

The Language of Science

The main reason students find it difficult to understand science is because of all the hard to write, spell and read words. Actually, scientific vocabulary is a hodge podge of little words that are linked together to have different meanings. If you learn the meanings of the little words, you'll find scientific vocabulary much easier to understand.

WORD	MEANING
a or an	not or non
aero	needing oxygen or air
anti	against
amphi	both, doubly
aqua	water
arthro	joint
ation	process
auto	self
bi	two, twice, double
bio	life, living
cellular	having to do with cells
cephal	head
chloro	green
chromo	color
cide	killer, kill, killing
cretion	the process of separating
cyto	cell
derm	skin
di	two, double
ecto (exo)	outer, external
endo	internal, inner, inside
epi	above
gastro	stomach
genesis	origin, beginning
gestion	to carry
hemo	blood
herba	plants
hetero	different
homo	alike, similar
hydro	water
hyper	above
hypo	below

WORD	MEANING
in	inside
intra	within, inside
itis	disease, inflammation
lateral	side
logy	study of
lysis	break down, release
meter	measurement
meso	middle
mono	one, single
morph	form
micro	small
macro	large
multi	many
plast	organized living material
pod	foot
phobia	dislike, fear
philia	like
phyll	leaf
proto	first
photo	light
phyte	plant
poly	many
scope	instrument for viewing
stasis	a stationary condition
synthesis	to make
sub	lesser, below
troph	eat, consume
therm	heat
tri	three
uni	one
zoo, zoa	animal

Name _____
Hour _____

Analyzing Science Terms

Use the list above to guess the meaning of each of the following terms.

1. Hydrology
2. Cytology
3. Protozoa
4. Epidermis
5. Autotroph
6. Exoskeleton
7. Abiotic
8. Dermatitis
9. Hypodermic
10. Hemophilia
11. Endocytosis
12. Chloroplast
13. Anaerobic
14. Bilateral
15. Endotherm
16. Subspecies
17. Arthropod
18. Micrometer
19. Hypothermia

Use the terms in the table to form words that will match these definitions.

20. _____ The study of small forms of life
21. _____ The study of animals
22. _____ Instrument used to measure water and other liquids
23. _____ A plant that grows in water
24. _____ Small leaf
25. _____ First organized particle

Each group of words listed below shares certain parts. The first two words in each group are defines for you. The part of the word and the part of the definition that correspond are underlined. Use these definitions to help you to define each word that follows the first two words.

26. Endospore: Inner layer of the wall of a seed
Microscope: Instrument used for looking at small objects
Microspore: _____
27. Phototropism: Response to light
Chemotherapy: Treatment that involves chemicals
Chemotropism: _____
28. Pesticide: An agent used to destroy pests
Herbaceous: Related to leafy plants
Herbicide: _____
29. Dermatology: The study of the structure and diseases of skin
Sclerosis: Disease in which body tissues harden
Scleroderma: _____
30. Arthritis: Inflammation of the joints
Podiatrist: Doctor who treats and cares for the human foot
Arthropod: _____