

## Word Roots

a(n)- without  
ab- away from  
abduc- lead from  
acanth- prickle  
acer- without horns  
acetabul- vinegar cup  
aceto/acid - acid  
acin- cluster of grapes  
acri- acrid, sharp  
acro- summit, top  
actin- ray  
acust- of hearing  
ad- towards  
adipo- fat  
adventit- coming to  
aegopod- goat-foot  
aer(i/o) - the air, atmosphere  
aestiv- summer  
affer- carrying to  
agrest- rural, wild  
agro(st)- field  
al(i)- wing  
alb- white  
algia - pain  
alis - pertaining to  
allant- sausage  
allium garlic  
alopec- fox  
altissim- tall  
alve- pit, socket  
ambly- blunt  
ambul- walk  
ammo- sand  
amnio- fetal envelope  
amoeb- change  
amphi- both  
amplex- clasping  
ampulla- flask  
amygdala- almond shaped organ  
amyl- starch  
an- without  
ana- up, back, again  
anatol- east  
Anagallis- delightful  
anchus- bend, bay  
andr- male  
anemo- wind  
angi- vessel  
angul- angle

angusti- narrow  
ankylo- stiff jointed  
annu- annual  
anomo- lawless, irregular  
anser- geese  
ante- before  
antho- flower  
anthro- human  
anti- against, opposite  
antr- cave  
apo- separate, from  
aqua- water  
aguilin- eagle-beaked  
arach- spider  
arbor- tree  
arc- arch  
arch(ae/i)- ancient  
arct(i/o)- north, bear  
are- space  
areni- sandy  
arg(en/lyr)- silver  
arthro- joint  
artic- jointed  
artio- even-numbered  
arundin- reed-like  
asc- sac  
asper- rough  
aspid- shield  
ast(e)r- star  
astrag- dice (originally a knuckle bone)  
ater, atra- black  
Atlas= a Titan(mythical giant) who supported the world on his shoulders  
atr(ium)- vestibule  
Atropos= one of the Fates who cut the thread of life  
aur- ear, gold  
austral- southern  
auto- self  
aux- grow  
avi- bird  
axi- axis  
azyg- unpaired  
baca- small berry  
baccatus- berried  
baena- walking  
balan- acorn  
barb- beard

basi- at the bottom  
bat(is) skate, ray  
bdella- sucker  
bell- pretty  
bi- two  
bi(ola)- life  
blast- germ  
bore- north  
botry- small bunch of grapes  
bov- ox  
brachi- arm  
brachy- short  
brady- slow  
branch- gill  
brevi- short  
brizo- to nod  
bromo- oats, broom, shadow  
bronch- windpipe  
bucca- mouth cavity  
bulbos- bulbous  
bulla- bubble, flask  
bullat- wrinkled  
buno- hill  
bursa- pouch, purse  
caduci- temporary  
caec- blind  
caerul- sky blue  
caespit- tufted  
calam- reed, aspen  
calc- stone  
calli- beautiful  
callos callous  
calor- heat  
calyx - cup, chalice  
camp- field  
campanula - bell  
cani- dog  
cap(it)- head  
capill- hair  
capsella- small box  
card- heart  
carin- keel  
carn- flesh  
carotid- producing stupor  
carp- seed, wrist  
cary- nut  
cata- down  
cauda- tail  
cav- hollow  
centi- hundred  
ceph(al)- head

cera(s)(t)- horn  
cerc- horns, lobes, short tail  
cerebro- brain  
cerv- neck  
ch(e)ir- hand  
chaero- to please  
chaet- bristle  
chamae- on ground  
chel- turtle  
cheno- goose  
chi(as) - crossing  
chil- lip  
chlamy- outer garment  
chlor- green  
choan- funnel  
chondr- cartilage  
chord- cord  
chorion membrane  
chrom- colour  
chrys- golden  
chyl- fluid  
chym- juice  
cili- eyelash  
ciner- ashen, grey  
cipit- head  
circum- around  
cirr- tentacle (originally  
curl)  
cl(e)ist- closed  
clad- branch  
clast- broken  
clav- key  
cleid- key  
cleithr- bar, key  
clin- bed, recline  
cloaca - sewer  
coccus - berry, grain  
cochl- shell  
coel- hollow  
col(on) large intestine  
coll- neck  
collat- borne together  
columella - little column  
com- with  
commis- sent out  
communis- colonial  
commutat- changed  
compact- compact  
compress- flattened  
con- with  
conch- shell

condyl- knuckle  
cono- cone  
contra- opposite  
convolvo- to entwine  
copro- dung  
cora(x)lg)- raven  
corb- basket  
cord- heart  
corium- leather  
corn- horn  
coron- crown  
corp- body  
cort- bark  
cost- rib  
cotyl- cup  
crani- skull  
crass- thick  
crep- shoe  
cribi- sieve  
cric- ring  
crispus curled  
crist- crest  
crosso- fringe, tassel  
cru(rals)- shank  
cruci- cross-like  
crypt- hidden  
cten- comb  
cune-wedge  
cusp- lance, point  
cuti- skin  
cyan- blue  
cycl- circular  
cyno- dog  
cyst- capsule  
cyt- cell  
dactyl- finger  
dasy- shaggy  
deci- ten  
decid- falling off  
decuss- cross banding  
deka- ten  
delph- womb  
delphis- dolphin  
demi- half  
dendr- tree  
dent- tooth  
derm- skin  
dero- persisting  
de...o- band  
deut- second  
dextro- right

di(a)- two  
dia- through  
didym- twin  
digit- finger  
dino- terrible  
diplo- double  
dipso- thirst  
dissect- deeply cut  
dodeca- twelve  
dont- tooth  
dors- back  
drom- quick running  
dubi- doubtful  
dulci- sweet  
duo- two  
dur- hard  
echino- spiny  
echis- viper  
eco- house  
ecto- outside  
effer- carrying away  
effusus- loosely spreading  
ejacul- throw out  
elasma- plate, flat  
elat- tall  
-ell- diminutive  
embio- living  
embol- thrown in  
endo- inside  
engy- narrow  
ensi- sword  
entolenter- inside  
eo- dawn, east  
epi- upon  
equi- horse, equal  
erect- upright  
erythr- red  
esculent- edible  
ethm- sieve  
eu- well, very  
eury- wide  
evolut - turning, unrolling  
ex- out of  
exiguus- slender  
exo- outside  
extens- draw out  
extra- beyond  
extrins- coming from  
fab- bean  
falc- sickle-shaped  
fallax- false

fasc(ic)- bundle  
fatuus- foolish, useless  
feli- cat  
fer- carry  
ficar- fig-like  
fil- thread  
fistul- hollow, tube  
flacc- flabby  
flav- yellow  
flexu- wavy  
flocculus- lock of wool  
fluitans- floating  
foen- hay  
foetid- foul smelling  
foli- leaf  
fontan- fountain  
foramen- opening  
fornix- vault  
fovea- shallow round  
depression  
fruticans- shrubby  
fund- to pour  
furc(ul)- fork  
gal- milk  
gale- weasel  
gall- of France  
gangli- knot  
gano- shining  
gast(e)r- stomach, pouch  
gemin- twins  
gemma- bud  
genu- knee, joint  
geranium- crane  
gerro- shield  
gladi- sword  
glen- socket  
glia- glue  
glom(er)- half of yam  
glo(ss/tt)- tongue  
glut- sticky  
gl(uly)c- sweet  
glypt- carved, engraved  
gnaph- wool  
gnath- jaw  
goni- angle  
gono- seed  
gracil- slender  
gram- of grass  
gymn- naked  
gyn- woman  
gyr- turning

haem- blood  
hal- salty  
hallu(x/ci)- big toe  
hamat- hook  
haplo- single, simple  
hasta(t)- spear-tip shape  
hect- hundred  
heira- hawk  
helios- sun  
helminth- worm  
helo- wart  
hemi- half  
hepa(r/t)- liver  
hepta- seven  
hetero- different  
hex- six  
hibem- winter  
hippo- horse  
hirsut- hairy  
hispid- bristly  
histri- actor  
holo- complete, whole  
homo- man, same  
homal- flat  
hormon- that which excites  
hortens- of gardens  
humus- ground  
hyal- glassy  
hydr- water  
hyemal- winter  
hyo- U-shaped  
hyper- above  
hypo- beneath, under  
ichthy- fish  
-ida- like  
-idae- ending of zoological  
family names  
ileum- twisted  
impar- unpaired  
in- in, not  
-in- diminutive  
-inae- ending of zoological  
sub-family names  
incarnat- flesh coloured  
incis- cutting in  
incus- anvil  
inermis- unarmed  
inflexis- rigid  
infra- under  
inter- between  
intra- within

iod- violet  
-iola- diminutive  
iris- rainbow  
iso- equal  
iter- passage  
jug- yoked together  
jungoljunc- to bind  
kary - nucleus  
ket- ketone  
kilo- thousand  
labi- lips  
labyrinth- tortuous passage  
lacer- torn  
lacrim- tears  
lact- milk  
lacuna- space  
laevo- left  
lagna- flask  
lamella- leaf, layer  
lan(at)- wool  
lanceol(at)- lance-shaped  
lati- broad  
lecith- egg yolk  
lemm- skin, husk  
lens- lentil, bean  
leo(n)- lion  
lepid- scale  
lepto- slender  
leuc- white  
levator- lifter  
lign- wood  
ligul- strap-shaped  
lin- line  
ling- tongue  
lip- fat  
lith- stone  
log(y)- discourse, study  
loph- crest  
lumen- cavity  
luna- moon  
lupus - wolf  
lute- yellow  
lymph- clear water  
lysis- loosen  
macr- large  
macula- spot  
magni- large  
maj- greater  
mal - bad  
mala- cheek  
malleus- hammer, mallet

mamma- breast  
mandib- lower jaw  
manu- hand  
maritim- of the sea  
marsupium- pouch  
masseter- chewer  
mast- nipple  
mat(e)ri- mother  
maxi- large  
maxill- jaw  
maxim- greatest  
meatus- passage  
medi- medium  
medull- marrow  
mega- large  
mel(l)i- honey  
melan- black  
menin(x,g)- membrane  
meno- moon  
mer- part  
meso- middle  
meta- after  
micro- small  
milli- thousand  
min- smaller  
minim- smallest  
mirabile- wonderful  
miss- sent  
mito- thread  
mixi- mingle  
moll- soft  
monil- string of beads  
mono- one  
montan- of mountains  
morph- form  
motor- mover  
multi- many  
mural- walls  
muri- mouse  
myo- muscle, mouse  
myri- countless  
myx- mucous  
myz- sucker  
na(rls)- nose  
necro- dead  
necto- swimming  
nema- hair  
nemoral- in woods  
neo- new  
nephr- kidney  
neur- nerve

nictitat- winking  
nigr- black  
non- not  
nona- nine  
noth- spurious  
notho- southern  
noto- back, south  
nu(c)lx)- nut  
nuch- back of neck  
nucle- little nut  
nud- naked  
nulli- none  
nutans- nodding  
obic - a barrier  
obtect- concealed  
obturat- closed  
obtusi- blunt  
occiden- Western  
occip- back of head  
oct- eight  
odont- tooth  
odor- fragrant  
oecious- house of  
oed- swollen  
oen- wine  
oesoph- gullet  
officinal- used in medicine  
-oid- like  
olecran- skull of elbow  
oleo- oily  
olfact- smelling  
oligo- few  
oliva- olive  
omaso- paunch  
oment- fat skin  
omm- eye  
omni - all  
omo- shoulder  
omphalo- navel  
onto- existing  
oo- egg  
op(t)- eye  
operculum- little cover  
ophi- snake  
ophthalmo- eye  
opistho- behind  
opoter- either  
or- mouth  
orbi- circle  
orch- testicle  
oriental- Eastern

ornith- bird  
ortho- straight  
osis - a condition of  
os(ti)- mouth  
os(s/t)- bone  
ostrac shell  
ot- ear  
ovi- sheep  
ovo- egg  
oxys, oxus- sharp, pointed  
pachy- thick  
palae- old  
palli(um)- mantle  
pallid- pale  
palustri- in marshes  
pan- ali  
par(a)- near  
parie- wall  
parvi- little  
patella- small dish  
patens- spreading  
pect(or)- chest  
pectin- comb-like  
ped- foot, child  
pellucid- shining through  
pene- almost  
pent- five  
per(i)- through, beyond  
peregrin- foreign  
peri- around  
persic- peach  
petr- rock  
phaeo- dark  
phag- eat  
phalan(g/x)- close formation  
of troops  
phalar- shining  
phanero- visible  
pheno - show, seem appear  
pher- carry  
phil- love  
phloe- tree bark  
phor- carry  
pho(s/to)- light  
phragm- fence  
phren- diaphragm, mind  
phyl- tribe  
phyll- leaf  
physa- bladder  
physio- nature  
phyto- plant

pil- hair  
pinea- pine cone  
pinnat- feather-shaped  
pisum- pea  
pisc- fish  
plac- plate, tablet  
plagio- oblique  
plan- flat  
plast - formed, molded part  
platy- flat, broad  
plec(o/t)- twist, pluck  
plesio- near  
pleth- full  
pleur- side  
plex- interwoven  
plica- fold  
plum- feather  
pneu(mo/st)- air, lung  
pod- foot  
pogo- beard  
polio- grey  
polit- polished  
poll(ex)- thumb  
poly- many  
pons- bridge  
porc- pig  
porphyr- purple  
porta- gate  
post- after  
potam- river  
potero- drinking cup  
praeco- early  
pratens- in meadows  
pre- before  
prim- first  
pro- in front of, before  
proct- anus  
procumbens- lying flat  
profund- deep  
proliger- bear offspring  
prom- first  
proso- front  
prostratus- lying flat  
prot- first  
prunus- plum  
psamma- sand  
pseud- false  
psycho- mind  
psychro- cold  
pter- wing, fern  
ptyal- saliva

pubescens- downy  
pubi- sexually mature  
pulmo- lung  
pungens- pungent  
pusill- very small  
pygo- rump  
pyl- gate  
pyo- pus  
pyro- heat, fire  
pyrus- pear  
quadr- four  
quarter- four  
quin(t/que)- five  
rach- spine  
radi- root  
ram- branching  
ran- frog  
rapa- turnip  
raph- seam  
rect- straight  
reflex- bent back  
ren- kidney  
repens- crawling  
reptans- crawling  
retic- network  
retina- little net  
retro- behind, backward  
rhabd- rod  
rhach- spine  
rhage- tear, rent  
rhin- nose, snout  
rhiz- root  
rhodo- red  
rhynch- snout  
-rrh- flow  
rode- gnaw  
rogos- wrinkled  
rostr- beak, prow  
rota- tum, wheel  
rub(e)r- red  
rumen- throat  
sacchar- sugar  
saccul- little sac  
sacr- sacred  
sagitta- arrow  
sal- salt  
sanguini- bloody  
sapon- soapy  
sarc- flesh  
sativus- cultivated  
saur- lizard

scala- ladder  
scalene- uneven  
scaph- anything hollow, bowl,  
schizo- split  
scler- hard  
scop- gaze, small owl, broom,  
shadow  
scut- shield  
scyph- cup  
seba- tallow, wax  
sect- cut  
segetum- in cornfields  
selen- moon  
sella- saddle, seat  
semi- half  
sept- seven, wall  
ser(olu)- any body fluid  
serot- late  
serrat- saw-toothed  
set- hair  
sex- six  
simi- monkey  
sinus- hollow, bay  
siphon- tube  
sol- sun  
soma- body  
somni- sleep  
specios- showy  
sperm- seed  
sphen- wedge  
sphinct- closing  
spinos- spiny  
spondyli- vertebra  
squalid- squalid  
squam- scale  
squarros- spreading at tips  
stae(rlt)- fat  
sta(silt)- standing  
steg- covering  
stell- star  
steno- narrow  
stereo- solid  
steril- sterile  
stern- breastbone  
stom- mouth  
strat- layer  
strept- twisted  
strictus- upright, stiff  
strigos- having stiff bristles  
stroph- turning  
styl- column

sub- below  
sucr- sugar  
sulc- furrow  
super- beyond  
supin- lying back  
supra- above  
sudur- seam  
sym- with  
syn- with  
syrin(glx)- pipe  
sys- with  
tachy- fast  
tact- touch  
taenia- ribbon  
talus- ankle  
tapetum- carpet  
tard- late  
tarsus- ankle  
tect- covered  
tegmen- covering  
tel (e/o)- far, end  
teleo- complete  
temno- cut  
tenacul- holding  
tentor- spread like a tent  
tenuis- slender  
ter(ti)- three  
teres- round  
tetr- four  
textilis- of textiles  
thalam- chamber, bed  
thalass- sea  
theca- case  
thel- nipple, female  
therm- heat  
thero- breast, mammal  
thesis - an arranging  
thyreo- large shield  
tic - belonging to  
tinctori- of dyes  
torn- cut  
tomentos- densely woolly  
torpe- numb  
toxo- arrow, dart  
trab- beam  
trachy- rough  
trago- goat  
trans- across  
trapez- four sided, table  
trema- hole  
tremulans- trembling

tri- three  
trich- hair  
trivialis- trivial  
troch- wheel  
trop- turning  
troph- feed  
tussi- cough  
typ - a type  
uliginosus- in marshes  
-ul- diminutive  
ulo- wooly  
ultra- above  
umbilic- navel  
un- one  
unc- hook  
ungui- nail, claw  
ungul- hoof, claw  
urens- bum  
uro- tail  
urs- of bears  
utricul- little skin bag  
uv(ela)- grapes  
vagina- sheath  
vagus- wandering  
vas- vessel  
velum- veil  
ven- vein  
ventr- belly  
verd- green  
veris- true  
verm- worm  
vern- spring  
versi- various  
vesic- blister  
vesper- evening, western  
vill- shaggy hair, velvet  
virens- green  
visc- organs of body cavity  
vita- life  
vitell- yolk  
vitr- glass  
vora- devour  
vulgaris- common  
vulp- fox  
xanth- yellow  
xen- stranger  
xer- dry  
xiphi- sword  
xyl- wood

zo- animal  
zon- girdle  
zyg- yoke