

Biology Terminologies Prefix and Suffix Quick Review Notes

Biology is a vast and complex field of study, and it can be difficult to keep track of all the different terms that are used. One way to make it easier to learn and understand biology is to become familiar with the prefixes and suffixes that are used to create new words. Prefixes are added to the beginning of words, and suffixes are added to the end of words. By knowing the meaning of these prefixes and suffixes, you can often figure out the meaning of new words without having to look them up in a dictionary.

Prefixes

Here is a table of some of the most common prefixes used in biology, along with their meanings and examples:



Biology Terminologies - Prefix and Suffix (Quick Review Notes) by William Pitts

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Prefix	Meaning	Example
a-	without	asexual
ab-	away from	abduct
ad-	to, towards	adduct
ante-	before	anterior
anti-	against	antibiotic
auto-	self	autotroph
bi-	two	biped
contra-	against	contractile
de-	remove	decompose
dia-	through	diaphragm
dis-	apart	dissect
ecto-	outside	ectoderm
endo-	inside	endoderm
epi-	upon	epidermis
eu-	good, true	eukaryote
exo-	outside	exoskeleton
extra-	outside	extracellular
hetero-	different	heterotroph
homo-	same	homozygote
hyper-	excessive	hypertension
hypo-	deficient	hypotension
infra-	below	infrared
inter-	between	intercellular
intra-	within	intracellular
macro-	large	macromolecule
mega-	large	megakaryocyte
meso-	middle	mesoderm
meta-	beyond	metamorphosis
micro-	small	microorganism
multi-	many	multicellular
neo-	new	neocortex
non-	not	nonpolar
para-	beside	parathyroid
peri-	around	pericardium
poly-	many	polypeptide
post-	after	postnatal
pre-	before	prenatal
pro-	before	prokaryote
pseudo-	false	pseudopod
re-	again	regenerate
retro-	backward	retrovirus
semi-	half	semiconservative
sub-	under	subcutaneous
super-	above	supernatant
supra-	above	supraorbital
sym-	with, together	symmetry
syn-	with, together	synapse
trans-	across	transmembrane
ultra-	beyond	ultraviolet
uni-	one	unicellular

Suffixes

Here is a table of some of the most common suffixes used in biology, along with their meanings and examples:

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ase	enzyme	amylase
-cyte	cell	lymphocyte
-derm	skin	ectoderm
-ectomy	surgical removal	appendectomy
-itis	inflammation	gastritis
-logy		

study of | biology | | -osis | condition | fibrosis | | -phage | eater |
bacteriophage | | -phore | carrier | ionophore | | -plasm | formed material |
cytoplasm | | -some | body | chromosome | | -trophy | nourishment |
heterotroph |

This is just a quick review of the most common prefixes and suffixes used in biology. There are many other prefixes and suffixes that are used, but these are the ones that you are most likely to encounter. By becoming familiar with these prefixes and suffixes, you can make it easier to learn and understand biology.



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