

Nouns and Modifiers

Anatomical Name

English Translation

<i>abducens</i>	separating
<i>accumbens</i>	reclining
<i>amiculum</i>	cloak
<i>ampulla</i>	flask
<i>amygdala</i>	almond; tonsil
<i>annulus</i>	ring
<i>apex</i>	peak; tip
<i>arbor</i>	tree
<i>arbor vitae</i>	tree of life
<i>auriculus</i>	little ear
<i>bulla</i>	bubble; blister
<i>brachium</i>	arm
<i>calcar avis</i>	bird's spur
<i>cavum</i>	cavity
<i>cauda equina</i>	horse's tail
<i>chiasma</i> (G)	a crossing of lines
<i>choroid</i> (G)	like a delicate membrane
<i>cingulum</i>	belt
<i>claustrum</i>	enclosed space
<i>cochlea</i>	snail
<i>colliculus</i>	little hill
<i>cornu</i>	horn
<i>corpus</i>	body

locus coeruleus

lunate

macula

medulla

nigra

nodulus

nodose

obex

ocellus

pectin

pineal

psalterium

putamen

pulvinar

pyramis

ramus

raphe (G)

sacculus

septum

soma (G)

stratum

tectum

tegmentum

tela

thalamus

torus

tuber cinereum

sky-blue place

like the moon

spot

marrow

black

little knot

like a knot

bolt

little eye

comb

pine cone

a stringed instrument

husk

cushion

pyramid

branch

seam

little sack

wall

body

layer

roof

cover

web

bed chamber

bulge, mound

ashen bulge

Anatomical Name**English Translation***corpus callosum*

hard body

crista

crest

crus

leg

culmen

highest point

declive

sloping

dura

hard

falx

sickle

fasciculus

little bundle

fenestra

window

filium

thread

flocculus

little tuft

folium

leaf

fornix

arch

fossa

ditch; trench

fovea

pit

funiculus

little cord

ganglion (G)

knot

genu

knee

globus pallidus

pale globe

glomerulus

little ball of wool

gracilis

slender

habenula

little thong

hippocampus

horse-caterpillar

infundibulum

little funnel

insula

island

lacuna

gap

lamina

thin plate

lemniscus (G)

ribbon; band

limbus

border

lingula

little tongue

locus

place

locus coeruleus

sky-blue place

Anatomical Name	English Translation	Root	Translation	Example
<i>uncus</i>	hook	<i>encephal-</i>	brain	metencephalon
<i>uncinate</i>	like a hook	<i>falc-</i>	sickle	falciform
<i>utriculus</i>	little leather bag	<i>fastigi-</i>	roof	fastigial
<i>uvula</i>	little grape	<i>fer-</i>	carry	afferent
<i>vagus</i>	wanderer	<i>for-</i>	bore; pierce	foramen
<i>vallecula</i>	little valley	<i>fug-</i>	flee	corticofugal
<i>valvula</i>	folding doors	<i>furc-</i>	fork	bifurcation
<i>vellum</i>	veil	<i>fus-</i>	spindle	fusiform
<i>vermis</i>	worm	<i>gemin-</i>	twin	quadrigemina
Prefixes	Many anatomical names and descriptions are formed from Latin and Greek roots. The glossary below lists anatomical prefixes that are derived from Latin and Greek roots, their meanings in English, and an example of the use of the prefix in an anatomical term. The letter G or L after each example indicates whether the root is Greek or Latin.	<i>gloss-</i>	tongue	hypoglossal
		<i>junct-</i>	join	conjunctivum
		<i>juxta-</i>	close to	juxta-allocortex
		<i>kary-</i>	kernel	perikaryon
		<i>koni-</i>	dust	koniocortex
		<i>lemm-</i>	husk; sheath	neurolemma
		<i>lemn-</i>	ribbon, band	lemniscus
		<i>lent-</i>	lens	lentiformis
		<i>lept-</i>	thin; delicate	leptomeninges
		<i>ly-</i>	dissolve	chromatolysis
Root	Translation	Example	Origin	
<i>acout-</i>	to hear	acoustic	G	
<i>al-</i>	wing	alar plate	L	
<i>alb-</i>	white	stratum album	L	
				<i>magn-</i> large magnocellular
				<i>met-</i> after metencephalon
				<i>morph-</i> form morphology
				<i>myel-</i> marrow myelin
				<i>ocul-</i> eye oculomotor
				<i>olia-</i> few oligosynaptic

<i>ali-</i>	different	allocortex	G	<i>op-</i>	eye; see	hemianopia	G
<i>apic-</i>	peak	apical dendrite	L	<i>pale-</i>	old	paleocortex	G
<i>arachn-</i>	spider	arachnoid	G	<i>palli-</i>	mantle	pallium	L
<i>arcu-</i>	arch	arcuate	L	<i>pappil-</i>	nipple	papilliform	L
<i>arch-</i>	ancient	archistriatum	G	<i>parv-</i>	small	parvocellular	L
<i>astr-</i>	star	astrocyte	G	<i>ped-</i>	foot	peduncle	L
<i>aur-</i>	ear	auriculus	L	<i>phy-</i>	growth	epiphysis	G
<i>blast-</i>	bud	neuroblast	G	<i>pil-</i>	hair	neuropil	G
<i>brachi-</i>	arm	brachium pontis	G	<i>plex-</i>	braid, plait	plexiform	L
<i>calcar-</i>	spur	calcarine fissure	L	<i>pont-</i>	bridge	pontine	L
<i>caud-</i>	tail	caudate nucleus	L	<i>rect-</i>	straight	rectus	L
<i>cephal-</i>	head	cephalic	G	<i>resti-</i>	rope	restiform	L
<i>cerebr-</i>	brain	cerebrospinal	L	<i>ret-</i>	net	reticular	L
<i>cervic-</i>	neck	cervical	L	<i>rhin-</i>	nose	rhinencephalon	G
<i>chondr-</i>	cartilage	chondrocranium	G	<i>rhiz-</i>	root	rhizotomy	G
<i>chord-</i>	cord	notochord	G	<i>rub-</i>	red	rubrospinal	L
<i>chrom-</i>	color	chromatophore	G	<i>stri-</i>	stripe	striatum	L
<i>cliv-</i>	slope	declive	L	<i>syn-</i>	together	synapse	G
<i>coll-</i>	hill	colliculus	L	<i>troch-</i>	wheel; pulley	trochlear	G
<i>cort-</i>	tree bark	cortex	L				
<i>crani-</i>	skull	cranial	G				
<i>cruc-</i>	cross	cruciate	L				
<i>cumb-</i>	lying down	accumbens	L				
<i>cune-</i>	wedge	cuneatus	L				
<i>cur-</i>	to run	recurrens	L				
<i>cyt-</i>	cell	cytoplasm	G				
<i>dendr-</i>	tree	oligodendrocyte	G				
<i>derm-</i>	skin	dermatome	G				
<i>drom-</i>	run	orthodromic	G				
<i>embol-</i>	wedge	emboliform	G				

FOR REFERENCE AND FURTHER READING

- Ayers, D. M. (1972) *Bioscientific Terminology*, Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- Hogben, L. (1970) *The Vocabulary of Science*. New York: Stein and Day.
- Lockard, I. (1992) *Desk Reference for Neuroscience*. New York: Springer.
- The Oxford Dictionary for Scientific Writers and Editors*. (1991) Oxford: Oxford University Press.