

PRINCIPLE LATIN AND GREEK ROOTS USED IN BIOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

This list will help in learning the many technical terms used in biology. Use this list to learn their meanings.

a =	without (prefix),negative	chondr =	cartilage	gaster =	stomach
ab =	from, opposite	chlor =	green	gangli =	knot in string
abyss=	extreme depths	chord =	cord	gen =	descent, generate; also
acanth =	spine	chrom =	color	glia =	glue (like)
actin =	ray	chrys =	golden	gly =	sugar-containing
ad =	to, toward	cili =	eyelash	glom =	ball of yarn
adipo =	fat	cirri =	small tentacle	gloss =	tongue
affer =	carry to, bear inward	clitor =	to close	gnath =	jaw
ala =	wing	cloaca =	sewer	gono (gona) =	sex organ
alb =	white	cnid =	nettle	gymn =	naked
alveoli =	pit, cavity	coel =	hollow	gyn =	female
amnio =	fetal sac	com =	together	haem =	blood
amphi =	on both sides, both	conch =	shell	hali =	salt-tolerant
ampulla =	a flask	corn =	horn	helminth =	worm
an =	without	corp =	body	hemi =	half
andr =	male	cotyl =	embryonic leaf	hepat =	liver
anell =	a little ring	crani =	skull	herp =	creeping
angio =	enclosed	crusta =	crust, shell	hetero =	different or other
aniso =	opposite	crypt =	hidden	hex =	six
ante =	in front of	cten =	comb	hipp =	horse
antho =	flower	cuspl =	lance., point	histo =	tissue
anthro =	human	cuti =	skin	holo =	complete
anti =	opposite, against	-cuel =	circular	hom =	like
aqua =	water.	cyan =	blue-green	homo =	the same; human, man
arach =	spider, spiderweb	cyst =	capsule	hyal =	glass-like
arbor =	tree	cyt =	cell	hydr =	water
arch =	primitive	-dae =	family	hyper =	high activity,above,over
arthro =	joint	dactyl =	finger	hypo =	low activity, below,under
artio =	even	de =	from, away, down	ichth =	fish
asco =	cup-like	deca =	ten	-ida =	like
-ase =	an enzyme	demi =	half	-idia =	little
aster =	star	den =	tooth	insect =	to cut in, divide
ater (atra) =	black	dendr =	tree or bush	inter =	between
aud =	to hear, hearing	derm =	skin	intra =	inside, within
auri =	ear	di =	twice,	iso =	equal
auto =	self	second		itis =	inflammation of
avi =	bird	dia =	apart	kary =	fusion
basi =	at the bottom	digit =	finger or toe	kin =	moving
bathy =	very deep	din =	terrible or whirling	lab =	lip
bdella =	sucker	diplo =	double	lacuna =	space, void
bio (bios) =	life	don =	tooth	lamella =	leaf layer
bi (bis) =	two	dors =	back	lepi =	scale
blast =	germ cell	duo =	two, twice	-lemma =	membrane
brachi =	arm	-eal =	pertaining to	leuc =	white
brachy =	short	echin =	spiny	liga =	to tie together
brady =	slow	eco =	house	lith =	stone
branch =	gill, lung	ect =	outside, outer	log (logy) =	treatise, study
bronch =	windpipe	ef =	away	lumen =	cavity
bucc=	cavity of mouth	ejacul =	throw out	lumin =	light-producing
bursa =	pouch	embol =	inserted	lutea =	yellow
caec =	blind	encephalon =	brain	lys =	to kill; a dissolution
caly =	covering	end =	inner	macro =	great, large
campanula =	bell	engy =	narrow	macula =	spot
canth =	spine	enter =	inside	magni =	large
capit =	head	entom =	an insect	mastig =	whip
capill =	hair	epi =	upon	major =	larger
card =	heart	erythr =	red	mamma =	breast
carin =	keel, breastbone	eu =	advanced, typical	maxilla =	upper jaw
carn =	flesh	eury =	wide range of tolerance	medull =	marrow
-carp =	spore case	ex =	outside, from	mela =	dark
caud =	tail	extra =	beyond	mening =	membrane
cephal =	head	fasc =	bundle	mer =	part, unit
cera =	horn	fenestr =	window	meso =	middle
cerebr =	brain	fer =	to bear, carry	meta =	after
cerv =	neck	fili =	thread	micro =	small
cest =	girdle	flex =	bend		
ceta =	whale	foramen =	opening (small)		
chaet =	bristle, spine	foss =	ditch		
chel =	claw	gam =	marriage, a joining		
choan =	funnel				

mit =	thread	phyte =	plant	soma =	body
moll =	soft	pino =	to drink	-spanch =	viscera
mono =	single, one	pili =	hair	sperm =	seed, semen
morph =	form	pinna =	feather	sphict =	closing
muco =	slimy, mucus	plac =	plate, tablet.	spira =	coiling
multi =	many	plan =	flat, plane	sporo =	spore-producing
mus =	mouse	plantar =	sole of foot	squam =	scale, flattened
myce (myco)=	fungus	plasm =	fluid, forming	steg =	covering
myo =	muscle	plast =	rod-shaped body	stell =	star
myst =	moustache	platy =	flat, broad	sten =	narrow
		pleio =	multiple	stom =	mouth
nao =	dwarf	pleur =	side	striet =	narrow bands
narc =	drugged, drug-like	plex =	interwoven	styl =	column
necro =	death	plica =	fold	sub =	under, below
nema =	thread	-ploid =	chromosome #	sulc =	groove, furrow
nephr =	kidney	plume =	feather	super =	above
neur =	nerve	pneumo =	air, breathing	syn (sym) =	together, partnership
nidus =	nest	pod =	foot		
nom =	law	poly =	many	tachy =	fast
node =	thickened area	pollex =	thumb	tact =	touch
noto =	back	pons =	bridge	taenia =	band, ribbon
nudi =	naked	porta =	gate	tax =	to arrange
		post =	behind, after	teleo =	complete, perfect
-oid =	like	pre =	before	tele =	far end
ocel =	eye	prim =	first	tentacul =	holding
odont =	teeth	pro =	in front, toward	terti =	third
oesoph =	gullet	process =	to project from	test =	shell
olfact =	smelling	proct =	anus	testis =	male gonad
oligo =	few	profund =	deep	tetra =	four
oment =	fatty skin	proto =	first	theca =	case
oo =	egg	prox =	nearby	thermo =	heat
ophi =	snake	pseud =	false	thero =	beast, mammal
ophthalm =	eye	ptero =	wing, fin	thromb =	clot
opercul =	little cover	pulmo =	lung	tom =	piece or section, cut
opt =	eye, vision	pychn =	pressure	toti =	all, total
orb =	circle	pyg =	rump		
oral =	mouth			trach =	tube
ornith =	bird	quad =	four	trans =	across
ortho =	straight	quat =	four	trema =	hole
os =	mouth	quint =	five	tri =	three
-ose =	a sugar			trich =	hair
-osis =	increase of	rami =	branch	trop =	turning
oss (ost) =	bone	renal =	kidney	troph =	food, feeding
osti =	mouth	rete =	little net	tympan =	drum
ostrac =	shell	retro =	back, backward		
oti (oto) =	ear	rhabd =	rod	ultra =	beyond
ovum =	egg	rhach =	spine	unc =	hook
		rhage =	tear, rent	ungul =	hoof, claw
pachy =	thick	rhin =	nose	uni =	one, single
palae =	ancient	rhiz =	root	uro =	tail, excretory
-palmate =	webbed	rhodo =	red	uter =	womb
papil =	nipple	rhomb =	square		
par =	birth	rhynch =	snout	vagina =	sheath.
para =	beside, near	rodo =	gnaw	vague =	wandering
pariet =	wall	rostrum =	beak, prow	venter =	belly .
parv =	small	rota =	turn, wheel	verm =	worm
pect =	breast			vesti =	rudimentary
ped =	foot	sacch =	sugar	vita =	life
peduncl =	little foot	saggi =	mid-line	vitell =	yolk
pelecy =	hatchet	sapr =	decaying matter	vitro =	glass
penis =	tail, penis	sarc =	flesh	viv =	alive
pente =	five	saur =	lizard	volv =	turning, womb
peri =	around	scaph =	hollow	vors =	devour
perisso =	odd	schizo =	cleft, split		
perenni =	permanent	scler =	hard	xero =	drought-tolerant
petr =	rock	scrot =	pouch	xyl =	wood
phaeo =	brown	scut =	shield		
phago =	eat	scypho =	cup	zon =	girdle
phil =	loving, liking	-sect =	cut	zoo (zoa) =	animal
phor =	carry	semi =	half, part	zyg =	yoke
photo =	light	sept =	seven, wall		
phragm =	fence, partition	ser =	fluid on body		
phyl =	tribe, group	serra =	saw		
phyl =	leaf	set =	bristle		
physa =	bladder	sex =	six		
physio =	nature	sinus =	hollow		
		sol =	sun		