



MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY THE BASICS

FOUNDATION OF MEDICAL WORDS

A. Structure

Most medical words are composed of two or more terms. To define a medical word:

- divide the word into its terms
- analyze the terms
- define the word

Examples:

Pericarditis

peri = around; *card* = heart; *itis* = inflammation
Inflammation around the heart

Oncology

onc = tumor, mass; *logy* = study of
Study of tumors

B. Terms

Term = Term (____ + ____) = medical word

There are five categories of terms:

1. **Prefix** - beginning of a word

(*ex*, *pre* → *post*)

Designated by a "____" after the term.

2. **Suffix** - ending of a word

(*ex*, ____ *scopy*; ____ *itis*)

Designated by a "____" before the term.

3. **Root** - foundation/base of a word

(*ex*, *gastr*, *gastr*)

4. **Combining vowel** - vowel (usually "o")

added to a root (*ex*, *gastr*).

Use a combining vowel when joining:

a. Root to another root (*ex*, *gastr**o**gastro**logy*)

b. Root to a suffix beginning with a consonant (*ex*, *cardi**o**myopathy*)

5. **Combining form** - root + vowel

(*ex*, *gastr**o*; *gastr**o*)

Designated by a "/" between the root and the vowel

Examples:

Hyperleukocytosis

hyper (prefix) = excessive

leuko (combining form) = white

cyt (root) = cell

osis (suffix) = condition of

Definition: condition of excessive white blood cells (leukocytes)

Hematoxic

hema (combining form) = blood

tox (root) = poison

ic (suffix) = pertaining to

Definition: pertaining to blood poisoning

TIPS:

1. Some terms have more than one definition. To determine the correct definition in a particular medical word, analyze the other terms in the word.

Example: Polymyelitis

poli = gray (matter)

myel = spinal cord, bone marrow

itis = inflammation

Definition: Inflammation of the gray matter of the spinal cord. The bone marrow does not have gray matter.

2. Some terms may function as a root/ combining form in one word and a suffix in another word. Classification depends upon the specific medical word.

Examples: Cytology

cyt (combining form) = cell

logy (suffix) = study of

Definition: Study of cells.

Erythrocyte

erythr (combining form) = red

cyte (suffix) = cell

Definition: Red blood cell

THE HUMAN BODY

A. Development

Cells - tissues - organs - systems - organisms

1. **Cells** - Major Components

a. Cell membrane

b. Cytoplasm

c. Nucleus

2. **Tissues** - Primary Types

a. Connective

b. Epithelium

c. Muscle

d. Nervous

3. **Organs**

a. Composed of two or more different tissues

b. Have specific functions

4. **Systems** - Related organs with common functions

5. **Organisms** - A living person

B. Cavities

A space containing organs

1. **Dorsal**

a. Cranial

b. Vertebral (spinal)

2. **Ventral**

a. Abdominal

b. Pelvic

c. Thoracic

C. Planes

An imaginary flat surface

1. **Frontal** - anterior/posterior

2. **Sagittal** - right/left

3. **Transverse** - upper/lower

D. Positions

A reference point for location or direction.

1. **Anterior/Ventral** - front of the body

Posterior/Dorsal - back of the body

2. **Deep** - away from the surface

Superficial - on the surface

3. **Inferior** - situated below

Superior - situated above

4. **Lateral** - pertaining to the side

5. **Medial** - pertaining to the middle

6. **Prone** - lying face down

Supine - lying face up

TERMS	DEFINITIONS	WORDS
acidic	acid, sour, bitter	acidify
acne	needle	acupuncture
acute/acute	sharp, severe	acute
adip/o	fat	adipoma/carcinoma
aer/o	air, gas	aerophagy
agile/o	rapidity, restlessness	agility/phobia
-algia	pain	cephalgia
ambly/o	to walk	ambulatory
anomal/o	irregular	anomaly
anthrac/o	coal, carbon, carbuncle	anthracosis
anthrop/o	man, human being	anthropometry
atri/o	atrium	atriotomy
apath/o	shock	apathia
apic/o	apex	apical/cone
aque/o	water	aqueduct
atmo-	steam, vapor	atmosphere
axis	axis	axial
bar/o	weight, pressure	barotrauma
bury-	heavy, dull, hard	buryphobia
-basia	walking	brachybasia
bathe-, batho-	deep, depth	bathe/carcinoma
bio-, bio	life, living	biogenesis
blast/o, blast	early embryonic stage, immature	blastocyte

-calculus	to compute	dyscalculia
calori	heat	calorimetry
capac/o	heat	capacitance
capsul/o, caps/o	capsule, container	capsulitis
carcin/o	cancer	carcinofobia
caris	caries, rottenness	caricature
-cataphasia	affirmation	cataphasia
cathart/o	cleansing, purging	cathartix
cathart/o		
-cathixia, -kathixia	sitting	acathixia
caud/o	tail	caudal
cavit/o, cav/o	hollow, cavity	cavitation
chem/o	chemical, chemistry	chemosurgery
chron/o	time, timing	chronobiology
clin/o	to slope, bend	clinoccephaly
-coemesis	sleeping	dyscoemesis
-coma	deep sleep	comatose
conscious	awareness, aware	unconscious
constrict/o	narrowing, binding	vasoconstriction
constr/o	to bruise	constriction
corpore/o	body	corporeal
critic/o	crisis, dangerous	critical
cryo	cold	cryotherapy
cyto-, -cyte	cell	cytotoxic
dem/o	people	epidemic
desicc/o	to dry	electrodesiccation
dilate	enlarge, expand	vasodilator
dolich/o	long	dolichofacial
dolor/o	pain	alodysgenic
dors/o	back	dorsoventral
duct/o	to lead	conduction
dynam/o	power, strength	dynamometer
-dysia	pain	gastrodysia
dys-	bad, difficult, painful	dysphasia
echin/o	spiny, prickly	echinocyte
ect/o	congenital absence	ectropion
ele/o	oil	elema
emmetr/o	the correct measure, proportioned	emmetropia
emulsi/o	opposite, opposed	emulsification
equi-	equality, equal	equilibrium
erethim/o	irritation	erethism
eti/o	cause	etiology
eu-	good, normal, well	eubiosis
-faciat	to cause, make happen	disfaciat
febril	fever	febrilephobia
fibr/o, fibr	thread, threadlike	filamentous
filament/o		
-form	specified shape, form	myofibril
frig/o, frigid/o	cold	frigorous
fract/o	performance	dysfunctional
gel/o	to freeze, congeal	gelatin
genet/o	twins	gemellology
-gen, gen/o	producing, generating	pathogen
-genesis	production, formation	metagenesis
-genic	produced by, forming	carcinogenic
ger/o, geriatric/o	aged, old age	geriatrics
-grade	step	centigrade
haplo-	simple, single	haploid
heredo-	hereditary	heredodisunity
-hexia	condition	euchexia
hist/o	tissue	histoclastic
homero-	likeness, constant, sameness	homeodynamics
hydr/o	water, hydrogen	hydrolysis
iatri/o	treatment, physician	iatrogenic
-ician	specialist	clinician

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Medical Terminology Text Answer Key

Karin Nielsen-Saines



Medical Terminology Text Answer Key:

Medical Terminology Text Answer Key Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In a world driven by information and connectivity, the ability of words has become more evident than ever. They have the capacity to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such is the essence of the book **Medical Terminology Text Answer Key**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep to the significance of words and their affect our lives. Published by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we will explore the book's key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall impact on readers.

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