

LATIN AND GREEK SUFFIXES

1. SUBSTANTIVE SUFFIXES

A) LATIN

suffix	meaning	example
-io	act of, result of, process of	inflammat-io <i>inflammation</i>
-or	agent	flex-or <i>a muscle the action of which is to flex a joint</i>
-ura	act or result of action	flex-ura <i>flexion, result of bending</i>
-itas	quality, state	obes-itas <i>obesity</i>
-mentum	instrument, tool	liga-mentum <i>ligament</i>
-culus, a, um -ulus, a, um -olus, a, um -illus, a, um -ellus, a, um	diminutive	canali-culus <i>small canal</i> capit-ulum <i>small head</i> alve-olus <i>small cavity or pit</i> pup-illa <i>pupil (the dark circular aperture at the centre of the iris of the eye)</i> cereb-ellum <i>posterior brain mass</i>

B) GREEK

suffix	meaning	example
-ia	disease	allerg-ia <i>allergy</i>
-iasis	disease, pathological state	psor-iasis <i>a chronic skin disease characterized by circumscribed red patches covered with white scales</i>
-ismus	1. state 2. addiction	nan-ismus <i>dwarfism (a genetic abnormality resulting in short stature)</i> alcohol-ismus <i>alcoholism</i>
-itis	inflammatory disease	gastr-itis <i>inflammation of the stomach</i>
-osis	1. non-inflammatory disease 2. degenerative disease	nephro-osis <i>a non-inflammatory disease of a kidney</i> arthr-osis <i>a degenerative disease of a joint</i>
-oma	tumour	carcin-oma <i>a malignant tumour of epithelial origin</i>
-omatosis	multiple occurrence of tumours	my-omatosis <i>formation of multiple myomas</i>

2. ADJECTIVE SUFFIXES

A) LATIN

suffix	meaning	example
-alis, e	relation	vertebr-alis
-aris, e	relation	muscul-aris
-inus, a, um	relation	uter-inus
-eus, a, um	relation	cartilagin-eus
-aneus, a, um	relation	cut-aneus
-osus, a, um	full of	ven-osus
-atus, a, um	equipped with	caud-atus
-bilis, e	possibility, ability	mo-bilis
-ilis, e	having the quality	frag-ilis

B) GREEK

suffix	meaning	example
-icus, a, um	relation	thorac-icus
-ideus, a, um	similar to	xipho-ideus