

MICROGLOSSOSCIENTIVERBISECT

***Translation:** a small glossary of scientific word parts

The language of science contains many long, unfamiliar words, but most of these words are a combination of word parts: prefixes, roots, and suffixes. By learning the meanings of the common word parts, you will know the meaning of hundreds of unfamiliar words, and it will be easier to understand what you read in science.

The list that follows has many of the common roots, prefixes, and suffixes that occur in science. The first column contains these word parts, the middle column has the meaning, and the last column has examples of words that use the word parts. By learning the meanings of these parts you will greatly increase your vocabulary. Become familiar with the contents of this list and refer back to it as you come across words in your reading that have one or more of these parts. The exercises that follow will help you become more familiar with these very important parts of words.

<u>Root or Affix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Example</u>
a-, an-	without	anaerobic
ab-	off from, away	absent
-able	able to be or do	flammable
ad-	to, toward	adhere
aero-	air	aerobic
amphi-	both	amphibian
ante-	before	antediluvian
anthropo-	man	anthropology
anti-	against, opposed to, opposite	antitoxin
arthro-	joint	arthritis
aqua-	water	aquarium
archaeo-	primitive, ancient	archaic
-ary	place for something	aviary
-arium	place for something	aquarium
astro, aster	star	astronomy
auto-	self	automatic
avi-	bird	aviary
baro-	pressure	barometer
be-	completely	bedecked
bi-	two	biped
bio-	life	biofeedback
cardi-	heart	cardiac
carni, car	flesh	carnivorous
cent-	one hundred	centimeter
cephalo-	head	cephalopod
chlor-	green	chloroplast
chrom-	color	chromatin
chron-	time	chronometer
circum-	around	circumference
com-, con-, co-	together with	compress, combine

contra-, contro-
corp

Root or Affix

cyclo-
cyto-
de-
dec-
dermato-, derm
di-
diplo-
dorsi, dorse
dis-
-duct
en-
endo
entome
epi-
erg-
equ-
-ette
eu-
ex-
extra-
frater
-ful
-genesis

geo-
germ-
-graph
helio-
hemi-
hemo-
herb
hetero-
hex-
homo-
hydro-
hyper-
hypo-
ichthyo-
im-
in-, en-
in-
inter-
intra-
iso-
-ism

against
body
Meaning
circulary
cell, hollow
from, down from, away
ten
skin
two, twice
double, twice
back
away from, apart from
lead
in
within, inside
insect
outside, over
work
equal
small, very little
good, well, true
former, out from
beyond
brother
full of
reproduction, production,
beginning
earth
sprout
write
sun
half
blood
plant
different
six
same
water
beyond, excessive
under, below, beneath
fish
not
into
not
among, between
within
equal
act, condition of being,

contradict, contraception
corps
Example
cyclotron
cytoplasm
detract
decade
epidermis
disaccharide
diplococcus
dorsal
disappear
aquaduct
enamored
endoskeleton
entomology
epidermis
ergonomics
equitable
pipette
euphoria
exhale
extraterrestrial
fraternal
helpful
biogenesis

geology
germinate
seismograph
heliograph
hemisphere
hemoglobin
herbivorous
heterotroph
hexagon
homogenize
hydroelectric
hyperactive
hypodermic
ichthyology
impossible
inhale
inaccurate
intergalactic
intracellular
isometric
geotropism

-it is	manner, state	tonsillitis
junct-	inflammation of	junction
kine-	join	kinetic
<u>Root or Affix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Example</u>
lacto(o)-	milk	lactic
-less	without	helpless
lith	stone, petrifying	monolith
-logy	science of, study of	biology
lunar	moon	lunarian
ly	in a way	lightly
-lysis, -lyze	break up	analysis, catalyze
macro-	long, large	macromolecule
magni-	large, great	magnify
mal-	bad	malformation
-marine	sea	submarine
-ment	act, state of being	alignment
meta-	change, beyond	metaphase
-meter	measure	barometer
micro-	extremely small	microscope
mill-	thousand	millimeter
mis-	wrong	misinterpret
mono-	one	monolith
morpho-	form	metamorphosis
mortal, mort-	death	mortality
multi-	many	multicellular
natal	birth	postnatal
nebul	cloudy	nebulous
neo-	new	neoplasm
neuro-	nerve	neuron
-ness	state of being	togetherness
noct-	night	nocturnal
non-	not	nonliving
octo-	eight	octopus
oculo, ophthalmo-	eye	oculist
omni-	everywhere, everything, all	omnivorous
ornitho-	bird	ornithology
ortho-	correct, straight	orthodontist
osteo-	bone	osteopath
-ous	full of	amorous
over-	excessively	overheat
pan-	whole, all	pandemic
patho-	disease	pathology
per-	through, completely	permeate
phago-	eat	phagocytosis
-phil(o)	loving, fond of	hydrophilic
-phobia	fear	hydrophobia
phono-	sound, voice	phonograph

photo-	light	photosynthesis
physio-	organic	physiology
plasm	form, formed into	mycoplasm
plast	form, formed into	chloroplast
-pod, -pedi	foot	diplopod
ped	child	pediatrician
<u>Root or Affix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Example</u>
poly-	many	polyploid
post-	after	posterior
pre-	before	prehistoric
pro-	for, to go before	proceed
pseudo-	false	pseudopod
psycho-	mind	psychology
quad-	four	quadruped
re-	backward, again	return
retro-	backward, behind	retro-rockets
rhodo-	rose, red	rhodolite
-scribe	write	inscribe
-scope	view, examine	microscope
sect	part, divide	dissect
semi-	half	semisolid
sept-	seven	septuplet
sex-	six	sexagenarian
-some	like, showing	wholesome
som(a)	body	chromosome
somn	sleep	insomnia
son(i)	sound	supersonic
-sphere	globe, earth	hemisphere
sub-	under, beneath	submerge
syn-	together, with	synthesis
super-	beyond, excessive	supersaturated
synthesis	to make	photosynthesis
tact-	touch	tactile
tele-	at a distance, far away	telephone
ten-	to hold	tenaculum
terr-	earth	terrestrial
tetra-	four	tetrad
therm-	heat	thermometer
-tion	act or state of	reduction
trans-	across	transmutation
tri-	three	tripod
-troph	nourishment, one who feeds	autotroph
-tropic	responding to a stimulus	phototropic
un-	not	undeveloped
under	below	underactive
uni-	one	unisex
vita	life	vitamin
-vor(e)	eat	herbivore

-ward
zoo-

in the direction of
animal

seaward
zoology