

## 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: **telephone** = distant sound, **telegram** = distant text, **telescope** = distant inspection, **television** = distant watching

**auto-** = self. Examples: **autolysis** = self digestion, **autophagy** = self eating

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Exercise:** **asymmetry, anomaly, alopecia, agnathia, aglossia, anorexia, anotia, anopia, analgesic, anhydrous, ...**

**dysostosis, dysmetria, dystonia, dyslipidemia, dyslexia, ...**

**antifungal, antimicrobial, antibiotic, antiemetic, antispasmodic, antipyretic, antihypertensive, antacid, antiallergic, antihistamine, anticoagulant, ...**

**malfunction, malformation, malice, maltreatment, malignant, ...**