

CONCEPT: RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: WORD BUILDING

Components of Respiratory System

- Combining forms describing compositional aspects of the respiratory system.

Combining Form	Definition	Memory Tool
aer/o	air	aer/o/bics
pneum/o pneumon/o	air, lung	pneumon/ia
phren/o	_____	Friend of lungs.

Combining Form	Definition	Memory Tool
lingu/o	_____	lingu/istics
hal/o halat/o spir/o	to breathe	
phon/o	_____, sound	

EXAMPLE

Fill in the blanks for the following:

1)	Downward displacement (drooping) of the diaphragm:	_____.
2)	Swallowing too much air, which causes bloating pain:	_____ia.

PRACTICE

Match each definition with the correct term.

1)	Having a hoarse voice.
2)	Medical device used to measure lung capacity.
3)	Presence of air in the chest cavity.

- a) spirometer
- b) sublingual
- c) dysphonia
- d) pneumothorax

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Pathology of Respiratory System

- ◆ Combining forms describing pathology.

Combining Form	Definition	Memory Tool
atel/o	imperfect, _____	A telly.
coni/o	_____	Cone of dust.
anthrac/o	_____	A track.

Combining Form	Definition	Memory Tool
tuss/o	_____	Tossing and turning.
rhonch/o	_____	Rhonk! Rhonk!
sphyx/o Recall: sphygm/o	pulse	Squeeze makes a pulse.

EXAMPLE

Fill in the blanks.

- 1) Medication used to suppress or relief _____: antitussive.
- 2) Known as a collapsed lung, occurs when alveoli cannot dilate properly: _____ ectasis.

PRACTICE

A condition caused by inhaling dust particles which causes lung damage.

- Pneumonia.
- Pneumoconiosis.
- Asphyxia.
- Anthracosis.

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Suffixes and Prefixes

- ◆ Suffixes and prefixes used to build respiratory system terms.

Suffix/Prefix	Definition	Memory Tool
-pnea	_____	sleep a/pnea 
-capnia	carbon dioxide	
-ptysis (TIE-sis)	_____	Not appetizing. 
-osmia	_____	Oh smell! 
syn-	together	syn/chronized 

EXAMPLE

Define the following terms.

1)	Bradypnea:	_____.
2)	Hemoptysis:	_____.

PRACTICE

Breathing too fast (hyperventilation) can decrease levels of CO₂ in the blood. This is known as:

- a) Hypocapnia.
- b) Hypoxemia.
- c) Hyperinhalation.
- d) Hyperpnea.