

Roots/Combining forms, Prefixes and Suffixes

Exercise: Study the meanings of the prefixes, root words, and suffixes listed in the table below. Then, figure out the meanings of the words in the table on the following page.

Prefixes	Root Words	Suffixes
a-, an- (no, not, without)	bi/o (life)	-ac (pertaining to)
auto- (self)	carcin/o (cancerous, cancer)	-al (pertaining to)
dia- (through, complete)	cardi/o (heart)	-algia (pain)
endo- (within)	cephal/o (head), cerebr/o (cerebrum)	-cyte (cell)
epi- (above, upon)	cyt/o (cell)	-ectomy (excision, removal), -tomy (process of cutting, incision)
ex-, exo- (out)	derm/o, dermat/o (skin)	-emia (blood condition)
hyper- (excessive, above, more than normal)	electr/o (electricity)	-genic (pertaining to, producing, produced by, or produced in)
hypo- (deficient, below, less than normal)	encephal/o (brain)	-gram (record)
in- (into, in)	gastr/o (stomach)	-ic, -ical (pertaining to)
peri- (surrounding, around)	gnos/o (knowledge)	-ion (process)
pro- (before)	hem/o, hemat/o (blood)	-ist (specialist)
re- (back, backward, again)	neur/o (nerve)	-itis (inflammation)
retro- (behind)	ophthalm/o (eye)	-logy (study of)
sub- (below, under)	oste/o (bone)	-oma (tumor, mass, swelling)
trans- (across, through)	path/o (disease)	-opsy (process of viewing)
ab- (away from)	psych (mind)	-scope (instrument)

Word	Meaning
biology	
biopsy	
carcinoma	
cardiology	
cerebral	
cytology	
diagnosis	
electroencephalogram	
epigastric	
gastrectomy	
neurology	
ophthalmoscope	
pathologist	
psychology	
retrocardiac	

Bonus: *How many more words can you think of?*