	Meaning	Example(s)
a, an	not, without	anaerobic, abiotic
aer	air, oxygen	aerobic
amphi	both, about, around	amphibian
ana	apart	anaphase
angio	vessel, container	angiosperm
anti	against, away, opposite	antibody
archae	ancient	archaebacteria
auto	self	autotroph
bi	two, twice	bipedal
bio	life	biotic, biology
carn	flesh	carnivore
chloro	pale green	chlorophyll
co	both, together	coevolution
cyt	hollow, cell	cytology
derm	skin	epidermis
di	two	disaccharide, dihybrid
echino	spiny	echinoderm
есо	household	ecosystem, ecology
epi	upon, above	epidermis
eu	well, true, good	eukaryote
endo	inside, within	endothermic
exo	out, outside	exothermic, exoskeleton
gymno	naked, bare	gymnosperm
halo	salt	halophile
herb	grass	herbivore
hetero	other, different	heterotroph, heterozygous
homo	same, alike	homozygous, homologous
hydro	water	hydrolysis
hyper	over, above	hypertonic

hypotonic

under, below

hypo

Root Meaning Example(s)

iso equal to isotonic, isoceles

kinesis movement, motion cytokinesis

logy study of, word biology, ecology

lys split, loosen, break lysosome macro large macrophage meta among, middle metaphase

micro small microorganism, microscope

mono single monohybrid

neuro nerve neurology, neuron

oligo few, little oligosaccharide

omni all omnivore

ov, oofemaleoogenesis, ovaryphagoto eatphagocytosisphotolightphotosynthesisphytoplantphytoplanktonpinoto drinkpinocytosis

pod foot cephalopod, gastropod

poly many polymer

pro before, for prokaryote, prophase

pseudo false pseudopod

sacchar sugar monosaccharide, polysaccharide

sperm seed angiosperm, gymnosperm

staph bunch of grapes staphylococcus

stom mouth stomata

strep twisted chain streptococcus

sym together symbiosis

telo end telomere, telophase

therm heat thermophile troph feed, growth, nutrition trophic level zoo animal zooplankton