

PREFIXES

Negative Prefixes

a- , *an-* , *ana-* , *in-* , *im-* , *ir-* , *il-* , *dys-* , *anti-* , *mal-* , *un-* , *non-* , *nor-*

Examples:

atrophy = no (or less) growth.

acellular = without cells.

atypical = not typical.

anucleate = without nucleus.

apnea = no breathing.

anesthesia = no feeling.

anodontia = without teeth.

anemia = no (or less) blood.

anoxia = no oxygen.

(Note: The prefix *ana-* also means up, upward, back, again, repetition, excessive, or apart.

Examples: *anatomy*, *anabolism*, *analysis*, *anasarca*, *anaphylaxis*, *anaphase*, *anastomosis*)

dyspepsia = difficult digestion.

dyspnea = difficult breathing.

dysphagia = difficult swallowing.

dysentery = intestinal bacterial infection.

antibacterial = against bacteria.

antiviral = against viruses.

malocclusion = wrong occlusion.

malnutrition = bad nutrition.

malabsorption = bad absorption.

Other important prefixes

tele- = distant. Examples: **tele**phone = distant sound, **tele**gram = distant text, **tele**scope = distant inspection, **tele**vision = distant watching

auto- = self. Examples: **auto**lysis = self digestion, **auto**phagy = self eating

semi- = half, partly. Examples: **semi**lunar = a half moon or crescent.

cata- = down, from. Examples: **cata**bolism = a breaking down metabolism.

andro- = male, man. Example: **andro**gen = the male hormone.

gyneco- = female, woman. Example: **gynec**ology = the study of female, woman.

myo- = muscle. Examples: **myo**malacia = softening of the muscle.

neuro- = nerve. Examples: **neuro**glia = nerve glue (cells that support neurons).

oculo- = eye. Examples: **oculo**motor = (the nerve) moving eye ball, **oculist** = (a doctor) specialized in eye.

onco- = tumor. Examples: **onco**logy = the study of tumors, **onco**genic = can cause cancer.

iso- = equal, the same. Examples: **iso**thermal = with equal temperature.

brady- = slow. Example: **brady**cardia = slow heart rate.

tachy- = rapid. Example: **tachy**cardia = rapid heart rate.

eu- = real, good, well, normal. Examples: **eu**karyotic = has real nucleus.

pseudo- = false, fake. Examples: **pseudo**palate = faked (prosthetic) palate.

hetero- = different. Examples: **hetero**graft = different transplant.

homo- = same. Examples: **homo**genous = of the same kind or phase.

Exercise: asymmetry, **an**omaly, **alo**pecia, **agn**athia, **ag**lossia, **an**orexia, **an**otia, **an**opia, **an**algesic, **an**hydrous, ...

dysostosis, **dys**metria, **dys**tonia, **dys**lipidemia, **dys**lexia, ...

antifungal, **anti**microbial, **anti**biotic, **anti**emetic, **anti**spasmodic, **anti**pyretic, **anti**hypertensive, **anti**acid, **anti**allergic, **anti**histamine, **anti**coagulant, ...

malfunction, **mal**formation, **mal**ice, **mal**treatment, **mal**ignant, ...