

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
anti	against
arthro	joint
auto	self
bi	two, twice, double
bio	life, living
chloro	green
cyto	cell
derm	skin
ecto (exo)	outer, external
endo	internal, inner, inside
genesis	origin, beginning
gestion	to carry
hetero	different
homo	alike, similar
hydro	water
hyper	above
hypo	below
lateral	side
logy	study of
lysis	break down, release
meter	measurement
micro	small
macro	large
plast	organized living material
pod	foot
philia	like
phyll	leaf
proto	first
photo	light
phyte	plant
scope	instrument for viewing
synthesis	to make
sub	lesser, below
troph	eat, consume
therm	heat
uni	one
zoo, zoa	animal

Name _____
Hour _____

Analyzing Science Terms

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

Example: Microscope – Small Instrument for viewing

1. Hydrology
2. Cytology
3. Protozoa
4. Hypodermic
5. Chloroplast
6. Bilateral
7. Endotherm
8. Arthropod
9. Micrometer
10. Hypothermia

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

Example: Hydrometer – Instrument used to measure water

11. _____ The study of small forms of life
12. _____ The study of animals
13. _____ A plant that grows in water
14. _____ Small leaf
15. _____ 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.

Example: Biology: The study of life
Dermatitis: Inflammation of the skin
Dermatology: The study of the skin

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