

Medical Terminology for Health Professions

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7th Edition



Introduction to Medical Terminology

Chapter 1

Primary Medical Terms

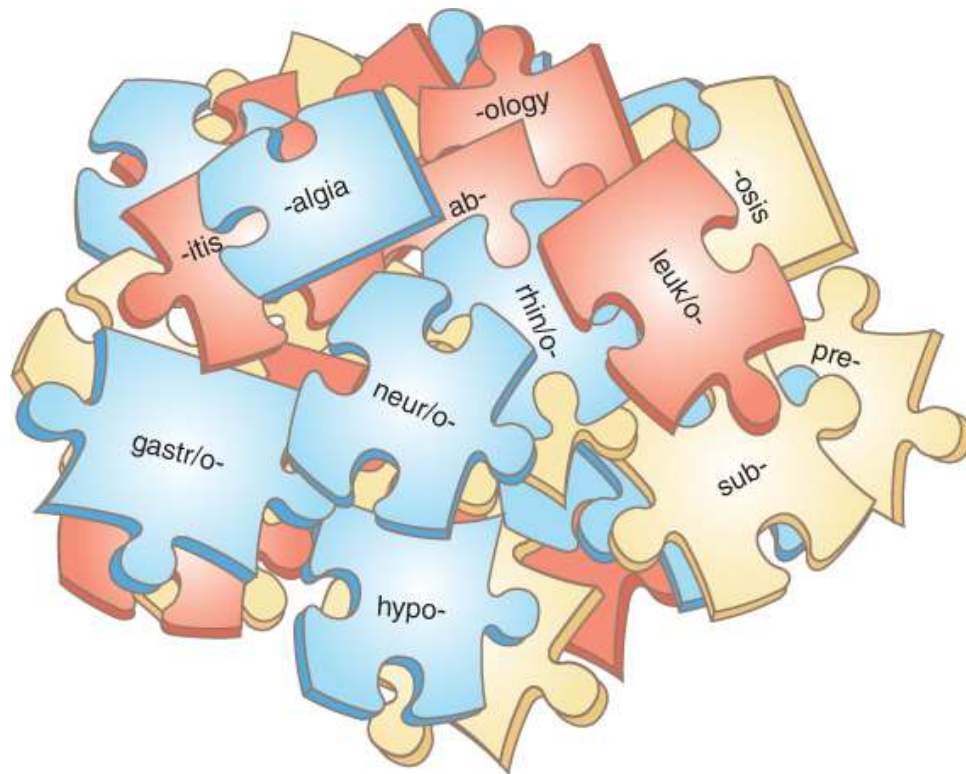
- Primary medical terms enable you to prioritize terms in your study of medical terminology.

What Parts Are the Key!

- Four basic types of word parts are used to create complex medical terms:
 - Word roots
 - Combining forms
 - Suffixes
 - Prefixes

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What Parts Are the Key!



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Word Roots

- Word roots usually, but not always, indicate the part of the body involved.

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Word Roots

- Examples:
 - cardi = heart
 - gastr = stomach
 - neur = nerve

Note: Word roots do not mean pertaining to or relating to; that meaning comes from the suffix.

Combining Forms

- Created by adding a vowel (usually the letter “o”) to the end of a word root.
- Used when connecting word roots or when the word root is joined to a suffix that begins with a consonant.

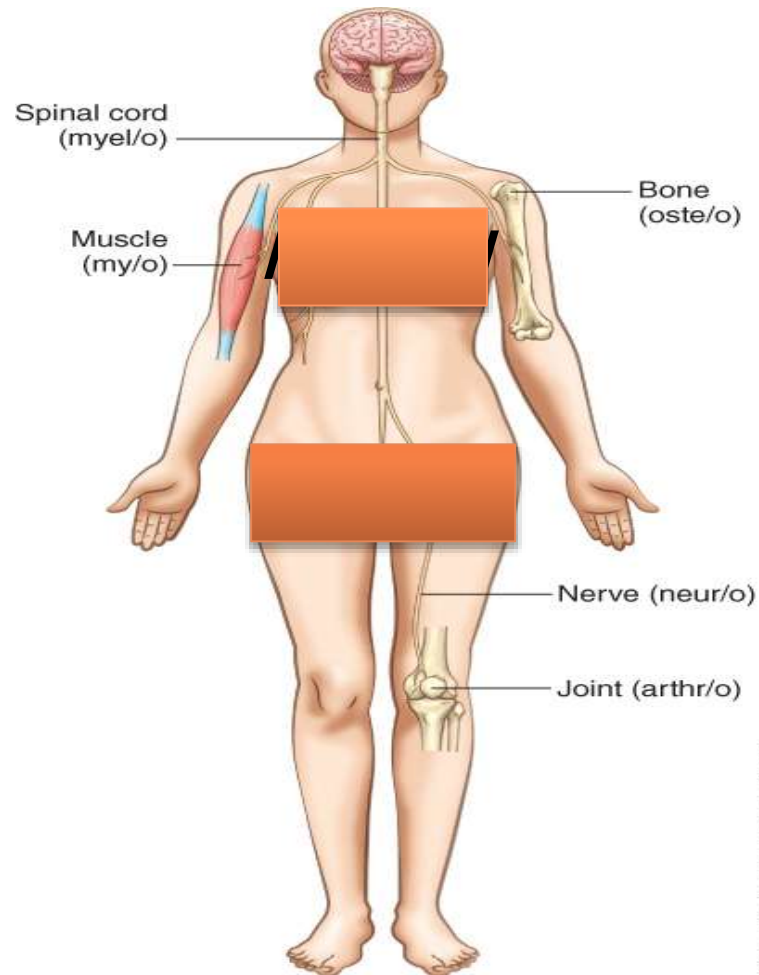
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Combining Forms

- Examples:
 - cardi/o = heart
 - gastr/o = stomach
 - neur/o = nerve
 - Oste/o = bone
 - Myel/o = spinal cord
 - My/o = muscle
 - Arthr/o = joint

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Combining Forms



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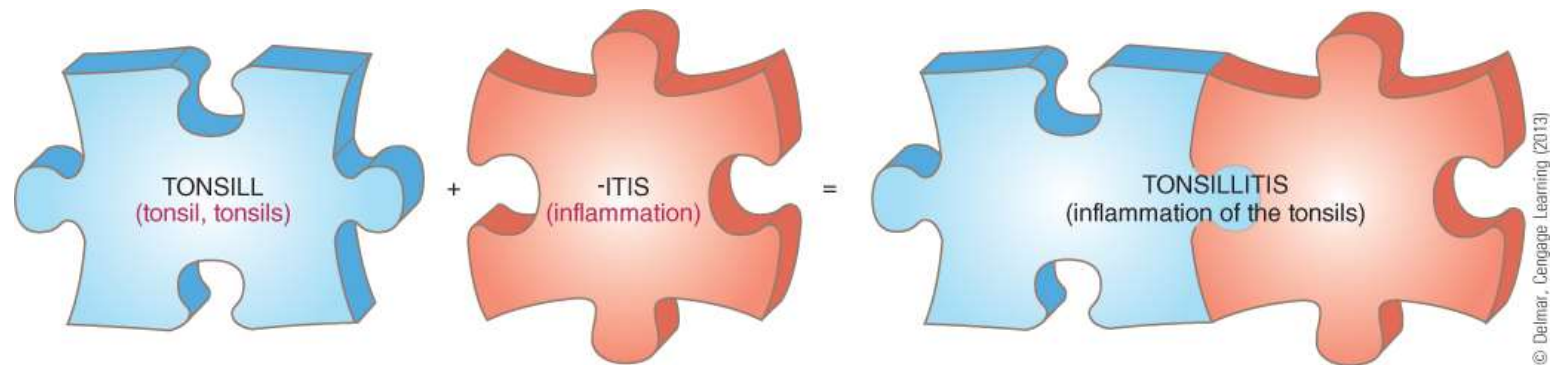
Suffixes

- Suffixes usually, but not always, indicate the procedure, condition, disorder, or disease.
- Examples:
 - cardi*megaly*
 - gastr*algia*
 - neur*itis*

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Suffixes

- Examples:



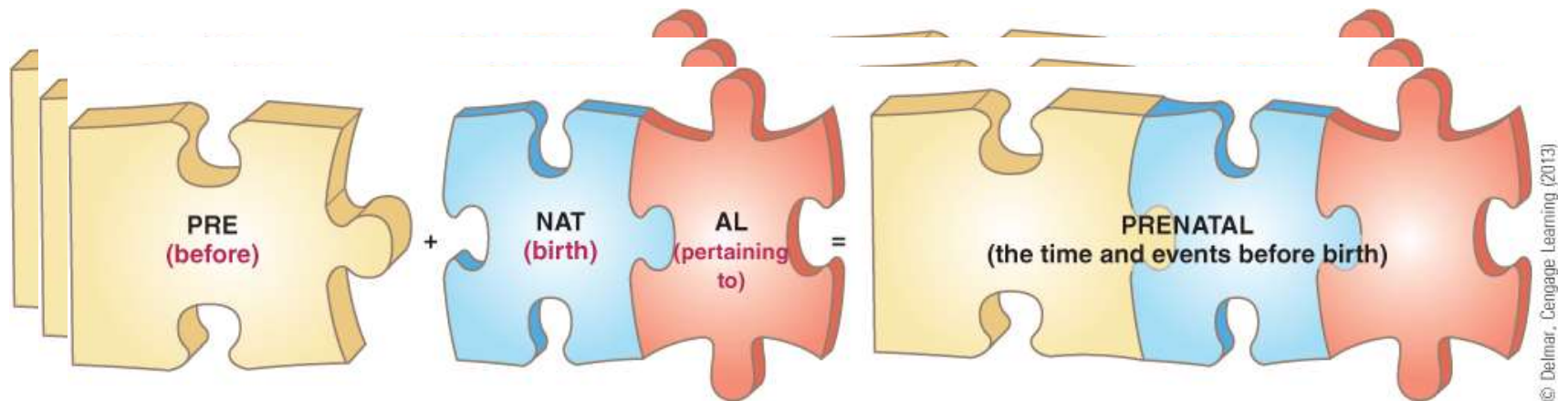
Prefixes

- Prefixes usually, but not always, indicate location, time, number, or status.
- Examples:
 - *pericardium*
 - *epigastric*
 - *polyneuritis*

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Prefixes

- Examples:



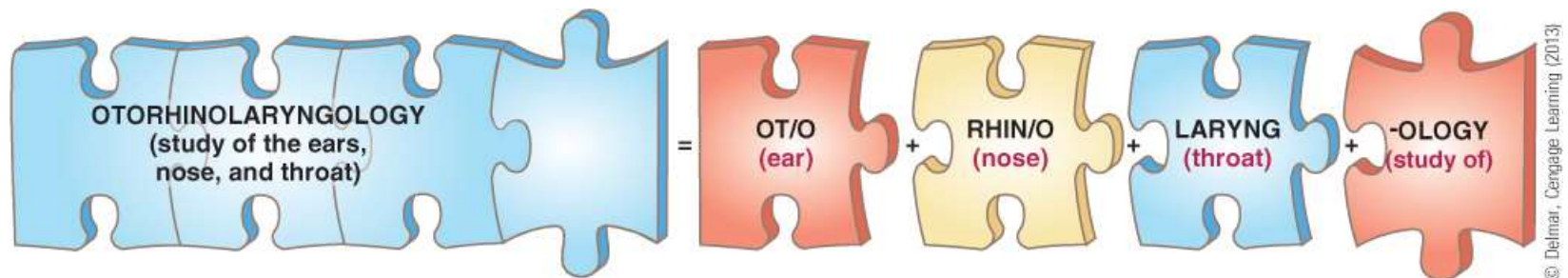
Determining Meanings on the Basis of Word Parts

- Decipher these medical terms based on their word parts:
 - cardiologist
 - gastritis
 - neuralgia

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Determining Meanings on the Basis of Word Parts

- An example to take apart:



Additional Lessons in This Chapter

- Using a medical dictionary
- The “sounds-like” pronunciation system
- Why spelling counts
- Caution when using abbreviations

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Additional Lessons in This Chapter

- Singular and plural endings
- Basic medical terms
- Look-alike, sound-alike terms and word parts

Key Word Parts and Definitions

- **-algia**
 - pain, painful condition, e.g. neurologia
- **dys-**
 - bad, difficult, or painful, e.g. dysentery
- **- ectomy**
 - surgical removal, cutting out, excision e.g. tracheo
- **hyper-**
 - excessive, increased, e.g. Hyperthyroidism

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Key Word Parts and Definitions

- **hypo-**
 - deficient, decreased e.g. Hypothyroidism
- **-itis**
 - Inflammation, e.g. hepatitis
- **-osis**
 - abnormal condition, disease, e.g. tuberculosis

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Key Word Parts and Definitions

- **-ostomy**
 - the surgical creation of an artificial opening to the body surface e.g. colostomy
- **-otomy**
 - cutting, surgical incision e.g. tracheotomy
- **-plasty**
 - surgical repair. e.g. osteoplasty (oste:bone)
- **-rrhage**
 - bleeding, abnormal excessive fluid discharge, e.g. hemorrhage

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Key Word Parts and Definitions

- **-rrhaphy**
 - surgical suturing (stitching) e.g. gastrorrhaphy
- **-rrhea**
 - flow or discharge, e.g. gonorrhea
- **-rrhexis**
 - Rupture, e.g. myorrhexia (muscles rupture)
- **-sclerosis**
 - abnormal hardening, e.g. arteriosclerosis

Questions

Question

A vertebra is a bone in the spine. What is the plural of *vertebra*?

- a. vertebrae
- b. vertebri
- c. vertebrae

Answer

c. vertebrae

Question

Intra- means within or inside.
True or False?

Answer

False. *Inter-* means within or inside.
Intra- means between or among.

Question

Losing a large amount of blood in a short time is a:

- a. hemorage
- b. hemorrhage
- c. hemorhage

Answer

b. hemorrhage

Question

The ilium is part of the hip bone, and the ileum is part of the small intestine.

True or False?

Answer

True