



Numerical Prefixes

Science Study Guide Version 3.1

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Terms usually found at the beginning of words that indicate a number. Common words that use these terms, both from science and math and from other categories, are provided.

The endings of these terms are sometimes omitted or changed slightly to fit better with the rest of the word in which they appear. For example, "octa" may show up as "octo" or "oct" in a word that indicates eight of something.

The terms below can be combined to form other numbers. For example, "hexadecimal" indicates sixteen, not six. This list is not complete.

| Number | Prefix | Science/Math Examples | Non-Science Examples |
|----------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | mono | carbon monoxide, monosaccharide, monomer, monomial, monopole | monotheism, monopoly, monolith, monologue |
| | uni | unit, universe | union, uniform |
| 2 | di | carbon dioxide, dimer, dipole, diatomic, dielectric | dialectic, diptych |
| | bi | binary, binomial, phospholipid bilayer | bipolar disorder |
| | du | wave-particle duality | duet, dualism |
| 3 | tri | triangle, triglyceride, trigonal planar, adenosine triphosphate (ATP) | triptych, trilogy, Trimurti, Tripitaka, trinity, triumvirate, trireme |
| | tetra | tetrahedron / tetrahedral | tetralogy |
| 4 | quart | quartic | quartet |
| | quadri | quadrilateral, quadratic, quadrant | quadrireme |
| 5 | penta | pentagon, pentane, pentaradial symmetry | Pentagon (building), Pentateuch, Pentecostalism, pentatonic scale |
| | quinque | quintic | quintet, quinquireme |
| 6 | hexa | hexagon | |
| | sexa | | sextet, sextant |
| 7 | hepta | heptagon, heptane | heptarchy |
| | septi | | September |
| 8 | octa | octagon, octahedron, octet rule, octopus | October, octave |
| 9 | nona | nonagon | |
| | novem | | November |
| 10 | deca | decagon, decimeter | December, decade, the Decameron, decimalization, decimate |
| hundred | centi | centimeter, centipede | century, centennial |
| thousand | kilo | kilometer, kilogram, kilojoule | |
| | milli | millipede, millimeter | millennium |