



Common Prefixes, Suffixes & Combining Forms

Common Prefixes	Meaning	Examples
a-; an-	without	aphagia; anemia
ab-	away from	abduction; abnormal
ad-	to, toward, near	adrenal; adduction
ante-; pre-; pro-	before	antegrade; premature; prothrombin
anti-; contra-	against, opposed to	antibody; contraceptive
brady-	slow	bradycardia; bradykinesia
con-; syn-; sym-	together, with	congenital; synthesis; symbiosis;
dia-; trans-	through, throughout, across	dialysis; diagnosis; transplant; transfusion
dys-	painful, difficult, faulty	dysentery; dysplasia
ecto-; exo-; extra-	out, away	ectoderm; exocrine; extracellular
en-; endo-; intra-	within	encephalitis; endocytosis; intracellular
epi-	upon	epidermal; epidural
hemi-	half	hemisphere; hemiplegia
hyper-	above, excessive	hypertonic; hyperglycemia
hypo-	below, deficient	hypotonic; hypothermia
inter-	between	intercellular fluid; interneuron;
macro-	large, long	macrophage; macrocephaly
meso-	middle	mesoderm
meta-	beyond, after, change	metastasis; metacarpal
micro-	small	microvascular; microembolus
mono-; uni-	one	monocyte; unilateral
multi-	many	multi-infarct dementia
neo-	new	neonatal; neoplasia
null-	none	nulliparous
oligo-	few, deficient	oligotrophia; oligospermia
para-	alongside, beside, near	parasympathetic nervous system; parathyroid gland
peri-	surrounding, outer	pericardium; perinatal
poly-	many, much	polycystic; polymyalgia; polygenic
post-	after	postoperative
re-	again, back	reuptake
retro-	backward, behind	retrovirus; retrosternal
sub-; infra-	below, under	subcutaneous; infraumbilical
super-; supra-	above, excessive	suprarenal; superficial;
tachy-	fast, rapid	tachycardia