

Prefixes related to **position** regarding **time** and **place**

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Definition
ana-	up, back again	anabolism ana- + bol- + ism up + building + condition, action of	state of building up (of atoms and molecules)
ante-	before	ante partum ante + partum before + birth (delivery)	before delivery (giving birth to a child)
cata- kata-	down, through	catabolism cata- + bol- + ism down + breaking + act of, state of	act of breaking down of atoms and molecules
gen-	beginning, origin	genesis gen- + -e- + sis origin + (combining form) + condition of	origin of anything
meta-	beyond, over, between, change, next to	metacarpal meta- + carp- + -al near, next to + wrist + pertaining to	next to the wrist (refers to bone of the hand)
noct(i)-	night	nocturnal nocturnus + al night + pertaining to	occurring in the night
nyct(o)-	night	nyctalgia nyct- + alg- + ia night + pain + condition of	pain during the night
post-	after	postpartum post- + partum after + delivery	after delivery
pre-	before	prenatal pre- + nat- + al before + birth + pertaining to	before birth
prim-	first	primary prim- + -ary first + pertaining to	first in order
prot(o)-	first	prototype prot + (o) + type first + (combining form) + form,	original form
syn- (sym- before b, m, p)	together, union	synergetic syn- + erg(et) + ic together + work + pertaining to	working together
telo-	end	telophase telo + phase end or final + phase or stage	final phase of mitosis
ter(t)-	third	tertiary tert(i)- + ary	third in order

	third + pertaining to	
--	-----------------------	--

Table 2-2: Set 2: Prefixes describing position in relation to other parts

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Definition
acro-	extremity, tip	acrocyanosis acro- + cyano- + sis extremity + bluish discoloration + condition of	bluish color of hands and feet
anti-	against	antidote anti- + dote against + poison	action against a poison
apo-	separation or derivation from	aponia apo(n)- + ia deviation from + condition of	separation of the mind, confusion
circum-	around	circumoral circom- + or (os) + al around + mouth + pertaining to	around the mouth
contra-	opposite, against	contralateral contra- + lateral opposite + side	opposite side
dorso-dorsi-	back	dorsiflexion dorsi- + flex + ion back + bend + act of, state of	bending to the back of hand, foot, or spine
ecto-	outside, misplaced	ectopic ecto(p) + ic outside + pertaining to	not in the intended place
endo-	within	endocardial endo- + cardi- + al within + heart + pertaining to	within the heart
epi-	on, over, upon	epigastric epi + gastr- + ic over + stomach + pertaining to	over the stomach
eso-	within	esoteric eso- + tropos + ic within + turning + pertaining to	hidden within
extra-	outside of, in addition to, beyond	extracorporeal extra- + corpore + al outside + body + pertaining to	outside the body
fore-	before, in front of	forebrain fore- + brain front of + brain	front part of brain
hyper-	above, excessive, beyond	hyperactive hyper- + act + ive excessive + action + performer	excessive activity
hypo-	below,	hypodermic	under the skin

	under	hypo- + derm + ic under + skin + pertaining to	
infra-	below	infracostal infra- + cost- + al below + rib + pertaining to	below the ribs
inter-	between parts	intercellular inter- + cellul + ar between + cell + pertaining to	between the cells
intra-	whithin a part	intracellular intra- + cellul + ar within + cell + pertaining to	within a cell
juxta-	near	juxtaspinal juxta- + spine + al near + spine + pertaining to	near the spinal column
medi-	middle	medial medi- + al middle + pertaining to	near the midline of the body
meso-	middle	mesoderm meso- + derm middle + skin	middle layer of skin
ob-	against	obstruction ob- + struct + ion against + blocking + state of, act of	blocking of a structure
para-	beside, beyond	paraspinal para- + spine + al beside + spine + pertaining to	beside the spine
peri-	around	perinatal peri- + nat + al around + birth + pertaining to	around the time of birth
pro-	for, in front of, before	prophylaxis pro- + phylax + is before + prevent + condition of	guard against, prevent
schitso-	split, devide	schitsothorax schitso- + thorax split + chest	splitting of thorax
schizo-	split, divided	schizonychia schizo- + nych- + ia devided + nail + condition of	splitting nails
sub-	beneath	subcostal sub- + cost + al under + rib + pertaining to	beneath the ribs
super-	excessive, above	superciliary super- + cili- + ary above + hair + pertaioning to	hairs above the eyes
supra-	above, over	suprapubic supra- + pub + ic	above the pubic bone

		above + pubis + pertaining to	
tele-	distant, far	telangiectasia tel- + angio- + ectas- + ia far + vessel + dilation + condition of	dilation of capillaries and terminal arteries
trans-	across, through, over, beyond	transabdominal atrans- + abdomin + al across + belly + pertaining to	through the abdominal wall
ultra-	excessive, extreme	ultrasonic ultra- + son + ic excessive + sound + pertaining to	sound waves beyond the audiofrequency range

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Definition
a-, an-	without, absent	anemia an- + em + ia not + blood + condition of	absence of blood
allo-	another, different from	allomorphic allo- + morph + ic different + shape + pertaining to	assuming a different form
ambly-	dull	amblyopia ambly- + op + ia dull + vision + condition of	dull vision
andro-	male	androgen andro- + gen male + production	male sex hormone
angi(o)-	vessel, duct, usually a blood vessel	angiospasm angio- + spasm vessel + cramp	contraction of a blood vessel
ankyl(o)-	crooked, bent, fused, stiff	ankylosed ankylo(s)- + ed fused + P.P. marker	fused joint
atel-	imperfect	atelectasis atel- + ecta + sis imperfect + expansion + condition of	imperfect expansion of lungs
auto-	self	autogenesis auto- + gen + sis self + production + condition of	starting with oneself
bacter-	bacterium	bacteroid bacter- + oid bacterium + like, resembling	resembling a bacterium

bi(o)-	life	biochemistry bio- + chemistry life + chemistry	chemistry of living matter
brady-	slow	bradycardia brady- + card + ia slow + heart + condition of	slow heart rate
caco-	bad, ill	cacogeusia caco- + geus + ia bad + taste + condition of	bad taste
co-, con-, com-	with, together	congenital con- + genit + al with + birth + pertaining to	form with
cry(o)-	cold	cryosurgery cryo- + surgery cold + operation	destruction of tissue by application of cold
crypt(o)-	hidden	cryptorchidism crypt + orchid + ism hidden + testis + condition of	undescended testicle
dys-	difficult	dysmenorrhea dys- + meno + rrhea difficult + menses + discharge	difficult menses
eu-	good, normal	euthanasia eu + thanas + ia easy, good + death + condition of	good death
eury-	broad, wide	eurycephalic eury- + cephal + ic wide + head + pertaining to	flat head
glyco-	sugar, sweet	glycolysis glyco- + lys + sis glucose + breakdown + act of	breakdown of sugar
gluco-	sugar	glucose glykys + ose sweet + sugar	glucose
gyn-	female	gynecology gyneco- + logy female + study	study of the female
gyneco-	female	gynecologist gyneco- + logy + ist female + study + doer, specialist	specialist in the study of the female
haplo-	single, simple	haploderma haplo- + derm + a simple + skin + condition of	simple skin inflammation
hetero-	other, different	heterosexual hetero- + sex(u) + al other + sex + pertaining to	other sex
homeo-	unchanged	homeostasis homeo- + state + sis	state of equilibrium

		balance + state + condition of	
homo-	same	homosexual homo- + sex(u) + al same + sex + pertaining to	same sex
hydra-	water	hydrocele hydro- + cele water + cyst	watery hernia
hydro-	water	hydrophobia hydro- + phob + ia water + fear + condition of	disease with difficulty in drinking water
idio-	peculiar to the individual, distinct	idiopathic idio- + path + ic individual + disease + pertaining to	disease with no apparent external cause
iso-	equal, same	isopia iso- + op + ia equal + vision + condition of	equal vision in both eyes
mal-	bad	malabsorption mal + absorb + tion bad + attract + act of	impaired absorption
neo-	new, strange	neonatal neo- + nat + al new + birth + pertaining to	newborn
non-	not	noninfectious non- + in + fect + ious not + in + pollution + relating to	not able to spread
normo-	normal	normovolemia normo- + vol + em + ia normal + volume + blood + state	normal blood volume
ortho-	straight	orthodontic ortho- + dont + ic straight + tooth + pertaining to	straight teeth
oxy-	sharp, acute	oxytocia oxy- + toc + ia rapid + labor + condition of	rapid labor
pachy-	thick	pachycheilia, pachyderma pachy- + cheil + ia thick + lip + condition of pachy- + derm + a thick + skin + condition	thick lips, thickening skin
paleo-	old	paleopathology paleo- + path(o) + logy old + disease + study of	study of ancient bodies
path(o)-	disease, suffering	pathogenic path(o) + gen + ic disease + production + pertaining to	capable of producing disease

phage(o)-	eat, consume	phagocyte phago- + cyte eat + cell	cell that can ingest
platy-	broad, wide	platypellic, platycephalic platy- + pell + ic wide + hip + pertaining to platy + cephal + ic wide + head + pertaining to	wide hips, flat cranial vault
plic(o)-	fold	plication plicate + tion fold + act of, state of	a folding
poikilo-	varied	poikilocyte poikilo- + cyte varied + cell	irregularly-shaped blood cell
pseudo-	false	pseudocyst pseudo- + cyst false + bag of water	false cyst
sclero-	hard	sclerosis sclero- + sis hard + condition of	hardening of tissue
steno-	contracted, narrow	stenosis steno- + sis narrow + condition of	condition of being narrowed
stereo-	solid, firmly-established, three-dimensional	stereotype stereo- + type firmly-established + kind	firmly established attitude
tachy-	fast	tachycardia tachy- + card + ia fast + heart + condition of	fast heart
terato-	malformed, monster	teratoid terato- + oid monster + resembling	resembling a monster
therap-	treatment	therapeutic therapeut + ic cure + pertaining to	having a healing effect
thermo-	heat, warmth	thermometer thermo- + meter heat + measure	a device to measure heat
toxic-	poison	toxicosis toxic(o)- + sis poison + condition of	disease caused by a poison
trachy-	rough	trachyphonia trachy- + phon + ia rough + voice + condition of	rough voice
xero-	dry	xerocheilia xero- + cheil + ia dry + lip + condition of	dry lips

Table 2-4: Set 4: Prefixes describing direction

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Definition
ab-	away from	abduct ab- + duct away from + move, go	move away from
ad-	to, toward	adduct ad- + duct toward + move, go	move toward
clin(o)-	slope forward or slope away from	clinocephaly clino- + cephal + y slope + head + condition of	sloping or flatness of the top of the head
de-	away, not, down	dehydrate de- + hydr + ate away + water + act of	take water away from
dextro-	right	dextrogastric dextro- + gastr + ic right + stomach + condition of	stomach on the right side of the body
dia-	apart, separate	diastasis dia + stasis through, separate + state + condition of	a separation of the normal joined parts
e-	out	enucleate e + nucleus + ate out + kernel + act of	remove from
ex-	away from, out, completely	exhale ex- + hale out + breathe	breathe out
in-, im-	in, inside, within, not	immerse, im- + merse in + dip injection in- + ject + ion in + force, drive + state or act of	dip into, forcing into
ir-	against, into, toward	irradiate ir- + radi + ate into + radio + act of	emit rays into
levo-	left	levoduction levo- + duct + ion left + move + act of	movement to the left
opisth-	backward	opisthognathism opistho- + nath + ism backward + jaw + condition of	receding lower jaw
pro-,	forward,	proptosis	forward-bulging

proso-	anterior	pro(pto) + sis forward + condition of	
re-	back again	reflex re- + flex again + bend	bend back
retro-	behind, backward	retrograde retro- + grade backward + go	going backward
sinistro-	left	sinistrocular sinistro- + ocul + ar left + eye + pertaining to	stronger vision in the left eye

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Definition
ambi-, amphi-	both	ambidextrous ambi- + dextr- + ous both + right + pertaining to amphibious amphi- + bi- + ous both + life + pertaining to	using both hands living on both land and sea
bi-	two	bifurcation bi- + furc + at + ion two + branch + act of + act of	two branches
centi-	100	centimeter centi- + meter hundred + measure, meter	1/100 meter
deca-	10	decaliter deca- + liter ten + liter	10 liters
deci-	1/10	deciliter deci- + liter one-tenth + liter	1/10 liter
demi-	one-half	demibain demi- + bain half + bath	half a bath (sitz bath)
di-, dis-	twice, doubly	dioxide di- + oxide two + oxygen	two oxygen molecules
diplo-	double	diplopia diplo- + op + ia double + vision + condition of	double vision
hemi-	one-half	hemiplegia hemi- + pleg + ia half + paralysis + condition of	half-paralyzed state
holo-	whole, all	holography holo- + graph + y whole + write + act of	three-dimensional picture

milli-	1000	millimeter milli- + meter one thousand + meter	1/1000 meter
mono-	one	mononuclear mono- + nucleus + ar one + nucleus + pertaining to	one nucleus
multi-	many	multigravida multi- + gravid + a many + pregnant + condition of	many pregnancies
null(i)-	none	nullipara nulli- + para zero + labor	woman with no children
pan-	all	panphobia pan- + phob + ia all + fear + condition of	fear of everything
pleo-	many, more	pleomorphic pleo- + morph + ic many + shape + pertaining to	having many shapes
plur(i)-	many, more	pluriglandular pluri- + gland + ul + ar many + gland + small + pertaining to	several glands
poly-	many	polycystic poly- + cyst + ic many + cyst + pertaining to	many cysts
quadr(i)-	four	quadriplegia quadri- + pleg + ia four + paralysis + condition of	having four extremities paralyzed
semi-	one-half	semicircular semi- + circus + ar half + circle + pertaining to	half-circle
tetra-	four	tetrabrachus tetra- + brachus four + arm	having four arms
tri-	three	triplets tri- + plet + s three + offspring + plural marker	three offsprings at one birth
uni-	one	unilateral uni- + later + al one + side + pertaining to	one-sided

Table 2-6
Set 6: Prefixes related to size and amount

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Definition
aniso-	unequal	anisocystosis aniso- + cyst(o) + sis unequal + bag + condition of	inequality in cell size
brachy-	short	brachycephalic brachy- + cephal + ic short + head + pertaining to	short head
brevi-	short, slow	brevicollis brevi- + col(l) + is short + neck + condition of	shortness of the neck
lepto-	small, slender, soft	leptophonia lepto- + phon + ia weak + voice + condition of	weak voice
macro-, mega-	large	macrorhinia macro- + rhin + ia large + nose + condition of megacolon mega- + colon large + colon	large nose large colon
micro-	small	microtia micro- + ot + ia small + ear + condition of	small ears
mio-	less, smaller	miosis mio- (G. meiosis) + sis smaller + condition of	smallness of the pupil
olig(o)-	little, small, scanty, deficient	oliguria olig- + ur + ia little + urine + condition of	small amount of urine
per-	excessive, through, by means of	peracute per- + acute excessive + sharp perforate per- + for + ate through + pierce + act of	very acute pierce through

Table 2-7
Set 7: Prefixes denoting color

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Definition
alba-	white	albino	lacking color, appearing white
chloro-	green	chloroplast	green body found in cells
chromo-	color	chromocyte	colored cell
cirrh-	yellow	cirrhosis	disease causing yellowing of the liver
cyano-	blue	cyanosis	bluish discoloration of the skin
erythro-	red	erythropoiesis	formation of red blood cells
leuko-	white	leukocyte	white blood cell
lute-	yellow	luteinizing hormone	hormone causing yellow areas in the ovary
melano-	black	melanoblast	melanin-forming cell
nigro-	black	substantia nigra	black area in the brain
rube-	red	rubedo	redness of skin
xantho-	yellow	xanthoma	yellow growth

THE END