



RESOURCE TOOL | STUDENT WORKBOOK

Medical Terminology Workbook

Prefixes, suffixes and word roots by body system, with fill-in exercises and a complete answer key.

Name _____

Program / cohort _____

Date started _____

What is inside

- 1 How medical words are built.** The four word parts and the five language rules.²
- 2 Common prefixes and suffixes.** The word parts you will see in every body system.³
- 3 12 body system units.** Each unit has a word part table with example terms, then three exercises: write the meaning, build the term, and divide and define.¹
- 4 Answer key.** Every answer, at the back of the workbook, so you can check your own work.

How to use this workbook: study the word part table for a unit, cover it, and complete the exercises from memory. Check your answers in the key, then go back to the table for anything you missed. Print single-sided so you have room to write.

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
3. NIH National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus Appendix A: Word Parts and What They Mean. <https://medlineplus.gov/appendixa.html>
4. NIH National Cancer Institute, SEER Training: Formation of Medical Terms. <https://training.seer.cancer.gov/terminology/formation.html>

START HERE

How Medical Words Are Built

Learn the parts once and you can decode thousands of terms.

Medical terms are built from four word parts: **prefix**, **word root**, **suffix** and **combining form vowel**. A word root joined with a combining form vowel is called a **combining form** (for example, oste/o).²

Word part	What it does	Example
Prefix	Placed before a word to modify its meaning; often describes location or appearance. ⁴ No combining vowel is used after a prefix. ²	intra /ven/ous
Word root	Carries the basic meaning of the term. ⁴	intra/ ven /ous
Combining form vowel	Usually "o." Links word parts and makes the term easier to pronounce. ^{2,4}	oste/ o /arthr/itis
Suffix	Attached to the end of a word root to modify its meaning. ⁴	intra/ven/ ous

The five language rules

- 1 When you join two combining forms, **keep** the combining form vowel. Example: gastr/**o**/enter/o/logy.²
- 2 When you join a combining form to a suffix that begins with a **consonant**, keep the combining form vowel. Example: enter/**o**/logy.²
- 3 When you join a combining form to a suffix that begins with a **vowel**, drop the combining form vowel. Example: ven/o + -ous = ven/ous.²
- 4 A prefix goes at the beginning of the word, and no combining form vowel is used. Example: intra/ven/ous.²
- 5 To define a term, start with the **suffix**, then work left to right through the other parts. Example: intra/ven/ous = pertaining to within a vein.²

Worked examples

Term	Divided	Meaning of each part	Definition
osteoarthritis	oste/o / arthr / itis	oste/o = bone; arthr/o = joint; -itis = inflammation	Inflammation of bone and joint ²
intravenous	intra / ven / ous	intra- = within; ven/o = vein; -ous = pertaining to	Pertaining to within a vein ²
pericarditis	peri / card / itis	peri- = around; card = heart; -itis = inflammation	Inflammation around the heart ^{3,4}

Use slashes between word parts, and a slash on each side of a combining form vowel, when you divide a term. Literal definitions can sound awkward at first; filler words are fine as long as they do not change the meaning.²

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Common Prefixes and Suffixes

These appear in every body system. Learn them first.

Prefixes³

Prefix	Meaning
a-, an-	without; lacking
brady-	slow
tachy-	fast
dys-	difficult, abnormal
endo-	within; inner
epi-	upon, outside of
hemi-	half
hyper-	above, beyond, excessive
hypo-	under, deficient
inter-	between
intra-	within
peri-	around
poly-	many, excessive
post-	behind, after
pre-	before, in front
sub-	under
trans-	across, through

Suffixes: conditions and diagnoses³

Suffix	Meaning
-algia	pain ¹
-emia	blood condition
-itis	inflammation
-megaly	enlargement
-oma	tumor
-osis	condition, usually abnormal
-pathy	disease
-penia	deficiency, lack of
-plegia	paralysis
-rrhea	flow or discharge
-sclerosis	hardening

Suffixes: procedures and tests³

Suffix	Meaning
-centesis	surgical puncture to remove fluid
-ectomy	cut out, removal
-gram	recording, written
-otomy, -tomy	incision; cutting
-ostomy, -stomy	surgical opening
-pexy	surgical fixation
-plasty	surgical reconstruction
-rrhaphy	suture
-scope, -scopy	examine, for examining
-tripsy	crushing

Coding tip: -ectomy (removal), -otomy (incision) and -ostomy (surgical opening) look alike but describe different procedures.³ Reading the suffix carefully is the first step to choosing the right procedure code.

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UNIT 1

Integumentary System

Skin, hair, nails and glands

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Integumentary System.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
cutane/o	skin	subcutaneous
derm/o, dermat/o	skin	dermatitis
hidr/o	sweat	hyperhidrosis
kerat/o	hard, horny tissue, keratin	keratosis
lip/o	fat	lipoma
melan/o	black	melanoma
myc/o	fungus	onychomycosis
necr/o	death	necrosis
onych/o	nail	onychomalacia
rhytid/o	wrinkles	rhytidectomy
seb/o	sebum	seborrhea
xer/o	dryness, dry	xeroderma
cyan/o	blue	cyanosis
erythr/o	red	erythroderma
py/o	pus	pyoderma
xanth/o	yellow	xanthoma

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-itis	inflammation	-oma	tumor, swelling
-osis	abnormal condition	-malacia	softening
-plasty	surgical repair	-rrhea	flow, discharge
sub-	under, below	hyper-	above, excessive

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UNIT 1 EXERCISES

Integumentary System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 1. onych/o | _____ | 2. hidr/o | _____ |
| 3. xanth/o | _____ | 4. rhytid/o | _____ |
| 5. seb/o | _____ | 6. -malacia | _____ |
| 7. -plasty | _____ | 8. sub- | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Inflammation of the skin | _____ |
| 2. Tumor of fat | _____ |
| 3. Abnormal condition of blue (skin) | _____ |
| 4. Softening of the nail | _____ |
| 5. Surgical repair of the skin | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. hyperhidrosis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. onychomycosis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. subcutaneous | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. seborrhea | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

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UNIT 2

Musculoskeletal System

Bones, joints, muscles and tendons

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Skeletal System and Muscular System.¹

Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
arthr/o	joint	arthritis
burs/o	bursa	bursitis
chondr/o	cartilage	chondromalacia
cost/o	ribs	intercostal
crani/o	cranium	craniotomy
my/o	muscle	myalgia
myel/o	marrow [bone], spinal cord	osteomyelitis
oste/o	bone	osteomalacia
spondyl/o	vertebra, spine, vertebral column	spondylosis
ten/o, tendin/o	tendon	tendinitis
kyph/o	increased convexity of the spine	kyphosis
scoli/o	crooked, curved	scoliosis
stern/o	sternum, breast bone	sternotomy
fasci/o	fascia	fasciitis
plant/o	sole of the foot	plantar
carp/o	carpals, wrist	carpal

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-algia	pain	-desis	surgical fixation, fusion
-asthenia	weakness	-trophy	nourishment, development
-sarcoma	malignant tumor	-malacia	softening
a-	absence of, without	inter-	between

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2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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UNIT 2 EXERCISES

Musculoskeletal System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| 1. chondr/o | _____ | 2. spondyl/o | _____ |
| 3. cost/o | _____ | 4. -desis | _____ |
| 5. -asthenia | _____ | 6. -trophy | _____ |
| 7. burs/o | _____ | 8. plant/o | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Pain in a joint | _____ |
| 2. Inflammation of a tendon | _____ |
| 3. Incision into the cranium | _____ |
| 4. Surgical fusion of a joint | _____ |
| 5. Abnormal condition of crooked (curved) spine | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. osteomyelitis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. intercostal | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. atrophy | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. myasthenia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

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UNIT 3

Cardiovascular System

Heart and blood vessels

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Cardiovascular System Heart and Cardiovascular System Blood Vessels and Blood.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
angi/o	vessel	angioplasty
aort/o	aorta	aortic
arteri/o	artery	arteriosclerosis
ather/o	yellowish, fatty plaque	atherosclerosis
atri/o	atrium	atrial
cardi/o	heart	cardiomegaly
coron/o	crown or circle, heart	coronary
ech/o	sound	echocardiogram
electr/o	electricity	electrocardiogram
isch/o	deficiency, blockage	ischemia
phleb/o	vein	phlebitis
thromb/o	clot	thrombosis
valvul/o	valve	valvuloplasty
ven/o	vein	venous
vas/o	vessel	vasospasm
ventricul/o	ventricle	ventricular

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-megaly	enlarged, enlargement	-sclerosis	hardening
-stenosis	narrowing, constriction	-gram	record, radiographic image
-emia	condition of blood	brady-	slow
tachy-	fast, rapid	peri-	surrounding, around

Sources

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UNIT 3 EXERCISES

Cardiovascular System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| 1. ather/o | _____ | 2. isch/o | _____ |
| 3. phleb/o | _____ | 4. valvul/o | _____ |
| 5. ech/o | _____ | 6. -stenosis | _____ |
| 7. -megaly | _____ | 8. peri- | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Condition of a slow heart (rate) | _____ |
| 2. Enlargement of the heart | _____ |
| 3. Inflammation of a vein | _____ |
| 4. Surgical repair of a vessel | _____ |
| 5. Abnormal condition of a clot | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. tachycardia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. electrocardiogram | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. atherosclerosis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. ischemia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

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UNIT 4

Blood, Lymphatic and Immune Systems

Blood cells, lymph, spleen and thymus

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Lymphatic and Immune Systems and Cardiovascular System Blood Vessels and Blood.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
hem/o, hemat/o	blood	hematology
erythr/o	red	erythrocyte
leuk/o	white	leukocyte
cyt/o	cell	cytopenia
thromb/o	clot	thrombocytopenia
lymph/o	lymph, lymph tissue	lymphoma
lymphaden/o	lymph gland, lymph node	lymphadenopathy
splen/o	spleen	splenomegaly
thym/o	thymus gland	thymectomy
immun/o	immune, immunity	immunology
myel/o	bone marrow, spinal cord	myeloma
phag/o	eat, swallow	phagocyte
coagul/o	clotting	coagulopathy
tox/o	poison	toxic
plasm/o	plasma	plasmapheresis
mon/o	one, single	monocyte

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-cyte	cell	-penia	decrease, deficiency
-poiesis	formation, production	-apheresis	withdrawal or removal
-blast	immature cell, embryonic	-cytosis	abnormal condition of cells (increase in cells)
an-	absence of, without	pan-	all

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UNIT 4 EXERCISES

Blood, Lymphatic and Immune Systems

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 1. leuk/o | _____ | 2. splen/o | _____ |
| 3. thym/o | _____ | 4. phag/o | _____ |
| 5. -penia | _____ | 6. -poiesis | _____ |
| 7. -apheresis | _____ | 8. pan- | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. White (blood) cell | _____ |
| 2. Enlargement of the spleen | _____ |
| 3. Tumor of lymph tissue | _____ |
| 4. Excision of the thymus gland | _____ |
| 5. Study of blood | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. thrombocytopenia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. hematopoiesis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. lymphadenopathy | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. pancytopenia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

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UNIT 5

Respiratory System

Nose, airways and lungs

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Respiratory System.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
bronch/o, bronchi/o	bronchus	bronchoscopy
laryng/o	larynx	laryngitis
pharyng/o	pharynx	pharyngitis
nas/o	nose	nasal
rhin/o	nose	rhinoplasty
pleur/o	pleura	pleuritis
pneum/o, pneumon/o	lung, air	pneumonectomy
pulmon/o	lung	pulmonary
thorac/o	thorax, chest cavity	thoracentesis
trache/o	trachea	tracheostomy
spir/o	breathe, breathing	spirometry
capn/o	carbon dioxide	hypercapnia
ox/i	oxygen	hypoxia
sinus/o	sinus	sinusitis
muc/o	mucus	mucoid
tonsill/o	tonsil	tonsillectomy

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-pnea	breathing	-ptysis	spitting, coughing
-ectasis	stretching out, dilation, expansion	-centesis	surgical puncture to aspirate fluid
-stomy	creation of an artificial opening	-scopy	process of visually examining, visual examination
dys-	difficult, painful, abnormal, labored	eu-	normal, good

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UNIT 5 EXERCISES

Respiratory System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| 1. capn/o | _____ | 2. spir/o | _____ |
| 3. pleur/o | _____ | 4. -ptysis | _____ |
| 5. -ectasis | _____ | 6. -centesis | _____ |
| 7. eu- | _____ | 8. -pnea | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Inflammation of the larynx | _____ |
| 2. Creation of an artificial opening into the trachea | _____ |
| 3. Difficult (labored) breathing | _____ |
| 4. Surgical repair of the nose | _____ |
| 5. Visual examination of the bronchus | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. thoracentesis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. hemoptysis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. hypoxia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. bronchiectasis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

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UNIT 6

Digestive System

Mouth to rectum, liver and pancreas

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Digestive System.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
gastr/o	stomach	gastritis
enter/o	intestine	gastroenteritis
esophag/o	esophagus	esophagitis
hepat/o	liver	hepatomegaly
chol/e	gall, bile	cholecystectomy
col/o, colon/o	colon	colonoscopy
duoden/o	duodenum	duodenal
ile/o	ileum	ileostomy
lapar/o	abdomen, abdominal cavity	laparoscopy
or/o	mouth	oral
stomat/o	mouth	stomatitis
lingu/o	tongue	sublingual
pancreat/o	pancreas	pancreatitis
proct/o	rectum	proctoscopy
append/o, appendic/o	appendix	appendicitis
cheil/o	lip	cheiloplasty

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-pepsia	digestion	-phagia	eating or swallowing
-ptosis	prolapse, drooping	-stomy	creation of an artificial opening
-scopy	process of viewing, visualization	-ectomy	excision
hemi-	half	sub-	under, below

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UNIT 6 EXERCISES

Digestive System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 1. cheil/o | _____ | 2. lapar/o | _____ |
| 3. proct/o | _____ | 4. stomat/o | _____ |
| 5. -pepsia | _____ | 6. -phagia | _____ |
| 7. -ptosis | _____ | 8. hemi- | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Inflammation of the liver | _____ |
| 2. Excision of the appendix | _____ |
| 3. Creation of an artificial opening into the colon | _____ |
| 4. Visual examination of the abdomen | _____ |
| 5. Difficult (painful) swallowing | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. gastroenteritis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. cholecystectomy | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. sublingual | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. dyspepsia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
3. NIH National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus Appendix A: Word Parts and What They Mean. <https://medlineplus.gov/appendixa.html>
4. NIH National Cancer Institute, SEER Training: Formation of Medical Terms. <https://training.seer.cancer.gov/terminology/formation.html>

UNIT 7

Urinary System

Kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Urinary System.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
cyst/o	bladder, sac	cystitis
nephr/o	kidney	nephrolithiasis
ren/o	kidney	renal
pyel/o	renal pelvis	pyelonephritis
ureter/o	ureter	ureteral
urethr/o	urethra	urethritis
ur/o	urine, urinary tract	urology
lith/o	stone, calculus	lithotripsy
glomerul/o	glomerulus	glomerulonephritis
olig/o	few, scanty	oliguria
noct/i	night	nocturia
py/o	pus	pyuria
glycos/o	sugar	glycosuria
albumin/o	albumin	albuminuria
azot/o	urea, nitrogen	azotemia
vesic/o	bladder, sac	vesical

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-uria	urine, urination	-tripsy	surgical crushing
-iasis	condition	-ptosis	drooping, sagging, prolapse
-pexy	surgical fixation, suspension	-lith	stone
dys-	painful, abnormal, difficult, labored	poly-	many, much

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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UNIT 7 EXERCISES

Urinary System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| 1. pyel/o | _____ | 2. azot/o | _____ |
| 3. noct/i | _____ | 4. olig/o | _____ |
| 5. -tripsy | _____ | 6. -ptosis | _____ |
| 7. -uria | _____ | 8. poly- | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Inflammation of the bladder | _____ |
| 2. Pertaining to the kidney | _____ |
| 3. Surgical crushing of a stone | _____ |
| 4. Painful (difficult) urination | _____ |
| 5. Visual examination of the bladder | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. pyelonephritis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. nephrolithiasis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. polyuria | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. azotemia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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UNIT 8

Male Reproductive System

Testes, prostate and related structures

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Male Reproductive System.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
orchi/o, orchid/o	testis, testicle	orchiectomy
prostat/o	prostate gland	prostatitis
vas/o	vas deferens, vessel, duct	vasectomy
balan/o	glans penis	balanitis
epididym/o	epididymis	epididymitis
andr/o	male	androgen
spermat/o	sperm, spermatozoon	spermatogenesis
scrot/o	scrotum	scrotal
semin/i	semen	seminal
phall/o	penis	phalloplasty
vesicul/o	seminal vesicle	vesiculitis
gonad/o	gonad	hypogonadism
test/o	testis, testicle	testalgia
urethr/o	urethra	urethral

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-genesis	beginning, development, or production	-pexy	surgical fixation, suspension
-cision	process of cutting	-ism	state of, condition
-gen	substance that produces/causes	-ectomy	excision or surgical removal
crypt-	hidden	hypo-	below

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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Male Reproductive System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 1. balan/o | _____ | 2. crypt- | _____ |
| 3. vas/o | _____ | 4. andr/o | _____ |
| 5. semin/i | _____ | 6. -genesis | _____ |
| 7. -pexy | _____ | 8. -cision | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Inflammation of a testis | _____ |
| 2. Excision of the prostate gland | _____ |
| 3. Excision of (part of) the vas deferens | _____ |
| 4. Surgical repair of the penis | _____ |
| 5. Inflammation of the epididymis | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. cryptorchidism | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. orchiopexy | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. hypogonadism | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. spermatogenesis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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UNIT 9

Female Reproductive System

Uterus, ovaries, tubes and breast

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Female Reproductive System.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
colp/o	vagina	colposcopy
cervic/o	cervix	cervicitis
hyster/o	uterus	hysterectomy
metr/o, metr/i	uterus	endometrium
endometri/o	endometrium	endometriosis
oophor/o	ovary	oophorectomy
salping/o	fallopian tube	salpingectomy
mamm/o	breast	mammogram
mast/o	breast	mastectomy
men/o	menstruation	dysmenorrhea
episi/o	vulva	episiotomy
vulv/o	vulva	vulvectomy
gynec/o	woman	gynecology
perine/o	perineum	perineorrhaphy
trachel/o	cervix	trachelorrhaphy
vagin/o	vagina	vaginitis

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-salpinx	fallopian tube	-rrhaphy	suturing, repairing
-clesis	surgical closure	-atresia	occlusion, closure
-rrhea	flow, discharge	-pexy	surgical fixation, suspension
endo-	within	peri-	surrounding

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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UNIT 9 EXERCISES

Female Reproductive System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| 1. colp/o | _____ | 2. trachel/o | _____ |
| 3. episi/o | _____ | 4. oophor/o | _____ |
| 5. -salpinx | _____ | 6. -rrhaphy | _____ |
| 7. -clesis | _____ | 8. peri- | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Excision of the uterus | _____ |
| 2. Record (image) of the breast | _____ |
| 3. Inflammation of the cervix | _____ |
| 4. Study of women | _____ |
| 5. Excision of the breast | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. dysmenorrhea | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. salpingo-oophorectomy | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. amenorrhea | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. colposcopy | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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UNIT 10

Nervous System

Brain, spinal cord and nerves

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: **Nervous System**.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
cephal/o	head	cephalalgia
cerebr/o	cerebrum	cerebral
encephal/o	brain	encephalitis
mening/o	meninges	meningitis
myel/o	spinal cord	myelogram
neur/o	nerve	neuralgia
gli/o	glia, gluey substance	glioma
radicul/o	nerve root	radiculopathy
esthesi/o	sensation, sensitivity	anesthesia
phas/o	speech	aphasia
psych/o	mind	psychology
dur/o	dura mater, hard	subdural
thec/o	sheath	intrathecal
poli/o	gray matter	poliomyelitis
cerebell/o	cerebellum	cerebellar
quadr/i	four	quadriplegia

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-plegia	paralysis	-paresis	slight paralysis
-lepsy	seizure	-algnesia	sensitivity to pain
-phasia	speech	-cele	hernia, protrusion
hemi-	half	intra-	within

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
3. NIH National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus Appendix A: Word Parts and What They Mean. <https://medlineplus.gov/appendixa.html>
4. NIH National Cancer Institute, SEER Training: Formation of Medical Terms. <https://training.seer.cancer.gov/terminology/formation.html>

UNIT 10 EXERCISES

Nervous System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| 1. gli/o | _____ | 2. dur/o | _____ |
| 3. thec/o | _____ | 4. radicul/o | _____ |
| 5. -paresis | _____ | 6. -plegia | _____ |
| 7. -lepsy | _____ | 8. -algnesia | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Inflammation of the meninges | _____ |
| 2. Pain in a nerve | _____ |
| 3. Tumor of glia | _____ |
| 4. Condition of without speech | _____ |
| 5. Paralysis of half (of the body) | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. subdural | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. poliomyelitis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. radiculopathy | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. hemiparesis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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UNIT 11

Endocrine System

Glands and hormones

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: Endocrine System.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
aden/o	gland	adenoma
adren/o, adrenal/o	adrenal glands	adrenalectomy
thyr/o, thyroid/o	thyroid gland	thyroidectomy
parathyroid/o	parathyroid gland	parathyroidectomy
pituitar/o	pituitary gland	hypopituitarism
glyc/o	sugar	hyperglycemia
endocrin/o	endocrine	endocrinology
acr/o	extremities, height	acromegaly
calc/i	calcium	hypercalcemia
kal/i	potassium	hypokalemia
natr/o	sodium	hyponatremia
dips/o	thirst	polydipsia
home/o	sameness	homeostasis
cortic/o	cortex, outer layer of a body organ	cortical
somat/o	body	somatic
myx/o	mucus	myxedema

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-emia	in the blood	-ism	state of
-megaly	enlarged, enlargement	-plasia	formation, development, growth
hyper-	above, excessive	hypo-	below, under, deficient
poly-	many or much	eu-	good, normal

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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Endocrine System

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| 1. acr/o | _____ | 2. dips/o | _____ |
| 3. kal/i | _____ | 4. natr/o | _____ |
| 5. calc/i | _____ | 6. home/o | _____ |
| 7. -megaly | _____ | 8. hypo- | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Excision of the thyroid gland | _____ |
| 2. Tumor of a gland | _____ |
| 3. Study of the endocrine (system) | _____ |
| 4. Excision of an adrenal gland | _____ |
| 5. State of excessive thyroid (activity) | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. hypoglycemia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. polydipsia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. acromegaly | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. hyponatremia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
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UNIT 12

Eye and Ear

Special senses: vision and hearing

Word parts and meanings from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e: **Sensory Systems**.¹ Example terms were written by Advanced Coding Services using those word parts.

Combining form	Meaning	Example term
ophthalm/o	eye	ophthalmology
ocul/o	eye	ocular
blephar/o	eyelid	blepharoplasty
kerat/o	cornea	keratitis
irid/o	iris	iridectomy
retin/o	retina	retinopathy
lacrim/o, dacry/o	tear, tear duct	lacrimal
scler/o	sclera	scleritis
phak/o	lens	aphakia
diplo/o	two, double	diplopia
ot/o	ear	otitis
myring/o	tympanic membrane, eardrum	myringotomy
tympan/o	tympanic membrane, middle ear	tympanoplasty
audi/o	hearing	audiometry
ton/o	tension, pressure	tonometry
mastoid/o	mastoid bone	mastoiditis

Prefixes and suffixes to know for this system¹

-opia	vision as it relates to condition	-ptosis	prolapse, drooping, sagging
-metry	process of measuring	-scope	instrument used to view
-algia	pain	-plasty	surgical repair
bin-	two	a-	absence of, without

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
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UNIT 12 EXERCISES

Eye and Ear

Cover the word part table before you start.

Exercise A: Write the meaning

Write the meaning of each word part.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 1. blephar/o | _____ | 2. dacry/o | _____ |
| 3. phak/o | _____ | 4. myring/o | _____ |
| 5. ton/o | _____ | 6. -opia | _____ |
| 7. -ptosis | _____ | 8. bin- | _____ |

Exercise B: Build the term

Write the medical term that matches each definition.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Inflammation of the ear | _____ |
| 2. Disease of the retina | _____ |
| 3. Surgical repair of the eyelid | _____ |
| 4. Incision into the eardrum | _____ |
| 5. Process of measuring hearing | _____ |

Exercise C: Divide and define

Divide each term into its word parts with slashes (for example, oste/o/arthr/itis), then write the definition.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. diplopia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 2. blepharoptosis | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 3. aphakia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |
| 4. otalgia | Parts | _____ | Definition | _____ |

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
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CHECK YOUR WORK

Answer Key

Meanings follow the word part tables in each unit.

Word part meanings come from Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e.¹ Literal definitions may be worded differently from yours; an answer is correct if it keeps the same meaning.²

Unit 1: Integumentary System

- A** 1. onych/o = nail; 2. hidr/o = sweat; 3. xanth/o = yellow; 4. rhytid/o = wrinkles; 5. seb/o = sebum; 6. -malacia = softening; 7. -plasty = surgical repair; 8. sub- = under, below
- B** 1. dermatitis; 2. lipoma; 3. cyanosis; 4. onychomalacia; 5. dermatoplasty
- C** 1. **hyper/hidr/osis** = Abnormal condition of excessive sweat
2. **onych/o/myc/osis** = Abnormal condition of fungus in the nail
3. **sub/cutane/ous** = Pertaining to under the skin
4. **seb/o/rrhea** = Flow (discharge) of sebum

Unit 2: Musculoskeletal System

- A** 1. chondr/o = cartilage; 2. spondyl/o = vertebra, spine, vertebral column; 3. cost/o = ribs; 4. -desis = surgical fixation, fusion; 5. -asthenia = weakness; 6. -trophy = nourishment, development; 7. burs/o = bursa; 8. plant/o = sole of the foot
- B** 1. arthralgia; 2. tendinitis; 3. craniotomy; 4. arthrodesis; 5. scoliosis
- C** 1. **oste/o/myel/itis** = Inflammation of the bone and bone marrow
2. **inter/cost/al** = Pertaining to between the ribs
3. **a/trophy** = Without nourishment (development)
4. **my/asthenia** = Muscle weakness

Unit 3: Cardiovascular System

- A** 1. ather/o = yellowish, fatty plaque; 2. isch/o = deficiency, blockage; 3. phleb/o = vein; 4. valvul/o = valve; 5. ech/o = sound; 6. -stenosis = narrowing, constriction; 7. -megaly = enlarged, enlargement; 8. peri- = surrounding, around
- B** 1. bradycardia; 2. cardiomegaly; 3. phlebitis; 4. angioplasty; 5. thrombosis
- C** 1. **tachy/card/ia** = Condition of a fast (rapid) heart (rate)
2. **electr/o/cardi/o/gram** = Record of the electricity of the heart
3. **ather/o/sclerosis** = Hardening (of arteries) with fatty plaque
4. **isch/emia** = Deficiency (blockage) of blood

Unit 4: Blood, Lymphatic and Immune Systems

- A** 1. leuk/o = white; 2. splen/o = spleen; 3. thym/o = thymus gland; 4. phag/o = eat, swallow; 5. -penia = decrease, deficiency; 6. -poiesis = formation, production; 7. -apheresis = withdrawal or removal; 8. pan- = all
- B** 1. leukocyte; 2. splenomegaly; 3. lymphoma; 4. thymectomy; 5. hematology
- C** 1. **thromb/o/cyt/o/penia** = Decrease (deficiency) of clotting cells
2. **hemat/o/poiesis** = Formation (production) of blood
3. **lymphaden/o/pathy** = Disease of the lymph nodes
4. **pan/cyt/o/penia** = Decrease (deficiency) of all (blood) cells

Sources

1. Carter et al., Building a Medical Terminology Foundation 2e Student Companion (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology2studentworkbook/>
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Unit 5: Respiratory System

- A** 1. capn/o = carbon dioxide; 2. spir/o = breathe, breathing; 3. pleur/o = pleura; 4. -ptysis = spitting, coughing; 5. -ectasis = stretching out, dilation, expansion; 6. -centesis = surgical puncture to aspirate fluid; 7. eu- = normal, good; 8. -pnea = breathing
- B** 1. laryngitis; 2. tracheostomy; 3. dyspnea; 4. rhinoplasty; 5. bronchoscopy
- C** 1. **thorac/o/centesis** = Surgical puncture of the chest cavity to aspirate fluid
2. **hem/o/ptysis** = Spitting (coughing) of blood
3. **hyp/ox/ia** = Condition of below-normal oxygen
4. **bronchi/ectasis** = Dilation (expansion) of the bronchus

Unit 6: Digestive System

- A** 1. cheil/o = lip; 2. lapar/o = abdomen, abdominal cavity; 3. proct/o = rectum; 4. stomat/o = mouth; 5. -pepsia = digestion; 6. -phagia = eating or swallowing; 7. -ptosis = prolapse, drooping; 8. hemi- = half
- B** 1. hepatitis; 2. appendectomy; 3. colostomy; 4. laparoscopy; 5. dysphagia
- C** 1. **gastr/o/enter/itis** = Inflammation of the stomach and intestine
2. **chol/e/cyst/ectomy** = Excision of the gallbladder (bile sac)
3. **sub/lingu/al** = Pertaining to under the tongue
4. **dys/pepsia** = Painful (difficult) digestion

Unit 7: Urinary System

- A** 1. pyel/o = renal pelvis; 2. azot/o = urea, nitrogen; 3. noct/i = night; 4. olig/o = few, scanty; 5. -tripsy = surgical crushing; 6. -ptosis = drooping, sagging, prolapse; 7. -uria = urine, urination; 8. poly- = many, much
- B** 1. cystitis; 2. renal; 3. lithotripsy; 4. dysuria; 5. cystoscopy
- C** 1. **pyel/o/nephr/itis** = Inflammation of the renal pelvis and kidney
2. **nephr/o/lith/iasis** = Condition of stones in the kidney
3. **poly/uria** = Much (excessive) urine
4. **azot/emia** = Urea (nitrogen) in the blood

Unit 8: Male Reproductive System

- A** 1. balan/o = glans penis; 2. crypt- = hidden; 3. vas/o = vas deferens, vessel, duct; 4. andr/o = male; 5. semin/i = semen; 6. -genesis = beginning, development, or production; 7. -pexy = surgical fixation, suspension; 8. -cision = process of cutting
- B** 1. orchitis; 2. prostatectomy; 3. vasectomy; 4. phalloplasty; 5. epididymitis
- C** 1. **crypt/orchid/ism** = Condition of a hidden (undescended) testis
2. **orchi/o/pexy** = Surgical fixation of a testis
3. **hypo/gonad/ism** = State of below-normal (gonad) function
4. **spermat/o/genesis** = Production of sperm

Unit 9: Female Reproductive System

- A** 1. colp/o = vagina; 2. trachel/o = cervix; 3. epis/i/o = vulva; 4. oophor/o = ovary; 5. -salpinx = fallopian tube; 6. -rrhaphy = suturing, repairing; 7. -clasis = surgical closure; 8. peri- = surrounding
- B** 1. hysterectomy; 2. mammogram; 3. cervicitis; 4. gynecology; 5. mastectomy
- C** 1. **dys/men/o/rrhea** = Painful menstrual flow
2. **salping/o/oophor/ectomy** = Excision of the fallopian tube and ovary
3. **a/men/o/rrhea** = Absence of menstrual flow
4. **colp/o/scopy** = Visual examination of the vagina

Sources

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2. Carter & Rutherford, Building a Medical Terminology Foundation, Ch. 1-2: Word Parts and Language Rules (CC BY 4.0). <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/medicalterminology/>
3. NIH National Library of Medicine, MedlinePlus Appendix A: Word Parts and What They Mean. <https://medlineplus.gov/appendixa.html>
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Unit 10: Nervous System

- A** 1. gli/o = glia, gluey substance; 2. dur/o = dura mater, hard; 3. thec/o = sheath; 4. radicul/o = nerve root; 5. -paresis = slight paralysis; 6. -plegia = paralysis; 7. -lepsy = seizure; 8. -algnesia = sensitivity to pain
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- B** 1. meningitis; 2. neuralgia; 3. glioma; 4. aphasia; 5. hemiplegia
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- C** 1. **sub/dur/al** = Pertaining to below the dura mater
2. **poli/o/myel/itis** = Inflammation of the gray matter of the spinal cord
3. **radicul/o/pathy** = Disease of a nerve root
4. **hemi/paresis** = Slight paralysis of half (of the body)
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Unit 11: Endocrine System

- A** 1. acr/o = extremities, height; 2. dips/o = thirst; 3. kal/i = potassium; 4. natr/o = sodium; 5. calc/i = calcium; 6. home/o = sameness; 7. -megaly = enlarged, enlargement; 8. hypo- = below, under, deficient
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- B** 1. thyroidectomy; 2. adenoma; 3. endocrinology; 4. adrenalectomy; 5. hyperthyroidism
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- C** 1. **hypo/glyc/emia** = Below-normal sugar in the blood
2. **poly/dips/ia** = Condition of much (excessive) thirst
3. **acr/o/megaly** = Enlargement of the extremities
4. **hypo/natr/emia** = Deficient sodium in the blood
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Unit 12: Eye and Ear

- A** 1. blephar/o = eyelid; 2. dacry/o = tear, tear duct; 3. phak/o = lens; 4. myring/o = tympanic membrane, eardrum; 5. ton/o = tension, pressure; 6. -opia = vision as it relates to condition; 7. -ptosis = prolapse, drooping, sagging; 8. bin- = two
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- B** 1. otitis; 2. retinopathy; 3. blepharoplasty; 4. myringotomy; 5. audiometry
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- C** 1. **dipl/opia** = Double vision
2. **blephar/o/ptosis** = Drooping of the eyelid
3. **a/phak/ia** = Condition of without a lens
4. **ot/algia** = Pain in the ear
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Sources

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