

Glossary of Word Parts

Word Part	Type	Meaning
a-	prefix	without, absence of, not
ab-	prefix	away
abdomin(o)-	combining form	belly or abdomen
-ac	suffix	pertaining to
acanth(o)-	combining form	“thorn”
acar(o)-	combining form	mite
acoust(o)-	combining form	sound
-ad	suffix	toward
ad-	prefix	toward
aden(o)-	combining form	gland
adip(o)-	combining form	fat
adren(o)-	combining form	adrenal
af-	prefix	toward
agon(o)-	combining form	to compete, competitor
-al	suffix	pertaining to
-algia	suffix	pain
alg(o)-	combining form	pain
alg(e)s(o)-	combining form	pain
aliment(o)-	combining form	food
alveol(o)-	combining form	alveolus
amyl(o)-	combining form	starch
an-	prefix	without or not
an(o)-	combining form	anus
ana-	prefix	up, back, again
ang(o)-	combining form	vessel
angi(o)-	combining form	vessel
anis(o)-	prefix	unequal
-ant	suffix	one that
ant-	prefix	against
ante-	prefix	before
anter(o)-	combining form	front or before
anti-	prefix	against
aort(o)-	combining form	aorta
-ar	suffix	pertaining to
arct(o)-	combining form	constriction
arter(o)-	combining form	artery
arthr(o)-	combining form	joint
-ary	suffix	pertaining to
-ase	suffix	enzyme

Word Part	Type	Meaning
-asia	suffix	condition of, process of, state of
astr(o)-	combining form	star
-ate	suffix	having, resembling
atel(o)-	combining form	incomplete
atri(o)-	combining form	atrium
atto-	prefix	one quintillionth
audi(o)-	combining form	hearing
aur(o)-	combining form	ear
auto-	prefix	self
axi(o)-	combining form	axis
azot-	root	nitrogen
bacteri(o)-	combining form	bacteria
baso-	prefix	blue
bi-	prefix	two
bili(o)-	combining form	bile
bio-	root	life
-blast	suffix	bud, germinal, “seed”
blephar(o)-	combining form	eyelid
bol(o)-	combining form	to throw
brachi(o)-	combining form	arm
brachy-	prefix	short
brady-	prefix	slow
bronch(o)-	combining form	bronchus
bucc(o)-	combining form	cheek
-cal	suffix	pertaining to
calc(o)-	combining form	calcium
canth(o)-	combining form	angle
capn(o)-	combining form	carbon dioxide
carcin(o)-	combining form	cancer
cardi(o)-	combining form	heart
carp(o)-	combining form	carpus
cata-	prefix	down, under, against
caud(o)-	combining form	tail
cec(o)-	combining form	cecum
-cele	suffix	protrusion, herniation
cellul(o)-	combining form	cell
-centesis	suffix	to puncture
centi-	prefix	one hundredth

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centr(o)-	combining form	center or central	deka-	prefix	ten
cephal(o)-	combining form	head	dendr(o)-	combining form	tree, dendrite
cerebell(o)-	combining form	cerebellum	dent(o)-	combining form	teeth
cerebr(o)-	combining form	cerebrum	derm(o)-	combining form	skin
cerumin(o)-	combining form	wax	dermat(o)-	combining form	skin
cervic(o)-	combining form	neck	di-	prefix	two
chez(o)-	root	feces, defecation	dia-	prefix	through
chole(o)-	combining form	bile	diastol(o)-	combining form	expansion
cholin(o)-	combining form	acetylcholine	dips(o)-	combining form	thirst
chondr(o)-	combining form	cartilage	distichi(o)-	combining form	double line
chrom(o)-	combining form	color	dolich(o)-	combining form	long
chromat(o)-	combining form	color	dont(o)-	combining form	tooth
cid(o)-	combining form	to kill	dors(o)-	combining form	the back
circum-	prefix	around	duoden(o)-	combining form	duodenum
-clast	suffix	to break	dur(o)-	combining form	dura mater
-cle	suffix	small, diminutive	dynam(o)-	combining form	power
co-	prefix	together or with	dys-	prefix	difficult or bad
coagul(o)-	combining form	clotting	ec-	prefix	out
coccyg(o)-	combining form	tail	echin(o)-	combining form	“hedgehog”
cochle(o)-	combining form	cochlea	echo-	root	echo (a returned sound; i.e., ultrasound)
col(o)-	combining form	colon	-ectasis	suffix	expansion or dilation
colon(o)-	combining form	colon	ecto-	prefix	outer, outside
column(o)-	combining form	column	-ectomy	suffix	to cut out
conjunctiv(o)-	combining form	conjunctiva	ef-	prefix	away
contra-	prefix	against or opposed, opposite	electr(o)-	combining form	electricity
copr(o)-	combining form	feces	-elle	suffix	a small
cor(o)-	combining form	pupil	-em	root	blood
corne(o)-	combining form	cornea	em-	prefix	in, into
cornu(o)-	combining form	horn	emet(o)-/ emes(o)-	combining form	vomiting
cortic(o)-	combining form	cortex	-emia	suffix	a blood condition
cost(o)-	combining form	rib	en-	prefix	in, into
cox(o)-	combining form	hip	encephal(o)-	combining form	brain
crani(o)-	combining form	head	endo-	prefix	within
crin(o)-	combining form	to secrete	endotheli(o)-	combining form	endothelium
crypt(o)-	combining form	hidden	-ent	suffix	one that
cub(o)-	combining form	cube	enter(o)-	combining form	intestine
-cule	suffix	small, diminutive	eosin(o)-	combining form	red
cyan(o)-	combining form	blue	epi-	prefix	upon
-cysis	root	pregnancy	episi-	root	vulva
cyst(o)-	combining form	bladder	epitheli(o)-	combining form	epithelium
cyt(o)-	combining form	cell	-er	suffix	one that
-cyte	suffix	a cell	erg(o)-	combining form	to work
dactyl(o)-	combining form	fingers/toes	erythemat(o)-	combining form	red, redness
de-	prefix	reverse, remove	erythr(o)-	combining form	red
deca-	prefix	ten	-esis	suffix	condition of, process of, state of
deci-	prefix	one tenth			
dect(o)-	combining form	to bite			
degluti(o)-	combining form	swallowing			

Word Part	Type	Meaning	Word Part	Type	Meaning
esophag(o)-	combining form	esophagus	hypo-	prefix	below, under, deficient
esthes(o)-	combining form	sensation	hyster(o)-	combining form	uterus
estr(o)-	combining form	estrus	-i	suffix	indicates plural of the root
ethm(o)-	combining form	sieve	-ia	suffix	condition of, process of, state of
ex-	prefix	out	-iasis	suffix	condition of, process of, state of
exo-	prefix	out, outside	iatr(o)-	combining form	“physician”
extra-	prefix	outside	-ic	suffix	pertaining to
femor(o)-	combining form	femur	-ical	suffix	pertaining to
femto-	prefix	one quadrillionth	icter(o)-	combining form	icterus, jaundice
fibr(o)-	combining form	fiber	-ile	suffix	capable, able
fibrin(o)-	combining form	fiber or fibrin	ile(o)-	combining form	ileum
fibul(o)-	combining form	fibula	ili(o)-	combining form	ilium
gastr(o)-	combining form	stomach	im-	prefix	in, into
gen(o)-	combining form	to produce	immun(o)-	combining form	exempt (immunity)
-genesis	suffix	production of	-in	suffix	one that, presence of (“a,” “an”) n.
gesta-	root	to bear	in-	prefix	in, into
giga-	prefix	billion	infarc(o)-	combining form	to stuff in
gingiv(o)-	combining form	gingiva (“gums”)	ino-	root	fiber
gli(o)-	combining form	glue	inter-	prefix	between
glomerul(o)-	combining form	glomerulus	intra-	prefix	within
gloss(o)-	combining form	tongue	-ion	suffix	act of, state of, process of
gluc(o)-	combining form	glucose, sugar	ipsi-	prefix	same
glyc(o)-	combining form	glucose, sugar	irid(o)-	combining form	iris
gnath(o)-	combining form	jaw	isch(o)-	combining form	to suppress
gonad(o)-	combining form	“seed,” gonads	-ism	suffix	condition of, process of, state of
-grade	suffix	to step	is(o)-	combining form	equal
-gram	suffix	a recording	-ist	suffix	one who or one that, specialist
granul(o)-	combining form	granule	-itis	suffix	inflammation of
-graph	suffix	to record, recording of	-ity	suffix	a state of
-graphy	suffix	to record, recording of	-ive	suffix	pertaining to
haustra-	root	pouch or sac	-ize	suffix	to cause to be (v.)
hecto-	prefix	hundred	jejun(o)-	combining form	jejunum
helmin(o)-	combining form	worm	kary(o)-	combining form	nucleus
hem(o)-	combining form	blood	kerat(o)-	combining form	“horn” or cornea (ophthalmology)
hemat(o)-	combining form	blood	kilo-	prefix	thousand
hemi-	prefix	half	kine(o)-	combining form	to move
hepat(o)-	combining form	liver	-kinesis	suffix	movement
heter(o)-	combining form	other	labi(o)-	combining form	lips
hist(o)-	combining form	tissue			
home(o)-	combining form	like, resembling, sameness, unchanging			
humer(o)-	combining form	humerus			
humor(o)-	combining form	liquid			
hydr(o)-	combining form	water			
hyper-	prefix	excessive, above normal			

Word Part	Type	Meaning	Word Part	Type	Meaning
lacrim(o)-	combining form	tears	muc(o)-	combining form	mucus
lact(o)-	combining form	milk	multi-	prefix	many
lamin(o)-	combining form	lamina	muscul(o)-	combining form	muscle
lapar(o)-	combining form	flank, abdomen	muta-	root	change
laryng(o)-	combining form	larynx	my(o)-	combining form	muscle
later(o)-	combining form	side	myc(o)-	combining form	fungus
leuk(o)-	combining form	white	myel(o)-	combining form	marrow (hematology), spinal cord (neurology)
lingu(o)-	combining form	tongue	nano-	prefix	one billionth
lip(o)-	combining form	fat	nas(o)-	combining form	nose
lith(o)-	combining form	stone	natri(o)-	combining form	sodium
lob(o)-	combining form	lobe	necr(o)-	combining form	death
log(o)-	combining form	to study or knowledge	neo-	prefix	new
-logy	suffix	study of	nephr(o)-	combining form	kidney
lumb(o)-	combining form	lumbus or lumbar	neur(o)-	combining form	nerve
lymph(o)-	combining form	lymph	neutr(o)-	combining form	neutral, neutrophil
lys(o)-	combining form	destruction, dissolution, dissolving	noci-	root	injury, to injure
-lysis	suffix	destruction of	noct(o)-	combining form	night
-lytic	suffix	pertaining to destruction or breakage	nom(o)-	combining form	law, control
macro-	prefix	large	nos(o)-	combining form	disease
mal-	prefix	bad	nucle(o)-	combining form	nucleus [Gr. "nut"]
malac(o)-	combining form	softening	ocul(o)-	combining form	eye
mast(o)-	combining form	breast	odont(o)-	combining form	tooth, teeth
medi(o)-	combining form	middle	-oid	suffix	resembling
medull(o)-	combining form	marrow	-ole	suffix	a small
mega-	prefix	large	olfact(o)-	combining form	smell
-megaly	suffix	enlargement of	olig(o)-	prefix	small
melan(o)-	combining form	black	-olus	suffix	a small
melen(o)-	combining form	black	-oma	suffix	tumor or "a swelling"
mening(o)-	combining form	meninges	oment(o)-	combining form	omentum
-mere	suffix	a part	-on	suffix	pertaining to (adj.), one that (n.)
mes(o)-	combining form	middle	onych(o)-	combining form	nail
meta-	prefix	after, beyond, changed	ophthalm(o)-	combining form	eye
metr(o)-	combining form	measure or gait or uterus (reproduction)	opt(o)-	combining form	vision
-metry	suffix	to measure	-or	suffix	pertaining to (adj.), one that (n.)
micro-	prefix	small	or(o)-	combining form	mouth
micro-	prefix	one millionth	orchi(o)-	combining form	testicle
milli-	prefix	one thousandth	orchid(o)-	combining form	testicle
mimet(o)-	combining form	mimic	orex(o)-	combining form	appetite
mit(o)-	combining form	thread	organ(o)-	combining form	organ
mono-	prefix	one	orth(o)-	combining form	straight
morph(o)-	combining form	form	-ory	suffix	pertaining to
			os	root	bone

Word Part	Type	Meaning
-osis	suffix	condition of, process of, state of
osse(o)-	combining form	bone
oste(o)-	combining form	bone
ot(o)-	combining form	ear
-ous	suffix	pertaining to
ovari(o)-	combining form	ovary
ox(o)-	combining form	oxygen
oxy-	prefix	quick
palat(o)-	combining form	palate
palm(o)-	combining form	palm (sole of forefeet of domestic animals)
palmar(o)-	combining form	palm (sole of forefeet of domestic animals)
palpebr(o)-	combining form	eyelid
pan-	prefix	all
pancreat(o)-	combining form	pancreas
papill(o)-	combining form	nipple
para-	prefix	near or beyond
-paresis	suffix	weakness
parturi(o)-	combining form	birth
path(o)-	combining form	disease
-pathy	suffix	a disease of
-penia	suffix	deficiency of
per-	prefix	through
peri-	prefix	around
peritone(o)-	combining form	peritoneum
-pexy	suffix	fixation (i.e., surgically; to suture/tack down)
-phage	suffix	eating, an eater
phag(o)-	combining form	to eat
-phagy	suffix	eating
phalang(o)-	combining form	phalanx
pharm-	combining form	drug
aceut(o)-	combining form	drug
pharmac(o)-	combining form	medicine, drug
pharyng(o)-	combining form	throat
phil(o)-	combining form	to love, attraction, affinity for
phleb(o)-	combining form	vein
phob(o)-	combining form	fear, aversion, intolerance
phot(o)-	combining form	light
phren(o)-	combining form	diaphragm

Word Part	Type	Meaning
physi(o)-	combining form	nature
-physis	root	growth
phyt(o)-	combining form	plant or fungus
pico-	prefix	one trillionth
pil(o)-	combining form	hair
pin(o)-	combining form	to drink
plant(o)-	combining form	sole (sole of hindfeet of domestic animals)
plantar(o)-	combining form	sole (sole of hindfeet of domestic animals)
plas(o)-	combining form	formation
-plasia	suffix	formation, growth
plasm(o)-	combining form	matter
-plasty	suffix	to form (reconstructive, "plastic" surgery)
-plegia	suffix	paralysis
pleur(o)-	combining form	pleura
-pnea	root	breathing
pneum(o)-	combining form	air
pneumon(o)-	combining form	lung
pod(o)-	combining form	foot
poie(o)-	combining form	to make or to produce
-poiesis	suffix	producing, production of
poikil(o)-	combining form	varied or irregular
pol(o)-	combining form	pole
poli(o)-	combining form	gray
pollak-	prefix	frequent
poly-	prefix	many or much
post-	prefix	after or behind
poster(o)-	combining form	after or behind
prandi(o)-	combining form	meal
pre-	prefix	before
pro-	prefix	before
proct(o)-	combining form	rectum
prote(o)-	combining form	protein
prurit(o)-	combining form	itch
pseudo-	prefix	false
-ptysis	suffix	to cough
pulm(o)-	combining form	lung
pulmon(o)-	combining form	lung
py(o)-	combining form	pus
pyel(o)-	combining form	pelvis
pylor(o)-	combining form	pylorus
pyr(o)-	combining form	fire, fever
quadri-	prefix	four

Word Part	Type	Meaning	Word Part	Type	Meaning
radi(o)-	combining form	radius or radiation	-stasis	suffix	a standing still, to stop
radicul(o)-	combining form	root	-static	suffix	pertaining to standing still, inhibition
re-	prefix	again	steat(o)-	combining form	fat
rect(o)-	combining form	rectum	sten(o)-	combining form	narrow
ren(o)-	combining form	kidney	stern(o)-	combining form	sternum
reticul(o)-	combining form	net	sthen(o)-	combining form	strength
retin(o)-	combining form	retina	stomat(o)-	combining form	mouth
retr(o)-	combining form	backward	-stomy	suffix	to create a "mouth" (opening)
rhin(o)-	combining form	nose	sub-	prefix	below, under
rib(o)-	combining form	RNA	sym-	prefix	together or with
rostr(o)-	combining form	nose	syn-	prefix	together or with
-rrhage	suffix	excessive flow, or to burst forth/escape	synap(o)-	combining form	synapse (connection)
-rrhaphy	suffix	to suture	systol(o)-	combining form	contraction
-rrhea	suffix	excessive flow, discharge	tachy-	prefix	fast
rubr(o)-	root	red	tars(o)-	combining form	tarsus
sacchar(o)-	combining form	sugar	tax(o)-	combining form	order
sacr(o)-	combining form	sacrum	telo-	prefix	end
scapul(o)-	combining form	scapula	tend(o)-	combining form	tendon
-schisis	suffix	to cleave, a cleft	ten(o)-	combining form	tendon
schist(o)-	combining form	split	tens(o)-	combining form	pressure, tension
schiz(o)-	combining form	split	tera-	prefix	trillion
scler(o)-	combining form	sclera, hard	terat(o)-	combining form	monster
scop(o)-	combining form	to view	tetra-	prefix	four
-scope	suffix	an instrument for viewing	therm(o)-	combining form	heat, temperature
-scopy	suffix	to view, viewing	thor(o)-	combining form	chest
seb(o)-	combining form	sebum	thora-	root	chest
semi-	prefix	partial	thorac(o)-	combining form	chest
sep-	root	sepsis, decay	thromb(o)-	combining form	clot
sial(o)-	combining form	saliva	thym(o)-	combining form	thymus
-sis	suffix	condition of, process of, state of	thyr(o)-	combining form	thyroid
skelet(o)-	combining form	skeleton	tibi(o)-	combining form	tibia
som(o)-	combining form	body	-tic	suffix	pertaining to
somat(o)-	combining form	body	-tion	suffix	act of, state of, process of
-some	suffix	a body	toc(o)-	combining form	birth
-spasm	suffix	contraction	-tome	suffix	an instrument for cutting
spermat(o)-	combining form	sperm	-tomy	suffix	to cut
spher(o)-	combining form	ball	tono-	root	pressure, tension
sphygm(o)-	combining form	pulse	tonsill(o)-	combining form	tonsil
spin(o)-	combining form	spine	tors(o)-	combining form	twist
spirat(o)-	combining form	breathing	tox(o)-	combining form	poison, toxin
splen(o)-	combining form	spleen	-toxicity	suffix	a poisonous state
spondyl(o)-	combining form	vertebra	trache(o)-	combining form	trachea
squam(o)-	combining form	scales	trans-	prefix	across or through
-stalsis	combining form	contraction			

Word Part	Type	Meaning	Word Part	Type	Meaning
tri-	prefix	three	uve(o)-	combining form	uvea
trich(o)-	combining form	hair	vacu(o)-	combining form	empty or emptiness
trop(o)-	combining form	influence, to turn	vas(o)-	combining form	vessel
-trophy	suffix	development	vascul(o)-	combining form	vessel
tuber-	root	bump, lump	ven(o)-	combining form	vein
tubul(o)-	combining form	tube, tubule	ventr(o)-	combining form	belly
tuss(o)-	combining form	cough	ventricul(o)-	combining form	ventricle
tympan(o)-	combining form	drum	vermin(o)-	combining form	worm
-ule	suffix	a small	vertebr(o)-	combining form	vertebra
uln(o)-	combining form	ulna	vestibul(o)-	combining form	vestibule
-um	suffix	presence of ("a," "an") n.	viru-	root	virus
uni-	prefix	one	viscer(o)-	combining form	organs or viscera
ur(o)-	combining form	urine	vol(o)-	combining form	volume
urethr(o)-	combining form	urethra	volv(o)-	combining form	twist
urin(o)-	combining form	urine	-y	suffix	a state, process, or condition
-us	suffix	presence of ("a," "an") n.	zoo-	root	animal