

AP Biology Prefix, Suffix and Root Word List

A			
a-, an-	No, lacking, none	andro-	Masculine, man
ab-	Away from, out from	anemo-	Wind
abyss-	Deep, bottomless	angio-	Vessel
ac-	To, toward	ante-	Before, ahead of time
-aceus, -aceous	Of or pertaining to	antero-	Front
acou-	Hearing	anth-	Flower
acr-, acro-	Extreme, peak	anthropo-	Man
actin-	A ray, spoke	anti-	Against
ad-	To, toward	ap-	To, toward
adeno-	Gland	apic-	Tip, end
aero-	The air	apo-	Off, away
agri-	Field, soil	-apsis	Juncture
-al	Having character of	aqu-	Water
alb-	White	arachn-	A spider
-alexi	To ward off	arch-	Primitive, ancient
-algia	Pain	arthro-	Joint
allo-	Other, different	aster-, astr-	Stars
alto-	High	atom-	Vapor
ambi-	On both sides	audi-	Hear
ameb-	Change, alteration	auto-	Self
amphi-, amphi-, amb-	Leading a double life, both	aux-	Grow, enlarge
ana-	Up		
B			
bactr-	Stick, club	bio-	Life, living
barb-	Beard	-blast	Sprout, germ
baro-	Weight	brachi-	Having arms
bath-	Depth, height	branchi-	Having fins
bene-	Well, good	brev-	Short
bentho-	Depths	bronch-	Windpipe
bi-	Two, twice, double	bryo-	Moss

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C			
cala-	Insert	clade-	Branch
calor-	Heat	cline-	A slope
carb-	Coal, carbon	cnido-	A nettle
cardi-	Heart	co-	With, together
carn-	Meat	cocc-	Seed
carp-	Fruit	-coel	Hallow
carpal-	Wrist	coel-	Hollow
cata-	Down	coeno-	Common
caud-	Tail	coit-	A coming together
cell-	Storeroom, chamber	coleo-	A sheath
-cene	New, recent	coll-	Glue
-centesis	A puncture	com-	With, together
centi-	Hundredth	con-	With, together
centr-	Center	coni-	Cone
cephal-	Head	contra-	Against
ceric	Neck	cope-	An oar
chem-	Chemical	corp-	Body
chlor-	Green	cortex-	Shell
choano-	Funnel	cosmo-	World, order, form
chondro-	Cartilage	cotyl-	Cup
chord-	A string	counter-	Against
chrom-	Color	crani-	The skull
chym-	Juice	crypt-	Hidden, covered
-cide	Killing	cumul-	Heaped
cili-	Hair	cuti-	Skin
circ-	Around, about	-cycl	Ring, circle
circa-	A circle	cyst-	Bladder, pouch
cirro-	Hair like curls	cyt-, cyte-	Cell, receptacle
D			
dacty-	Finger	di-	Two, double
de-	Down, out	dia-	Through, across
de-	From, down, out	digit-	Finer, toe
deca-	Ten	-dilat	Expanded
deci-	Tenth	din-, dino-	Terrible
-del	Visible	dis-	Apart, out
deliquese-	Become fluid	-diure	Urine
demi-	Half	dorm-	Sleep
dendro-	Tree	dors-	Back
dent-	Tooth	du-, duo-	Two
dentri-	Tree	-duct	Lead
derm-	Skin	dyan-	Dark blue
detrit-	Wear off	dynam-	Power
deutero-	Second	dys-	Ill, bad

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E			
ec-	Out of, outside	enter-	Intestines
ecdys-	An escape	entom-	Insect
echin-	Spiny, prickly	-eous	Nature of, like
eco-	House	epi-	On, above
ect-	Outside, without	-err	Wander, go astray
-ectomy	Removal of	erythro-	Red
electro-	Electric, electricity	estuar-	The sea
-ell	Small	ethno-	Race, people
-em	Made	etho-	Custom, habit
-emia	Blood	eu-	True
en-	In, into	eury-	Broad, wide
encephal-	Brain	ex-	Out of
enchyma-	An infusion	extra-	Beyond, outside of
end-, ent-	Within, in		
F			
-fer	Bear, carry, produce	flor-	Flower
ferro-	Iron	fluor-	Fluorine
fertil-	Fruitful	foli-	Leaf
fibr-	Fiber, thread	form-	Shape
-fid, fis-	Divided, split	fract-	Break
flagell-	Whip	fusi-	A spindle
flect, flex	Bend		
G			
galact-, galax-	Milk, milky fluid	gnatho-	Jaw
gamy-	Marriage	-gon	Angle, corner
gastro-	Stomach	-gony	Offspring, generation
-gen; -gine	Producer, farmer	grade	Step, division
-gene, -geny	Origin	-gram	Writing, record
geo-	Land, earth	-graphy, graph	Writing, record
-gest	Carry, produce	-grav	Heavy
glia-	Glue	gross	Thick
glob-	All, round	gry-	Ring, circle, spiral
glomer-	A ball	gymno-	Naked
glottis-	Mouth of windpipe	gyn	Female
glyco-	Sweet		

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H			
haem-, men-	Blood	hipp-	Horse
-hal, -hale	Breathe, breath	hist-	Tissue
halo-	Sea, salt	holo-	Entire, whole
haplo-	Single	homin-	Man
hecto-	Hundred	homo-	Same
helio	Sun	hort-	Garden
-helminth	Worm	hybrid	Mongrel
hemi-	Half	hydr-	Water
hepat-	Liver	hygr-	Wet, moist
herb-	Grass	hyl-	matter
hermaphro-	Both male and female	hyper-	Above, beyond, over
hetero-	Different	hypho-	Weaving
hex-	Six	hypno-	Sleep
hibern-	Winter	hypo-	Beneath, under, less
I			
-ia, iasis	Disease of	inter-	Between
ichthy-	Fish	intra-	Within, inside
ign-	Fire	intro-	Into, within
im-	Not	iodo-	Violet
immuno-	Safe, free	-ion	Go, come
imuno-	Safe, free	-ism	A state or condition
in-	To, toward, into	iso-	Equal, same
in-	Not, without	itero-	To repeat
-ine	Of, pertaining to	-itis	Inflammation, disease
infra-	Below, beneath		
J			
juxta-	Near to		
K			
karyo-	Nucleus	kine-	Movement
kilo-	Thousand		
L			
lachry	Tear	lingu-	Tongue
lact-	Milk	lip-	Fat
lamin-	Sheet, layer	liqu-	Become fluid
lat-	Side, flank	lith-, -lite	Stone, petrifying
lepid-	Scale	littor-	Sea shore
-less	Without	loc-	Place
leuc-	White, bright, light	-logy	Study
liga-	Bound, tied	lopho-	A crest, tuft
lign-	Wood	lut-	Yellow
limn-	Lake	-lysis, -lyte, -lyst, lyso-	Split
lin-	Line		

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M			
macro-	Large	meteor-	Lofty, high, in air
mal-	Bad	-meter, -metr-	Measure
malle-	Hammer	micro-	Small
mamm-	Breast	mis-	Wrong, incorrect
marg-	Border, edge	-missi	Send
marsupi-	A pouch or bag	mole-	Mass
mast-	Breast	mono-	One, single
mechano-	An instrument	mont-	Mountain
med-	Middle	morph-	Shape, form
meg-	Great, million, large	mort-	Death
meio-	Less	mov-, mot	Move
mela-, melan-	Black, dark	multi-	Many
mell-	Soft	muta-	Change
menstru	Month	mutu-	Reciprocal
-mer	A part	mycel-	Threadlike
mere-	A part	mycet-, myco-	Fungus
mes-	Middle, half	myo-	Muscle
met-, meta-	Between, along after	myria-	Many
N			
nas-	Nose	noct-, nox-	Night
nema-	Thread	-node	Knot
neo-	New, recent	nom-	Name
nephro-	Kidney	-nomy, -nome	Distribute, arrange, law
-ner	Moist, liquid	non-	Not
neur-, nerv-	Nerve, tendon	noto-	Back
neutr-	Neither	nuc-	Center
neutro-	Neutral	nucleo-	Nucleus
noci-	Harm		
O			
ob-	Against	oo-	Egg
oct-	Eight	opercul-	A covering, lid
ocul-	Eye	opt-, -opay	Circle, round, ring
odent-	Tooth	opthal	Eye, vision
-oid	Similar in form or shape	orb-	Straight, correct, right
olf-	Smell	orth-	Mouth
oligio-	Few, small	-osis	Disease of
oligio-	Small, scant	osmo-	Pushing
-oma	Tumor	osteo-	Bone
omma-	The eye	ov-	Sharp, acid, oxygen
omni	All	ovum- / ovi-	Egg
onco-	Tumor	oxy-	Sharp

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P			
pachy-	Thick	phragmo-	A partition
paedo-	Child	phyc-	Seaweed, algae
paleo-	Old, ancient	-phyll	Leaf
palm-	Broad, flat	phylo-	Tribe
pan-	All	physi-	Nature, natural qualities
par-	Beside, near, equal	-phyte, phyt	Plant
parous-	Bearing	placo-	A plate
parsi-	Few	plan-	Roaming, wandering
partheno-	A virgin	plasm-, -plast	Form, formed into
partur-	Giving birth	pleio-	More
passeri-	A sparrow	pleur-	Rib, lung
path-, -pathy	Disease, suffering	pneumo-	Lungs, air
patri-	Father	pod-	Foot
pedi-	Beginning, child	poly-	Many, several
pellecid-	Transparent	pom-	Fruit
per-	Through, around	por-	Opening
perag-	The sea	port-	Carry
peri-	Around, on all sides	post-	After, behind
perman-	Remaining	pro-	Before, favoring
permea-	Pass, go	proto-	First, primary
phag-	Eat	pseud-	False, deceptive
pheno-	Show, appear	pter-	Having wings or fins
phil-	Loving, fond of	pterido	Fern
-phobia	Excessive fear of	pulmo-	lung
phon-, phone	Sound	puls-	Drive, push
-phore	To carry	pyr-	Heat, fire
photo-	Light		
Q			
quadr-	Four	quin-	Five
quiesc-	Quiet, resting		
R			
radi-	Ray, spoke of wheel	-rhage	Flow
ratit-	Flat bottom	-rhaphy	Suture
re-	Again, back	-rhea	Flow
rect-	Correct, right	rhin-	Nose
ren-	Kidney	rhiz-	Root
ret-	Net, made like a net	rhodo-	Red
retro-	Backward	rubr-	Red

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S			
sacc-	A sack	son-	Sound
sacchari-	Sugar	spasm-	Tightening
salta-	Leap	spec-, spic-	Look at
sapr-	Rotten	sperm-	Seed
sarco-	Flesh	spher-	Ball
saur-	Lizard	-spire	Breathe
schizo-	Split	spore-	Seed
sci-	Know	stalsis-	A constriction
scler-	Hard	stat-	Standing, placed
scope	Look, observe	stell-	Stars
-scribe, script	Write	steno-	Narrow
semel-	Once	stereo-	Solid, in three dimensions
semi-	Half	stern-	Breast, chest
sept-	Partition, seven	stom-, stome-	Mouth
septic-	Infection	-stomy	To make an opening into
sex-	Six	strat-	Layer
simi-	Ape	strict-	Drawn tight
-sis	Condition, state of	styl-	Pillar
socio-	A companion	sub-	Under, below
solv-	Loosen, free	super-, supra-	Over, above, on top
soma-	Body	sur-	Over, above, on top
somn-	Sleep	sym-, syn-	Together
T			
tachy-	Quick, swift	top-	Place
tarso-	Ankle	toti-	All
tax-	Arrangement	toxic-	Poison
tele-	Far off, at a distance	trachei-	Windpipe
telos-	An end	trans-	Across
terr-	Earth	tri-	Three
tetan-	Rigid, tense	trich-	Hair
tetr-	Four	trocho-	A wheel
thall-	Young shoot	trop-	Turning, changing
-theca	A cup, case	troph-	Food, nourishment
therm-	Heat	-tubul	A little pipe
thigmo-	A touch	tunic-	A covering
thylaco-	Sac or pouch	turg-	Swollen
-tom	Cut, slice	tympan-	A drum
tono-	Stretched		
U			
-ule	Diminutive	uni-	One
ultra-	Beyond	ur-	urine
uro-	The tail	utric-	A leather bag

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V			
vacu-	Empty	vig-	Strong
vas-	Vessel	vit-, viv-	Life
vect-	Carry	vitre-	Glass
ven-, vent-	Come	vivi-	Alive
ventr-	Belly	volv-	Roll, wander
vestigi-	Trace	vor-	Devour, eat
vice-	In place of		
X			
xanth-	Yellow	xyl-	Wood
xero-	Dry		
Y			
-yl	Substance or matter		
Z			
zea-	A grain	zyg-	Yolk
zo-, zoa-	Animal	zym-	Yeast
zona	A belt		