

Language of Science – Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning
a-	without, lacking
ab-	away from
adipo-	fat
alb-	white
amphi-	of both kinds
amp-	of both kinds
andr-	male
anthropo-	man/human
anti-	against
aqua-	water
arbor-	tree
arthro-	jointed, foldable
aster-	star
audi-	sound, hearing
auto-	self

bi-	two, twice
bio-	life, living
bronch-	windpipe (lungs)

card-	heart
carn-	meat
cell-	storeroom
cephalo-	head
chlor-	green
chrom-	color
chron-	time
coel-	hollow
com-/co-	with, together
con-	with, together
contra-	against
cran-	head
cyt-	cell

dactyl-	fingers or toes
de-	from/away
deca-	ten

Prefix	Meaning
derm-	skin
den-	tooth
di-	two, double
dia-	through, across
dis-/dif-	take away

e-/ef-	out, from, out of
ex-	out, from, out of

echin-	spiny
ect-	outside
en-	in
encephal-	brain
endo-	inside
epi-	on, above
extra-	outside, beyond

gastro-	stomach
gene-	origin, birth
geo-	earth
gymno-	uncovered

helio-	sun
hemat-	blood
hepato-	liver
hetero-	different
hiber-	winter
homo-	same, alike
hydro-	water
hyper-	above, over
hypo-	below, less

inter-	between
intra-	within, during
intra-	during
ichty-	fish
immunis-	free

Language of Science – Prefixes (2)

Prefix	Meaning
leuc-	white
lith-	stone
luna-	moon

macro-	large
meta-	change
micro-	small
mono-	single
morph-	shape, form
multi-	many

neo-	new
non-	not
neur-	nerve

oculo-	eye
odont-	tooth
olf-	smell
omni-	all
opthal-	eye
oss-/ost-	bone

phag-	eat
phil-	love of
photo-	light
plasm-	form

Prefix	Meaning
pneumo-	lungs
pre-	before
precip-	falling
prot-	first
pseudo-	fake, false

sub-	under, beneath
super-	above, upon
sur-	above, upon

re-	again
retro-	backward, back
rhino-	nose
rota-	turn, wheel
rupt-	break, burst

tele-	at a distance, far
therm-	temperature
trans-	across, beyond
tri-	three
trop-	turning

ventr-	belly
uni-	one
zo-	animal

Language of Science – Suffixes

-able/-ible	can, able to
-algia	pain
-ate	cause, make
-ectomy	cut out
-glyph	picture
-graph	record, recording
-ic	relating to
-ism	act of
-itis	condition, swelling
-meter	measure of

-ology	study of
-logy	study of
-phyll	leaf
-pod	foot, feet
-ped	food, feet
-rrhea	flowing out
-scop	look, observe
-sect	cut
-tion	process