

# Common Word Roots in Biology

<u>Word Part</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Word Part</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
* a-	lacking: none	*epi-	on; above
alb-	white	*eu-	true
angio-	vessel	exo-	without; outside
anthropo-	humans	flagell-	whip
anti-	against	-fuge	drives away or out
arthro-	jointed	gangli-	a knot on a string
audi-	hear	gastro-	stomach
*auto-	self	*gene-	origin; birth
bi-	two: twice	*glyc- or glyco-	sweet
bio	life	-graph	write or draw
bronch-	windpipe	gymno-	naked
calor-	heat	hapl-	single
carb-	carbon	hepato-	liver
cardi-	heart	hemi-	half
carn-	meat	*hetero-	different
cell-	storeroom, chamber	hexa-	six
centi-	one hundredth	*homo- or homeo	same
centro-	center	*hydr-	water
cephal-	head	*hyper-	over, above, excess
*chlor-	green	*hypo-	under, beneath, less
chrom-	color	*inter-	between, among
*co- or con	with; together	*intra-	inside
coel-	hollow	-ism	the state or condition
*cyt-	cell	-itis	condition or disease
deca-	ten	karyo-	nut, nucleus, kernel
deci-	one tenth	kilo-	one thousand
dent-, -dont	teeth	*leuco-	white
-derm or derm-	skin	-logy, -ology	study of
di-	two, double	*-lysis	dissolution
dia-	through: across	*macro-	large;enlarged
dors-	back	magni-	great
echin-	spiny	-mation	process of operating
ect-	outside	mega-	one million
electro-	electricity	meso-	middle
en-	in	meta-	between; with
encephal-	brain	metabo-	change
*endo-	within; inside	-meter	measure

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micro-	small; minute	*-troph	feeding
milli-	one thousandth	ultra-	beyond, extreme
mono-	one	ventr-	belly
multi-	many	zo-	animal
non-	not	*zygo-	joined; yoke
octo-	eight		
oculo-	relating to eyes		
olf-	smell		
*omni-	all		
opthal-	eye		
-osis	condition, state		
*ov-	egg		
penta-	five		
-period	regular event		
*phag-	eat		
*phen-	appearance		
*photo-	light		
*-phyll	leaf		
-phyte	plant		
-plast	particle		
platy-	flat		
pneumo-	lungs		
-pod	foot		
*pre-	before, ahead of time		
proto-	first organized		
pseud-	fake, false		
quadri-	four		
sclero-	hard		
-scope	instrument to see with		
-sperm or sperm-	seed		
-stasis	standing, not moving or changing		
*symbio	living together		
*-synthesis	to put together		
therm-	heat		
trans-	across		
tri-	three		
trop-	turning		