

医学 预防 检验 影像 护理专业



编医学英语

NEW MEDICAL ENGLISH

张忠芳 罗基花 黄维莉 王克英 主编



中国科学技术出版社

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内 容 简 介

医学专业英语是高等医学院校各专业学生的一门重要必修课。本书在原有《医学英语》基础上,经多年教学实践,结合多种医学统编教材以及外文原版教材中的相关内容编写而成,涉及人体各系统的解剖、生理知识和常见临床疾病,以及介入放射学、核医学、分子生物学等新兴领域,共收集常用医学词汇 6000 余条,涉及医学单词 8000 左右,适用于临床医学、护理学、预防医学、医学检验等各专业医学生,同时适用于医务工作者提高专业外语水平。

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CHAPTER 1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL ENGLISH

Part 1 Basic elements and basic patterns of medical words

Most medical words are made from a combination of the following elements:

- (1) **Base**; The base of a medical word is that word structure that is capable of combining with other elements to form a medical word. The base contains the fundamental meaning of a word.
- (2) **Suffix**; The suffix appears at the end of a word to change the meaning of the word or to make the word a noun, an adjective, etc.
- (3) **Prefix**; The prefix is placed in front of a word base at the beginning of the word to change the meaning of that word.
- (4) **Combining vowel**; Combining vowels are placed between different bases and between a base and a suffix, just to join them together to form a word.

Pattern 1 Base (nothing added)

dermis (true skin)

thorax (chest)

Pattern 2 Base + Combining vowel + Suffix

therm/o/meter (instrument to measure heat)

Base + Suffix

gastr/itis (inflammation of the stomach)

Pattern 3 Base + Combining vowel + Base

leuc/o/cyte (white blood cell)

Base + Base

sial/aden (a salivary gland)

Pattern 4 Base + Base + Suffix

enter/aden/itis (inflammation of intestinal glands)

Base + Combining vowel + Base + Suffix

pharmac/o/log/ist (expert in studying drug actions)

Pattern 5 Prefix + Base + Combining vowel + Suffix

dys/men/o/rrhea (painful menstruation)

Prefix + Base + Suffix

hypo/thyroid/ism (under activity of the thyroid gland)

Pattern 6 Prefix + Base + Combining vowel + Base + Suffix

sub/micr/o/scop/ic (too small to be seen under microscope)

Pattern 7 Prefix + Prefix + Base + Combining vowel + Suffix

contra/in/dic/a/tion (the condition in which some form of treatment is inappropriate)

Prefix + Prefix + Base + Suffix

sub/peri/oste/al (under the tissue that covers the bone)

Pattern 8 Prefix + Suffix

para/centesis (surgical puncture of a cavity in order to drain it)

Part 2 Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ac	pertaining to	cardiac, pertaining to the heart
-al	pertaining to	bronchial, pertaining to the bronchus
-algia	pain	arthralgia, pain in a joint
-ar	pertaining to	tonsillar, pertaining to the tonsils
-ary	pertaining to	ciliary, pertaining to the cilia
-ase	enzyme	protease, enzyme that breaks down protein
-blast	primitive, immature cell	lymphoblast, an immature lymphocyte
-cele	herniation, protrusion	enterocele, herniation of the intestine thyrocele, goiter
-centesis	surgical puncture to drain	amniocentesis, puncture of the amniotic sac to obtain amniotic fluid
-clysis	washing	bronchoclysis, introduction of fluid into the bronchus to irrigate it
-crine	to secrete	endocrine, a gland secreting into blood
-cyte	cell	erythrocyte, red blood cell
-e	an instrument	endoscope, an instrument for examining the interior of an organ
-eal	pertaining to	esophageal, pertaining to the esophagus
-ectasia	stretching; dilatation	nephrectasia, dilatation of the kidney
-ectasis	stretching; dilatation	bronchiectasis, dilatation of the bronchus
-ectomy	excision	appendectomy, excision of the appendix
-emia	blood condition	uremia, excessive amounts of urea and other nitrogenous substances in blood
-emia	blood condition	anemia, reduction of RBC or hemoglobin
-gram	the record itself	cystogram, the record(photogram) of the urinary bladder
-graph	instrument of recording	electroencephalograph, instrument that records the electric activities of brain
-graphy	process of recording	electrocardiography, process of recording the electric activities of the heart
-ia	condition	anemia, a condition of a blood deficiency
-iatrics	a branch of medicine	pediatrics, the study of diseases in children

-iatry	a branch of medicine	psychiatry, the study of mental illness
-ic	pertaining to	hepatic, pertaining to the liver
-in	a chemical substance	heparin, a substance produced in the liver as an anticoagulant
-ism	a condition, usually the result of a prior condition	alcoholism, the condition due to overdrinking of alcoholic beverages
-ist	an expert	dentist, the doctor who treats diseases of the teeth
-itis	inflammation	hepatitis, inflammation of the liver
-(i)um	a part related to a whole	pericardium, the sac that encloses the heart
-logist	one who studies and treats	urologist, one who specializes in the study and treatments of urinary diseases
-logy	process of study	biology, the study of living organisms
-lysis	dissolution; decomposition; destruction	bacteriolysis, dissolution of bacteria lipolysis, breaking down of lipid hemolysis, destruction of RBCs and release of hemoglobin into plasma
-malacia	softening	osteomalacia, softening of the bones
-mania	extreme compulsion	pyromania, a compulsion to set fire
-meter	instrument for measuring	volumeter, instrument for measuring volumes
-meter	a unit of length	kilometer, one thousand meters
-metry	measurement	pelvimetry, measurement of the pelvic structures
-odynia	pain	glossodynia, pain in the tongue
-oid	resembling	rheumatoid, resembling rheumatism
-oma	tumor	osteoma, bone tumor
-oma	swelling	hematoma, swelling due to blood accumulation
-opia	a defect of eye or vision	nyctopia, night blindness
-or(er)	a doer, either a person or thing	incisor, a tooth that cuts into
-osis	an abnormal condition	sclerosis, an abnormal hardening
-ous	pertaining to	mucous, pertaining to also containing mucus
-ous	containing or secreting	sebaceous, containing or secreting sebum
-pathy	disease	nephropathy, disease of the kidney
-penia	deficiency, lack	leucopenia, deficiency of WBCs
-pexy	fixing by suturing	hepatopexy, the attaching of a displaced liver to the abdominal wall
-phil	love, affinity	basophil, a type of WBC, with granules stained with an alkaline dye
-phobia	fear	xenophobia, an abnormal fear of strangers
-plasty	surgical repair and	vaginoplasty, a tissue-grafting operation on

	reshaping	the vagina
-plegia	paralysis	paraplegia, paralysis of lower body part
-plegia	stroke	thermoplegia, heat or sunstroke
-ptosis	a falling or sagging	mastoptosis, sagging of the breasts
-rrhagia	hemorrhage	gastrorrhagia, hemorrhage from the stomach
-rrhagia	excessive flow	menorrhagia, excessive menstrual flow
-rrhaphy	suturing	herniorrhaphy, the surgical repair of a hernia by suturing the abdominal wall
-rrhea	flow, discharge	diarrhea, watery stools produced by the rapid flow of feces via intestine
-rrhexis	rupture	splenorrhexis, rupture of the spleen
-sclerosis	hardening	arteriosclerosis, hardening of the arteries
-scope	instrument for viewing	cystoscope, instrument for viewing the interior of the urinary bladder
-scopy	process of exam with an instrument	bronchoscopy, examining the bronchus with a bronchoscope
-stasis	arresting maintaining a constant level	bacteriostasis, halting the growth of bacteria homeostasis, stability of the internal environment
-stenosis	narrowing	esophagostenosis, narrowing of the esophagus
-stomy	making an opening into or a connection between two organs	gastrostomy, making an opening into stomach gastrojejunostomy, making a connection between the stomach and jejunum
-tome	instrument for cutting	dermatome, instrument for cutting a piece of skin-graft
-tomy	incision	craniotomy, incision of the skull
-uria	urine condition	hematuria, bloody urine
-y	condition	splenomegaly, enlargement of the spleen
-y	process	hepatotomy, cutting into the liver

Part 3 Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
a-	without	asepsis, the complete absence of pathogenic microorganisms
an-	without	anesthesia, without sensation
ab-	away from	abduction, the act of moving a limb away from the median line
ad-	toward	adductors, muscles that bring the limb toward the median line
ana-	back again	anabiosis, life comes back again
ante-	before	antepartum, before delivery

ante-	in front of	antecubital, in front of the elbow
ante-	forward	anteflexion, bending an organ so that its top is brought forward
anti-	against	antibody, substance formed in the body to act against the antigen
auto-	self	autonomic, self governing
bi-	two, double	biceps, a muscle with two heads
circum-	around	circumvascular, around blood vessels
co-	with, together	coenzyme, an organic compound that is essential in the reaction catalyzed by an enzyme
contra-	against	contralateral, on or affecting the opposite side of the body
de-	remove	dehydration, loss of or deficiency in water in the body
di-	two, double	disaccharide, a sugar composed of two monosaccharides
dia-	through	diapedesis, migration of cells through the capillary walls into tissue spaces
dis-	apart or separation	dislocation, separation of a bone from a joint
dys-	painful; difficult	dysmenorrhea, painful menstruation dyspnea, difficult respiration
ecto-	outside, outer	ectoderm, outer layer of cells in an embryo
endo-	inside, inner	endocrine, internal secretion
epi-	over, upon	epigastrium, the upper abdominal region over the stomach
eu-	normal, well	euphoria, sense of well-being
ex-	out of	exogenous, having its origin out of the body
extra-	outside, beyond	extrapyramidal, outside the medullary pyramid
hemi-	half	hemianopsia, loss of vision from one half of the visual field
hyper-	excessive, above	hyperglycemia, high blood sugar
hypo-	less than normal	hypotension, low blood pressure
hypo-	under	hypodermic, under the skin
in-	into	infusion, slow injection of a fluid into a vein or subcutaneous tissue
in-	not	indigestion, the condition in which there is disordered digestion
infra-	below, lower	infraumbilical, below the umbilicus
inter-	between	intercostals, between the ribs
intra-	within	intravenous, within a vein
para-	beside	parathyroids, the glands beside the thyroid
para-	abnormal	paralgesia, abnormal pain sensation
ultra-	beyond	ultraviolet rays, invisible short wave radiation beyond

		the violet end of the visible spectrum
per-	through	peroral, administered through the mouth
peri-	around	perianal, around the anus
post-	behind	postocular, behind the eyeball
post-	after	postmortal, after death
pre-	in front of	premolar, the tooth in front of the molar teeth
pre-	before	premature, the stage before maturation
pro-	before	prothrombin, the precursor of thrombin
proto-	primitive	protozoon, a primitive unicellular organism
pseudo-	false	pseudopodium, a false foot of protozoon
retro-	backward; behind	retrosternal, behind the sternum
semi-	half	semilunar, like the half moon
sub-	under	subarachnoid, under the arachnoid mater
super-	above, over	superhuman, above the ability of human being
supra-	above, over	supranormal, above normal
syn-	with, together	synapse, junction between two neurons
tel- or tele-	far, distant	teletherapy, treatment in which the radioactive substance is kept at a distance from the patient
trans-	across, over, through	transfusion, the transfer of blood from the donor to the recipient
		transabdominal, across the abdomen

Because Greek and Latin prefixes with the same meaning are used to form medical words, it is not uncommon to find two words having the same meaning but different prefixes; for example, hypodermic and subcutaneous, perinephric and circumrenal, etc.

Part 4 Word bases

Word base	Meaning	Example
acou/o	hearing	acoustic, pertaining to hearing
aden/o	gland	adenoid, resembling a gland adenoid, the pharyngeal tonsils
adip/o	fat	adipose, pertaining to fat
agglutin/o	clumping	agglutinin, the antigen in RBC in ABO grouping
alges/i	pain	analgesic, drug that relieves pain
alveol/o	alveolus	alveolitis, inflammation of the alveoli
amni/o	amnion	amniorrhesis, rupture of the amniotic sac
amyl/o	starch	amylase, enzyme which splits starch
an/o	anus	anal, pertaining to the anus
andr/o	male; masculine	androgen, a group of steroid hormones that produce male characteristics
angi/o	vessel	angiogram, X-ray of a blood vessel that is injected with a substance that appears opaque on the X-ray

angin/o	choking	anginal, pertaining to angina or choking
aort/o	aorta	aortic, pertaining to the aorta
append/o	appendix	appendectomy, excision of the appendix
appendic/o	appendix	appendicitis, inflammation of the appendix
aqu/o	water	aqueous, watery
arteri/o	artery	arteriostenosis, narrowing of an artery
arthr/o	joint	arthritis, inflammation of a joint
articul/o	joint	articulation, the junction of two bones to form a joint
astr/o	star-shaped	astrocyte, a type of star-shaped neuroglia
-atel/o	imperfect; defective	atelectasis, collapse of the lungs or a part of a lung
ather/o	gruel	atherosclerosis, hardening of the arteries with fatty plaque buildup inside
atri/o	cavity; atrium	atrioventricular, pertaining to the atrium and ventricle
audi/o	hearing	audiometer, instrument for testing the sensitivity of hearing
aur/o	ear	aural, inflammation of the ear
aut/o	self	autonomic, self-governing
bil/i	bile	bilirubin, a bile pigment
brady/o	slow	bradycardia, slow heart rate
capill/o	capillary	capillary, very small blood vessel
-capnia	carbon dioxide	hypercapnia, a high concentration of CO ₂ in blood
carcin/o	cancer	carcinoma, cancer arising from the epithelial tissues
cardi/o	heart	electrocardiogram, a record of the electrical impulses of the heart
cata-	down	catatonia, a subdivision of schizophrenia characterized by a rigid body position
cervic/o	neck, cervix	cervicectomy, excision of cervix
chem/o	chemical	chemotherapy, the use of chemicals to treat a disease
chlorhydr/o	hydrochloric acid	achlorhydria, absence of hydrochloric acid
chol/e	bile	cholestasis, failure of normal amounts of bile to reach the intestine
cholecyst/o	gallbladder	cholecystotomy, incision of the gallbladder
choledoch/o	common bile duct	choledocholithotomy, removal of a gall-stone from the common bile duct
chondr/o	cartilage	chondral, pertaining to cartilage
chori/o	chorion	choriocarcinoma, malignant tumor arising from the epithelium of the chorion
cine/o	motion	cineradiography, a series of X-ray to show the motion of a structure
cocc/o	spherical bacteria	staphylococcus, spherical bacteria arranged in

		bunches
col/o	colon	colitis, inflammation of the colon
colp/o	vagina	colpocele, prolapse of vagina
conjunctiv/o	conjunctiva	conjunctivitis, inflammation of the conjunctiva
core/o	pupil	corectopia, displacement of the pupil to one side of the iris
corne/o	horny, the cornea	corneal, pertaining to the cornea
coron/o	crown, the heart	coronary, pertaining to the heart
cost/o	rib	intercostal, between the ribs
crani/o	the cranium	craniotome, instrument to cut through the skull
cry/o	cold	cryosurgery, the application of extremely low temperature in surgical procedures
crypt/o	hidden	cryptorchidism, undescended testes
cut/i	skin	subcutaneous, under the skin
cycl/o	ciliary body	cycloplegia, paralysis of the ciliary body
cycl/o	circle	cyclophosphamide, a drug used to treat some cancers
cyes/o	pregnancy	cyesedema, edema in pregnancy
cyst/o	sac, bladder	cystitis, inflammation of the urinary bladder
dent/i	tooth or teeth	dentalgia, toothache
derm/o	skin	epidermis, outlayer of skin
dermat/o	skin	dermatosis, any disease of the skin
diaphor/o	sweat	diaphoresis, profuse sweating
duoden/o	duodenum	duodenostomy, surgical formation of an opening into duodenum via abdomen
embryo/o	embryo	embryonic, pertaining to the embryo
encephal/o	brain	electroencephalogram, a record of the electric activities of the brain
enter/o	small intestine	parenteral, outside of the intestines
episi/o	vulva	episiotomy, incision of the vulva
esophag/o	esophagus	esophagotomy, surgical opening of the esophagus
esthesi/o	perception	anesthesia, a condition of no sensation
eustachi/o	Eustachian tube	eustachitis, inflammation of the Eustachian tube
fec/a	feces, stool	fecalith, small hard mass of feces formed in the appendix
femor/o	the femur	femoral, pertaining to the femur
fibr/o	fiber or fibrous tissue	fibroblast, a cell that develops into fibrous tissue
fibrin/o	fibrin	fibrinogen, the precursor of fibrin
fibul/o	the fibula	fibular, pertaining to the fibula
follicul/o	follicle	folliculitis, inflammation of a follicle
gangli/o	ganglion	preganglionic fiber, the nerve fiber that conducts

		impulses to a ganglion in autonomic nervous system
gastr/o	stomach	gastric, pertaining to the stomach
genit/o	reproductive	genitourinary, pertaining to the urinary organ and reproductive system
gli/o	glue, adhesive	neuroglioma, tumor arising from neuroglia, the supporting nervous tissue
glob/o	globe; ball	globulin, one of the plasma proteins
glomerul/o	glomerulus	glomerulitis, inflammation of the renal glomeruli
gloss/o	tongue	glossitis, inflammation of the tongue
gluc/o	glucose, sugar	gluconeogenesis, the formation of glucose from amino acids and fat
glyc/o	sugar	hyperglycemia, high blood sugar
-gnosis	knowledge	prognosis, the knowledge about the outcome of a disease before hand
gon/o	reproductive	gonocyte, the germ cell
gonad/o	sex gland	gonadotropin, tropic hormones that promote the growth of sex glands
granul/o	granule	agranulocyte, a WBC without granules
gravid/o	pregnant	primigravida, the woman who is pregnant for the first time
gynec/o	woman, female	gynecology, the study of the diseases of female reproductive organs
hal/o	salt	halogen, substance that produces salt
hem/o	blood	hemorrhage, discharge of blood from a blood vessel
hemat/o	blood	hematuria, presence of blood in the urine
hepat/o	liver	hepatitis, inflammation of the liver
hist/o	tissue	histamine, amine released during tissue injury
hol/o	whole, entire	holocrine, pertaining to a gland that consumes its cells in producing a secretion
hydr/o	water; hydrogen	hydronephrosis, accumulation of water in the kidney resulting from an obstruction
hypn/o	sleep	hypnotic, drug that induces sleep
hyster/o	uterus; womb	hysterectomy, excision of uterus
icter/o	jaundice	icterus, a yellowing of the skin and sclera, indicating excess bilirubin in the blood
idi/o	own, individual	idiosyncrasy, individual reaction to a drug
ile/o	ileum	ileal, pertaining to the ileum
ion/o	ion	ionization, the process of producing cations and anions in a solution by electric current or radiation
ir/o	iris	iridemia, bleeding from the iris
irid/o	iris	iridocyclitis, inflammation of the iris and ciliary body