

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

College of Dentistry

Medical Terminology

Prefixes

1st class

4th lecture

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A **prefix** (**PRE**-fix) is the first building block of a word division that begins a term. A prefix alters the word's meaning by indicating **number, color, size, location, or condition.**



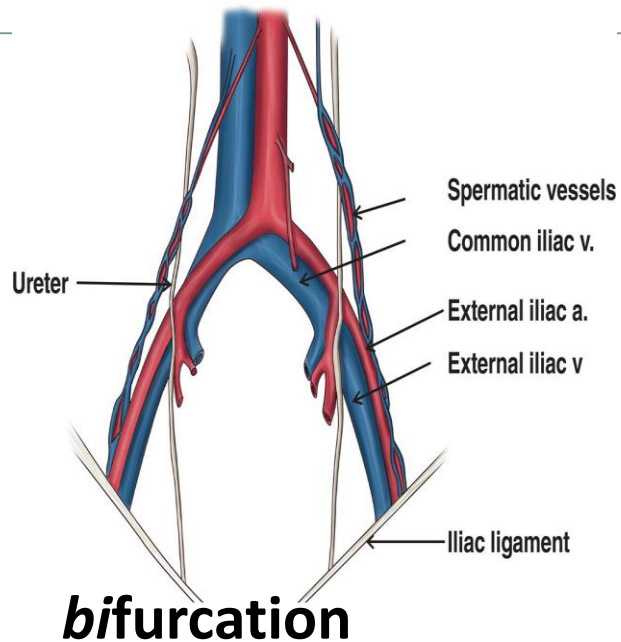
Some common prefixes used in dental terminology.

Example of prefixes denoting quantity and number are:

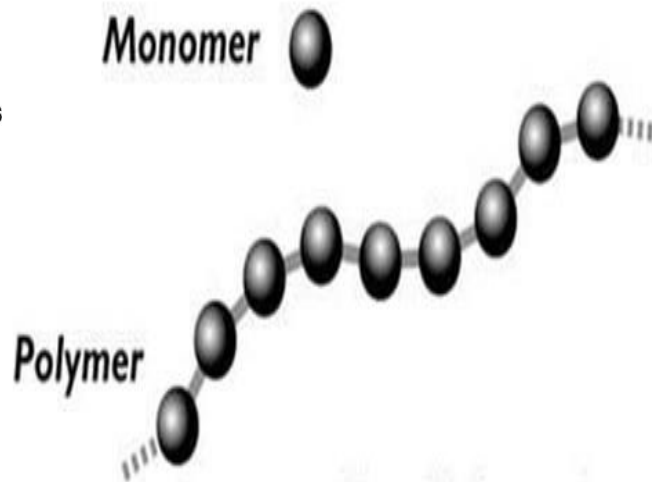
Prefix	Meaning	Example	Pronunciations
a- an-	without	anemia	(ah- NEE -me-ah)
bi-	two, double	<i>bifurcation</i>	(bye -fur- KAY -shun)
hemi-	half	<i>hemisection</i>	(HEM -ih- seck -shun)
mon/o-	one	<i>monomer</i>	(MON -oh-mer)
poly-	many	<i>polymerization</i>	(pol -ah- mer -ah- ZAY -shun)
prim-/i-	first	<i>primary</i>	(PRY -mary)



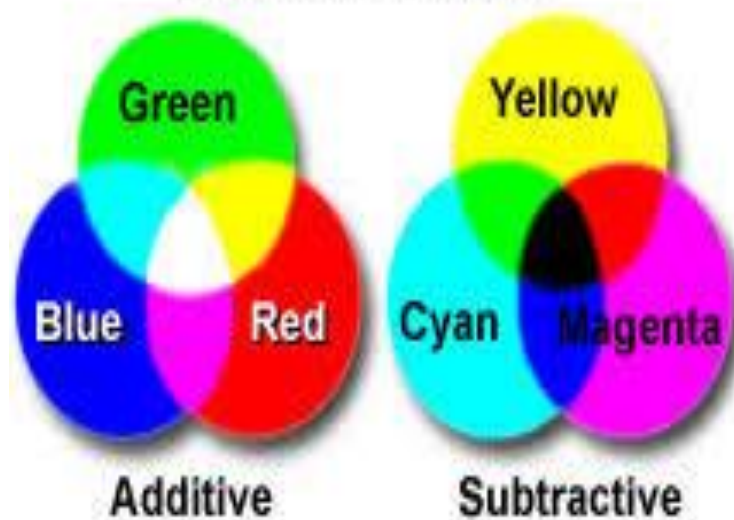
anemia



bifurcation



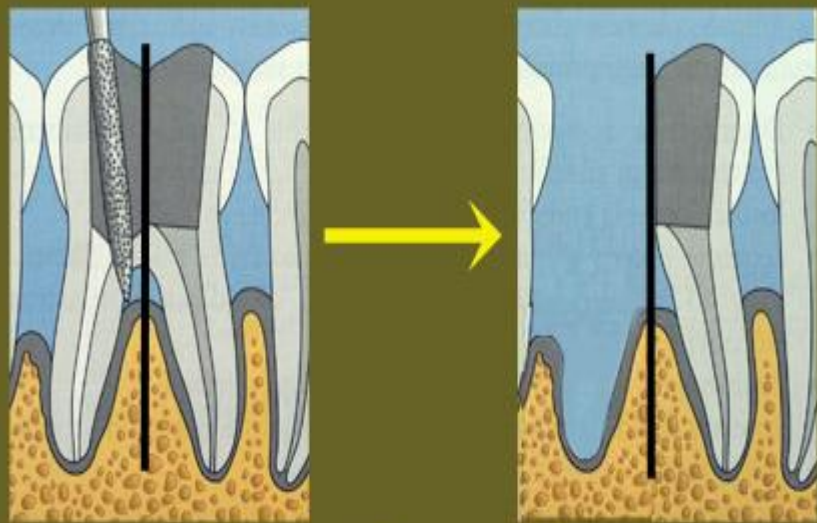
Primary Colors



Additive

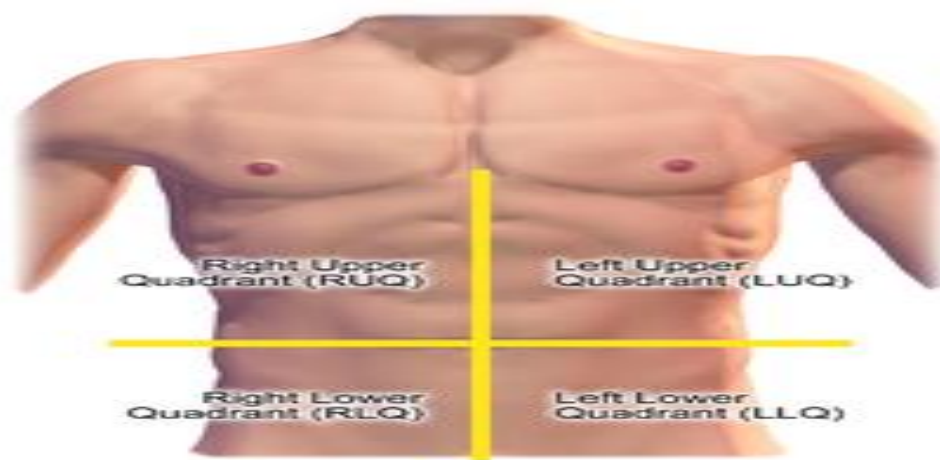
Subtractive

Figure 1

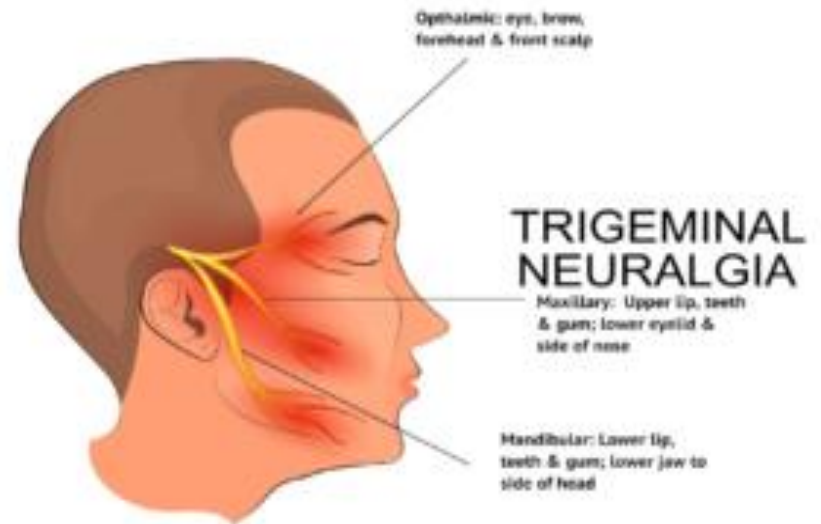


Hemisection

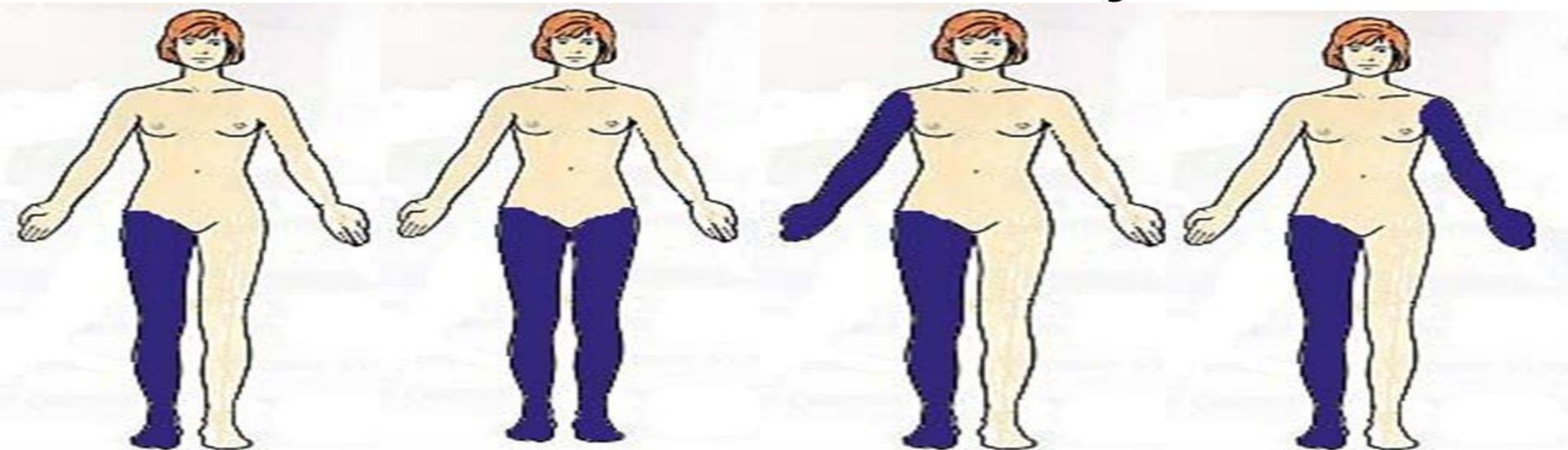
Prefix	Meaning	Example	Pronunciations
quad- /quat-	four	<i>quadrant</i>	(KWAH -drant)
semi-	half	<i>semiluminal</i>	(sem- EE -lum-in-al)
tri-	three	<i>trigeminal</i>	(try- JEM -in-al)
uni-	one	<i>unilateral</i>	(you-nah- LAT -er-ol)



**Abdominopelvic
Quadrants**



Terms of Laterality



Unilateral: One Side

Bilateral: Two Sides

Ipsilateral: Same Side of Body

Contralateral: Opposite Side of Body



EXAMPLES OF PREFIXES DENOTING COLOR

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Pronunciations
albus-	white	<i>albumen</i>	(al- BU -men)
chlor-/o-	green	<i>chlorophyll</i>	(CHLOR -oh-fill)
cyan-/o-	blue	<i>cyanosis</i>	(sigh -ah- NO -sis)
erythr-/o-	red	<i>erythrocyte</i>	(eh- RITH -row-site)
leuk-/o-	white	<i>leukoplakia</i>	(loo -koh- PLAY -key-ah)
melan-/o-	black	<i>melanoma</i>	(mel -ah- NO -ma)
xanth-/o-	yellow	<i>xanthoma</i>	(zan- THO -ma)



A root occasionally has more than one prefix with the same meaning. One meaning may stem from Latin and another may be a Greek. For example, *alba*, from the Latin word *albus*, refers to white, such as in *albumen* and *albino*. *Leuko* is a Greek prefix meaning white and is used in *leukoplakia* (a white, precancerous patch found inside the cheek). Although *leuko* may be more popular, both prefixes are correct.



**PREFIXES
DENOTING SIZE
OR DEGREE**

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Pronunciations
hyper-	over/excess	<i>hypertrophy</i>	(high- PER -troh-fee)
hypo-	under/ below	<i>hypoplasia</i>	(high-poh- PLAY -zee-ah)
iso-	equal	<i>isograft</i>	(I -so-graft)
macro-	large	<i>macrodontia</i>	(mack -row- DON -she-ah)
micro-	small/minute	<i>microbe</i>	(MY -crobe)
pan-	all around	<i>panoramic</i>	(PAN -oh- ram -ic)

Normal Heart



Chambers relax and fill,
then contract and pump.

Heart with Dilated
Cardiomyopathy

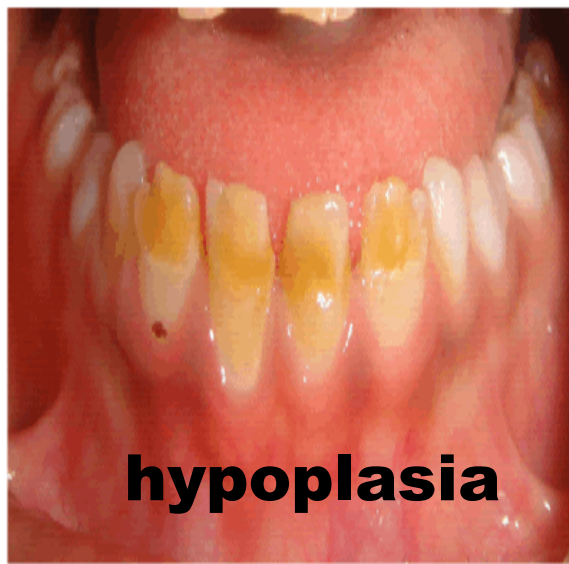


Muscle fibers have stretched,
Heart chambers enlarge.

hypertrophy



isograft



hypoplasia



macrodontia

Junior Dentist



panoramic

Figure 1: Intraoral photograph showing hypoplastic 36, 32, 31, 41, 42, 46.



Thank You