

CONCEPT: MEDICAL TERM COMPONENTS

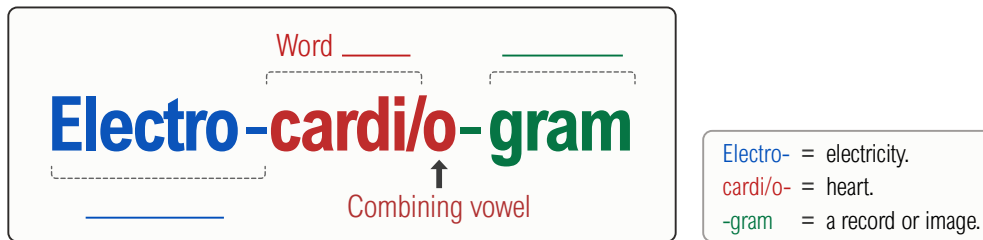
◆ **Constructed terms:** Medical terms consisting of ____ word parts or components:

① **Word root**

② **Combining vowel**

③ **Prefix**

④ **Suffix**



◆ **Eponyms:** words not built from word parts but are derived from people's _____.

- Ex: Lou Gehrig's disease.

Components of Medical Terms

① **Word root:** General meaning of the term, usually indicates part of a _____ system.

② **Combining vowel** (often **-o**): Combines word _____ together, or word root root with suffix.

③ **Prefix:** Added to the _____ of the term, modifies meaning and provides info about:

- Direction, position, quantity, time, size, opposite, etc.
- Not _____ term has a prefix.

④ **Suffix:** Added to the _____ of the term, modifies meaning and provides info about:

- Condition/disease, procedure, action, location, etc.

Electrocardi/ogram

Polyneur/o-my/o

pathy

Endo-carditis

Bi/o

logy

Hypoderm/o-

plasty

EXAMPLE

Match the terms on the left with their correct definitions.

1. chem	
2. chem/o	
3. suffix	
4. prefix	

- a) combining form of word root and vowel.
- b) word part found at the beginning of a word.
- c) provides the core meaning of the term.
- d) adds meaning to the term to show condition or action.

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Defining Medical Terms

- ◆ When defining a medical term:
 - First define the _____ : indicates condition/disease, procedure, etc.
 - Then the _____ : indicates direction, position, quantity, etc.
 - Finally, the **word** _____ : core meaning of the term.

Hypo-glyc-emia

-emia = condition of the blood.

hypo- = under, below.

glyc = sugar.

EXAMPLE

Interpret the meaning of the following terms.

Polyneuropathy: _____ _____	poly-	many.
	neur/o	nerve.
	-pathy	disease.
Perinephrectomy: _____ _____	peri-	around.
	nephr	kidney.
	-ectomy	surgical removal.

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Forming Terms from Word Parts

◆ By combining the ____ components, it is possible to create numerous medical terms.

EXAMPLE

From the given word parts, construct a full term and interpret its meaning.

anti- = against.
path/o = disease.
-genic = producing.

epi- = above/over.
gastr/o = stomach.
-algia = pain.

STEP 1: Determine if **combining vowel** is necessary.

- Use **vowel** when **suffix** starts with a consonant, don't use **vowel** when **suffix** starts with a vowel.

- Use **vowel** when combining 2 **word roots** together.

STEP 2: Add **suffix** to end of **word root**.

STEP 3: Add **prefix** to beginning of **word root**.

STEP 4: Interpret the meaning.