

Combining Vowels

When a suffix begins with a **vowel**, the combining vowel is not used. Arthralgia means pain in a joint.

When the suffix begins with **consonant**, the combining vowel is used. Arthrosclerosis means abnormal hardening of a joint.

When two **combining forms** are joined, the combining vowel is used. A gastroenterologist is a specialist in disorders of the stomach and intestine.