

# LATIN/GREEK ROOT WORDS FOR BIOLOGY

## A

*a(n)*- not, without  
*ab-* away from  
*aceto-* acid  
*adipo-* fat  
*aero-* air  
*agri-* field  
*alb-* white  
*ambul-* walk  
*amnio-* fetal envelope  
*amoeb-* change  
*an-* without  
*ana-* up, back, again  
*anomo-* lawless, irregular  
*ante-* before  
*anthro-* human  
*anti-* against, opposite  
*aqua-* water  
*arach-* spider  
*arbor-* tree  
*arch(ae/i)-* ancient  
*arthro-* joint  
*auto-* self  
*avi-* bird

## B

*bi-* two  
*bio-* life  
*blasto-* germ/sprout  
*bov-* ox  
*brachi-* arm  
*bursa-* pouch, purse

## C

*cani-* dog  
*cardia-* heart  
*carnis-* meat  
*centi-* hundred  
*centro-* center  
*cepha(lo)-* head  
*cerebro-* brain  
*cerv-* neck  
*chemo-* with chemicals

*chiro-* hand  
*chlor-* green  
*chondr-* cartilage  
*chord-* cord  
*chrom-* color  
*chrono-* time  
*cide-* kill  
*cili-* eyelash  
*circum-* around  
*cloaca-* sewer  
*co/com-* with/together  
*con-* with  
*contra-* opposite  
*corpus-* body  
*crani-* skull  
*cryo-* cold/frozen  
*cuti-* skin  
*cyan-* blue  
*cycl-* circular  
*cyst-* capsule  
*cyt-* cell

## D

*dactyl-* finger  
*deci-* tenth  
*decid-* falling off  
*deka-* ten  
*demos-* people/public  
*dent-* tooth  
*derm-* skin  
*di(a)-* two  
*dia-* through  
*digit-* finger  
*dino-* terrible  
*diplo-* double  
*dis-* away/reversal  
*dissect-* deeply cut  
*dors(um)-* back  
*duo-* two  
*dys-* bad/difficult

## E

*echino-* spiny  
*eco-* house

*ecto-* outside  
*effer-* carrying away  
*ejacul-* throw out  
*endo-* inside  
*eu-* well, very or new  
*exo-* outside

## F

*fauna-* animals  
*feli-* cat  
*fil-* thread  
*flagellum-* little whip  
*foli-* leaf

## G

*gangli-* knot  
*gastro-* stomach/pouch  
*gemin-* twins  
*geo-* earth  
*giga-* billion  
*glycol-* sweet  
*-graph-* writing  
*gyn-* woman  
*gyr-* turning

## H

*haplo-* single, simple  
*hect-* hundred  
*helios-* sun  
*hemi-* half  
*hemo-* blood  
*hepa(r/t)-* liver  
*hepta-* seven  
*herba-* grass, plant  
*hetero-* different  
*hex-* six  
*holo-* complete, whole  
*homeo-* same  
*homo-* man/human  
*hydr-* water  
*hyper-* above  
*hypo-* beneath

## I

*ichthy-* fish  
*in-* in or not  
*incis-* cutting in  
*infra-* under  
*inter-* between  
*intra-* within  
*iso-* equal

## K

*karyo-* nut/kernel/seed  
*kilo-* thousand  
*kine-* movement

## L

*labi-* lips  
*lacer-* torn  
*lacto-* milk  
*leuco-* white  
*lign-* wood  
*lingua-* tongue  
*lipo-* fat  
*lithos-* stone  
*-ology-* study of  
*luna-* moon  
*lupus-* wolf  
*lymph-* clear water  
*lysis-* cut or split

## M

*macr-* large  
*magni-* large  
*mamma-* breast  
*mandib-* lower jaw  
*manu-* hand  
*maritim-* of the sea  
*marsupium-* pouch  
*maxi-* large  
*medi-* medium  
*mega-* million/large  
*melan-* black  
*mer-* part  
*meso-* middle

*meta-* after  
*micro-* small  
*milli-* thousand  
*min-* smaller  
*minim-* smallest  
*mis-* wrong/bad  
*mito-* thread  
*mono-* one  
*morph-* form  
*motor-* mover  
*multi-* many  
*myo-* muscle

**(N)**  
*nano-* billionth  
*necro-* dead  
*neo-* new  
*neuro-* nerve  
*non-* not  
*nova-* new  
*nulli-* none

**(O)**  
*oct-* eight  
*oculo-* eye  
*odor-* fragrant  
*-oid-* like  
*oleo-* oily  
*olfact-* smelling  
*omni(us)-* all  
*optic-* eye  
*operculum-* little cover  
*ophthalmo-* eye  
*orbi-* circle  
*ornith-* bird  
*osteo-* bone  
*osis-* condition/action  
*osmos-* impulse/push  
*ovo-* egg

**(P)**  
*palae-* old  
*pallid-* pale

*pan-* all/universal  
*pect(or)-* chest  
*ped-* foot, child  
*pent-* five  
*peri-* around  
*petr-* rock  
*phag(os)-* eat  
*philos-* love  
*phyll-* leaf  
*phyto-* plant  
*pil-* hair  
*pisc-* fish  
*platy-* flat, broad  
*planktos-* wandering  
*ploid-* fold/multiple  
*pneuma-* air, lung  
*pod-* foot  
*poly-* many  
*poros-* tiny opening  
*post-* after  
*pre-* before  
*pro-* before/favoring  
*proct-* anus  
*prostratus-* lying flat  
*prot-* first  
*pseudo-* false  
*psycho-* mind/soul  
*pulmo-* lung

**(Q)**  
*quadr-* four  
*quarter-* four  
*quin(t/que)-* five

**(R)**  
*re-* over again  
*retro-* behind/backward  
*rhiz-* root

**(S)**  
*saccharo-* sugar  
*sal-* salt  
*sanguin-* blood

*sapien-* to know/taste  
*saur-* lizard  
*schizo-* split  
*scler-* hard  
*scope-* gaze  
*scripto-* writing  
*semi-* half  
*sept-* seven, wall  
*sipho-* tube  
*sol-* sun  
*soma-* body  
*somni-* sleep  
*species-* kind/shape  
*sperm-* seed  
*sphinct-* closing  
*spinos-* spiny  
*squam-* scale  
*stereo-* solid  
*stern-* breastbone  
*strat-* layer  
*sub-* below, under  
*sucr-* sugar  
*supin-* lying back  
*supra-* above  
*sutur-* seam  
*sym-* with  
*syn-* with  
*sys-* with

**(T)**  
*tact-* touch  
*taxis-* arrangement/order  
*telo-* far, end  
*tera-* trillion  
*terra-* earth/land  
*tetra-* four  
*therm-* heat  
*thrombo-* clot  
*trans-* across or change  
*tri-* three  
*troph(y)-* feed  
*tussi-* cough  
*tympanon-* drum

**(U)**  
*ultra-* above, beyond  
*umbilic-* navel

*un-* one, no/not  
*ungul-* hoof, claw  
*uv(ela)-* grapes

**(V)**  
*vagina-* sheath  
*vagus-* wandering  
*vas-* vessel  
*ventral-* belly  
*vill-* shaggy hair, velvet  
*vita-* life  
*vitr-* glass  
*voracis-* to eat, devour

**(X)**  
*xero-* dry

**(Z)**  
*zoo-* animal  
*zygo-* joined