










CONCEPT: PREFIXES

Prefixes on Numbers and Amount

◆ Prefixes used to provide details on numbers, sizes or amounts:

Prefix	Definition	Memory Tool
ambi-	both	 ambi dextrous
centi-	_____	
di-	two	 dilemma
milli-	_____	
mono-, uni-	one	 
multi-, poly-	many, much	 multi cultural
nulli-	_____	 null and void
semi-, hemi-	half	

CONCEPT: PREFIXES

EXAMPLE

Based on your understanding of prefixes and word roots, which of the following is a possible meaning for the word polyotia?

- a) Having multiple causes for a condition.
- b) Seeing three or more images.
- c) Having more than two ears.
- d) Smelling more than two scents.

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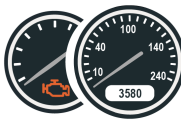

Which of the following is the best description for a person suffering from unilateral optic neuritis?

- a) A condition affecting one optic nerve leading to problems with vision.
- b) A condition affecting many optic nerves leading to problems with vision.
- c) A condition affecting one optic muscle leading to problems with vision.
- d) None of the above.

CONCEPT: PREFIXES

Prefixes That Indicate a Quality

- ◆ These prefixes modify the meaning of a word to describe a particular attribute, _____ or characteristic.
 - Provide information about the degree, nature or _____ of a condition.

Prefix	Definition	Memory Tool
brady-	_____	
dys-	difficult, bad, painful	 dys lexia
eu-	good	 eu phoria
heter-	different	
mal-	_____	mal function 
mega-, megal-	very large	
neo-	new	 neo nate
tachy-	_____	 tach ometer
ultra-	beyond normal	 ultra -fast

CONCEPT: PREFIXES

EXAMPLE

A 10-month-old infant is brought to a pediatrician with a head size that measures beyond the 99th percentile. The infant's head has shown a continuous accelerated growth pattern. The infant most likely has which of the following conditions?

-
- a) megalencephaly b) malfencephaly c) microencephaly d) ultrarhinoplasty

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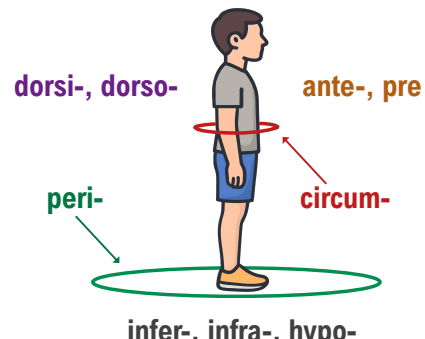
If the word root *pnea* refers to breathing, which of the following terms would mean difficulty breathing?

-
- a) Heteropnea
b) Nullpnea
c) Dyspnea
d) Neopnea








CONCEPT: PREFIXES

Prefixes on Position and Placement

- ◆ These prefixes modify the meaning of a word to specify a location, direction or spatial relationship:
 - The first set of prefixes:

Prefix	Definition	Memory Tool
ante-, pre	in front of	
dorsi-, dorso-	behind	
ep-, epi-	over, above, on top of	
infer-, infra-, hypo-	_____	
circum-	_____	
peri-	surrounding	

- The second set of prefixes:

Prefix	Definition	Memory Tool
ab-	_____ from	 ab duction
ad-	_____	 ad duction
ec-	outside, out	 ec centric
intra-	_____	
inter-	between	
para-	_____	 para legal
dia-	through	

CONCEPT: PREFIXES

EXAMPLE

Which of the following terms mean a below normal body temperature?

- a) Hyperthermia b) Ectodermia c) Normothermia d) Hypothermia

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Plasia refers to the growth or development of cells, tissues or organs. Based on your understanding of prefixes and word roots, which of the following is a possible meaning for the term pulmonary hypoplasia?

- a) Increased lung capacity and gas exchange.
b) The incomplete development of lung tissue.
c) Thickening of the tissue surrounding the lungs.
d) Excessive and uncontrolled growth of lung tissue.

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Construct the medical term referring to a skin inflammation below the waist.

Term

PRACTICE

Write a medical term meaning “the process of cutting into”.

Term