*Lecture One:* **Terminology**

***Terminology***is a general word for the group of specialized words or meanings relating to a particular field, and also the study of such terms and their use.

Biological terms are sometimes difficult to understand, but most of the words can be broken into **parts** using their **root** **words** by utilizing their **prefixes** and **suffixes.**

**Prefixes** and **suffixes** are letters or group of letters which are added to either the beginning of a word (prefix) or the end of a word (suffix) to change its meaning and /or function. In other words, roots **followed** by a **hyphen** are **prefixes**. Roots **preceded** by a **hyphen** are **suffixes**.

As students of **biology**, you should **learn to recognize** word parts, since they often give a **clue** as to the meaning of a word.

**Greek** and **Latin** root words often are used in **scientific terminology**. Some scientific words are the same in English as they **originally** were in Greek or Latin. For example, the Latin words *species*, *genera*, *spectrum*, *bacillus*, and *coccyx* are still used today in their original form. Other words use Greek or Latin **prefixes** or **suffixes**.

The chart below lists some commonly used **prefixes** and **suffixes** and **their meanings**.

|  |  |
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| **Latin or Greek prefix** | **Meaning** |
| *a–, an–, non–, un–* | not, without, non, lack of, negative |
| *anti–, contra–* | against, opposed to; opposite |
| *auto–* | self, automatic, spontaneous |
| *bi–, di–, diplo–* | twice, double |
| *bio–, vita–* | related to life |
| *cat–, de–* | down |
| *chlor–* | green |
| *chrom–* | color |
| *cyto–* | cell |
| *eco–* | where one lives, home |
| *endo–* | within, in, inside |
| *entomo–,* | insect |
| *epi–* | atop, above, on, over, upon |
| *ex–, ecto–, exo–,* | out, outside, beyond, outer surface |
| *geo–* | earth |
| *herb–, ( –phyte)* | plant |
| *herpe–* | reptile |
| *hetero–* | other, different |
| *hyper–* | above, excess, more than, over |
| *hypo–, sub–* | below, beneath, under |
| *intra–* | in, indoors, inside, interior, within |
| *macro–, mega–* | big, huge, large |
| *mar–* | sea |
| *medi–, meso–* | middle |
| *multi–, myria–, poly–* | many |
| *micro–* | little, small, tiny |
| *omni–, toti–* | all |
| *patho–* | disease |
| *phago–, (–troph),(–vore)* | To feed or eat |
| *prim–, proto–* | first or one |
| *re–* | again |
| *sym–, syn–, sys–* | with, together |
| *tax–* | arrange |
| *terr–* | land |
| *zo–* | animal |
| **Latin or Greek suffix** | **Meaning** |
| *–cide* | kill |
| *–logy* | study |
| *–osis* | actions, conditions, or states |
| *–phyll* | leaf |
| *–phore* | carry, to bear |
| *–scope* | view, see |
| *–trop, –volv* | turn, change |