

Language of Science 6

Learning the language of science is a lot like learning a new language. Scientists often use scientific words for common words that most of us already know. For example, a scientist will say “neo” instead of “new” or “pseudo” instead of “fake”. To learn science, you need to also learn this new language. Don't worry, though. This list will help you. Just remember that most words can be broken up into a **PREFIX** (the beginning of the word) and a **SUFFIX** (the end of the word).

Example of how to use the list

Word: **TELESCOPE**

Step 1. Look up the first part of the word under the PREFIX LIST

□ **tele** = at a distance

Step 2. Look for the rest of the word under the SUFFIX LIST

□ **scope** = look or observe

So, the whole word means “distance-look” or to look at something at a distance.

Note

- The order of the words may not always seem right; don't worry about that.
- Sometimes you can only find one part of a word but that can be a good clue about the meaning
- You may have extra letters like **o** or **a** or **i** between two parts of a word — they don't mean anything
- If you don't see a word in the suffix list, check the prefix list. Sometimes, words can be both a prefix and a suffix.

Notice that several prefixes can mean the same thing:

1. What are **two** prefixes that mean ONE or SINGLE? _____
2. What are **two** suffixes that mean CUT or CUT OUT? _____
3. What are **two** prefixes that mean ABOVE or ON? _____
4. What are **two** prefixes that mean TWO? _____

Just knowing one part of a word gives you a clue to the whole word

5. Would you want to be careful when touching an animal called an ECHINDNA? Yes No Why? _____

6. What does a CARNIVORE eat? _____
7. Is a NEONATE a tiny baby or an old person? _____
8. Is a CRANIOTOMY a serious surgery? Yes No Why? _____
9. An ALBINO rabbit is what color? _____
10. Does an AMPHIBIAN live on land or water? _____
11. If a medicine is CONTRAINDICATED for you, should you take it? Yes No
12. A DERMATOLOGIST works with what part of the body? _____
13. How does a tiny animal called a ROTIFER travel through the water?
_____ (hint: look up rota)
14. If you visited the Memorial Park ARBORETUM, what would you expect to see? _____
15. In 1969, where did the LUNAR mission land? _____
16. What is another name for a CHRONOMETER? _____
17. Why do they call this symbol (*) an ASTERISK? _____
18. What part of your body would be sick if you had BRONCHITIS? _____
19. What is the doctor talking about when she says LEUCOCYTES? _____
20. The scientific name for a squid is a CEPHALOPOD. What does it mean?
