

Building and defining a term

- ✓ **Prefix** at the beginning, **suffix** at the end; the **root** carries the main meaning
- ✓ **Combining vowel**: links root to suffix or root to root, almost always *o*. **Combining form** = root + vowel, written *oste/o*
- ✓ **Use a combining vowel** when the suffix begins with a consonant, and always between two roots, even when the second root starts with a vowel
- ✓ **Do not use one** when the suffix begins with a vowel, or between a prefix and a root
- ✓ **To define a term**: divide it into parts, then read the **suffix first** and work from the start of the word: *vascul/itis* = inflammation of the vessel

Ending	Plural	Example
-a	-ae	bursa → bursae
-x	-ces	thorax → thoraces, appendix → appendices
-is	-es	diagnosis → diagnoses
-ma	-mata	fibroma → fibromata

Ending	Plural	Example
-on	-a	spermatozoon → spermatozoa
-um	-a	atrium → atria
-us	-i	bronchus → bronchi

Prefixes and suffixes

Prefix	Meaning	Prefix	Meaning
a- / an-	without	macro-	very large
bi-	two, both	micro-	small
tri-	three	hyper-	above normal
brady-	slow	hypo-	below normal
peri-	around	endo-	within, inner
sub-	under	intra-	within
mal-	bad		

Suffix	Meaning	Suffix	Meaning
-algia	pain	-ectomy	surgical removal
-cele	herniation	-tomy	incision, cut into
-emia	blood condition	-stomy	new artificial opening
-itis	inflammation	-plasty	surgical repair
-lysis	breakdown, destruction	-pexy	surgical fixation
-malacia	softening	-rrhaphy	suture repair
-megaly	enlargement	-centesis	puncture to aspirate fluid
-oma	tumor, mass	-tripsy	crushing
-osis	abnormal condition	-gram	record
-pathy	disease condition	-graph	instrument that records
-plegia	paralysis	-graphy	process of recording
-rrhagia	rapid flow of blood	-meter	instrument that measures
-rrhea	flow, discharge	-metry	process of measuring
-sclerosis	hardening	-scope	instrument to view
-stenosis	narrowing	-scopy	process of viewing
-uria	urine condition	-logy / -logist	study of / specialist