

Unit 6 Lesson 4

Understanding Prefixes

Understanding the meaning of prefixes, roots, and suffixes can help you figure out many medical words. A prefix is at the beginning of a word and signals information about the word. For example, the prefix re- means to do again. Redo means to do again. Here are some common prefixes for medical words that will give you clues about their meaning.

Prefix	Meaning		Prefix	Meaning
a- , an-	without, lack of		leuk	white
ab-	away from		macro	large
ad-	to, toward		mal	bad, illness
ante-	before, forward		meg	large
auto-	self		micro	small
bi-	two		mono-	single
brady-	slow		neo-	new
circum-	around		non-	not
contra-	against		olig-	small
de-	down, from		para-	beside, after
dia-	across, apart		per-	by
dis-	free from		peri-	around
dys-	bad, difficult		poly	many
ecto-	outer		post-	after, behind
endo-	inner		pre-	before, in front of
epi-	over, on		pro-	before, in front of
eryth-	red		re-	again, backward
eu-	normal, good		retro-	backward, behind
ex-	out, away from		semi-	half
hemi-	half		sub	under
hyper-	excessive, too much		super-	above, over, excess
hypo-	under, decreased		supra-	above, over
in-	into		tachy-	fast, rapid
infra-	within		trans-	across
inter	between		uni-	one
intro-	into, within			