

Some Prefixes and Suffixes Commonly Used in Biology

(You will note that sometimes the combining terms are slightly modified as they are incorporated into words.)

Quiz # 1

a - without, not - asexual, atypical
ab - away from - aboral, abnormal
acro - tip - acrosome, acromegaly
ad - toward - adoral, adductor
algia - pain - neuralgia, analgesic
amphi - both - amphiaser, amphibian
anti - against - antibiotic, antitoxin
aqua - water - aquatic, aqueous
arch - old, first - archenteron, archeology
arthro - joint - arthropod, arthritis
auto - self - autonomy, autopsy
bi - twice - biceps, bilateral
bio - life - biology, abiogenesis
blast - primitive - blastula, blastocoele
calci - lime - calciferous, calcium
cardi - heart - pericardium, cardiac
cephalo - head - cephalic, cephalothorax
chroma - color - chromatophore, chromosome
coele - hollow - blastocoele, coelom
corp - body - corpuscle, corpulent
dactyl - finger - polydactylous, pterodactyl
dia - through - diaphragm, dialysis
de - away - defacate - decerebrate
derma - skin - dermis, endoderm
diplo - two - diploblastic, diploid
ecto - outer - ectoplasma, ectoderm
emia - infection - leukemia, uremia
endo - inner - endoplasm, endoderm
entero - intestine - enterokinase, coelenteron
epi - above - epidermis, epithelium
erythro - red - erythrocyte, erythema
exo - outer - exoskeleton, expiration
fero - to carry - calciferous, odoriferous
fibra - thread - myofibril, fibrinogen

fili - thread - filigorm, filaria
fissur - split - fission, fissure
fore - in front of - forelimb, fore rain
gam - marriage - monogamous, gamete
gastro - stomach - gastrovascular, epigastric
gen - origin - genetics, abiogenesis
gest - to produce - gestation, progesterone
gly - sugar - glycogen, hypoglycemia
hemo - blood - hemoglobin, hemophilia
hepa - liver - hepatic, hepatitis
hetero - different - heterogamete
histo - tissue - histology, histoplasmosis
holo - whole - holozoic, holophytic
homo - same - homozygous, homology
hydro - water - hydrozoa, hydranth
hyper - above, excess - hypertension, hypertrophy
hypo - below - hypostome, hypophysis

Quiz # 2

iasis - infestation - ascariasis, filariasis
in - not - invertebrate, inorganic
inter - between - intercellular, interphase
intra - within - intracellular, intravenous
iso - similar - isogamete, isotonic
itis - inflammation - nephritis, appendicitis
juga - join - conjugate, jugular
lat - side - bilateral, latissimus
leuco - white - leucocyte, leukemia
lip - fat - lipase, lipid
logos - study, discourse - zoology, entomology
lysis - dissolving - plasmolysis, histolysis
macro - large - macronucleus, macroscopic
mamm - breast - mammal, mammary
meso - middle - mesoderm, mesenchyme
mega - big - megakaryocyte, acromegaly
meta - after - metaphase, metazoa

micro - small - microscope, micronucleus
mito - thread - mitosis, mitochondria
monos - one - monosconscious, monogamous
morpho - form - morphology, amorphous
muta - change - mutation, mutant
myo - muscle - myology, perimysium
nema - thread - nematode, nematocyst
nephros - kidney - nephrestome, protonephridia
neuro - nerve - neuron, neuritis
not - back notochord, pronotum
oid - similar to - arachnoid, cretinoid
ortho - straight - orthogenesis, orthoptera
ous - having - biramous, homozygous
para - beside - parathyroid, parasite
peri - around - periosteum, pericardium
phore - to bear - mastagophoren, chromatophore
plasm - formed - protoplasm, plasmolysis
pneumo - lung - pneumatophore, pneumonia
poly - many - polychaete, polyambrony

pod - foot - pseudopodia, gastropod
pro - before - prothorax, prophase
pseudo - false - pseudopodium, pseudocoele
ptera - wing - deoptera, pterodactyl
re - again - reproduce, regenerate
ren - kidney - renal, adrenal
sem - seed - seminal, inseminate
soma - body - chromosome, sytosome
sub - under - submaxillary, sublingual
supra - over - suprarenal, suprabranchial
syn - together - synapse, syncytium
tarso - ankle - tarsal, metatarsus
ta - to have - ciliata, vertebrata
tele - last - telephase, telencephalon
tri, triplo - triple - triploblastic, triploid
vas - vessel - vas deferens, vascular
vita - life - vitamins, vital
zoos - animal - protozoan, zoology