

Quick Study®
ACADEMIC

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

onco = 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., ____ *stomy*; ____ *itis*)

Designated by a “_____” before the term.

3. Root - foundation/base of a word (ex., **hepat**; **gastr**)

4. Combining vowel - vowel (usually “o”) added to a root (ex., **gastr**o).

Use a combining vowel when joining:

- Root to another root (ex., **gastr**o**hepatitis**)
- Root to a suffix beginning with a consonant (ex., **cardiomegaly**)
- Combining form - root + vowel (ex., **hepat**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)

Hematotoxic

hemato (combining form) = blood
tox (root) = poison
ic (suffix) = pertaining to

Definition: pertaining to blood poisoning

TIPS:

- 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:

Poliomyelitis

polio = 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.

- 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

cyto (combining form) = cell
logy (suffix) = study of

Definition: Study of cells

Erythrocyte

erythro (combining form) = red
cyte (suffix) = cell

Definition: Red blood cell

THE HUMAN BODY

A. Development

Cells - tissues - organs - systems - organism

1. Cells: Major Components

- Cell membrane
- Cytoplasm
- Nucleus

2. Tissues: Primary Types

- Connective
- Epithelium
- Muscle
- Nervous

3. Organs

- Composed of two or more different tissues
- Have specific functions

4. Systems: Related organs with common functions

5. Organism: A living person

B. Cavities

A space containing organs

1. Dorsal

- Cranial
- Vertebral (spinal)

2. Ventral

- Abdominal
- Pelvic
- Thoracic

C. Planes

An imaginary flat surface

- Frontal – anterior/posterior
- Sagittal – right/left
- Transverse – upper/lower

D. Positions

A reference point for location or direction.

- Anterior/Ventral – front of the body
Posterior/Dorsal – back of the body
- Deep – away from the surface
Superficial – on the surface
- Inferior – situated below
Superior – situated above
- Lateral – pertaining to the side
- Medial – pertaining to the middle
- Prone – lying face down
Supine – lying face up

TERMS	DEFINITIONS	WORDS
acid/o	acid, sour, bitter	acidity
acu-	needle	acupuncture
acu/o, acut/o	sharp, severe	subacute
adip/o	fat	adiponecrosis
aer/o	air, gas	aerophagy
agit/o	rapidity, restlessness	agitation
-algia	pain	cephalgia
ambul/o	to walk	ambulatory
anomal/o	irregular	anomaly
anthrac/o	coal, carbon, carbuncle	anthracosis
anthrop/o	man, human being	anthropometry
antr/o	antrum	antrotomy
aphth/o	ulcer	aphthosis
apic/o	apex	apicotomy
aque/o	water	aqueous
atmo-	steam, vapor	atmosphere
axi/o	axis	axial
bar/o	weight, pressure	barotrauma
bary-	heavy, dull, hard	baryphonia
-basia	walking	brachybasia
bathy-, batho-	deep, depth	bathycardia
bio-, bi/o	life, living	biogenesis
blast/o, -blast	early embryonic stage, immature	blastocyte
-calculia	to compute	dyscalculia

calor/i	heat	calorimetry
camp/o	bent	camptocormia
capsul/o, caps/o	capsule, container	capsulitis
carcin/o	cancer	carcinolysis
cari/o	caries, rottenness	caritogenic
-cataphasia	affirmation	acataphasia
cathar/o,	cleansing, purging	catharsis
cathart/o		
-cathisia,	sitting	acathisia
-kathisia		
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	clinocephaly
-coimesis	sleeping	dyscoimesis
-coma	deep sleep	semicoma
consci/o	awareness, aware	unconscious
constrict/o	narrowing, binding	vasoconstriction
contus/o	to bruise	contusion
corpor/o	body	corporeal
critic/o	crisis, dangerous	critical
cry/o	cold	cryotherapy
cyt/o, -cyte	cell	cytocide
dem/o	people	epidemic
desicc/o	to dry	electrodesiccation
dilat/o	enlarge, expand	vasodilator
dolich/o	long	dolichofacial
dolor/o	pain	dolorogenic
dors/o	back	dorsoventral
duct/o	to lead	conduction
dynam/o	power, strength	dynamometer
-dynia	pain	gastrodynia
dys-	bad, difficult, painful	dysphonia
echin/o	spiny, prickly	echinocyte
ectr/o	congenital absence	ectrogeny
ele/o	oil	eleoma
emmetr/o	the correct measure, proportioned	emmetropia
enanti/o	opposite, opposed	enantiobiosis
equi-	equality, equal	equilibrium
erethism/o	irritation	erethismic
eti/o	cause	etiology
eu-	good, normal, well	eubiotics
-facient	to cause, make happen	liquefacient
febr/i	fever	febriphobia
fil/o, fil/i,	thread, threadlike	filamentous
filament/o		
-form	specified shape, form	multiform
frig/o, frigid/o	cold	frigorism
funct/o	performance	dysfunctional
gel/o	to freeze, congeal	gelosis
gemell/o	twins	gemellology
-gen, gen/o	producing, generating	pathogen
-genesis	production, formation	neogenesis
-genic	produced by, forming	carcinogenic
ger/o, geront/o	aged, old age	geriatrics
-grade	step	centigrade
hapl/o	simple, single	haploid
heredo-	heredity	heredoimmunity
-hexia	condition	cachexia
hist/o	tissue	histoclastic
homeo-	likeness, constant, sameness	homeodynamics
hydr/o	water, hydrogen	hydrolysis
iatr/o	treatment, physician	iatrogenic
-ician	specialist	clinician
ion/o	ion	ionophoresis

QuickStudy

ipsi-	same	<i>ipsilateral</i>
-ist	specialist	<i>pharmacist</i>
-itis	inflammation	<i>pharmitis</i>
kary/o	nucleus	<i>karvorrhesis</i>
kel/o	tumor, fibrous growth	<i>keloid</i>
kraur/o	dry	<i>kraurosis</i>
kym/o	waves	<i>kymography</i>
-labile	unstable, perishable	<i>frigolabile</i>
later/o	side	<i>bilateral</i>
ligat/o	binding, tying	<i>ligature</i>
lim/o	hunger	<i>bulimia</i>
-logist	specialist	<i>neurologist</i>
-logy	study of	<i>cardiology</i>
-lucent	light-admitting	<i>radiolucent</i>
lumin/o	light	<i>luminescence</i>
ly/o	dissolve, loosen	<i>lyoenzyme</i>
-malacia	softening	<i>osteomalacia</i>
-masesis	mastication, chewing	<i>dysmasesis</i>
medi/o	middle	<i>medial</i>
medic/o	heal, healing	<i>medical</i>
mer/o	part	<i>meromicrosomia</i>
meso-	middle	<i>mesoderm</i>
method/o	procedure, technique	<i>methodology</i>
-mimesis	imitation, simulation	<i>pathomimesis</i>
morph/o	shape, form	<i>dolichomorphie</i>
mort/o	death	<i>mortician</i>
nom/o	custom, law	<i>nomotopic</i>
nomen-	name	<i>nomenclature</i>
nos/o	disease	<i>nosology</i>
nucle/o	nucleus	<i>nucleoplasm</i>
nutri/o, nutrit/o	nourish	<i>nutrition</i>
ole/o	oil	<i>oleovitamin</i>
-oma	tumor, mass	<i>histocytoma</i>
onc/o	tumor, mass	<i>oncogenesis</i>
organ/o	organ	<i>organomegaly</i>
palliat/o	soothe, relieve	<i>palliative</i>
pant/o	all, whole	<i>panmorphia</i>
path/o	disease	<i>pathogenic</i>
pharmac/o	drugs	<i>pharmacology</i>
phyl/o	race, species, type	<i>phylogenesis</i>
physi/o	nature	<i>physiologist</i>
physic/o	physical, natural	<i>physicochemical</i>
phyt/o, -phyte	plant	<i>phytotoxin</i>
pin/o	to drink	<i>pinocytosis</i>
plan/o	flat, level, wandering	<i>planocellular</i>
plant/o	sole of the foot	<i>plantalgia</i>
-plasm	formation, growth	<i>neoplasm</i>
plex/o	network (nerves or vessels), plexus	<i>plexectomy</i>
-poiesis	formation	<i>cytopoiesis</i>
posit/o	arrangement, place	<i>reposition</i>
protop/o	face	<i>protopospasm</i>
prote/o	protein	<i>proteolysis</i>
psamm/o	sand, sand-like material	<i>psammomatous</i>
puls/o, pulsat/o	to beat, beating	<i>pulsation</i>
-puncture	to pierce a surface	<i>venipuncture</i>
purul/o	pus formation	<i>purulent</i>
pyr/o	fire, fever, heat	<i>pyrogen</i>
pyret/o	fever	<i>pyretolysis</i>
-receptor, -ceptor	receiver	<i>thermoreceptor</i>
resuscit/o	revive	<i>resuscitation</i>
reticul/o	netlike	<i>reticular</i>
sanit/a	health	<i>sanitarian</i>
scirr/h/o	hard	<i>scirrhoma</i>
somat/o	body	<i>somatotype</i>
-some	body	<i>chromosome</i>
spectr/o	image, spectrum	<i>spectrogram</i>
-stable	stable, fixed	<i>thermostabile</i>
-stasis	standing still, standing	<i>hemostasis</i>
-stat	device/instrument for keeping something stationary	<i>hemostat</i>
stere/o	solid, three dimensional	<i>stereoradiography</i>

succ/o	juice	<i>succorrrhea</i>
ymptom/o	occurrence	<i>asymptomatic</i>
synaps/o, synapt/o	point of contact, to join	<i>synaptogenesis</i>
system/o	system	<i>systematic</i>
systol/o	contraction	<i>presystole</i>
techn/o	skill, art	<i>technology</i>
tele/o	perfect, complete	<i>telemitosis</i>
temp/o, tempor/o	period of time, the temples	<i>tempolabile</i>
-therapy, therapist/o	treatment	<i>therapeutics</i>
therm/o	heat	<i>thermometer</i>
tors/o	twisting, twisted	<i>sinistrotorsion</i>
trem/o, tremul/o	shaking, trembling	<i>tremor</i>
tri/o	to sort out, sorting	<i>triage</i>
-tumescence, tumesc/o	swelling	<i>detumescence</i>
-type, typ/o	class, representative form	<i>somatotype</i>
ventil/o	to aerate, oxygenate	<i>ventilation</i>
ventr/o	belly, front of the body	<i>ventrolateral</i>
vers/o, -verse	turn, turning	<i>cardioversion</i>
vir/o	virus	<i>virologist</i>
viscer/o	internal organs	<i>visceromegaly</i>
vit/o	life	<i>vital</i>
volv/o, volut/o	to roll	<i>involution</i>
zyg/o	union, junction	<i>zygogenesis</i>

TERMINOLOGY SETS

A. DIRECTIONAL TERMS

ab-	away from
ad-	toward, near
ambi-	around, on both sides, about
amphi-	around, on both sides
ana-	up, backward, against
ante-	before, forward
anter/o	front
anti-	against
apo-	away, separation
cata-	down, under
circum-	around
contra-	against, opposite
dextr/o	right
dia-	through, throughout
dis-	apart, to separate
dist/o	distant
ec-, ecto-	outside, out
en-, endo-	inside, within
epi-	above, over, upon
eso-	within
ex-	out, away from
exo-	outside, outward
extra-	outside
fore-	before, in front
hyper-	above, excessive, beyond
hypo-	under, deficient, below
infra-	below, beneath
inter-	between
intra-	within
juxta-	near
later/o	side
levo-	left
medi/o	middle
meso-	middle
para-	alongside, near, beyond, abnormal
per-	through, throughout
peri-	around, surrounding
post-	after, behind
poster/o	behind, towards the back
pre-	before, in front of
pro-	before
pros/o	forward, anterior
proxim/o	near
re-	back, again
retro-	behind, backward
sinistr/o	left

sub-	under, beneath
super-	above, beyond
supra-	above, beyond
tel/e	distant, end
trans-	across
ultra-	beyond, excess

B. FIVE rrrh's

-rrhagia, -rrhage	excessive flow, profuse fluid discharge
-rrhaphy	suture
-rrhea	flow, discharge
-rrhexis	rupture
rrhythm/o	rhythm

C. NUMERICAL VALUES

half	demi-hemi-semi-
one	mono-uni-
one and a half	sesqui-
two	bi-di-
three	tri-
four	tetra-quadri-
five	quinque-pent-penta-
six	hex-hexa-sex-
seven	hepta-sept-septi-
eight	octa-oc-ti-
nine	noni-
ten (10¹)	deca-
hundred (10²)	hecto-
thousand (10³)	kilo-
million (10⁶)	mega-
billion (10⁹)	giga-
trillion (10¹²)	tera-
quadrillion (10¹⁵)	peta-
quintillion (10¹⁸)	exa-
one tenth (10⁻¹)	deci-
one hundredth (10⁻²)	centi-
one thousandth (10⁻³)	milli-
one millionth (10⁻⁶)	micro-
one billionth (10⁻⁹)	nano-
one trillionth (10⁻¹²)	pico-
one quadrillionth (10⁻¹⁵)	femto-
one quintillionth (10⁻¹⁸)	atto-

D. SURGICAL PROCEDURES

-centesis	surgical puncture of a cavity
-desis	surgical fixation, fusion
-ectomy	surgical removal
-pexy	fixation
-plasty	surgical correction/repair
-rrhaphy	suture
-sect	to cut
-stomy	surgical opening
-tomy	surgical incision
-tripsy	to crush, break

E. DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES

aspir/o, aspirat/o	removal
-assay	to examine, analyze
auscult/o, auscultat/o	to listen
echo-electr/o	reverberating sound electricity
-gram	written record
-graph	instrument for recording
-graphy	process of recording
-meter	instrument for measuring

-metry	process of measuring
-opsy	to view
palp/o, palpat/o	to touch gently
percuss/o	to tap
radi/o	x-ray, radiation
-scope	instrument for visual examination
-scopy	visual examination
-tome	instrument for cutting

F. PATHOGENS

acar/o	mites
arachn/o	spider
bacteri/o	bacteria
-coccus	berry-shaped bacterium
fung/i	fungus, mushroom
helminth/o, -helminth	worm
hirud/i, hirudin/i	leech
ixod/i	ticks
myc/o	fungus
parasit/o	parasite
pedicul/o	louse
scolec/o	worm
verm/i	worm
vir/o	virus

G. COLORS

alb/o, albin/o	white
chlor/o	green
cirr/h/o	orange-yellow
cyan/o	blue
eosin/o	red, rosy, dawn
erythr/o	red
flav/o	yellow
fusc/o	dark brown
glauc/o	gray, bluish green
jaund/o	yellow
leuk/o	white
lute/o	yellow
melan/o	black
poli/o	gray
purpur/i	purple
rhod/o	red, rosy
rose/o	rosy
rubr/o, rubr/i	red
tephr/o	gray (ashen)
xanth/o	yellow

FIVE SENSES

A. Hearing

acous/o
acoust/o
audi/o
audit/o
-cusis

B. Smell

olfact/o
-osmia
osm/o
-ophresia
osphresi/o

C. Touch

haph/e
pselaphes/o
tact/o
thigm/o

D. Taste

-geusia
gustat/o
gust/o

E. Vision

-opia
-opsia
opt/o

SYNONYMS

abdomen abdomin/o celi/o lapar/o	air aer/o phys/o pneum/o pneumon/o	all pan- pant/o	bile bil/i chol/e
bladder cyst/o vesic/o	blood hem/o hemat/o sangu/i sanguin/o	body corpor/o somat/o -some	breast mamm/o mast/o
breathe -pnea respir/o respirat/o spir/o	cecum cec/o typhl/o	chest pector/o steth/o thorac/o	childbirth -para -parous -partum -tocia toc/o

cornea of the eye corne/o kerat/o	death mort/o necr/o thanat/o	different allo- hetero-	disease nos/o path/o
dry kraur/o xer/o	ear aur/o auricul/o ot/o	ear drum myring/o tympan/o	eye ocul/o ophthalm/o opt/o
eyelid blephar/o palpebr/o	face faci/o op/o prosop/o	fat adip/o lip/o steat/o pimel/o	feces corp/o scat/o sterc/o
fever febr/i pyr/o pyret/o	first arch/i arch/e -arche primi- prot/o	foot ped/o pod/o	hair pil/o trich/o
half demi- hemi- semi-	hearing acous/o acoust/o audi/o audit/o -cusis	heart cardi/o coron/o	heat calor/i therm/o
huge gigant/o mega- meglo-	itching prurit/o psor/o	kidney neph/r/o ren/o	lens of the eye phac/o phak/o
life bio- bi/o vit/o viv/i	lip cheil/o chil/o labi/o	ligament desm/o ligament/o syndesm/o	little, small -ole -ule
lung pneum/o pneumon/o pulmon/o	milk galact/o lact/o	mind ment/o -noia phren/o psych/o	mouth or/o stomat/o
mucus blenn/o muc/o myx/o	muscle muscul/o my/o myos/o	nail onych/o ungu/o	night noct/i nyct/o
nose nas/o rhin/o	nucleus kary/o nucle/o	oil ele/o ole/o	ovary oophor/o ovari/o
pain -algia dolor/o -dynia	palate palat/o uran/o	pregnancy -cyesis gravid/o	pupil cor/o pupill/o
rectum proct/o rect/o	saliva ptyal/o sial/o	same homeo- homo- ipsi- tauto-	skin cutane/o derm/o dermat/o
sound son/o phon/o	specialist -ician -ist -logist	stone lith/o petr/o	straight ithy- orth/o
strength dynam/o -sthenia sthen/o	sugar gluc/o glyc/o sacchar/o	sweat hidr/o sud/o	swelling -edema -tumescence tumesc/o
tear dacry/o lacrim/o	thick pachy- pyn/o pykn/o	time chron/o temp/o tempor/o	tongue gloss/o lingu/o
tooth dent/i odont/o	tumor/mass onc/o -oma	uterus hyster/o metr/o uter/o	vagina colp/o vagin/o
vein phleb/o ven/o	vertebral/spinal column rachi/o spin/o spondyl/o	vessel angi/o vas/o	
vulva episi/o vulv/o	water aque/o hydr/o		

GLOSSARY

A	
a-, an-	without, not
ab-	away from
abdomin/o	abdomen
ablat/o	to remove, take away
abrad/o, abras/o	to scrape off
acanth/o	thorny, spiny
acar/o	mites
acid/o	acid, sour, bitter
acous/o	hearing
acoust/o	hearing, sound
acr/o	extremities
actin/o	ray, radiation
acu-	needle
acu/o, acut/o	sharp, severe
ad-	toward, near
aden/o	gland
adenoid/o	adenoids
adip/o	fat
adren/o	adrenal glands
aer/o	air, gas
agglutin/o	clumping
agit/o	rapidity, restlessness
-agogue	producer, leader
-agra	severe pain
alb/o, albin/o	white
albumin/o	albumin
-algesia, alges/o	pain sensitivity
-algia	pain
allo-	other, different
alveol/o	alveolus
ambi-	around, on both sides, about
ambly/o	dim, dull
ambul/o	to walk
ammon/o	ammonium
amni/o	amnion
amphi-	around, on both sides
amyl/o	starch
an/o	anus
ana-	up, backward, against
andr/o	male
aneurysm/o	aneurysm
angi/o	vessel
anis/o	unequal
ankyl/o	stiff, crooked, bent
anomal/o	irregular
ante-	before, forward
anter/o	front
anthrac/o	coal, carbon, carbuncle
anthrop/o	man, human being
anti-	against
antr/o	antrum
aort/o	aorta
-apheresis	separation, removal
aphth/o	ulcer
apic/o	apex
apo-	away, separation
aque/o	water
arachn/o	spider
arch/i, arch/e, -arche	first
arsenic/o	arsenic
arteri/o	artery
arteriol/o	arteriole
arthr/o	joint
artical/o	joint
aspir/o, aspirat/o	inhaling, removal
-assay	to examine, analyze
-asthenia, asthen/o	weakness
astr/o	star, star shaped
atel/o	incomplete, imperfect
ather/o	fatty substance, plaque
atmo-	steam, vapor
-atresia	closure, occlusion
atreto-	closed, lacking an opening
atri/o	atrium
atto-	one quintillionth (10 ⁻¹⁸)
audi/o, audit/o	hearing
aur/o, auricul/o	ear
auscult/o, auscultat/o	to listen
auto-	self
aux/o	growth, acceleration
axi/o	axis
axill/o	armpit
azot/o	nitrogen, urea

B	
bacteri/o	bacteria
balan/o	glans penis
balne/o	bath
bar/o	weight, pressure
bary-	heavy, dull, hard
bas/o, basi/o	base, foundation
-basia	walking
bathy-, batho-	deep, depth
bi-	two
bibli/o	books
bil/i	bile
bio-, bi/o	life, living
blast/o, -blast	early embryonic stage, immature
blenn/o	mucus
blephar/o	eyelid
brachi/o	arm
brachy-	short
brady-	slow
brom/o	bromine containing compound, odor
bronch/o	bronchus
bronchiol/o	bronchiole
bucc/o	cheek
-bulia, -boulia	will
burs/o	bursa

C	
cac/o	bad, ill
calcane/o	heel
calci/o	calcium
-calculia, calcul/o	to compute
cali/o	calyx
calor/i	heat
camp/o	bent
-capnia, capn/o	carbon dioxide
capsul/o, caps/o	capsule, container
carb/o	carbon
carcin/o	cancer
cardi/o	heart
cari/o	caries
carp/o	wrist
cata-	down, under
-cataphasia	affirmation
cathar/o, cathart/o	cleansing, purging
-cathisia, -kathisia	sitting
caud/o	tail
caus/o, cauter/o	burn, burning
cavit/o, cav/o	hollow, cavity
cec/o	cecum
-cele	hernia, swelling
celi/o	abdomen
-centesis	surgical puncture of a cavity
centi-	one hundredth (10 ⁻²)
centr/o	center
cephal/o	head
cerebell/o	cerebellum
cerebr/o	cerebrum, brain
cervic/o	neck, cervix
-chalasia	relaxation
cheil/o, chil/o	lip
chem/o	chemical, chemistry
-chezia, -chesia	defecation
chir/o, chir/o	hand
chlor/o	green
chol/e	gall, bile
choledoch/o	common bile duct
chondr/o	cartilage
chori/o	chorion
-chroia	skin coloration
chrom/o	color
chron/o	time, timing
chrys/o	gold
chyl/o	chyle
-cide	killing, agent which kills
cine-	movement
circum-	around
cirr/h/o	orange-yellow
-clasis, -clasia	break
cleid/o	clavicle
clin/o	to slope, bend
-clysis	irrigation, washing
coagul/o	coagulation, clotting

-coccus	berry-shaped bacterium
coccyg/o	coccyx
cochle/o	cochlea
-coimesis	sleeping
col/o	colon
colp/o	vagina
com-, con-	with, together
-coma	deep sleep
coni/o	dust
conjunctiv/o	conjunctiva
consci/o	awareness, aware
constrict/o	narrowing, binding
contra-	against, opposite
-contus/o	to bruise
cor/o	pupil
corne/o	cornea
coron/o	heart
corpor/o	body
cortic/o	cortex
cost/o	rib
cox/o	hip
crani/o	skull
-crasia	mixture (good or bad), temperament
cric/o	ring
crin/o	secrete, separate
-crit	separate
critic/o	crisis, dangerous
cry/o	cold
crypt/o	hidden, concealed
crystall/o	crystal, transparent
cubit/o	elbow, forearm
culd/o	cul-de-sac
cune/o	wedge, wedge-shaped
cupr/o	copper
-cusis	hearing
cutane/o	skin
cyan/o	blue
cycl/o	ciliary body, circular
-cyesis	pregnancy
cyst/o	bladder, cyst
cyt/o, -cyte	cell

D	
dacry/o	tear
dactyl/o	digit (finger or toe)
deca-	ten (10 ¹)
deci-	one tenth (10 ⁻¹)
demi-	half
dem/o	people
dent/i	tooth
derm/o, dermat/o	skin
desicc/o	to dry
-desis	surgical fixation, fusion
desm/o	ligament
deuter/o	second, secondary
dextr/o	right
di-	two
dia-	through, throughout
didym/o	a twin, testis
-didymus	conjoined twin
dilat/o	enlarge, expand
dip/l/o	double
dips/o	thirst
dis-	apart, to separate
dist/o	distant
dolich/o	long
dolor/o	pain
dors/o	back
drom/o, -drome	running
duct/o	to lead
duoden/o	duodenum
dynam/o	power, strength
-dynia	pain
dys-	bad, difficult, painful

E	
ec-, ecto-	outside, out
echin/o	spiny, prickly
echo-	reverberating sound
eco-	environment
-ectasis, -ectasia	dilation, expansion
-ectomy	surgical removal
ectr/o	congenital absence
-edema	swelling
ele/o	oil
electr/o	electricity

embol/o	embolus
embryo/o	embryo
-emesis	vomiting
-emia	blood condition
emmetr/o	the correct measure, proportioned
-emphraxis	stoppage, obstruction
en-, endo-	inside, within
enanti/o	opposite, opposed
encephal/o	brain
enter/o	intestines (small intestines)
eosin/o	red, rosy, dawn
epi-	above, over, upon
epididym/o	epididymis
epiglott/o	epiglottis
episi/o	vulva
equi-	equality, equal
erethism/o	irritation
erg/o	work
erythem/o	flushed, redness
erythr/o	red
eschar/o	scab
eso-	within
esophag/o	esophagus
esthesi/o, -esthesia	sensation, feeling
eti/o	cause
eu-	good, normal, well
eur-	wide, broad
ex-	out, away from
exa-	quintillion (10 ¹⁸)
excit/o	to arouse
exo-	outside, outward
extra-	outside

F	
faci/o	face
-facient	to cause, make happen
fasci/o	fascia
febr/i	fever
femor/o	femur
femto-	one quadrillionth (10 ⁻¹⁵)
ferr/i, ferr/o	iron
fet/o	fetus
fibr/o	fiber, fibrous
fibul/o	fibula
fil/o, fil/i, filament/o	thread, threadlike
flav/o	yellow
flex/o, flect/o	bend
flu/o, flux/o	to flow
fluor/o	fluorine
follicul/o	small sac, follicle
fore-	before, in front
-form	specified shape, form
frig/o, frigid/o	cold
funct/o	performance
fung/i	fungus, mushroom
fusc/o	dark brown

G	
galact/o	milk
galvano-	direct electric current
gamet/o	gamete
gam/o	marriage, sexual union
gangli/o, ganglion/o	ganglion
gastr/o	stomach
ge/o	earth, soil
gel/o	to freeze, congeal
gemell/o	twins
-gen, gen/o	producing, generating
-genesis	production, formation
-genic	produced by, forming
geni/o	chin
genit/o	reproduction
ger/o, geront/o	aged, old age
gest/o, gestat/o	to bear
-geusia	taste
giga-	billion (10 ⁹)
gigant/o	huge
gingiv/o	gums
glauc/o	gray, bluish green
gli/o	glue, neuroglia
-globin	protein
glomerul/o	glomerulus
gloss/o	tongue

gluc/o	glucose, sugar
glyc/o	glucose, sugar
gnath/o	jaw
gnos/o	knowledge
gon/o	genitals, semen
gonad/o	gonads
goni/o	angle
-grade	step
-gram	written record
granul/o	granules
-graph	instrument for recording
graph/o	writing
-graphy	process of recording
gravid/o	pregnancy
-gravida	pregnant woman
gustat/o, gust/o	taste
gynec/o	woman, female
gyr/o	circle, spiral

H	
haph/e	touch
hapl/o	simple, single
hect/o	hundred (10 ²)
helc/o	ulcer
heli/o	sun
helminth/o, -helminth	worm
hemi-	half
hem/o, hemat/o	blood
hepat/o	liver
heredo-	heredity
hetero-	different, other
hex-, hexa-	six
-hexia	condition
hepta-	seven
hidr/o	sweat
hirsut/o	hairy
hirud/i, hirudin/i	leech
hist/o	tissue
holo-	entire, complete
homeo-	likeness, constant, sameness
homo-	same, similar
hormon/o	hormone
humer/o	humerus
hyal/o	resembling glass, glassy
hydr/o	water, hydrogen
hygr/o	moisture
hymen/o	hymen
hyper-	above, excessive, beyond
hypn/o	sleep
hypo-	under, deficient, below
hypothalam/o	hypothalamus
hypsi-	high
hyster/o	uterus

I	
iatr/o	treatment, physician
ichthy/o	fish
-ician	specialist
icter/o	jaundice
ide/o	idea, mental images
idi/o	individual, distinct, unknown
ile/o	ileum
ili/o	ilium
immun/o	protection, immune
infra-	below, beneath
inguin/o	groin
inter-	between
intra-	within
iod/o	iodine
ion/o	ion
ipsi-	same
ir/o, irid/o	iris
isch/o	suppress, restrain
ischi/o	ischium
is/o	equal
-ist	specialist
ithy-	erect, straight
-itis	inflammation
ixod/i	ticks

J	
jaund/o	yellow
jejun/o	jejunum
juxta-	near

QuickStudy

K	
kal/i	potassium
kary/o	nucleus
kel/o	tumor, fibrous growth
ken/o	empty
kerat/o	horny tissue, cornea
keraun/o	lightning
keton/o	ketones
kilo-	thousand (10 ³)
kinesi/o, -kinesia, -kinetic	movement
klept/o	theft, stealing
koil/o	hollow, concave, depressed
kraur/o	dry
kym/o	waves
kyph/o	humpback

L	
-labile	unstable, perishable
lacrim/o	tear, lacrimal duct
lact/o	milk
lal/o, -lalia	speech, babble
lamin/o	lamina
lampr/o	clear
lapar/o	abdomen, abdominal wall
laryng/o	larynx
later/o	side
laxat/o	to slacken, relax, loosen
lecith/o	yolk, ovum
-legia	reading
lei/o	smooth
-lemma	confining membrane
lepid/o	flakes, scales
lepr/o	leprosy
-lepsy	seizure
lept/o	slender, thin, delicate
letharg/o	drowsiness
leuk/o	white
levo-	left
-lexia	speech, word
lien/o	spleen
ligament/o	ligament
ligat/o	binding, tying
lim/o	hunger
lingu/o	tongue
lip/o	fat
-lipsis	omit, fail
-listhesis	slipping
lith/o	stone, calculus
lob/o	lobe
logad/o	whites of the eyes
log/o, -log, -logue	word, speech, thought
-logist	specialist
-logy	study of
loph/o	ridge
lord/o	curvature, bending
lox/o	oblique, slanting
-lucent	light-admitting
luc/i	light
lucid/o	clear
lumb/o	loin
lumin/o	light
lute/o	yellow
luxat/o	dislocate
ly/o	dissolve, loosen
lymph/o	lymph
-lysis	dissolution, breakdown

M	
-malacia	softening
mamm/o	breast
-mania	madness, obsessive preoccupation
-masesis	mastication, chewing
mast/o	breast
maxill/o	maxilla
medi/o	middle
mediastin/o	mediastinum
medic/o	heal, healing
medull/o	medulla, marrow
mega-	million (10 ⁶)
mega-, megal-	large
-megaly	enlargement
mel/o	limbs, limb

melan/o	black
meli-, melit-	honey, sugar
men/o	menses, menstruation
mening/o	meninges, membranes
ment/o	mind
mer/o	part
meso-	middle
meta-	after, beyond, change
metall/o	metal
-meter	instrument for measuring
method/o	procedure, technique
metr/o	uterus
-metry	process of measuring
micro-	one millionth (10 ⁻⁶), small
mi/o	less, smaller
milli-	one thousandth (10 ⁻³)
-mimesis	imitation, simulation
mis/o	hatred of, aversion
-mnesia	memory
mogi-	difficult
mono-	one
morph/o	shape, form
mort/o	death
-motor	movement, motion
muc/o	mucus
multi-	many, much
muscul/o	muscle
mutilat/o	to maim, disfigure
my/o, myos/o	muscle
myc/o	fungus
myel/o	bone marrow, spinal cord
myring/o	ear drum
myx/o	mucus

N	
nano-	one billionth (10 ⁻⁹)
narc/o	numbness, stupor
nas/o	nose
nat/o	birth
natr/o	sodium
necr/o	death
neo-	new
nephro-	kidney
neur/o	nerve
neutr/o	neutral
nev/o	mole, birthmark
noci-	to cause harm, injury or pain
noct/i	night
nod/o	knot
-noia	mind, will
nom/o	custom, law
nomen-	name
noni-	nine
norm/o	normal, usual
nos/o	disease
not/o	the back
nucle/o	nucleus
nulli-	none
nutri/o, nutrit/o	nourish
nyct/o	night

O	
obstetr/o	midwife
octa-, octi-	eight
ocul/o	eye
odont/o	tooth
-oid	resembling
-ole	little, small
ole/o	oil
olfact/o	smell
olig/o	scanty, few, little
-oma	tumor, mass
om/o	shoulder
omphal/o	navel
onc/o	tumor, mass
onych/o	nail
o/o	egg, ovum
oophor/o	ovary
ophry/o	eyebrow
ophthalm/o	eye
-opia, -opsia	vision
opisth/o	backward, behind
op/o	juice, face
-opsy	to view
opt/o	eye, vision
or/o	mouth

orch/o, orchi/o, orchid/o	testis
-orexia	appetite
organ/o	organ
ornith/o	bird
orth/o	straight, normal, correct
osche/o	scrotum
oscill/o	to swing
-osis	condition, status, abnormal increase
osm/o, -osmia	sense of smell, odor, impulse
osphresi/o, -osphresia	sense of smell, odor
oste/o	bone
ot/o	ear
ov/o, ov/i	egg, ovum
ovari/o	ovary
ox/o, -oxia	oxygen
oxy-	sharp, quick, sour

P	
pachy-	thick
-pagus	conjoined twins
palat/o	palate
pale/o	old
palin-, pali-	recurrence, repetition
palliat/o	soothe, relieve
palp/o, palpat/o	to touch gently
palpebr/o	eyelid
palpit/o, palpitat/o	flutter, throbbing
pan-	all
pancreat/o	pancreas
pant/o	all, whole
papill/o	nipple-like, papilla
papul/o	papule, pimple
para-	alongside, near, beyond, abnormal
-para-, -parous	to bear, bring forth
parasit/o	parasite
parathyroid/o	parathyroid
-paresis	partial paralysis
-partum	childbirth, labor
patell/o	patella
path/o	disease
-pause	cessation
pector/o	chest
ped/o	foot, child
pedicul/o	louse
pel/o	mud
pelv/i	pelvis
-penia	deficiency
pent-, penta-	five
-pepsia	digestion
per-	through, throughout
percut/o	to tap
peri-	around, surrounding
perine/o	perineum
peritone/o	peritoneum
per/o	deformed, maimed
perone/o	fibula
perspir/o	breathe through
pest/i	plague, pests
-peta-	quadrillion (10 ¹⁵)
-petal	moving toward, seeking
petr/o	stone, petrous region of temporal bone

-pexy	fixation
phac/o	lens
phag/o, -phagia	eating, ingestion
phak/o	lens
phalang/o	phalanges
phall/o	penis
phaner/o	visible, apparent
pharmac/o	drugs
phas/o, -phasia	speech
phe/o	dusky
phen/o	appearance
-pheresis	removal
-phil, -philia	affinity for, tendency towards
phim/o	muzzle
phleb/o	vein
-phobia, phob/o	fear, aversion
phon/o, -phonia	voice, sound
-phore, phor/o	bearer, processor
-phoresis	bearing, transmission
phosphat/o	phosphate

phot/o	light
phren/o	mind, diaphragm
phyc/o	seaweed, algae
phyl/o	race, species, type
-phylaxis	protection
phyll/o	leaf, leaf-like
-phyma	tumor, growth
physic/o	physical, natural
physi/o	nature
phys/o	air, gas
-physis	growth, growing
phyt/o, -phyte	plant
pico-	one trillionth (10 ⁻¹²)
piec/o, pies/i, -piesis	pressure
pil/o	hair
pimel/o	fat, fatty
pin/o	to drink
pineal/o	pineal gland
pituitar/o	pituitary gland
plagi/o	slanting, oblique
plan/o	flat, level, wandering
plant/o	sole of the foot
-plasm	formation, growth
plasm/o	plasma, formative substance
-plasty	surgical correction/repair
platy-	broad, flat
-ple/o	more
-plegia	paralysis
plesi/o	nearness, similarity
pless/i	striking
pleur/o	pleura
plex/o	network (nerves or vessels), plexus
plic/o, plicat/o	to fold, pleat
-ploid, -ploidy	number of chromosome sets
pluri-	more, several
-pnea	breathe
pneum/o	lung, air
pneumon/o	lung, air
pod/o	foot
-poiesis	formation
poikil/o	variation, irregular
poli/o	gray (matter)
poly-	many, much
pon/o	fatigue, overwork, pain
-pore, por/o	opening, passageway
-porosis	porous, decrease in density
-posia	drinking
posit/o	arrangement, place
post-	after, behind
poster/o	behind, towards the back
potenti/o	power, strength
-prandial	meal
-praxia	action, activity
pre-	before, in front of
presby-	aging, elderly
primi-	first
-privia	loss, deprivation
pro-	before
proct/o	rectum, anus
pros/o	forward, anterior
protop/o	face
prostat/o	prostate gland
prote/o	protein
prot/o	first
proxim/o	near
prurit/o	itching
psamm/o	sand, sand-like material
pselaphes/o	touch
pseudo-	false
-psor/o	itching
psych/o	mind
psychr/o	cold
-pterygium	abnormality of the conjunctiva
pteryg/o	wing-shaped
-ptosis	prolapse, drooping
ptyal/o	saliva
-ptysis	spitting
pub/o	pubis
pulmon/o	lung
puls/o, pulsat/o	to beat, beating

