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Send corrections, additions, and comments to [jay.ploss@gmail.com](mailto:jay.ploss@gmail.com)

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*and the people who love them...*



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## Latin and Greek Root Words, A–Z

a(n)- without	amygdala- almond shaped organ
ab- away from	amyl- starch
abduc- lead from	an- without
acanth- prickle	ana- up, back, again
acer- without horns	anatol- east
acetabul- vinegar cup	Anagallis- delightful
aceto- acid	anchus- bend, bay
acin- cluster of grapes	andr- male
acri- acrid, sharp	anemo- wind
acro- summit, top	angi- vessel
actin- ray	angul- angle
acust- of hearing	angusti- narrow
ad- towards	ankylo- stiff jointed
adipo- fat	annu- annual
adventit- coming to	anomo- lawless, irregular
aegopod- goat-foot	anser- geese
aestiv- summer	ante- before
affer- carrying to	antho- flower
agrest- rural, wild	anthro- human
agro(st)- field	anti- against, opposite
al(i)- wing	antr- cave
alb- white	apo- separate, from
allant- sausage	aqua- water
allium garlic	aguilin- eagle-beaked
alopec- fox	arach- spider
altissim- tall	arbor- tree
alve- pit, socket	arc- arch
ambly- blunt	arch(ae/i)- ancient
ambul- walk	arct(i/o)- north, bear
ammo- sand	are- space
amnio- fetal envelope	areni- sandy
amoeb- change	arg(en/lyr)- silver
amphi- both	arthro- joint
amplex- clasping	artic- jointed
ampulla- flask	artio- even-numbered

## Notes

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## Notes

## Appendix 1: Common Name Endings

-idae- standard ending for a family  
-inae- standard ending for a subfamily

-atus- provided with (also -ata)  
-phorus- bearing  
-fera- bearing (also -ferus)  
-osus- full of

-oides- resembling  
-aceus- similar to, like (also -acea)

-inus- like

-alis- related to  
-aris- pertaining to (also -arius)  
-ensis- belonging to, coming from (usually a region or area)  
-icus- belonging to  
-ides- a relationship, related to

## Appendix 2: Colours

coccino-, erythro-, rhodo-, eo-; purpureo-, rubri-, rufi-, rutuli-, rossi- roseo-, flammeo-	Reds of various shades
chryso-, cirrho-; aureo-, flavo-, fulvi-	orange
xantho-, ochreo-; fusc-, luteo-	yellow
chloro-; prasini-, viridi-	green
cyano-, iodo-; ceruleo-, violaceo-	blue
porphyro-; puniceo-, purpureo-	violet
leuko-; albo-, argenti-	white
polio-, glauco-, amauro-; cani-, cinereo- atri-	gray
melano-; nigri-;	black

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melano-; nigri-;	black

arundin- reed-like  
asc- sac  
asper- rough  
aspid- shield  
ast(e)r- star  
astrag- dice (originally a knuckle bone)  
ater, atra- black  
Atlas= a Titan(mythical giant) who supported the world on his shoulders  
atr(ium)- vestibule  
Atropos= one of the Fates who cut the thread of life  
aur- ear, gold  
austral- southern  
auto- self  
aux- grow  
avi- bird  
axi- axis  
azyg- unpaired

Baca- small berry  
baccatus- berried  
baena- walking  
balan- acorn  
barb- beard  
basi- at the bottom  
basilikos- little king  
bat(is) skate, ray  
bdella- sucker  
bell- pretty  
bi- two  
bi(ola)- life  
blast- germ  
bore- north  
botry- small bunch of grapes  
bov- ox  
brachi- arm

brachy- short  
brady- slow  
branch- gill  
brevi- short  
brizo- to nod  
bromo- oats, broom, shadow  
bronch- windpipe  
bucca- mouth cavity  
bulbos- bulbous  
bulla- bubble, flask  
bullat- wrinkled  
buno- hill  
bursa- pouch, purse  
caduci- temporary  
caec- blind  
caerul- sky blue  
caespit- tufted  
calam- reed, aspen  
calc- stone  
calli- beautiful  
callos callous  
calor- heat  
calyx cup, chalice  
camp- field  
campanula bell  
cani- dog  
cap(it)- head  
capill- hair  
capsella- small box  
card- heart  
carin- keel  
cam- flesh  
carotid- producing stupor  
carp- seed, wrist  
cary- nut  
cata- down  
cauda- tail  
cav- hollow

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cauda- tail  
cav- hollow

centi- hundred  
ceph(al)- head  
cera(s)(t)- horn  
cerc- horns, lobes, short tail  
cerebro- brain  
cerv- neck  
ch(e)ir- hand  
chaero- to please  
chaet- bristle  
chamae- on ground  
chel- turtle  
cheno- goose  
chiasm- crossing  
chil- lip  
chlamy- outer garment  
chlor- green  
choan- funnel  
chondr- cartilage  
chord- cord  
chorion membrane  
chrom- colour  
chrys- golden  
chyl- fluid  
chym- juice  
cili- eyelash  
ciner- ashen, grey  
cipit- head  
circum- around  
cirr- tentacle (originally curl)  
cl(e)ist- closed  
clad- branch  
clast- broken  
clav- key  
cleid- key  
cleithr- bar, key  
clin- bed, recline  
cloaca sewer  
coccus berry, grain

cochl- shell  
coel- hollow  
col(on) large intestine  
coll- neck  
collat- borne together  
columella little column  
com- with  
commis- sent out  
communis- colonial  
commutat- changed  
compact- compact  
compress- flattened  
con- with  
conch- shell  
condyl- knuckle  
cono- cone  
contra- opposite  
convolvo- to entwine  
copro- dung  
cora(xlg)- raven  
corb- basket  
cord- heart  
cordyl- club (weapon)  
corium- leather  
corn- horn  
coron- crown  
corp- body  
cort- bark  
cost- rib  
cotyl- cup  
crani- skull  
crass- thick  
crep- shoe  
cribi- sieve  
cric- ring  
crispus curled  
crist- crest  
crosso- fringe, tassel

tropi- keel  
troph- feed  
tussi- cough  
  
uliginosus- in marshes  
-ul- diminutive  
ulo- wooly  
ultra- above  
umbilic- navel  
un- one  
unc- hook  
ungui- nail, claw  
ungul- hoof, claw  
urens- bum  
uro- tail  
urs- of bears  
utricul- little skin bag  
uv(ela)- grapes  
  
vagina- sheath  
vagus- wandering  
vas- vessel  
velum- veil  
ven- vein  
ventr- belly  
verd- green  
veris- true  
verm- worm  
vern- spring  
versi- various  
vesic- blister  
vesper- evening, western  
vill- shaggy hair, velvet  
virens- green  
viri- of a man  
visc- organs of body cavity  
vita- life  
vitta- ribbon, band

vitell- yolk  
vitr- glass  
vora- devour  
vulgaris- common  
vulp- fox  
  
xanth- yellow  
xen- stranger  
xer- dry  
xiphi- sword  
xyl- wood  
  
zo- animal  
zon- girdle  
zyg- yoke

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sphinct- closing  
spinos- spiny  
spondyl- vertebra  
squalid- squalid  
squam- scale  
squarros- spreading at tips  
stae(rlt)- fat  
sta(silt)- standing  
steg- covering  
stell- star  
steno- narrow  
stereo- solid  
steril- sterile  
stern- breastbone  
stom- mouth  
strat- layer  
strept- twisted  
strictus- upright, stiff  
strigos- having stiff bristles  
stroph- turning  
styl- column  
sub- below  
sucr- sugar  
sulc- furrow  
super- beyond  
supin- lying back  
supra- above  
sutur- seam  
sym- with  
syn- with  
syrin(glx)- pipe  
sys- with

tachy- fast  
tact- touch  
taenia- ribbon  
talus- ankle  
tapetum- carpet

tard- late  
tarsus- ankle  
tect- covered  
tegmen- covering  
tel (e/o)- far, end  
teleo- complete  
temno- cut  
tenacul- holding  
tentor- spread like a tent  
tenuis- slender  
ter(ti)- three  
teres- round  
tetr- four  
textilis- of textiles  
thalam- chamber, bed  
thalass- sea  
theca- case  
thel- nipple, female  
therm- heat  
thero- breast, mammal  
thyreo- large shield  
tinctori- of dyes  
torn- cut  
tomentos- densely woolly  
torpe- numb  
toxo- arrow, dart  
trab- beam  
trachy- rough  
trago- goat  
trans- across  
trapez- four sided, table  
trema- hole  
tremulans- trembling  
tri- three  
trich- hair  
trivialis- trivial  
troch- wheel  
trop- turning

cru(rals)- shank  
cruci- cross-like  
crypt- hidden  
cten- comb  
cune- wedge  
cusp- lance, point  
cuti- skin  
cyan- blue  
cycl- circular  
cyno- dog  
cyst- capsule  
cyt- cell  
dactyl- finger  
dasy- shaggy  
deci- ten  
decid- falling off  
decuss- cross banding  
deka- ten  
delph- womb  
delphis- dolphin  
demi- half  
dendr- tree  
dent- tooth  
derm- skin  
dero- persisting  
desmo- band  
deut- second  
dextro- right  
di(a)- two  
dia- through  
didym- twin  
digit- finger  
dino- terrible  
diplo- double  
dipso- thirst  
dissect- deeply cut  
dodeca- twelve  
don't- tooth

dors- back  
drom- quick running  
dubi- doubtful  
dulci- sweet  
duo- two  
dur- hard  
  
echino- spiny  
echis- viper  
eco- house  
ecto- outside  
effer- carrying away  
effusus- loosely spreading  
ejacul- throw out  
elasma- plate, flat  
elat- tall  
-ell- diminutive  
embio- living  
embol- thrown in  
endo- inside  
engy- narrow  
ensi- sword  
entolenter- inside  
eo- dawn, east  
epi- upon  
equi- horse, equal  
erect- upright  
erythr- red  
esculent- edible  
ethm- sieve  
eu- well, very  
eury- wide  
ex- out of  
exiguus- slender  
exo- outside  
extens- draw out  
extra- beyond  
extrins- coming from

sphinct- closing  
spinos- spiny  
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stom- mouth  
strat- layer  
strept- twisted  
strictus- upright, stiff  
strigos- having stiff bristles  
stroph- turning  
styl- column  
sub- below  
sucr- sugar  
sulc- furrow  
super- beyond  
supin- lying back  
supra- above  
sutur- seam  
sym- with  
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cruci- cross-like  
crypt- hidden  
cten- comb  
cune- wedge  
cusp- lance, point  
cuti- skin  
cyan- blue  
cycl- circular  
cyno- dog  
cyst- capsule  
cyt- cell  
dactyl- finger  
dasy- shaggy  
deci- ten  
decid- falling off  
decuss- cross banding  
deka- ten  
delph- womb  
delphis- dolphin  
demi- half  
dendr- tree  
dent- tooth  
derm- skin  
dero- persisting  
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exiguus- slender  
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extra- beyond  
extrins- coming from

fab- bean	gerro- shield	quadr- four	sal- salt
falc- sickle-shaped	gladi- sword	quarter- four	sanguini- bloody
fallax- false	glen- socket	quin(t/que)- five	sapon- soapy
fasc(ic)- bundle	glia- glue		sarc- flesh, lobe
fasciatus- banded	glom(er)- half of yam	rach- spine	sativus- cultivated
fatuus- foolish, useless	glo(ss/tt)- tongue	radi- root	saur- lizard
feli- cat	glut- sticky	ram- branching	scala- ladder
fer- carry	gl(uly)c- sweet	ran- frog	scalene- uneven
ficar- fig-like	glypt- carved, engraved (fang in snakes)	rapa- turnip	scaph- anything hollow, bowl, ship
fil- thread	gnaph- wool	raph- seam	schizo- split
fistul- hollow, tube	gnath- jaw	rect- straight	scler- hard
flacc- flabby	goni- angle	reflex- bent back	scelo- leg
flav- yellow	gono- seed	regillus- regal, splendid	scop- gaze, small owl, broom, shadow
flexu- wavy	gracil- slender	ren- kidney	scut- shield
flocculus- lock of wool	gram- of grass	repens- crawling	scyph- cup
fluitans- floating	gymn- naked	retic- network	seba- tallow, wax
foen- hay	gyn- woman	retina- little net	sect- cut
foetid- foul smelling	gyr- turning	retro- behind, backward	segetum- in cornfields
foli- leaf		rhabd- rod	selen- moon
fontan- fountain	haem- blood	rhach- spine	sella- saddle, seat
foramen- opening	hal- salty	rhage- tear, rent	semi- half
fornix- vault	hallu(x/ci)- big toe	rhin- nose, snout	sept- seven, wall
fovea- shallow round depression	hamat- hook	rhiz- root	ser(olu)- any body fluid
fruticans- shrubby	haplo- single, simple	rhodo- red	serot- late
fund- to pour	hasta(t)- spear-tip shape	rhynch- snout	serrat- saw-toothed
furc(ul)- fork	hect- hundred	-rrh- flow	set- hair
	heira- hawk	rode- gnaw	sex- six
gal- milk	helios- sun	rogos- wrinkled	simi- monkey
gale- weasel	helminth- worm	rostr- beak, prow	sinus- hollow, bay
gall- of France	helo- wart	rota- tum, wheel	sipho- tube
gangli- knot	hemi- half	rub(e)r- red	sol- sun
gano- shining	hepa(r/t)- liver	rumen- throat	soleno- pipe, channel
gast(e)r- stomach, pouch	hepta- seven		soma- body
gemin- twins	hetero- different	sacchar- sugar	somni- sleep
gemm- bud	hex- six	saccul- little sac	specios- showy
genu- knee, joint	hibem- winter	sacr- sacred	sperm- seed
geranium- crane	hippo- horse	sagitta- arrow	sphen- wedge

fab- bean	gerro- shield	quadr- four	sal- salt
falc- sickle-shaped	gladi- sword	quarter- four	sanguini- bloody
fallax- false	glen- socket	quin(t/que)- five	sapon- soapy
fasc(ic)- bundle	glia- glue		sarc- flesh, lobe
fasciatus- banded	glom(er)- half of yam	rach- spine	sativus- cultivated
fatuus- foolish, useless	glo(ss/tt)- tongue	radi- root	saur- lizard
feli- cat	glut- sticky	ram- branching	scala- ladder
fer- carry	gl(uly)c- sweet	ran- frog	scalene- uneven
ficar- fig-like	glypt- carved, engraved (fang in snakes)	rapa- turnip	scaph- anything hollow, bowl, ship
fil- thread	gnaph- wool	raph- seam	schizo- split
fistul- hollow, tube	gnath- jaw	rect- straight	scler- hard
flacc- flabby	goni- angle	reflex- bent back	scelo- leg
flav- yellow	gono- seed	regillus- regal, splendid	scop- gaze, small owl, broom, shadow
flexu- wavy	gracil- slender	ren- kidney	scut- shield
flocculus- lock of wool	gram- of grass	repens- crawling	scyph- cup
fluitans- floating	gymn- naked	retic- network	seba- tallow, wax
foen- hay	gyn- woman	retina- little net	sect- cut
foetid- foul smelling	gyr- turning	retro- behind, backward	segetum- in cornfields
foli- leaf		rhabd- rod	selen- moon
fontan- fountain	haem- blood	rhach- spine	sella- saddle, seat
foramen- opening	hal- salty	rhage- tear, rent	semi- half
fornix- vault	hallu(x/ci)- big toe	rhin- nose, snout	sept- seven, wall
fovea- shallow round depression	hamat- hook	rhiz- root	ser(olu)- any body fluid
fruticans- shrubby	haplo- single, simple	rhodo- red	serot- late
fund- to pour	hasta(t)- spear-tip shape	rhynch- snout	serrat- saw-toothed
furc(ul)- fork	hect- hundred	-rrh- flow	set- hair
	heira- hawk	rode- gnaw	sex- six
gal- milk	helios- sun	rogos- wrinkled	simi- monkey
gale- weasel	helminth- worm	rostr- beak, prow	sinus- hollow, bay
gall- of France	helo- wart	rota- tum, wheel	sipho- tube
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pher- carry  
phil- love  
phloe- tree bark  
phor- carry  
pho(s/to)- light  
phragm- fence  
phren- diaphragm, mind  
phyrno- toad  
phyl- tribe  
phyll- leaf  
physa- bladder  
physio- nature  
phyto- plant  
pil- hair  
pinea- pine cone  
pinnat- feather-shaped  
pisum- pea  
pisc- fish  
plac- plate, tablet  
plagio- oblique  
plan- flat  
platy- flat, broad  
plec(o/t)- twist, pluck  
plesio- near  
pleth- full  
pleur- side  
plex- interwoven  
plica- fold  
plum- feather  
pneu(mo/st)- air, lung  
pod- foot  
pogo- beard  
polio- grey  
polit- polished  
poll(ex)- thumb  
poly- many  
pons- bridge  
por- pores

porc- pig  
porphyr- purple  
porta- gate  
post- after  
potam- river  
potero- drinking cup  
praeco- early  
pratens- in meadows  
pre- before  
prim- first  
pro- in front of  
proct- anus  
procumbens- lying flat  
profund- deep  
proliger- bear offspring  
prom- first  
proso- front  
prostratus- lying flat  
prot- first  
prunus- plum  
psamma- sand  
pseud- false  
psycho- mind  
psychro- cold  
pter- wing, fern  
ptyal- sahva  
pubescens- downy  
pubi- sexually mature  
pulmo- lung  
punctatus- spotted as with punctures  
pungens- pungent  
pusill- very small  
pygo- rump  
pyl- gate  
pyo- pus  
pyro- heat, fire  
pyrus- pear

hirsut- hairy  
hispid- bristly  
histri- actor  
holo- complete, whole  
homo- man, same  
homal- flat  
hormon- that which excites  
hortens- of gardens  
humus- ground  
hyal- glassy  
hydr- water  
hyemal- winter  
hyo- U-shaped  
hyper- above  
hypo- beneath  
  
ichthy- fish  
-ida- like  
-idae- ending of zoological family names  
ileum- twisted  
impar- unpaired  
in- in, not  
-in- diminutive  
-inae- ending of zoological sub-family names  
incarnat- flesh coloured  
incis- cutting in  
incus- anvil  
inermis- unarmed  
inflexis- rigid  
infra- under  
inter- between  
intra- within  
iod- violet  
-iola- diminutive  
iris- rainbow  
iso- equal

iter- passage  
  
jug- yoked together  
jungoljunc- to bind

ket- ketone  
kilo- thousand  
  
labi- lips  
labyrinth- tortuous passage  
lacer- torn  
lacrim- tears  
lact- milk  
lacuna- space  
laevo- left  
lagna- flask  
lamella- leaf, layer  
lan(at)- wool  
lanceol(at)- lance-shaped  
lati- broad  
lecith- egg yolk  
lemm- skin, husk  
lens- lentil, bean  
leo(n)- lion  
lepid- scale  
lepto- slender  
leuc- white  
levator- lifter  
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ligul- strap-shaped  
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lumen- cavity

luna- moon	mirabile- wonderful	nutans- nodding	ornith- bird
lupus wolf	miss- sent		ortho- straight
lute- yellow	mito- thread	obtect- concealed	os(ti)- mouth
lymph- clear water	mixi- mingle	obturat- closed	os(s/t)- bone
lysis- loosen	moll- soft	obtusi- blunt	ostrac shell
	monil- string of beads	occiden- Western	ot- ear
macr- large	mono- one	occip- back of head	ovi- sheep
macula- spot	montan- of mountains	oct- eight	ovo- egg
magni- large	morph- form	odont- tooth	oxys, oxus- sharp, pointed
maj- greater	motor- mover	odor- fragrant	
mala- cheek	multi- many	oecious- house of	pachy- thick
malleus- hammer, mallet	mural- walls	oed- swollen	palae- old
mamma- breast	muri- mouse	oen- wine	palli(um)- mantle
mandib- lower jaw	myo- muscle, mouse	oesoph- gullet	pallid- pale
manu- hand	myri- countless	official- used in medicine	palustri- in marshes
maritim- of the sea	myx- mucous	-oid- like	pan- ali
marsupium- pouch	myz- sucker	olecran- skull of elbow	par(a)- near
masseter- chewer		oleo- oily	parie- wall
mast- nipple	na(rls)- nose	olfact- smelling	parvi- little
mat(e)ri- mother	necro- dead	oligo- few	patella- small dish
maxi- large	necto- swimming	oliva- olive	patens- spreading
maxill- jaw	nema- hair	omaso- paunch	pect(or)- chest
maxim- greatest	nemoral- in woods	oment- fat skin	pectin- comb-like
meatus- passage	neo- new	omm- eye	ped- foot, child
medi- medium	nephr- kidney	omo- shoulder	pellucid- shining through
medull- marrow	neur- nerve	omphalo- navel	pene- almost
mega- large	nictitat- winking	onto- existing	pent- five
mel(l)i- honey	nigr- black	oo- egg	per(i)- through, beyond
melan- black	non- not	op(t)- eye, face	peregrin- foreign
menin(x,g)- membrane	nona- nine	operculum- little cover	peri- around
meno- moon	noth- spurious	ophi- snake	persic- peach
mer- part	notho- southern	ophthalmo- eye	petr- rock
meso- middle	noto- back, south	opistho- behind	phaeo- dark
meta- after	nu(c)l- nut	opoter- either	phag- eat
micro- small	nuch- back of neck	or- mouth	phalan(g/x)- close formation of troops
milli- thousand	nucle- little nut	orbi- circle	phalar- shining
min- smaller	nud- naked	orch- testicle	phanero- visible
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