

Medical Terminology/Word Parts

Also reference pp. 5-7, Werner 6th ed.

Common Prefixes	Meaning	Examples
a-, an-	without or not	amoral
ab-	away from	abducted
ad-	toward	addict
af-	toward	
ana-	up	
andr-	man, male	
angi-	vessel	
ante-	before, forward	anteroom
anti-	against	antiwar movement
aort-	lift up	
artic-	joint	
arthr-	joint	
atri-	entrance room	
auto-	self	automobile
bi-	double, two	bisexual, bipolar
brady-	slow	
burs-	pouch or purse	
cata-	down	
cardi-	heart	
cep-	head	
chondr-	cartilage	

circum-	around	circumnavigate
contra-	against, opposite	contraband
crypt-	hidden	
cutane-	skin	
cyst-	bladder, bag	
cyt-	cell	
de-	down, from, away from, not	detour, detached
delt-	triangle	
derm-	skin	
di-	two	
dia-	through	
diastol-	expand, separate	
dis-	separation, away from	distant
duct-	lead, movement	
dys-	bad, difficult, abnormal	dysfunctional
ecto-	outer, outside	ectopic pregnancy
ef-	away from	
embol-	stopper, wedge	
en(d)-	inner, inside, in, into	endoskeleton
epi-	over, on	epidermis
eu-	good	
ex-	out, out of, from, away from	excommunicate
fibro-	fiber	fibrosis

flex-	bend	
gangli-	knot	
gastr-	stomach	
gli(a)-	glue	
gyn-	woman, female	
hem-	blood	
hemi-	half	hemisphere
hepat-	liver	
hist-	tissue	
hydro-	water	
hyper-	excessive, too much, too high	hyperactive
hypo-	under, decreased, less than normal	hypodermic needle
immun-	safe, free, protected	
in-	in, into, within,	invest
infra-	within, below	infrastructure
inter-	between	interstate, intersex
intra-, intro-	within	intrapsychic, introspect
isch-	deficiency; suppress, hold	
iso-	equal, same	
kerat-	hard, horny tissue	
leuk-	white	
mal-	bad, illness, disease	malpractice
mamm-	breast	

McKinnon BTC	Touch, Health, and Common Conditions	Section 2
mega-, macro-	large	megabucks, megabyte
melan-	black	
meno-	month or remain, stand fast	
micro-	small	microbrew
mono-	one, single	mononucleosis
myo-, mys-	muscle	fibromyalgia
nata-	birth	
neo-	new	neoconservative
non-	not	non sequitur
neur-	nerve	
os-	bone	
oxy-	swift, rapid	
para-	beside closely resembling accessory	parathyroid paramilitary paralegal
peri-	all around	periscope
phleb-	vein	
pneum-	lung, air	
plex-	interweave, network	
poly-	many, much	polygamy
post-	after, behind	post traumatic SD
pre-, pro-	before, in front of	prenatal
presby-	old	
pyr-	fire, fever	
re-	again	reapply

retro-	backward	retrofit
sarco-	flesh, muscle	
scler-	hard	
semi-	half	semi-literate
seb-	oil	
sen-	old, an old person	
sten-	narrowing	
sub-	under	subway
sud-	sweat	
super-, supra-	above, over, excess	supersonic
syn-	together, with, like	
systol-	contraction	
tetan-	stiff, rigid, tense	
therm-	heat	
thromb-	clot	
thyr-	shield, door	
ton-	tone, tension	
tox-	poison	
trans-	across	transatlantic, transgender
tri-	three	
troph-	nourish, food	
uni-	one	unilateral
vita-	life	

Common Root Words	Meaning	Examples
aden	gland	
adren	adrenal gland	
andro	man	android
angi	vessel	angioplasty
arterio	artery	arteriosclerosis
arthr	joint	arthritis
bol	to throw or put	
card	heart	
cep, ceph	head	
clast	to break	
col	colon	colonoscopy
cost	rib	costal cartilage
crani	helmet, skull	
cyan	blue	printer ink!
cyst	bladder, bag	
cyt	cell	cytology
derma	skin	dermatologist
encephal	"in the head," brain	encephal-ogram, -itis
enter	intestines	enteric coating (aspirin)
fer	to carry or bear	
gastr	stomach, belly	gastrocnemius
gen	producing	

McKinnon BTC	Touch, Health, and Common Conditions	Section 2
gyn	woman	gynecologist
hem	blood	hemophilia
hepat	liver	hepatitis C
hydr	water	dehydrated
lucid	clear, bright	
my(o)	muscle	
nephr	kidney	
neur	nerve	
ocul	eye	
orth	straight, correct	orthotic
oste	bone	osteoporosis
ot	ear	
par(a)	beside, near	
ped	child, foot	pediatrician, pedestrian
phag	to eat, devour	
phas	speech	
phil	to love, have affinity for	
phleb	vein	phlebotomist
phob	to hate, dislike	
plasm	matter; something molded	
pleg	a blow or strike; sickle; often refers to paralysis	
pnea	breathing, respiration	apnea
pneum	lung, air, gas	pneumatic

McKinnon BTC	Touch, Health, and Common Conditions	Section 2
psych	mind	psychology
pulm	lung	pulmonary
ren	kidney	
rhin	nose	rhinoceros
som	body	
sten	narrow, constriction	stenosis
stomat	mouth	
therm	heat	geothermal
thorac	chest	
thromb	clot	
trop	to change, influence	
toxic	poisonous	cytotoxic
ur(o)	tail, urine	
vas (o)	vessel	vasodilator
ven	vein	venous, venule

Common Suffixes	Meaning	Examples
-algia	pain	neuralgia
-ary	pertaining to; a place where something is kept	
-asis	condition, usually abnormal	candidiasis
-blast	a bud or sprout	
-crin	a lily; separate	
-cyte	cell	melanocyte
-ectomy	excision, removal	appendectomy
-emia	blood	durable hyperemia
-genesis	development, creation	
-genic	producing, causing	mutagenic
-gram	record	electroencephalogram
-graph	diagram, recording instrument	
-iasis	condition of, formation of, presence of	psoriasis (<i>psora</i> = itch, Gr)
-id(e)	pertaining to, a condition of	
-in	in or into; not; without; on	
-ism	condition or process of; belief	
-itis	inflammation	arthritis
-logy	study or science of	
-lysis	destruction of, decomposition	electrolysis

-megaly	enlargement	
-oid	like, resembling	
-oma	tumor, swelling, mass	melanoma
-ose	full of; usually denotes sugar	
-osis	condition (of)	psychosis
-pathy	disease	neuropathy
-penia	lack, deficiency	osteopenia
-phasia	speech	
-phobia	dread or fear	xenophobia
-plasty	surgical repair or reshaping	“plastic” surgery, angio-
-pnea	breathing	
-plegia	paralysis (“near destruction”)	
-rrhage, -rrhea	excess flow, discharge	hemorrhage
-scope	examination instrument	periscope
-scopy	exam using an instrument	colonoscopy
-stasis	standing, staying	homeostasis
-stomy, -ostomy	creating an opening	colostomy
-tion	act or process	
-tomy, otomy	incision, cutting into	tracheotomy
-ul, -ule	small, tiny	venule