

Microbiological Cumulative root words with meanings

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KEY to topic abbreviations:

Abc	antibiotics
Ana	prokaryotic anatomy
Dis	diseases
Enz	enzymes
Epi	epidemiology
Flg	flagella
Fng	fungus
Grm	germ theory
Gth	bacterial growth
His	history of microbiology
Imn	immunity
Mtb	metabolism
Plt	plate count
Pst	parasites
Pth	pathogenicity
Scp	microscope
Str	sterile technique
Vir	viruses

word root topic meaning

acet-	Grm	vinegar
achromatic	Scp	without color
acid	Mtb	sour, sharp
actin-	Fng	radiate
aden-	Mtb	gland
aero-	His	air, oxygen
Ag	Enz	silver
agglutinin	Vir	together stick
AIDS	Vir	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
alb-	Mtb	white
-algia	Dis	pain
aliquot	Plt	measured subunit
allo-	Enz	other
amphi-	Flg	both
an-, a-	His	without
ana-	Mtb	upward
angio-	Dis	vessel
<i>anima</i>	His	soul
anthrax	Grm	burning coal
anti-	Grm	against
apo-	Enz	detach
arbo-	Vir	arthropod-borne
aria	His	air
arthro-	Dis	joint
asco-	Fng	sack
-ase	Grm	enzyme
-ate	Mtb	salt
ATP	Mtb	adenosine triphosphate
attenuate	Grm	toward thinness
<i>aureus</i>	Dis	gold
auto-	Str	self
axillary	Dis	armpit
bacillus	His	rod little
bacter-	His	rod
basidio-	Fng	little base, pedestal
bio-	His	life
blast-	Abc	immature, bud
-bol-	Mtb	throw
botul-	Dis	sausage
buccal	Ana	cheek
butyr-	Mtb	butter
calyx	Ana	cup
campylo-	Dis	curved
capitis	Fng	of the head
caries	Dis	rotten
bacter-	His	rod
cephalo-	Vir	head
-cer-	Mtd	wax
CFU	Plt	colony forming unit
chel-	Mtb	claw
chemo-	Flg	transmutation
chlamy-	Dis	mantle, cloak
chol-	Grm	bile
chrom-	Mcr	color
chron-	Dis	time
-cide	Mtb	kill
cis-	Gen	cut
<i>clappoir</i>	Dis	brothel
-clave	Str	break
coccus	His	grain
<i>coli</i>	Dis	of the large intestine
coll-	Pth	glue
con-	Flg	together
conidia	Fng	dust
corona	Vir	crown
cortex	Ana	bark
Coryn-	Dis	club
CPE	Pth	cytopathic effects
-crates	His	power
crepit-	Dis	rattle
curis	Fng	of the groin
-cule	His	diminutive
cuvette	Gth	cup little
cyst-	Abc	bladder
-cyte	Ana	cell
de-	Mtb	remove from
<i>demos</i>	Grm	people
dermato-	Fng	skin
desiccate	Gth	remove moisture
dextro-	His	right

di-	Mtb	two
dia-	Scp	through, across
dino-	Pst	whirlpool
diplo-	Ana	double
dis-	His	reverse, undo
dogma	Dis	teaching
-drome	Epi	run
dur-	Gth	tough, hard
dys-	Grm	faulty
ECHO	Vir	enteric cytopathogenic human orphan
edema	Dis	swelling
-egar	His	sour
-egre	Mtb	sour
-ella	Flg	diminutive
EMB	Gth	Eosin Methylene Blue
-emia	Grm	blood
en-	Enz	inside
endo-	Ana	inner
enter-	Grm	intestines
enzyme	Mtb	inside yeast
epi-	Grm	upon
EPS	Ana	Extracellular Polymeric Substance
erythro-	Fng	red
esthet-	Grm	feeling
etio-	His	cause
EtOH	Str	ethyl alcohol
eu-	Dis	true, well
ex-	Gen	from
extra-	Ana	outside
FAD	Mtb	flavin adenine dinucleotide
fac-	His	make
fasc-	Dis	bundle
ferment	Grm	to rise, leaven
ferv-	Mtb	biol
fic-	Gth	to make
fil-	Fng	hair
fimbria	Ana	finger
flag-	Flg	beat, whip
flora	His	plants
flu	Pst	flow
fol-	Dis	nest
form-	Gth	ant; single hydrogen
fract-	Scp	break
fructo-	Mtb	fruit
fusion	Scp	melt, pour
galact-	Mtb	milk
-gen (-ic)	His	produce
germ	Hst	bud, embryo
G(gastro)I	Dis	gastro(stomach) intestinal
glob-	Imn	ball
glut-	Imn	stick, adhere
glyc-	Ana	sugar
-gnomic	Vir	know
gono-	Gen	offspring, genitals
-gram	Ana	picture
GU	Dis	genitourinary
H	Str	acid
hal-	Grm	salt
hapt-	Imn	attach
HCG	Imn	human chorionic gonadotropin
hemo-	Fng	blood
<i>Hemophilus</i>	Dis	blood loves
hepat-	Abc	liver
herpes	Vir	creep, crawl
hex-	Mtb	six
HFR	Gen	high frequency recombinant
Hg	Grm	mercury
hippo-	His	horse
histo-	Ana	tissue or story
HIV	Vir	human immunodeficiency virus
holo-	Enz	entire
homeo-	Pth	same
HTST	Grm	High Temp, Short Time
humor	His	bodily fluid
hydro-	Str	water
hygro-	Str	moisture
hyper-	Ana	above, excess
hypha	Fng	thread
hypo-	Ana	below, inadequate
iatro-	His	doctor
-ide	Enz	chemical derivative
idio-	His	unknown
<i>in vitro</i>	Grm	in glass
<i>in vivo</i>	Grm	in life
in-	Ana	within
-ine	Mtb	nitrogen containing
inguinal	Dis	groin
inter-	Scp	between
intra-	Dis	within
iris	Scp	rainbow
iso-	Mtb	same
-itis	Grm	inflammation
juga-	Flg	join
karyo-	Ana	nucleus
kerat-	Epi	horn
-kine	Imn	activate, move
lact-	Gth	milk
LD ₅₀	Pth	lethal dose 50%

lepto-	Dis	weak, fine
leuk-	Gen	white
levo-	His	left
lig-	Ana	tie
lip-	Ana	fat
-logy	His	science, study, word
lopho-	Ana	tuft
LPS	Ana	lipopolysaccharide
luc-	Gth	light
lymph	Imn	watery
lys-	Gth	break, loosen
lysis	Enz	break, process
macro-	Grm	large
mal-	His	bad
mastigo-	Pst	whip
media	Dis	medium
megaly	Pth	large
melan-	His	black
meninx	Dis	membrane
meniscus	Plt	moon little
-mer	Mtb	unit
meso-	Gth	middle
meta-	Mtb	change, behind, later, beyond
miasma	His	foul odor
micro-	His	tiny, 1/1,000,000
milli-	Scp	1/1000
MMWR	Epi	Mortality Morbidity Weekly Report
mnem-	Vir	memory
-monas	Dis	simple organism
mono-	Ana	single
morbidity	Epi	sickness
morph-	His	shape
mort-	His	death
muc-	Ana	slime
mumps	Vir	grimace
murium	Ana	of the mouse
mura-	Ana	wall
muta-	Gen	change
my-	Dis	muscle
myco-	Grm	fungus
myxo-	Vir	slime
NAD	Mtb	nicotine adenine dinucleotide
nadir	His	lowest point
NAG	Ana	N acetyl glucoseamine
NAM	Grm	N acetyl muramic acid
nano-	Scp	nine
necro-	Fng	dead
-nema	Ana	thread
nephr-	Dis	kidney
NGU	Dis	non-gonococcal urethritis
nigri-	Fng	black
noc-	Ana	poison
-nomy	Dis	rule
nosocomial	His	hospital acquired
nox-	Ana	poison
ocul-	Scp	eye
-obe	Grm	life
-oid	Flg	like
-ol	Gth	alcohol
<i>omnis</i>	His	all
-on	Dis	bird
ornitho-	Vir	straight
ortho-	Dis	possessive plural
-orum	Mtb	sugar
-ose	Ana	push
osm-	Dis	ear
oto-	Gth	sharp, acid
oxy-	Flg	faint
pallid-	Vir	alongside
para-	Pth	alongside intestine
parenteral	His	suffer, disease
<i>pathos</i>	Fng	of the foot
pedis	Flg	five
penta-	Grm	digest
peps(-(-))	Pth	throughout
per-	Ana	around
peri-	Grm	eat
phago-	Dis	throat
pharynx	Gth	appear
phen-	Str	like
-phile	His	watery
phlegm	Str	fear, hate
-phobic	Pst	to bear
-phore	Scp	membrane
-phragm	Fng	membrane
-phtheria	Imn	protect
-phylaxis	Mtb	bodily function
physio-	Fng	plant
-phytic	Scp	tiny
pico-	Ana	hair
pilus	Epi	I will please
placebo	Ana	form, shape
plast-, -plasm	Ana	many
pleio	Dis	air
pneumo-	Abc	to form
poie-	Ana	many
poly-	Epi	gateway
portal	Grm	mark, scar
pox	Dis	penicillinase producing
PPNG	Dis	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoea</i>
pro-	Ana	first

pruritis	Dis	itch inflammation
pseudo-	Dis	false
psittaci	Dis	parrot
psychro-	Mtb	cold
ptom-	Fng	fall
puerperal	His	childbed
purul-	Dis	pusy
-pus	Fng	foot
putri-	His	rotten
pyo-	Grm	pus
<i>pyogenes</i>	Grm	pus producing
pyr-	Mtb	fire
<i>q.s.</i>	Str	<i>quantum sufficit</i>
re-	Vir	again
retro-	Vir	backward
rhabdo-	Vir	stick, rod
(r)rho-	Scp	flow
rheum-	Fng	watery
rhino-	Vir	nose
rhizo-	Dis	root
RTF	Gen	resist. transfer factor
Rubella	Vir	red little
rxn	Ana	reaction
sacchar-	Ana	sugar
sal-	Gth	salt
salping-	Dis	oviduct
sangui-	Grm	blood
sapro-	Fng	rotten
sarcina	Ana	bundle
sarco-	Pst	flesh
schiz-	Pst	split
sco-	His	examine
-scopic	Str	examine
-script	Gen	write
semi-	Ana	half
septic	His	rotten
septum	Gen	partition
sequel-	Dis	follow
serum	Imn	whew
<i>sine</i>	Grth	without
-sis	Ana	process, condition
<i>situ</i>	Enz	place
sol-	Dis	loosen, dissolve
spect-	Epi	view
sphero-	Ana	round
spir-	Mtb	breath or coil
spirillum	His	coil little
squam-	Grm	scale
staphylo-	Grm	bunch of grapes
-stat	Scp	hold
STD	Dis	sexually transmitted disease
-steric	Enz	place
-strate	Enz	layer
stratum	Enz	layer
strepto-	Grm	pliant
sub-	Enz	under
sym-, syn-	Epi	together, same
tag-	Epi	touch
taxis	Flg	move
techn-	His	skill
terato-	Abc	monster
tetra-	Flg	four
thermo-	Mtb	heat
thio-	Grm	sulfur
timea	Fng	worm, moth
-tion	Grm	process, condition
toga	Vir	cloak
-tomes, -tomy	Pst	cut
tonic	Ana	strength
TORCH	Vir	Toxoplasma, other, rubella, cytomegalovirus, herpes
tox-	Ana	poison
trachoma	Dis	rough tumor
trans-	Gen	across
trepan- or -y-	Ana	bore
trich-	Flg	hair
-trop-	Gth	turn
-troph-	Gen	nourish
tuber-(cle)	Fng	lump; (little)
turbid	His	confused, disordered
-tussis	Dis	cough
typhit-	Dis	storm
ubiquitous	Ana	everywhere
ultra-	Gen	beyond
vache	Grm	cow
venerual	Dis	goddess love
Vibrio	Dis	shake
vin-	His	wine
vinegar	Grm	wine sour
vint-	His	vineyard
vir-	Grm	poison
visco-	Flg	sticky
vita	Gth	life
vulgaris	Ana	common
-yl	Mtb	chemical radical
xero-	Gth	dry
xyls	His	crystals
zygo-	Fng	join
-zym-	His	yeast