

## Root Words

| Prefix/Suffix            | Definition                | Example                        |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Set One</b>           |                           |                                |
| a-                       | without                   | asymmetrical                   |
| ab-                      | from                      | abduct                         |
| -ac                      | pertaining to             | cardiac                        |
| acr-                     | extremity                 | acromegaly                     |
| ad-                      | to, toward                | adduct                         |
| aden-, adeno-            | gland                     | adenoid                        |
| adip-                    | fat                       | adipose                        |
| aer-                     | air                       | aerobic                        |
| af                       | toward                    | afferent                       |
| -al                      | pertaining to             | brachial                       |
| alb-                     | white                     | albino                         |
| -algia                   | pain                      | neuralgia                      |
| allo-                    | other                     | allograft                      |
| ambi-                    | both                      | ambivalent, ambidextrous       |
| ambul-                   | walk                      | ambulate, ambulance            |
| ana-                     | back, up, again           | anachronism, anaphase          |
| andro-                   | male                      | androgynous, androgen          |
| angio-                   | vessel                    | angiogram                      |
| anima-                   | breath, life              | animal, animated               |
| ante-                    | before                    | antebrachial                   |
| anthropo-                | man                       | anthropology, anthropomorphism |
| anti-, ant-              | against                   | antibiotic                     |
| apo-                     | away, from                | apogee, apostate               |
| aqua-                    | water                     | aquatic, aquarium              |
| arachn-                  | spider                    | arachnoid                      |
| <b>Set Two</b>           |                           |                                |
| arche-                   | beginning, first in order | archeology, archbishop         |
| arter-                   | artery                    | arterial                       |
| arthro-                  | joint                     | arthritis, arthropod           |
| -asis, -asia             | state, condition          | homeostasis                    |
| astro-, aster-           | star                      | astronomy, asteroid            |
| atel-                    | imperfect                 | atelectasis                    |
| aur-                     | ear                       | auricle                        |
| auto-                    | self                      | autograph, automobile          |
| avi-                     | bird                      | aviation, aviary               |
| baro-                    | pressure                  | barometer, barograph           |
| bi-                      | two                       | bivalve, binocular             |
| biblio-                  | books                     | bibliography, bibliophile      |
| bio-                     | life                      | autobiography, biome           |
| blast-                   | precursor                 | blastocyst                     |
| brachi-                  | arm                       | brachiocephalic                |
| brady-                   | short                     | bradycardia                    |
| bronch-                  | windpipe, airway          | bronchial                      |
| carcin-                  | cancer                    | carcinoma                      |
| cardi-, cardio-, cardia- | heart                     | cardiac                        |
| carni-                   | flesh                     | carnivore, carnage             |
| -cele                    | tumor, hernia, swelling   | blastocoele                    |
| -centesis                | puncture                  | thoracocentesis                |
| cephal-                  | head                      | cephalopod                     |
| cephalo-                 | head                      | cephalothoraxes, cephalic      |
| cerebr-                  | brain                     | cerebral hemisphere            |

## Set Three

|                 |              |                             |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| cerebro-        | brain        | cerebrospinal fluid         |
| cervic-         | neck         | cervical vertebrae          |
| chlor-          | green        | chlorophyll, chlorine       |
| chole-          | bile         | cholecystitis               |
| -chondrion      | granule      | mitochondrion               |
| chondro-        | cartilage    | chondrocyte                 |
| chrom-, chromo- | color        | chromatin                   |
| chrono-         | time         | chronological, chronograph  |
| cide-           | killing      | pesticide, homicide         |
| circum-         | around       | circumpolar, circumnavigate |
| -clast          | broken       | osteoclast                  |
| coel-, -coel    | cavity       | coelom                      |
| colo-           | colon        | colonoscopy                 |
| com-            | within       | communicate, commerce       |
| contra-         | against      | contrast, contradict        |
| corp-           | body         | corpuscle                   |
| corpus-         | body         | corpse, corpuscle           |
| cortic-         | rind or bark | corticospinal               |
| cost-           | rib          | costil                      |
| cranio-         | skull        | craniosacral                |
| cribr-          | sieve        | cribriform                  |
| -crine          | to separate  | endocrine                   |
| cut-            | skin         | cutaneous                   |
| cyan-           | blue         | cyanosis                    |
| cyano-          | dark blue    | cyanobacteria, cyanosis     |

## Set Four

|                |                   |                             |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| cyclo-         | circular          | cyclone, bicycle            |
| cyst- or -cyst | sac               | blastocyst                  |
| cyt-           | a hollow cell     | cytology                    |
| cyto-          | cell              | cytoplasm, cytology         |
| de-            | down, away        | decline, depress            |
| dendr-         | tree              | dendrite                    |
| dent-, dont-   | tooth, teeth      | dentist, orthodontist       |
| derm-          | skin              | epidermis, dermatologist    |
| desmo-         | band              | desmosome                   |
| di-            | twice             | disaccharide                |
| dia-           | through           | diameter                    |
| digit-         | a finger or toe   | digital                     |
| dipl-          | double, twofold   | diplococcal, diploid        |
| dis-           | away from         | disability                  |
| diure-         | to urinate        | diuresis                    |
| dys-           | faulty, bad       | dysfunction, dysentery      |
| -ectasis       | expansion         | atelectasis                 |
| ecto-          | outside           | ectoderm                    |
| -ectomy        | cut out, excision | tonsillectomy, appendectomy |
| ef-            | away from         | efferent                    |
| emmetro-       | in proper measure | emmetropia                  |
| encephalo-     | brain             | encephalitis                |
| end-, endo-    | inside            | endometrium                 |
| entero-        | intestine         | enteritis, enteron          |
| entomo-        | insect            | entomology, entomopathogen  |

## Set Five

|                   |                                 |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| epi-              | on, upon                        | epidermis, epilogue       |
| erythema-         | flushed (skin)                  | erythematosis             |
| erythro-          | red                             | erythrocyte               |
| ex-               | out, away from                  | exocytosis                |
| exo-              | outside                         | exobiology, exodus        |
| extra-            | outside of, beyond, in addition | extracellular             |
| ferr-             | iron                            | transferrin               |
| fil-              | thread                          | filament                  |
| -form             | shape                           | fusiform                  |
| frater-           | brother                         | fraternity, fraternal     |
| gastr-, gastro-   | stomach                         | gastrointestinal, gastric |
| -gen, -genic      | to produce                      | mutagen                   |
| gen-              | race, kind                      | gender, genus             |
| genicula-         | knee-like structure             | geniculates               |
| genio-            | chin                            | geniohyoid                |
| geo-              | earth                           | geology, geography        |
| germ-             | sprout                          | germinate, germicide      |
| gest-             | to bear                         | gestation                 |
| glosso-, -glossus | tongue                          | hypoglossal               |
| glyco-            | sugar                           | glycogen                  |
| -gram             | record                          | myogram                   |
| gran-             | grain                           | granulocyte               |
| -graph, -graphia  | to write, record                | electroencephalograph     |
| gymnos-           | naked                           | gymnasium, gymnosperm     |
| gyn-              | female                          | gynecologist, gynoecium   |

## Set Six

|               |                                         |                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| gyne- gyno-   | woman                                   | gynecologist                    |
| halo-         | salt                                    | halophyte, halocline            |
| helio-        | sun                                     | helium, heliocentric            |
| hem-, hemato- | blood                                   | hemopoiesis                     |
| hemi-         | half                                    | hemisphere, hemiptera           |
| hemo-         | blood                                   | hemoglobin, hemostat            |
| hepato-       | liver                                   | hepatitis, hepatophyta          |
| herb-         | plant                                   | herbivore, herbal               |
| hetero-       | mixed                                   | heterogeneous, heterodox        |
| hexa-         | six                                     | hexose, hexagon                 |
| histo-        | tissue                                  | histology                       |
| holo-         | entire                                  | holocrine                       |
| homeo-, homo- | same                                    | homeostasis                     |
| hyal-, hyalo- | glass                                   | hyaline                         |
| hydro-        | water                                   | hydrogen, hydrology, hydrolysis |
| hyo-          | U-shaped                                | hyoid bone                      |
| hyper-        | over, excess, above                     | hyperpolarization, hyperactive  |
| hypo-         | below, under                            | hypodermic, hypoglycemic        |
| hyster-       | uterus                                  | hysterectomy                    |
| -ia           | state or condition                      | insomnia                        |
| ichthyo-      | fish                                    | ichthyology, ichthyosaur        |
| idi-          | one's own                               | idiopathic                      |
| in-           | in, within, or denoting negative effect | inactive                        |
| infra-        | beneath                                 | infraorbital                    |
| inter-        | between                                 | interfere, interpret            |

## Set Seven

|                        |                      |                               |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| intra-                 | within               | intramural, intravenous       |
| intro-                 | within               | introduction, introvert       |
| ipsi-                  | itself               | ipsilateral                   |
| iso-                   | equal                | isoptera, isometric, isotonic |
| -itis                  | inflammation         | laryngitis, appendicitis      |
| karyo-                 | nucleus, body        | eukaryotic, karyotype         |
| kerato-                | horn                 | keratin                       |
| kine-                  | motion               | kinetic, kinematics           |
| kino-, kinin-          | to move              | bradykinin                    |
| lact-, lacto-, -lactin | milk                 | prolactin, lactose            |
| lapar-                 | flank or loins       | laparoscopy                   |
| -lemma                 | husk                 | plasmalemma                   |
| leuko-                 | white                | leukocyte                     |
| liga-                  | to bind together     | ligase                        |
| lip-, lipo-            | fat                  | lipoid                        |
| lith-                  | stone                | cholelithiasis                |
| litho-                 | rock                 | lithosphere, lithograph       |
| -logy                  | study of, science of | biology, zoology              |
| luna-                  | moon                 | lunar, lunatic                |
| lysis-                 | break up, loosen     | analysis, photolysis          |
| lyso-, -lysis, -lyze   | dissolution          | hydrolysis                    |
| macr-                  | large                | macrophage                    |
| macro-                 | large                | macromolecule, macroscopic    |
| magni-                 | great, large         | magnify, magnificent          |
| mal-                   | abnormal, bad, evil  | maltreatment, malevolent      |

## Set Eight

|               |                   |                             |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| mamilla-      | little breast     | mamillary                   |
| manus-        | hand              | manuscript, manual          |
| mast-, masto- | breast            | mastoid                     |
| mega-         | big               | megakaryocyte               |
| melan-        | black             | melanocyte                  |
| men-          | month             | menstrual                   |
| mero-         | part              | merocrine                   |
| meso-         | middle            | mesoderm                    |
| meta-         | after, beyond     | metaphase                   |
| meter-        | measure           | thermometer, speedometer    |
| micro-        | small             | micron, microscope          |
| mis-          | bad, ill          | misanthrope, misprint       |
| mono-         | one, single       | monorail, monosaccharide    |
| morpho-       | form              | morphology, anthropomorphic |
| mort-         | death             | mortician, mortal           |
| multi-        | much, many        | multicellular               |
| -mural        | wall              | intramural                  |
| myelo-        | marrow            | myeloblast                  |
| myo-          | muscle            | myofilament                 |
| narc-         | to numb or deaden | narcotics                   |
| nas-          | nose              | nasolacrimal duct           |
| natal-        | birth             | prenatal, natality          |
| natri-        | sodium            | natriurtic                  |
| naut-         | sailor            | nautilus, astronaut         |

## Set Nine

|                |                   |                    |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| nebul-         | cloud, cloudy     | nebula, nebulous   |
| necr-          | corpse            | necrosis           |
| neo-           | new               | neonatal, neoplasm |
| nephr-         | kidney            | nephritis, nephron |
| neur-, neuro-  | nerve             | neuromuscular      |
| non-           | not               | nonfat, nonsense   |
| octo-          | eight             | October, octopus   |
| oculo-         | eye               | ocular, oculist    |
| odont-         | tooth             | odontoid process   |
| -oid           | form, resemblance | odontoid process   |
| oligo-         | little, few       | oligopeptide       |
| -ology         | the study of      | physiology         |
| -oma           | swelling          | carcinoma          |
| omni-          | all               | omnibus, omnivore  |
| onco-          | mass, tumor       | oncology           |
| -onym          | name              | synonym, pseudonym |
| oo-            | egg               | oocyte             |
| ophthalm-      | eye               | ophthalmic nerve   |
| -opia          | eye               | myopia             |
| orb-           | a circle          | orbicularis oris   |
| orchi-         | testis            | orchiectomy        |
| ornitho-       | bird              | ornithology        |
| orth-          | correct, straight | orthopedist        |
| -osis          | state, condition  | neurosis           |
| osteon, osteo- | bone              | osteocyte          |

## Set Ten

|                       |                   |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| oto-                  | ear               | otoscope, otology       |
| para-                 | beyond            | paraplegia              |
| patho-, -path, -pathy | disease           | pathology               |
| pedi-, pod-           | foot              | tripod, pedestrian      |
| pedia-                | child             | pediatrician            |
| penta-                | five              | pentagon, pentose       |
| per-                  | through           | permeate, impermeable   |
| peri-                 | around            | perineurium             |
| phag-                 | to eat            | phagocyte               |
| -phasia               | speech            | aphasia                 |
| -phil, -philia        | love              | hydrophilic             |
| phleb-                | a vein            | phlebitis               |
| -phobe, -phobia       | fear              | hydrophobic             |
| phono-                | sound             | phonograph, microphone  |
| phot-, photo-         | light             | photoreceptor           |
| -phylaxis             | a guard           | prophylaxis             |
| physio-               | nature            | physiology              |
| phyte-                | plant             | chlorophyta, phytotoxin |
| -plasia               | formation         | dysplasia               |
| plasm-                | formed, molded    | protoplasm, nucleoplasm |
| platy-                | flat              | platysma                |
| -plegia               | a blow, paralysis | paraplegia              |
| -plexy                | to strike         | apoplexy                |
| pneum-                | air               | pneumotaxic center      |
| podo-, podo           | foot              | podocyte                |

## Set Eleven

|                 |                  |                        |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| -poiesis        | making           | hemopoiesis            |
| poly-           | many             | polygraph, polygon     |
| post-           | after            | postanal               |
| pre-            | before           | precapillary sphincter |
| presby-         | old              | presbyopia             |
| pro-            | before           | prophase               |
| proct-          | anus             | proctology             |
| proto-          | first            | protozoa, prototype    |
| pseudo-         | false            | pseudonym, pseudopod   |
| psycho-         | mind             | psychology, psychic    |
| pteron-         | wing             | pterodactyl, diptera   |
| pterygo-        | wing             | pterygoid              |
| pulmo-          | lung             | pulmonary              |
| pulp-           | flesh            | pulpitis               |
| pyel-           | trough or pelvis | pyelitis               |
| quadr-          | one quarter      | quadriplegia           |
| re-             | back, again      | reinfection            |
| retro-          | backwards        | retract, retroactive   |
| rhin-, rhino-   | nose             | rinitis                |
| -rrhage         | to burst forth   | hemorrhage             |
| -rrhea          | flow, discharge  | amenorrhea             |
| sapro-          | dead, rotten     | saprophyte. saprogenic |
| sarco-          | flesh            | sarcomere              |
| scler-, sclero- | hard             | sclera, sclerosis      |
| -scope          | to view          | colonoscope            |

## Set Twelve

|                 |                         |                           |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| scribo-         | write                   | description. Inscribe     |
| -sect           | to cut                  | transect                  |
| sect-           | part, divide            | dissect, section          |
| semi-           | half                    | semitendinosus            |
| -septic         | putrid                  | antiseptic                |
| -sis            | state or condition      | metastasis                |
| som-, some      | body                    | somatic                   |
| somn-           | sleep                   | insomnia, somnambulist    |
| son-            | sound                   | sonic, sonorous           |
| sperm-          | seed                    | spermatophyte, angiosperm |
| sphere-         | round, globe            | spherical, chromosphere   |
| spino-          | spine, vertebral column | spinothalamic pathway     |
| -stalsis        | contractile             | parasalsis                |
| sten-           | a narrowing             | stenosis                  |
| -stomy          | mouth, opening          | colonostomy               |
| stylo-          | stake, pole             | styloid process           |
| sub-            | below                   | subcutaneous              |
| super-          | over, above             | superior, supervisor      |
| supra-          | on the upper side       | supraspinous fossa        |
| sym-, syn-      | together, with          | symbiosis, synthesis      |
| syn-            | together                | syntheses                 |
| tachy-          | swift                   | tachycardia               |
| tele-           | far, distant            | television, telephone     |
| tetra-          | four                    | tetralogy of Fallot       |
| therm-, thermo- | heat                    | thermoregulation          |

## Set Thirteen

|                |            |                          |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------|
| thorac-        | chest      | thoracentresis           |
| thromb-        | clot       | thrombocyte              |
| -tomy          | to cut     | appendectomy             |
| tox-           | poison     | toxemia                  |
| trans-         | through    | transudate               |
| tri-           | three      | trimester                |
| tropho-        | nutrition  | trhophoblast             |
| -trophy        | nourishing | atrophy                  |
| tropi-, tropo- | turning    | heliotropic, hydrotropic |
| -tropic        | turning    | adrenocorticotropic      |
| uni-           | one        | unicellular              |
| uro-, -uria    | urine      | glycosuria               |
| vas-           | vessel     | vascular                 |
| vita-          | life       | vital, vitamin           |
| vivo-          | life       | vivid, vivisect          |
| vor(e)-        | eater      | voracious, omnivore      |
| zoo-           | animal     | zoology, zooplankton     |
| zyg-           | yoked      | zygote                   |