

Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning
a-/an-	without, not
anti-	against
auto-	self
bi-	two, double
brady-	slow
dys-	bad, difficult, painful
epi-	above (location)
eu-	good, normal
hemi-	half
hyper-	higher than normal, excessive
hypo-	less than, under
inter-	between
intra-	within
multi-	many
non-	not
peri-	around
poly-	many, much
post-	after, behind
pre-	before, in front
pseudo-	false
quadri-	four
semi-	half
sub-	under, below
supra-	above, over
tachy-	fast, rapid
tri-	three

Source: Adapted from Mitchell, J. & Haroun, L. (2002). *Introduction to health care*. Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Learning.

Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning
-ac, -al, -ar, -ary, -eal, -iac, -ic, -ical, -ose, -ous, -tic	pertaining to
-algia	pain
-centesis	surgical puncture to remove fluid
-cide	to kill, destroy
-cyte	cell
-ectomy	removal of
-emia	blood condition
-gram	record, image
-graph	an instrument used to record, image
-graphy	process of recording, imaging
-ia	condition, especially an abnormal state
-ism	condition
-itis	inflammation of
-lithiasis	presence of or formation of stones
-logy	study of
-megaly	enlargement
-oid	resembling
-oma	tumor
-otomy, -tomy	surgical incision
-pathy	disease
-plasty	surgical repair
-plegia	paralysis
-pnea	breathing, respiration
-rrhea	drainage, flow
-scope	examination, instrument
-scopy	examination using a scope
-stasis	stoppage
-stomy	surgically create an artificial mouth or stoma (opening)

Source: Adapted from Mitchell, J. & Haroun, L. (2002). *Introduction to health care*. Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Learning.