Some Greek and Latin word roots-

a,ar,an - not, without
ab - from
abricto - wide awake
acantho - thorny
acri (acr-, acer) - sharp
acrita - undistinguishable
acro - top, extremity
actino (actin,actini) - radiating,fibrous
ad - to
adeno - gland
ala, ali - wing
alb - white
alio - other
allo - strange, different, exotic
alti - tall, high
ambi - both, around, like
ambulo - moving, walking
amnio - membrane
amphi - on both sides, paired
ana - up, back, again
anato - duck-like
anchi - close
andry - male
angio - blood vessel, covered
angui - snake-like
angusti - sharp
ankylo - rigid, fused, bent
ante - before
anthraco - charcoal
anthro (po) - human-like
anti - against
apato - deceptive
apsid - wheel, arch, arched
archaeo (archi, archeo) - ancient
archi - first
arcto - bear, north
ardea - heron, heron-like
argyro - silver
arm - armour
arthro - jointed, joint
artio - even, complete
arvi (arvus) - land, plain
aspid - stinging, venomous, asp-like
astato - unstable
astra (o) - star-like
ato - to, at, near
atrio - cavity, chamber
aulo - flute, pipe
austral - southern
auto - self, same one
avi - bird
ax - axis
bactra - from Bactria

balan - acorn, penis
baro - heavy, pressure
basi - at or near the beginning
basilo - royal
bathy - deep
batrachus - frog, frog-like
batus - bat-like
bi - two
bolito - fungus-like, lumpy
bonus - good, honest
borea - northwind
boro (boreas) - northern
bothrio - pitted, grooved, excavated
brach (i,a,o) - arm
brachy - short
branch - gill
brevi(s) - short
bronto - thunder
bulla - bubble
buno - mound, hill
caeca (caecus) - blind, invisible
caecili - lizard
campus (kampus) - sea monster
cen (caen) - recent
cala - reed-like
calci - calcium carbonate
camara -vaulted chamber, chambered
camp - level field
campto - flexible
campy - bent
canth (us) - spiked, horned
capit - head
capri (capra) - goat
carchar - saw-like
carno - flesh, meat
carpus - wrist
cata - down, by
catharti - pure, cleansed, purged
caudio - tail
cavi - hollow
cell (cello) - hidden
ceno - empty
centi - hundred
centro (um) - center, sharp point
cephalo (us) - head
cer(a) - horn, horned
cerco (al) - tail
cetio (us) - whale, whale-like
chaeto - long
chal - copper, copper-colored
chama - gaping
chasmo - ravine
cheiro (us) - hand
chelo (a) - claw
chelys (-a) - tortoise, tortoise-like
chir - hand

chondr (o, al) - cartilage
chorda - chord
chromis (-o) - color
chrono - time
clado - branch
claudio - closed or father-like
cleid - key, clavicle
cleithro - lattice
clid (i, o) - key
clino - lean, slant
clon (o) - horn
cnem - tibia, tibia-like
cnid - nettle-like
cocco - grain
cochlea (o) - snail, snail-like
coelo (a) - hollow
colo - docked, hornless
columbi - dove or pigeon-like
compago - connection
compso - pretty
concavo - hollow
condyl - knuckle
cono - cone, opposed to
copro - fecal
corn (is) - horn
corytho - helmet
crani - head
craspedo - edge
crassi - thick, fat
cratero - bowl-shaped
creo - flesh
crosso - cross-shaped, ridge
cruro - leg
crypto - hidden
cteno (a) - comb-like
cyan (o) - dark blue
cyclop - one-eyed
cyno - dog, dog-like
cystis - bladder, pouch
dacent - pointed
dactyl - finger, digit
dasy - densely covered
dect (is) - biter
deino - terrible
delphy (-i, -o) - womb
delta - fourth, D-shaped
dent - tooth (also see ‘dont’)
derm - skin
deutero - second, secondary
dexio - right-sided, turned to the rt.
di, diplo - two, double
dia - through
dicraeo - forked
digit - finger, toe
dira - terrible
discus - dish-like

dis (so) - opposite, absence of
doco (us) - beam, bar
dolicho - long
don, den, dent, dont - tooth
dosi - back
draco - dragon-like
dromaeo - running
dromiceio - emu-like
dryo - oak
drypto - wounding
dunkleo - dark
duo - two
dura - hard
dynamo - dynamic
e - missing, not
echino - spiked
ecto - outer
edapho - bottom, ground
elaphro - light
elasmo - plated
electro - electric, sun-like
eleuth (o,a) - free
elmi - foot
emy - tortoise-like
en - made of, belonging to, cause
enanti (o, os)- opposite
endo (ento) - inner
entero - intestine
ent (o) - within, inner
eo - dawn
epi - above, on
eptero - intestine
eri - early
ery - character, -ness
erythro - red
eu - true
eury - broad, wide
ex (extra) - out of, from, former, not
fabro - structure, construction
felid - cat
fenestra - window
foramin (-men) - hole, boring
formes - form
fossa - pit, cavity
galeo - dogfish, shark
galerix - capped
gall (i) - chicken
gast (er, ro) - stomach
gen (ys, us, esio) - birth, race, kind
gena - cheek, chin
geo - earth, rock
gephyro - bridge
gerano - crane-like
giganto - very large
gingy - hinged, jointed
glossa (i) - tongue

glypto - carved, engraved
gnathus - jaw
gompho - tooth, peg
gonio - corner, angle, knee
goyo - decorated
grac (i) - slender, graceful
grad (e, us) - walking
grandi - great
graph - written, to write
grapto - painted, drawn
gravi - heavy
grui - crane-like
gulum - throat
gymno - naked
gypso - gypsum, plaster
gyri (o) - ring, circle, spiral
hadro - thick, heavy
haemo - blood
haleco - perch-like
hali - breath or holy
halos - salt
haltico - nimble
haplo - single
helico - helix, spiral
helo - nail
hemi - half
hepta - liver
hespero - western
hetero - mixed, different
hex - six
hippo - horse
histo - tissue
holo - whole, entire
homalo - even, level, ordinary
homeo (homo) - same, like, similar
horridus - horrible
hyaen - pig, pig-like
hyal (o, i) - glassy, clear
hybo - hump, hump-backed
hydro - water
hylo, hylaeo -matter,wood, woodland
hypo - under, beneath
hypsi - height, high
hyraco - shrew mouse-like
hystrico, hystrine - porcupine-like
Ibero - Spanish
ichthy (o) - fish,fish-like
ictus - blow, thrust
iguano - iguana-like
ilio - pelvis, pelvic
in - not, without
iniom - shoulder
inter - between
intra - within, between
irnis - bird
ischia - pelvis, pelvic

iso - equal, uniform
istio - performing a specific action
kentro - prickly
kera - horn
krito - chosen
kyphus - hump-backed
labia (-o) - lips, folds
labyrintho - complex, tortuous
lacer - torn, mangled
laco - brief, terse
lact - mild
laevi - lucky
lagus - rabbit, hare
lambda - L-shaped
lampro - bright, shining
lana - woolly
lania - tearing, slicing
leio - smooth
lepido (lepo, lepis) - scale, flake
lepto - slender
lestes - robber
leuco - white
lingua - tongue
lipo - fat
liss - smooth
lith - stone
logus - speaking, discourse
lopho - ridged, crested
lucun - pit, lake
lun (a) - moon, crescent-shaped
luro - tail
lycaen, lyco - wolf-like
lycia - destroyer
macro - large
maia - good mother
mal - bad
mani (-o) - hand
mantis - diviner, prophet
margin (-o) - border
mass (-o) - of considerable size
masto - breast, nipple
medi - middle
mega (-lo) - huge
meio - less
melano - dark
meristi (-os) - divided
meso - middle
meta - after, behind, beyond
metridio - measured, regular, long
metro (i) - measured, regular, long
micro - tiny
mictus - urinating
mimi (us) - mimic
mio - less, minor
mixo - combined
mochlo - bar

mono - single
mormyr - mocking
morpho (-a) - shaped, form
morti - death
mose - by form of
mucro - pointed
multi - many
mur (i) - brine
mus - mouse-like
mycto - nose, sneering
myelo - narrow
myo - muscle
myris - countless
myrm - ant-like
mys - mouse-like
mysti - mysterious
myzon - sucking
nano - dwarf
necro - dead
nemo - thread
neo - new
nephelus - cloud-like, cloudy
nephto - kidney
neuro - nerve
noct - night
nodo - lumpy, nodular
notho - spurius
noto - back
nuc - nut
nud - naked
nycho - clawed
myct (-io) - night
o - lacking
occi - western
oid - appearance, form
oligo - few, small
omma - eye
omo - shoulder, raw
onchy - claw
onycho - crawling
oo - egg
ophia (o) - snake-like
ophthalmo - eye
opistho - behind, posterior
opsis - appearance, form, vision
oreo - mountain
ornis, ornitho - bird
ornate (o) - decorated
ortho - straight, right, correct
oss - bone
osteo - bone
ostraco - hard, shell
otic - ear-related
oudeno - nothing, non-existant
ourano - brave
ovi - egg

oxus - sharp, keen
oxy - sharp, keen, pungent
pachy - thick
paedo - child-like
paleo - ancient
pan, panto - all, all parts
para - parallel, like, beside
passeri - sparrow-like
path - disease
patri (-c) - father
pauci - few, little
ped, pod, pes - foot
peloro - monster
pelto - shield, armour
pelyco - bowl, pelvis
penta - five
pera - through, by, by means of
peri - akin to, all around, about
perisso - uneven, odd
perl - pearly
petali (-o) - petal-like, leaf-like
petro - stone, rock-like
phaedro (a) - gleaming
phage (o) - one that eats, -eating
phalangia - toes
phenaco - imposter
phila (o) - -loving
phleb - vein
phleg - inflammed, hot, clammy
phobo - fearsome
pholis (-d) - scale
phon - voice, sound
phora (-os, -id) - -shaped, bearer
photo - light
phyllo - leaf-like
phylo - tribe
physis - form
phyto - plant
pical - magpie-like
pici - woodpecker -like
pina - nut-like, pine-like, plant-like
pisto - female, female repro. organ
pithe (cus, etc) - ape-like
placo, plateo, platy - flat, oar-like
planti - sole
pleio, plio - more, much
plesi (o) - near
pletho - full
pleura (o) -side
plo - plated, armoured
pneumo - air
pnoi - breath
pod (a) - foot
pola, poly - many
pore - passage
porta - gate

preno - sloping
prion - saw-like
pro, proto - in front of, before
proct - anus
pro, proto - before, preceeding
psammo - sand, sand-like
pseudo - false
psittaco (a) - parrot-like
ptero (-a,s,ys,n) - wing, winged
pthalmus - inner chamber
ptilo - soft feather
ptych - fold
pus - foot
pycno - thick, dense
pyg (o,e,us) - rump
pyri - pear
pyro - fire
quadri (-o,a) - four
rachi - spine
radio - ray, rayed
ramus - branch
raptor - thief, robber
rect - straight
remi - oar
rex - king
rhabdo - rod
rhampho - narrow
rheo - to flow
rhino - nose
rhizo - root
rhynch - beak, snout
rostri - beak
rumin - throat
sacco - sack-like
saggita - arrow
salinas - salt
salto - leaping, jumping
sapro - putrid, decayed
sarco - fleshy
sauro, saurus - reptile, lizard
scaphus - boat-shaped
scelid (-o) - leg, limb
scin (etes) - skin, skink-like
sciuro - squirrel-like
sclero - hard
scolo (i) - thorny, thorn-like or bent
scut - shield
secerno - divided
sect - to cut
segno - slow
seismo - earth-shaking
selach - cartilaginous, shark-like
selas (-en) - bright
sella - saddle-like
semi - half
sept - wall

seti - bristle
sigill - seal, sign
silvi - forest
sino - Chinese
siren - alluring, seductive
solen - channel, pipe
sonia - sound, sounding
sparass - ripped, torn
sperm - seed
sphen (i,o) - wedge-shaped
spino - (ax) - spine, spiny
spondyl - vertebra, spine, backbone
squal - rough, scaly
stas (is) - standing, stopped
stego (-us) - roof, roofed
stella - star
steneo - narrow
stenotes - finger
stephus - crown
stereo - twin
stero - solid
steth - breast, chest
stheno - strong
stome (-a) - mouth
straci - elongate
strati - layered
strepto - reversed
stroph - twisted
struthio - ostrich-like
styl (-o, op) - type
straco - spiked
sub - under
suchus - crocodile-like
super - over
supra - over, above
sym,syn, syno - together, fused
syringo - pipe
tachy - swift, rapid
tact - touch
taen (io, ia) - ribbon-like
tala (r) - basket
tany - stretched out
taph - ditch, trench, tomb
tapino - humble, low
tarbo - alarming
tars - foot, ankle
teinuro - extended
tel, telo - wheel, distant, end
teleo - perfect, complete, final
telico - final
tely - far off, op. over long distance
temno - cutting or ring-like
tenonto - held, tenacious
tenui - thin
terat - marvel, monster
terrestri - land

tethys - marine (wife of Oceanus)
tetra - four
thalam - chamber
thalasso - sea
theco - sheath, covering
thelo - suckling, nipple
therio - breast
therizino - scythe-like
therm - warm, heat
thero - beast
thescelo - beautiful
thetica - positive, affirmative
tholus - dome
thyestes - cannibal
thylac (o) - sack, pouch
thyreo - shield
thyris -shield-or door-shapedopening
tillo - plucking, tearing
titano - giant
tomo - to cut
tono - tone
top - head, face
toro - bull-like
toxo - bow-shaped
trach - neck, windpipe
trachy - rough
tragul - goat-like
tremata - perforate (hole)
tri - three
tribo - three-part division
trichia - hairy
troo - gnawing
trop - turning
trophy - nutrition
tryma - hole, hole-like
tubercul - swelling, pimpled
tylo - knob, lumpy, swollen
tymp (ano) - drum-like
typha - cattail-like
typo - image, impression
tyranno - tyrant
tyro - cheese
ultra - beyond
unguli - hoof
uni - one
uro (us) - tail, tall
ursus - bear, bear-like
vara - bent, crooked
vaso - vessel
venta - passage
velox, veloci - fast
ventra - belly
vermi - worm
vertebron - jointed
vesicul - blister
villi - shaggy

vita - life
vitr - glassy
volu - rolled, wrapped
vora - to devour
vulpa - fox
xantho - yellow
xena (o) - strange, foreign
xero - dry
xiph - sword-like
xylon - wood
zephyr - west wind
zeugo - strap, loop
zoo(n) - animal
zygo - yoke, yoked, paired
zymo - ferment, leaven