

Medical Terminology for Vocabulary Quizzes

- a-** *no, not, without* (atom, agranulocyte)
ab- *away* (abducens, abduction)
acetabulo- *small cup* (acetabulum)
acro- *tip, extremity, peak* (acromion, acromegaly)
ad- *to, toward, near* (adsorption, adrenal)
adeno- *gland* (lymphadenitis, adenohypophysis)
aero- *air, oxygen* (aerobic, anaerobe, aerophagy)
af- *toward* (afferent)
ag- *together* (agglutination)
-al *pertaining to* (parietal, pharyngeal, temporal)
ala- *wing* (ala nasi)
albi- *white* (albicans, linea alba, albino)
algi- *pain* (analgesic, myalgia)
aliment- *nourishment* (alimentary)
allo- *other, different* (allele, allograft)
amphi- *both, either* (amphiphilic, amphiarthrosis)
an- *without* (anaerobic, anemic)
ana- **1.** *up, build up* (anabolic, anaphylaxis). **2.** *apart* (anaphase, anatomy). **3.** *back* (anastomosis)
andro- *male* (androgen)
angi- *vessel* (angiogram, angioplasty, hemangioma)
ante- *before, in front* (antebrachium)
antero- *forward* (anterior, anterograde)
anti- *against* (antidiuretic, antibody, antagonist)
apo- *from, off, away, above* (apocrine, aponeurosis)
arbor- *tree* (arboreal, arborization)
artic- **1.** *joint* (articulation). **2.** *speech* (articulate)
-ary *pertaining to* (axillary, coronary)
-ase *enzyme* (polymerase, kinase, amylase)
ast-, astro- *star* (aster, astrocyte)
-ata, -ate **1.** *possessing* (hamate, corniculate). **2.** *plural of -a* (stomata, carcinomata)
athero- *fat* (atheroma, atherosclerosis)
atrio- *entryway* (atrium, atrioventricular)
auri- *ear* (auricle, binaural)
auto- *self* (autolysis, autoimmune)
axi- *axis, straight line* (axial, axoneme, axon)
baro- *pressure* (baroreceptor, hyperbaric)
bene- *good, well* (benign, beneficial)
bi- *two* (bipedal, biceps, bifid)
bili- *bile* (biliary, bilirubin)
bio- *life, living* (biology, biopsy, microbial)
blasto- *precursor, bud, producer* (fibroblast, osteoblast, blastomere)
brachi- *arm* (brachium, brachialis, antebrachium)
brady- *slow* (bradycardia, bradypnea)
bucco- *cheek* (buccal, buccinator)
burso- *purse* (bursa, bursitis)
calc- *calcium, stone* (calcaneus, hypocalcemia)
callo- *thick* (callus, callosum)
calori- *heat* (calorie, calorimetry, calorigenic)
calv-, calvari- *bald, skull* (calvaria)
calyx *cup, vessel, chalice* (glycocalyx, renal calyx)
capito- *head* (capitis, capitata, capitulum)
capni- *smoke, carbon dioxide* (hypercapnia)
carcino- *cancer* (carcinogen, carcinoma)
cardi- *heart* (cardiac, cardiology, pericardium)
carot- **1.** *carrot* (carotene). **2.** *stupor* (carotid)
carpo- *wrist* (carpus, metacarpal)
case- *cheese* (caseosa, casein)
cata- *down, break down* (catabolism)
cauda- *tail* (cauda equina, caudate nucleus)
-cel *little* (pedicel)
celi- *belly, abdomen* (celiac)
centri- *center, middle* (centromere, centriole)
cephalo- *head* (cephalic, encephalitis)
cervi- *neck, narrow part* (cervix, cervical)
chiasm- *cross, X* (optic chiasm)
choano- *funnel* (choana)
chole- *bile* (cholecystokinin, cholelithotripsy)
chondro- **1.** *grain* (mitochondria). **2.** *cartilage, gristle* (chondrocyte, perichondrium)
chromo- *color* (dichromat, chromatin, cytochrome)
chrono- *time* (chronotropic, chronic)
cili- *eyelash* (cilium, superciliary)
circ- *about, around* (circadian, circumduction)
cis- *cut* (incision, incisor)
cisterna *reservoir* (cisterna chyli)
clast- *break down, destroy* (osteoclast)
clavi- *hammer, club, key* (clavicle, supraclavicular)
-cle *little* (tubercle, corpuscle)
cleido- *clavicle* (sternocleidomastoid)
cnemo- *lower leg* (gastrocnemius)
co- *together* (coenzyme, cotransport)
collo- **1.** *hill* (colliculus). **2.** *glue* (colloid, collagen)
contra- *opposite* (contralateral)
corni- *horn* (cornified, corniculate, cornu)
corono- *crown* (coronary, corona, coronal)
corpo- *body* (corpus luteum, corpora quadrigemina)
corti- *bark, rind* (cortex, cortical)
costa- *rib* (intercostal, subcostal)
coxa- *hip* (os coxae, coxal)
crani- *helmet* (cranium, epicranium)
cribri- *sieve, strainer* (cribriform, area cribrosa)
crino- *separate, secrete* (holocrine, endocrinology)
crista- *crest* (crista galli, mitochondrial crista)
crito- *to separate* (hematocrit)
cruci- *cross* (cruciate ligament)
-cule, -culus *small* (canaliculus, trabecula, auricular)
cune- *wedge* (cuneiform, cuneatus)
cutane-, cuti- *skin* (subcutaneous, cuticle)
cysto- *bladder* (cystitis, cholecystectomy)
cyto- *cell* (cytology, cytokinesis, monocyte)
de- *down* (defecate, deglutition, dehydration)
demi- *half* (demifacet, demilune)
den-, denti- *tooth* (dentition, dens)

dendro- *tree, branch* (dendrite, oligodendrocyte)
derma-, dermato- *skin* (dermatology, hypodermic)
desmo- *band, bond, ligament* (desmosome, syndesmosis)
dia- **1.** *across, through, separate* (diaphragm, dialysis). **2.** *day* (circadian)
dis- **1.** *apart* (dissect, dissociate). **2.** *opposite, absence* (disinfect, disability)
diure- *pass through, urinate* (diuretic, diuresis)
dorsi- *back* (dorsal, dorsum, latissimus dorsi)
duc- *to carry* (duct, adduction, abducens)
dys- *bad, abnormal, painful* (dyspnea, dystrophy)
e- *out* (ejaculate, eversion)
-eal *pertaining to* (hypophyseal, arboreal)
eo, ecto- *outside, out of, external* (ectopic, ectoderm, splenectomy)
ef- *out of* (efferent, effusion)
-el, -elle *small* (fontanel, organelle, micelle)
electro- *electricity* (electrocardiogram, electrolyte)
em- *in, within* (embolism, embedded)
emesi-, emeti- *vomiting* (emetic, hyperemesis)
-emia *blood condition* (anemia, hypoxemia)
en- *in, into* (enzyme, parenchyma)
encephalo- *brain* (encephalitis, telencephalon)
enchymo- *poured in* (mesenchyme, parenchyma)
endo- *within, into, internal* (endocrine, endocytosis)
entero- *gut, intestine* (mesentery, myenteric)
epi- *upon, above* (epidermis, epiphysis, epididymis)
ergo- *work, energy, action* (allergy, adrenergic)
eryth-, erythro- *red* (erythema, erythrocyte)
esthesio- *sensation, feeling* (anesthesia, somesthetic)
eu- *good, true, normal, easy* (eupnea, aneuploidy)
exo- *out* (exopeptidase, exocytosis, exocrine)

facili- *easy* (facilitated)
fasci- *band, bundle* (fascia, fascicle)
fenestr- *window* (fenestrated)
fer- *to carry* (efferent, uriniferous)
ferri- *iron* (ferritin, transferrin)
fibro- *fiber* (fibroblast, fibrosis)
fill- *thread* (myofilament, filiform)
flagello- *whip* (flagellum)
foil- *leaf* (folic acid, folia)
-form *shape* (cuneiform, fusiform)
fove- *pit, depression* (fovea)
funiculo- *little rope, cord* (funiculus)
fusi- **1.** *spindle* (fusiform). **2.** *pour out* (perfusion)
gamo- *marriage, union* (monogamy, gamete)
gastro- *belly, stomach* (gastrointestinal, digastric)
-gen, -genie, -genesis *producing, giving rise to* (pathogen, carcinogenic, glycologenesis)
genio- *chin* (geniohyoid, genioglossus)
germi- **1.** *sprout, bud* (germinal, germinativum). **2.** *microbe* (germicide)
gero- *old age* (progeria, geriatrics, gerontology)
gesto- **1.** *to bear, carry* (ingest). **2.** *pregnancy* (gestation, progesterone)
glia- *glue* (neuroglia, microglia)
globu- *ball, sphere* (globulin, hemoglobin)
glom- *ball* (glomerulus)
glosso- *tongue* (glossopharyngeal, hypoglossal)
glyco- *sugar* (glycogen, glycolysis, hypoglycemia)
gono- **1.** *angle, corner* (trigone). **2.** *seed, sex cell, generation* (gonad, oogonium, gonorrhea)
gradi- *walk, step* (retrograde, gradient)
-gram *recording of* (electrocardiogram, sonogram)
-graph *recording instrument* (sonograph, electrocardiograph)
-graphy *recording process* (sonography, radiography)
gravi- *severe, heavy* (gravid, myasthenia gravis)
gyro- *turn, twist* (gyrus)
hallu- *great toe* (hallux, hallucis)
hemi- *half* (hemidesmosome, hemisphere)
-hernia *blood condition* (polycythemia)
hemo- *blood* (hemophilia, hemoglobin, hematology)

hetero- *different, other, various* (heterozygous)
histo- *tissue, web* (histology, histone)
holo- *whole, entire* (holistic, holocrine)
homeo- *constant, unchanging, uniform* (homeostasis, homeothermic)
homo- *same, alike* (homologous, homozygous)
hyalo- *clear, glassy* (hyaline, hyaluronic acid)
hydro- *water* (dehydration, hydrolysis, hydrophobic)
hyper- *above, above normal, excessive* (hyperkalemia, hypertonic)
hypo- *below, below normal, deficient* (hypogastric, hyponatremia, hypophysis)
-ia *condition* (anemia, hypocalcemia, osteomalacia)
-ic *pertaining to* (isotonic, hemolytic, antigenic)
-icle, -icul *small* (ossicle, canaliculus, reticular)
ilia- *flank, loin* (ilium, iliac)
-ilia, -illus *little* (bacillus)
-in *protein* (trypsin, fibrin, globulin)
infra- *below* (infraspinous, infrared)
ino- *fiber* (inotropic, inositol)
insulo- *island* (insula, insulin)
inter- *between* (intercellular, intervertebral)
intra- *within* (intracellular, intraocular)
iono- *ion* (ionotropic, cationic)
ischi- *to hold back* (ischium, ischemia)
-ism **1.** *process, state, condition* (metabolism, rheumatism). **2.** *doctrine, belief, theory* (holism, reductionism, naturalism)
iso- *same, equal* (isometric, isotonic, isomer)
-issimus *most, greatest* (latissimus, longissimus)
-ite *little* (dendrite, somite)
-itis *inflammation* (dermatitis, gingivitis)
jug- *to join* (conjugated, jugular)
juxta- *next to* (juxtamedullary, juxtaglomerular)
kali- *potassium* (hypokalemia)
karyo- *seed, nucleus* (megakaryocyte, karyotype)
kerato- *horn* (keratin, keratinocyte)

kine- *motion, action* (kinetic, kinase, cytokinesis)

labi- *lip* (labium, levator labii)

lacera- *tear, cut* (foramen lacerum, laceration)

lacrimo- *tear, cry* (lacrimal gland, nasolacrimal)

lacto- *milk* (lactose, lactation, prolactin)

lamina- *layer* (lamina propria, laminar flow)

latero- *side* (bilateral, ipsilateral)

lati- *broad* (latissimus dorsi)

-lemma *husk* (sarcolemma, neurilemma)

lenti- *lens* (lenticular)

-let *small* (platelet)

leuko- *white* (leukocyte, leukemia)

levato- *to raise* (levator labii, elevation)

ligo- *to bind* (ligand, ligament)

line- *line* (linea alba, linea nigra)

litho- *stone* (otolith, lithotripsy)

-logy *study of* (histology, physiology, hematology)

lucid- *light, clear* (stratum lucidum, zona pellucida)

lun- *moon, crescent* (lunate, lunule, semilunar)

lute- *yellow* (macula lutea, corpus luteum)

lyso-, lyto- *split apart, break down* (lysosome, hydrolysis, electrolyte, hemolytic)

macro- *large* (macromolecule, macrophage)

macula- *spot* (macula lutea, macula densa)

mali- *bad* (malignant, malocclusion, malformed)

malle- *hammer* (malleus, malleolus)

mammo- *breast* (mammary, mamillary)

mano- *hand* (manus, manipulate)

manubri- *handle* (manubrium)

masto- *breast* (mastoid, gynecomastia)

medi- *middle* (medial, mediastinum, intermediate)

medullo- *marrow, pith* (medulla)

mega- *large* (megakaryocyte, hepatomegaly)

melano- *black* (melanin, melanocyte, melancholy)

meno- *month* (menstruation, menopause)

mento- *chin* (mental, mentalis)

mero- *part, segment* (isomer, centromere, merocrine)

meso- *in the middle* (mesoderm, mesentery)

meta- *beyond, next in a series* (metaphase, metacarpal)

metabol- *change* (metabolism, metabolite)

-meter *measuring device* (calorimeter, spirometer)

metri- **1.** *length, measure* (isometric, emmetropic). **2.** uterus (endometrium)

micro- *small* (microscopic, microcytic, microglia)

mito- *thread, filament, grain* (mitochondria, mitosis)

mono- *one* (monocyte, monogamy, mononucleosis)

morpho- *form, shape, structure* (morphology, amorphous)

muta- *change* (mutagen, mutation)

myelo- **1.** *spinal cord* (poliomyelitis, myelin). **2.** *bone marrow* (myeloid, myelocytic)

myo-, mysi- *muscle* (myoglobin, myosin, epimysium)

natri- *sodium* (hyponatremia, natriuretic)

neo- *new* (neonatal, gluconeogenesis)

nephro- *kidney* (nephron, hydronephrosis)

neuro- *nerve* (aponeurosis, neurosoma, neurology)

nucleo- *nucleus, kernel* (nucleolus, nucleic acid)

oo- *egg* (oogenesis, oocyte)

ob- **1.** *life* (aerobic, microbe). **2.** *against, toward, before* (obstetrics, obturator, obstruction)

oculo- *eye* (oculi, oculomotor)

odonto- *tooth* (odontoblast, periodontal)

-oid *like, resembling* (colloid, sigmoid, amoeboid)

-ole *small* (arteriole, bronchiole, nucleolus)

oligo- *few, a little, scanty* (oligopeptide, oliguria)

-oma *tumor, mass* (carcinoma, hematoma)

omo- *shoulder* (omohyoid, acromion)

onycho- *nail, claw* (hyponychium, onychomycosis)

op- *vision* (optics, myopia, photopic)

-opsy *viewing, to see* (biopsy)

or- *mouth* (oral, orbicularis oris)

orbi- *circle* (orbicularis, orbit)

organo- *tool, instrument* (organ, organelle)

ortho- *straight* (orthopnea, orthodontics, orthopedics)

-ose **1.** *full of* (adipose). **2.** *sugar* (sucrose, glucose)

-osis **1.** *process* (osmosis, exocytosis). **2.** *condition, disease* (cyanosis, thrombosis). **3.** *increase* (leukocytosis)

osmo- *push* (osmosis, chemiosmotic)

osse-, oste- *bone* (osseous, osteoporosis)

oto- *ear* (otolith, otitis, parotid)

-ous **1.** *full of* (nitrogenous, edematous). **2.** *pertaining to* (mucous, nervous). **3.** *like, characterized by* (squamous, filamentous)

ovo- *egg* (ovum, ovary, ovulation)

oxy- **1.** *oxygen* (hypoxia, oxyhemoglobin). **2.** *sharp, quick* (oxytocin)

palli- *pale* (pallor, globus pallidus)

palpebro- *eyelid* (palpebrae)

pan- *all* (panhypopituitarism, pancreas)

panni- *cloth, rag* (pannus, panniculus)

papillo- *nipple* (papilla, papillary)

par- *birth* (postpartum, parturition, multiparous)

para- *next to* (parathyroid, parotid)

parieto- *wall* (parietal)

patho- **1.** *disease* (pathology, pathogen). **2.** *feeling* (sympathetic)

pecto- **1.** *chest* (pectoralis). **2.** *comblike* (pectineus)

pedi- **1.** *foot* (bipedal, pedicle). **2.** *child* (pediatrics)

pelvi- *basin* (pelvis, pelvic)

-penia *deficiency* (leukopenia, thrombocytopenia)

penna- *feather* (unipennate, bipennate)

peri- *around* (periosteum, peritoneum, periodontal)

perone- *fibula* (peroneus tertius, peroneal nerve)

phago- *eat* (phagocytosis, macrophage)

philo- *loving, attracted to* (hydrophilic, amphiphilic)

phobo- *fearing, repelled by* (hydrophobic)

phor- *to carry, bear* (diaphoresis, electrophoresis)

phragm- *partition* (diaphragm)

phreno- *diaphragm* (phrenic nerve)

physio- *nature, natural cause* (physiology, physician)

-physis *growth* (diaphysis, hypophysis)

pilo- *hair* (piloerection)

pino- *drink, imbibe* (pinocytosis¹)

planto- *sole of foot* (plantaris, plantar wart)

plasi- *growth* (hyperplasia)

plasm- *shaped, molded* (cytoplasm, endoplasmic)

plasti- *form* (thromboplastin)

platy- *flat* (platysma)

pnea- *breath, breathing* (eupnea, dyspnea)

pneumo- *air, breath, lung* (pneumonia, pneumothorax)

podo- *foot* (pseudopod, podocyte)

poles- *forming* (hemopoiesis, erythropoietin)

poly- *many, much, excessive* (polypeptide, polyuria)

primi- *first* (primary, primipara, primitive)

pro- **1.** *before, in front, first* (prokaryote, prophase, prostate). **2.** *promote, favor* (progesterone, prolactin)

pseudo- *false* (pseudopod)

psycho- *mind* (psychosis, psychosomatic)

ptero-, pterygo- *wing* (pterygoid)

-ptosis *dropping, falling, sagging* (apoptosis, nephroptosis)

puncto- *point* (puncta)

pyro- *fire* (pyrogen, antipyretic)

quadri- *four* (quadriceps, quadratus)

quater- *fourth* (quaternary)

radiat- *radiating* (corona radiata)

rami- *branch* (ramus)

recto- *straight* (rectus abdominis, rectum)

reno- *kidney* (renal, renin)

reti- *network* (reticular, rete testis)

retinae- *retainer, bracelet* (retinaculum)

retro- *behind, backward* (retroperitoneal, retrovirus)

rhombo- *rhombus* (rhomboideus, rhombencephalon)

rubo-, rubro- *red* (bilirubin, rubrospinal)

rugo- *fold, wrinkle* (ruga, corrugator)

sacculo- *little sac* (sacculae)

sarco- *flesh, muscle* (sarcolemma, sarcomere)

scala- *staircase* (scala tympani)

sclero- *hard, tough* (sclera, sclerosis)

scopo- *see* (microscope, endoscopy)

secto- *cut* (section, dissection)

semi- *half* (semilunar, semimembranosus)

sepsi- *infection* (asepsis, septicemia)

-sis *process* (diapedesis, amniocentesis)

sole- *sandal, sole of foot, flatfish* (sole, soleus)

soma-, somato- *body* (somatic, somatotropin)

spheno- *wedge* (sphenoid)

spiro- *breathing* (inspiration, spirometry)

splanchno- *viscera* (splanchnic)

spleno- **1.** *bandage* (splenius capitis). **2.** *spleen* (splenic artery)

squamo- *scale, flat* (squamous, desquamation)

stasi-, stati- *put, remain, stay the same* (hemostasis, homeostatic)

steno- *narrow* (stenosis)

ster-, stereo- *solid, three-dimensional* (steroid, stereoscopic)

sterno- *breast, chest* (sternum, sternocleidomastoid)

stria- *stripe* (striated, corpus striatum)

sub- *below* (subcutaneous, subclavicular)

sulc- *furrow, groove* (sulcus)

supra- *above* (supraspinous, supraclavicular)

sura- *calf of leg* (triceps surae)

sym- *together* (sympathetic, symphysis)

syn- *together* (synostosis, syncytium)

tachy- *fast* (tachycardia, tachypnea)

tarsi- *ankle* (tarsus, metatarsal)

tecto- *roof, cover* (tectorial membrane, tectum)

telo- *last, end* (telophase, telencephalon, telodendria)

tempo- *time* (temporal)

terti- *third* (tertiary)

theli- *nipple, female, tender* (epithelium)

thermo- *heat* (thermogenesis, thermoregulation)

thrombo- *blood clot* (thrombosis, thrombin)

thyro- *shield* (thyroid, thyrohyoid)

-tion *process* (circulation, pronation)

toci- *birth* (oxytocin)

tomo- **1.** *cut* (tomography, atom, anatomy). **2.** *segment* (dermatome, myotome, sclerotome)

tono- *force, tension* (isotonic, tonus, myotonia)

topo- *place, position* (isotope, ectopic)

trabo- *plate* (trabecula)

trans- *across* (transpiration, transdermal)

trapezi- **1.** *table, grinding surface* (trapezium). **2.** *trapezoid* (trapezoid)

tri- *three* (triceps, triglyceride)

tricho- *hair* (trichosiderin, peritrichial)

trocho- *wheel, pulley* (trochlea)

troph- **1.** *food, nourishment* (trophic, trophoblast). **2.** *growth* (dystrophy, hypertrophy)

tropo- *to turn, change* (metabotropic, gonadotropin)

tunica- *coat* (tunica intima, tunica vaginalis)

tympano- *drum, eardrum* (tympanic, tensor tympani)

-ul *small* (trabecula, tubule, capitulum, glomerulus)

-uncle, -unculus *small* (homunculus, caruncle)

uni- *one* (unipennate, unipolar)

uri- *urine* (glycosuria, urinalysis, diuretic)

utriculo- *little bag* (utriculus)

vagino- *sheath* (invaginate, tunica vaginalis)

vago- *wander* (vagus)

vaso- *vessel* (vascular, vas deferens, vasa recta)

ventro- *belly, lower part* (ventral, ventricle)

vermi- *worm* (vermis, vermiform appendix)

vertebro- *spine* (vertebrae, intervertebral)

vesico- *bladder, blister* (vesical, vesicular)

villo- *hair, hairy* (microvillus)

vitro- *glass* (*in vitro*, vitreous humor)

vivi- *life, alive* (*in vivo*, revive)

zygo- *union, join, mate* (zygomatic, zygote, azygos)