Dictionary of Medical Terms

fourth edition

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Dictionary of
Medical Terms

fourth edition
Preface

This dictionary provides the user with the basic vocabulary currently being used in a wide range of healthcare situations. The areas covered include the technical language used in diagnosis, patient care, surgery, pathology, general practice, pharmacy, dentistry and other specialisations, as well as anatomical and physiological terms. Informal, everyday and sometimes euphemistic terms commonly used by people in discussing their condition with healthcare professionals are also included, as are common words used in reading or writing reports, articles or guidelines.

The dictionary is designed for anyone who needs to check the meaning or pronunciation of medical terms, but especially for those working in health-related areas who may not be healthcare professionals or for whom English is an additional language. Each headword is explained in clear, straightforward English. Pronunciations, uncommon plurals and uncommon verb forms are provided. Illustrations of some basic anatomical terms are also included.

Very many people have helped or advised on the compilation and checking of the dictionary in its various editions. In particular, thanks are due to Dr Judith Harvey for her helpful comments and advice on this fourth edition and to Dr Marie Condon for some revisions and clarification. Also to Lesley Bennun, Lesley Brown and Margaret Baker who copy-edited the text and Dinah Jackson who revised the pronunciations.
Pronunciation Guide

The following symbols have been used to show the pronunciation of the main words in the dictionary.

Stress is indicated by a main stress mark (') and a secondary stress mark (,). Note that these are only guides, as the stress of the word changes according to its position in the sentence.

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A /æ/ noun a human blood type of the ABO system, containing the A antigen (NOTE: Someone with type A can donate to people of the same group or of the AB group, and can receive blood from people with type A or type O.)

AA abbr Alcoholics Anonymous

A & E /æɪ/ and /ɪti/; A & E department /æɪ/ and ’tīt/; part of a human blood type of the ABO system, containing the A and B antigens (NOTE: Someone with type AB can donate to people of the same group and receive blood from people of type O, A, AB or B.)

ab- /æb/ prefix away from

ABC /æb/ biti/ noun the basic initial checks of a casualty’s condition. Full form: airway, breathing and circulation

abdomen /æbdəmən/ noun a space inside the body below the diaphragm, above the pelvis and in front of the spine, containing the stomach, intestines, liver and other vital organs. Pain in the abdomen (NOTE: For other terms referring to the abdomen, see words beginning with coel-, coelio-.)

COMMENT: The abdomen is divided for medical purposes into nine regions: at the top, the right and left hypochondriac regions with the umbilical between them; in the centre, the right and left lumbar regions with the umbilical between them; and at the bottom, the right and left iliac regions with the hypogastrium between them.

abdomin- /æbdəmən/ prefix same as abdomen (used before vowels)

abdominal /æbdəmənl/ adjective located in the abdomen, or relating to the abdomen

abdominal aorta /æbdəmənlətər/ noun the part of the aorta which lies between the diaphragm and the point where the aorta divides into the iliac arteries. See illustration at kidney in Supplement

abdominal cavity /æbdəmənlævi/ noun the space in the body below the chest.

abdominal distension /æbdəməndɪstenʃən/ noun a condition in which the abdomen is stretched because of gas or fluid

abdominal pain /æbdəmənlpein/ noun pain in the abdomen caused by indigestion or more serious disorders.

abdominal viscera /æbdəmənlvɪksərə/ plural noun the organs which are contained in the abdomen, e.g. the stomach, liver and intestines.

abdominal wall /æbdəmənlwɔl/ noun muscular tissue which surrounds the abdomen

abdomino- /æbdəmənə/ prefix referring to the abdomen

abdominopelvic /æbdəmənəpelvɪk/ adjective referring to the abdomen and pelvis

abdominoperineal /æbdəmənəpɜrɪnɪəl/ adjective referring to the abdomen and perineum

abdominoperineal excision /æbdəmənəpɜrɪnɪəlɪksɪʃn/noun a surgical operation that involves cutting out tissue in both the abdomen and the perineum.

abdominoposterior /æbdəmənəpɔstərɪər/ adjective referring to a position of a fetus in the uterus, where the fetus’s abdomen is facing the mother’s back

abdominoscopy /æbdəmənəskəpi/ noun an internal examination of the abdomen, usually with an endoscope

abdominothoracic /æbdəmənthɔːrəs/ adjective referring to the abdomen and thorax

abduce /æbdjuːs/ verb same as adduct

abducens nerve /æbdjuːsəns/ noun the sixth cranial nerve, which controls the muscle which makes the eyeball turn outwards

abducent /æbdjuːsənt/ adjective referring to a muscle which brings parts of the body away from each other or moves them away from the central line of the body or a limb. Compare adduc tent

abducent nerve /æbdjuːsənt/ noun same as abducens nerve

abduct /æbdəkt/ verb (of a muscle) to pull a leg or arm in a direction which is away from
abortion /əˈbɔːrtʃən/ noun a person who helps a woman abort, usually a person who performs an illegal abortion
abortion pill /əˈbɔːrtʃən pil/ noun a drug that causes an abortion to occur very early in pregnancy
abortion trauma syndrome /əˌbɔːrtʃən trəˈsɪndrəm/ noun a set of symptoms sometimes experienced in the period after an abortion including guilt, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, eating and sleeping disorders and suicidal thoughts.
abortive /əˈbɔːrtɪv/ adjective not successful ○ an abortive attempt
abortive poliomyelitis /əˈbɔːrtɪv pəˈləʊmiːlɪtɪs/ noun an mild form of polio which only affects the throat and intestines
abortus /əˈbɔːrtəs/ noun a fetus which is expelled during an abortion or miscarriage
abortus fever /əˈbɔːrtəs, əˈbɔːrtəs fəˈvɜːr/ noun same as brucellosis
ABO system /ˌɛbiːoʊ ˈsɪstəm/ noun a system of classifying blood groups.
absolute alcohol /əˈbɑːlətʃəl əˈlkəˌhəl/ noun alcohol which contains no water
absorb /əbˈsɔːrb/ verb to take up or soak up something, especially a liquid, into a solid ○ Cotton wads are used to absorb the discharge from the wound.
absorbable suture /əbˈsɔːrəbəl əˈsətʃʊər/ noun a suture which will eventually be ab-

TOMICAL TERMS

abnormality /əˈbɒrnəlɪti/ noun a form or condition which is not usual ○ abnormal behaviour ○ an abnormal movement
... the synovium produces an excess of synovial fluid, which is abnormal and becomes thickened. This causes pain, swelling and immobility of the affected joint. [Nursing Times]
abnormal /əˈbɒrnəl/ adjective not usual or expected ○ abnormality ○ abnormal behaviour ○ an abnormal movement
abnormality /əˈbɒrnəlɪti/ noun a form or condition which is not usual [Note: For other terms referring to abnormality, see words beginning with teral-, terato-]

Even children with the milder forms of sickle-cell disease have an increased frequency of pneumococcal infection. The reason for this susceptibility is a profound abnormality of the immune system in children with SCD. [Lancet]
abocclusion /əˈbɒkləˈkjʊziʃən/ noun a condition in which the teeth in the top and bottom jaws do not touch
aboral /əˈbɒrəl/ adjective situated away from or opposite the mouth
abort /əˈbɔːrt/ verb to eject an embryo or fetus, or to cause an embryo or fetus to be ejected, and so end a pregnancy before the fetus is fully developed
abortifacient /əˈbɔːrtɪfəˈʃənt/ noun a drug or instrument which provokes an abortion
abortion /əˈbɔːrtʃən/ noun a situation where a fetus leaves the uterus before it is fully developed, especially during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy, or a procedure which causes this to happen ○ to have an abortion to have an operation to make a fetus leave the uterus during the first period of pregnancy
... the centre line of the body, or to pull a toe or finger past the central line of a leg or arm. Compare adduct
abduction /æbˈdʌkʃən/ noun the movement of a part of the body away from the centre line of the body or away from a neighbouring part. Opposite adduction. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement 'Mary was nursed in a position of not more than 90° with her legs in abduction.' [British Journal of Nursing]
abductor /æbˈdʌktər/ noun a muscle which pulls a part of the body away from the centre line of the body or away from a neighbouring part. Opposite adductor
aberrant /əˈbɛrnt/ adjective not usual or expected ○ aberration ○ aberration
aberration /əˈbɛrəʃən/ noun an action or growth which is not usual or expected ○ abnormal organisation ○ an abnormal movement
... the synovium produces an excess of synovial fluid, which is abnormal and becomes thickened. This causes pain, swelling and immobility of the affected joint. [Nursing Times]
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sorbed into the body, and does not need to be removed.

**absorbent cotton** /əbˈzɔːrbɛnt/  *noun* a soft white material used as a dressing to prevent wound infection.

**absorption** /əbˈzɔːrpʃən/  *noun* 1. the process by which a liquid is taken into a solid. 2. the process of taking into the body substances such as proteins or fats which have been digested from food and enter the bloodstream from the stomach and intestines. 3. absorption rate the rate at which a liquid is absorbed by a solid.

**abstainer** /əbˈstɛrnər/  *noun* a person who does not drink alcohol.

**abstinence** /əbˈstinəns/  *noun* a deliberate act of not doing something over a period of time, especially not eating or drinking. 2. abstinence from alcohol.

**abulia** /əˈbljuə/  *noun* a lack of willpower.

**abuse** /əˈbeɪs/  *noun* 1. the act of using something wrongly. 2. the abuse of a privilege. 3. same as child abuse. 4. had treatment of a person. 5. physical abuse. 6. sexual abuse. 7. to use something wrongly. 8. Heroin and cocaine are drugs which are commonly abused. 9. to abuse one’s authority to use one’s powers in an illegal or harmful way. 10. to treat someone badly. 11. sexually abused children. 12. He had physically abused his wife and child.

**a.c.**  *adverb* (used on prescriptions) before food. Full form *ante cibum*.

**acanthosis** /əˈkanθəsɪs/  *noun* a disease of the prickle cell layer of the skin, where warts appear on the skin or inside the mouth.

**acapnia** /əˈkeɪpniə/  *noun* the condition of not having enough carbon dioxide in the blood and tissues.

**acarasis** /əˈkærəsɪs/  *noun* the presence of mites or ticks on the skin.

**acaricide** /əˈkærəsɪd/  *noun* a substance which kills mites or ticks.

**acarophobia** /əˈkærəfəˈbɪəs/  *noun* an unusual fear of mites or ticks.

**acatalasia** /əˈkætələsɪəs/  *noun* an inherited condition which results in a lack of catalase in all tissue.

**accessory** /əˈkɛsərɪ/  *noun* something which helps something else to happen or operate, but may not be very important in itself. 2. adjective helping something else to happen or operate.

**accessory nerve** /əˈkɛsərɪ ˈnɜːrv/  *noun* the eleventh cranial nerve which supplies the muscles in the neck and shoulders.

**accessory organ** /əˈkɛsərɪ ˈɔrɡən/  *noun* an organ which has a function which is controlled by another organ.

**acacetabulum**
acetaminophen /əˌsiːtməˈnəfən/ noun US same as paracetamol
acetazolamide /əˌsiːtəˈzoʊləmɪd/ noun a drug which helps a person to produce more urine, used in the treatment of oedema, glaucoma and epilepsy
acetonemia /əˌsiːtəˈnɛmɪə/ same as ketonaemia
acetone /əˌsiːtəʊn/ noun a colourless volatile substance formed in the body after vomiting or during diabetes. ✦ ketone
acetonuria /əˌsiːtəˈnjuəriə/ noun the presence of acetone in the urine, shown by the fact that the urine gives off a sweet smell
achalasia /əˌsiːtəˈleɪziə/ noun the condition of being unable to relax the muscles
ache /ək/ noun a pain which goes on for a time, but is not very severe. ✦ He complained of various aches and pains.
achiclorhydria /əˌsiːkloʊrˈhaɪdrə/ noun a condition in which the gastric juices do not contain hydrochloric acid, a symptom of stomach cancer or pernicious anaemia
achiclinia /əˌsiːkˈklinə/ noun the absence or failure of the secretion of bile
acholuria /əˌsiːkˈlʊriə/ noun the absence of bile colouring in the urine
acholuric jaundice /əˌsiːkloʊrɪk dʒəˈnɔdɪs/ noun a disease where unusually round red blood cells form, leading to anaemia, an enlarged spleen and the formation of gallstones. Also called hereditary spherocytosis
achondroplasia /ˌɛkənˈdrəʊpleɪzɪə/ noun an inherited condition in which the long bones in the arms and legs do not grow fully while the rest of the bones in the body grow as usual, resulting in dwarfism
achromatopsia /ˌɛkəkroʊˈmætəˌpsoʊziə/ noun a rare condition in which a person cannot see any colours, but only black, white and shades of grey
achy /əˈkiː/ adjective feeling aches all over the body (informal)
aciclovir /ˌɛkəˈsəkləvɜə/ noun a drug that is effective against herpesviruses. Also called acyclovir
acid /əˈsɪd/ noun a chemical compound containing hydrogen, which reacts with an alkali to form a salt and water
acidemia /ˌɛksəˈdiəmiə/ noun a state in which the blood has too much acid in it. It is a feature of untreated severe diabetes.
acid–base balance /əˈsɪd ˈbeɪs, ˈbæləns/ noun the balance between acid and base, i.e. the pH level, in plasma
acidic /əˈsɪdɪk/ adjective relating to acid, same as hyperacidity
acidosis /əˈsɪdəʊsɪs/ noun 1. a condition when there are more acid waste products such as urea than usual in the blood because of a lack of alkali. 2. same as acidity
acidotic /əˈsɪdətɪk/ adjective relating to acidosis
acid reflux /əˈsɪd riflɛks/ noun a condition caused by a faulty muscle in the oesophagus allowing the acid in the stomach to pass into the oesophagus
acid stomach /əˈsɪd ˈstʌmək/ noun same as hyperacidity
aciduria /əˈsɪdəˈjʊriə/ noun a condition in which there is a higher level of acidity of the urine than is desirable
acinous /əˌsɪniəs/ noun 1. a tiny sac which forms part of a gland 2. part of a lobule in the lung (note: the plural is acini)
acne /əˈkni/ noun an inflammation of the sebaceous glands during puberty which makes blackheads appear on the skin, usually on the face, neck and shoulders. These blackheads often then become infected. ✦ She is using a cream to clear up her acne.
acne rosacea /əˌkni ˈrəʊsəˈsɛə/ noun same as rosacea
acne vulgaris /əˈkni vulˈɡaːris/ noun same as acne
acoustic /ˈækəstɪk/ adjective relating to sound or hearing
acoustic nerve /ˈækəstɪk nɜːv/ noun the eighth cranial nerve which governs hearing and balance
condition which is neither congenital nor hereditary and become pink, and the child is also affected where the child’s hands, feet and face swell in adults after sleep and the clavicle of the scapula, which forms the tip of the shoulder.

disease caused by sound waves, e.g. hearing loss, disorientation, motion sickness or dizziness.

acquired /əˈkwɔːrd/ adjective referring to a condition which is neither congenital nor hereditary and which a person develops after birth in reaction to his or her environment.

acquired immunity /əˈkwɔːrd ɪˈmjuːnəti/ noun an immunity which the body acquires from having caught a disease or from immunisation, not one which is congenital.

acquired immunodeficiency syndrome /əˈkwɔːrd ɪˈmjuːnoʊdɪˈfɪʃiən ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a viral infection which breaks down the body’s immune system. Abbr AIDS.

acrvastine /əˈkriːvə stɪn/ noun a drug which reduces the amount of histamine produced by the body. It is used in the treatment of rhinitis, urticaria and eczema.

acro-/əˈkruː/ prefix referring to a point or tip.

acrocephalia /əˈkruːsɛfəliə/ noun same as oxycephaly.

acrocephaly /əˈkruːsɛfəli/ noun same as oxycephaly.

acrocyanoasia /əˈkruːsəsəˈkænəsɪs/ noun a blue coloration of the extremities, i.e. the fingers, toes, ears and nose, which is due to poor circulation.

acrodynia /əˈkruːdɪnіə/ noun a children’s disease, caused by an allergy to mercury, where the child’s hands, feet and face swell and become pink, and the child is also affected with fever and loss of appetite. Also called erythroderma, pink disease.

acromegaly /əˈkruːˌmɛɡəlі/ noun a disease caused by excessive quantities of growth hormone produced by the pituitary gland, causing a slow enlargement of the hands, feet and jaws in adults.

acromial /əˈkruːmɪəl/ adjective relating to the acromion.

acromioclavicular /ˌəkrʊmɪəˌklævɪˈkjʊələr/ adjective relating to the acromion and the clavicle.

acromion /əˈkruːmɪən/ noun the pointed top of the scapula, which forms the tip of the shoulder.

acronyx /əˈkruːnɪks, əˈkruːnɪks/ noun a condition in which a nail grows into the flesh.

acroparasthesia /ˌəkrʊˌpærəˈθiəzɪə/ noun a condition in which the patient experiences sharp pains in the arms and numbness in the fingers after sleep.

acrophobia /ˌəkɪˈroʊfəbiə/ noun a fear of heights.

acrosclerosis /ˌəkrʊˌskleɪˈrɒsɪs/ noun sclerosis which affects the extremities.

ACTH abbr adrenocorticotropic hormone.

actinomycin /ˌəkɪˈtɒmایn/ noun an antibiotic used in the treatment of children with cancer.

actinomyocytis /ˌəkɪˈtɒməˌkjʊtəsɪs/ noun an infectious disease transmitted to humans from cattle, causing abscesses in the mouth and lungs (pulmonary actinomycosis) or in the ileum (intestinal actinomycosis).

action potential /ˌækˈʃɔn pəˈtenʃəl/ noun a temporary change in electrical potential which occurs between the inside and the outside of a nerve or muscle fibre when a nerve impulse is sent. Abbr AP.

active /ˈæktɪv/ adjective 

active immunity /ˈæktɪv ɪˈmjuːnəti/ noun immunity which is acquired by catching and surviving an infectious disease or by vaccination with a weakened form of the disease, which makes the body form antibodies.

active ingredient /ˈæktɪv ɪˈmɪndʒɪdənt/ noun the main medicinal ingredient of a drug or ointment or lotion, as opposed to the base.

active movement /ˈæktɪv ˈmɜːrvənt/ noun movement made by a person using his or her own willpower and muscles.

active principle /ˈæktɪv ˈprɪnsɪp(ə)l/ noun the main medicinal ingredient of a drug which makes it have the required effect on a person.

activities of daily living /ˈæktɪvɪtiz əv ˈdɛlɪ ˈlɪvɪŋ/ noun a scale used by geriatricians and occupational therapists to assess the capacity of elderly or disabled people to live independently. Abbr ADLs.

activity /ˈæktɪvɪti/ noun

act on /ˈækt ɒn, ˈækt ə,pn/ verb 1. to do something as the result of something which has been said. He acted on his doctor’s advice and gave up smoking. 2. to have an effect on someone or something. The antibiotic acted quickly on the infection.

act out /ˈækt ˈəʊt/ verb to express negative feelings by behaving in a socially unacceptable way.

acuity /əˈkjuːtɪ/ noun keenness of sight, hearing or intellect.
acute rhinitis /ə'kju:ri'nətɪs/ noun a virus infection which causes inflammation of the mucous membrane in the nose and throat.

acute suppurative arthritis /ə'kju:t sə'pjʊərətɪv ə'rɪtərɪs/ noun same as pyarthrosis.

acute toxicity /ə'kju:t tə'kstɪsɪtɪ/ noun a level of concentration of a toxic substance which makes people seriously ill or can cause death.

acute yellow atrophy /ə'kju:t 'jeləʊ 'ætɒroʊ/ nounSame as acyclovir.

acyclovir /eɪ'sɪkloʊvər/ noun a part of the thyroid cartilage which projects from the neck below the chin in a man. Also called laryngeal prominence.

acute pancreatitis /ə'kju:t ˈpænəkraɪtɪs/ noun an inflammation after pancreatic enzymes have escaped into the pancreas, causing symptoms of acute abdominal pain.

acute respiratory distress syndrome /ə'kju:t rɪ'spərə'tɔrɪ dɪ'strɛst sɪndrəm/ noun an infection of the lungs, often following injury, which prevents them functioning properly. Abbreviated ARDS.

acute rheumatism /ə'kju:t ˈrɪhmətɪzəm/ noun same as rheumatic fever.
body | can restrict breathing if enlarged. Also called tissue at the back of the nose and throat that

adenoid | vegetation | /ədəˈnɔɪd ˈvɛdʒətʃən/ | noun a benign tumour of the salivary glands

adenoma | /ədəˈnəʊmə/ | noun a benign tumour of the salivary glands

adenoma sebaceum | /ədəˈnɔmə səbəˈseɪəm/ | noun a skin condition of the face shown by raised red vascular bumps appearing in late childhood and adolescence

adenomyoma | /ədəˈnɔməˈmoʊmə/ | noun a benign tumour made up of glands and muscle

adenopathy | /ədəˈnɔpəθi/ | noun the hardening of a gland

adenosclerosis | /ədəˈnɔskrəʊləsɪs/ | noun a disease of a gland

adenosine | /ədəˈnɔsɪn/ | noun a drug used to treat an irregular heartbeat

adenosine diphosphate | /ədəˈnɔsɪn dəˈfətəpəsɪt/ | noun a chemical compound which provides energy for processes to take place within living cells, formed when adenine triphosphate reacts with water. Abbreviation: ADP

adenosine triphosphate | /ədəˈnɔsɪn trəˈfɔrstəpəsɪt/ | noun a chemical which occurs in all cells, but mainly in muscle, where it forms the energy reserve. Abbreviation: ATP

adenovirus | /ədəˈnəʊvəs/ | noun any disease or disorder of the glands

adenovirus | /ədəˈnəʊvəs/ | noun a virus which produces upper respiratory infections and sore throats and can cause fatal pneumonia in infants

ADH | /ədəˈhɪsɪv/ | noun, adj. anti-diuretic hormone

ADHD | /ədəˈhedə/ | noun full form attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or hyperactivity

adhesion | /ədəˈhiʃən/ | noun a stable connection between two parts in the body, either in a healing process or between parts which are not usually connected

adhesive dressing | /ədəˈhɪsɪv ˈdrɛsɪŋ/ | noun a dressing with a sticky substance on the back so that it can stick to the skin

adhesive strapping | /ədəˈhɪsɪv ˈstræpɪŋ/ | noun overlapping strips of adhesive plaster used to protect a lesion

adipose | /ədəˈpɔs/ | prefix referring to fat

adipose degeneration | /ədəˈpɔs dɪˈdʒərənəs/ | noun an accumulation of fat in the cells of an organ such as the heart or liver, which makes the organ less able to perform its proper function. Also called fatty degeneration

adipose tissue | /ədəˈpɔs tʃuːs/ | noun a type of tissue where the cells contain fat

adiposis | /ədəˈpɔsɪs/ | noun a state where too much fat is accumulated in the body

adiposis dolorosa | /ədəˈpɔsɪs ˈdɔlərəsə/ | noun a disease of middle-aged women in which painful lumps of fatty substance form in the body. Also called Dercum’s disease

adiposogenitalis | /ədəˈpɔsə ˌdʒenəˈtɪkləs/ | noun same as Fröhlich’s syndrome

adiposuria | /ədəˈpɔsəˈjʊərɪə/ | noun the presence of fat in the urine
adiposus /ədɪˈpɒsəs/ adj panniculus adiposus
aditus /əˈdɪtəs/ noun an opening or entrance to a passage
adjustment /əˈdʒʌstmənt/ noun a specific directional high-speed movement of a joint performed by a chiropractor
adjuvant /əˈdʒuvənt/ adjective referring to treatment by drugs or radiation therapy after surgery for cancer. A substance added to a drug to enhance the effect of the main ingredient
adjuvant therapy /əˈdʒuvənt -ˌθeərəpi/ noun therapy using drugs or radiation after cancer surgery
ADLs abbrev activities of daily living
administer /ədˈmɪnɪstər/ verb to give someone medicine or a treatment to □ to administer orally to give a medicine by mouth
admission /əˈdɪmɪʃn/ noun the act of being registered as a hospital patient
admit /ədˈmɪt/ verb to register a patient in a hospital ○ He was admitted to hospital this morning.
‘80% of elderly patients admitted to geriatric units are on medication’ [Nursing Times]
adolescence /ˌædəˈlesəns/ noun the period of life when a child is developing into an adult
adolescent /ˌædəˈlesənt/ adj a person who is at the stage of life when he or she is developing into an adult, or occurring at that stage of life ○ adolescent boys and girls ○ adolescent fantasies
adopt /ədˈɒpt/ verb 1. to decide to use a particular plan or idea or way of doing something ○ The hospital has adopted a new policy on visiting. 2. to become the legal parent of a child who was born to other parents
adoptive /ədˈɒptɪv/ adjective 1. taking over the role of something else 2. referring to people who have adopted a child or a child that has been adopted ○ adoptive parents
adoptive immunotherapy /ədˈɒptɪv ɪˌmʊnəˈθeərəpi/ noun a treatment for cancer in which the patient’s own white blood cells are used to attack cancer cells
adrenal cortex /əˈdɹɪnəlˈkɔrtɪks/ noun the firm outside layer of an adrenal gland, which secretes a series of hormones affecting the metabolism of carbohydrates and water
adrenectomy /əˈdɹɪnəˌlektəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of one of the adrenal glands
adrenal gland /əˈdɹɪnəl ˈɡlænd/ noun one of two endocrine glands at the top of the kidneys which secrete cortisone, adrenaline and other hormones. Also called adrenals, body, adrenals, gland. See illustration at KIDNEY in Supplement
adrenaline /əˈdɹɪnəlɪn/ noun a hormone secreted by the medulla of the adrenal glands which has an effect similar to stimulation of the sympathetic nervous system (NOTE: The US term is epinephrine.)
COMMENT: Adrenaline is produced when a person experiences surprise, shock, fear or excitement and it speeds up the heartbeat and raises blood pressure. It is administered as an emergency treatment of acute anaphylaxis and in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
adrenal medulla /əˈdɹɪnəl ˈme dlə/ noun the inner part of the adrenal gland which secretes adrenaline and noradrenaline. Also called suprarenal medulla
adrenergic /ˌædəˈnɜrɡɪk/ adjective referring to a neurone or receptor which is stimulated by adrenaline ○ beta blocker
adrenergic receptor /ˌædəˈnɜrɡɪk rɪˈseptər/ noun same as adrenoceptor
COMMENT: Three types of adrenergic receptor act in different ways when stimulated by adrenaline. Alpha receptors constrict the bronchi, beta 1 receptors speed up the heartbeat and beta 2 receptors dilate the bronchi.
adrenoceptor /ˌædəˈrenəʊˈsɛptər/ noun a cell or neurone which is stimulated by adrenaline. Also called adrenoreceptor, adrenergic receptor
adrenocortical /ˌædəˈrɪnəˌkɔrtlɪk/ adj relating to the cortex of the adrenal glands
adrenocorticotropic hormone /ˌædəˈrɪnəˌkɔtrɪˈtɒptrɪk/ həˈmɔn/ noun a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland, which makes the cortex of the adrenal glands produce corticosteroids. Abbrev ACTH. Also called corticotrophin
adrenogenital syndrome /ˌædəˈrɪnəˌdʒenəˈtɪsl/ noun a condition caused by overproduction of male sex hormones, where boys show rapid sexual development and females develop male characteristics
adrenoleukodystrophy /ˌædəˈrɪnəˌlʊkəˈdɔsəfɪ/ noun an inherited disorder of the adrenal glands in boys
adrenolytic /ˌædəˈrɪnəˌlɪtɪk/ adjective acting against the secretion of adrenaline
adrenoreceptor /ˌædərəˈnɔrɪˌsɛptər/ noun same as adrenoceptor
adsorbent (ad's̄ərbənt) adjective being capable of adsorption

adsorption (ad's̄ər's̄ɔp's̄hən) noun the attachment of one substance to another, often the bonding of a liquid with a gas or vapour which touches its surface.

adult (ad'əlt, əd'əlt) adjective grown-up □ Adolescents reach the adult stage about the age of eighteen or twenty. ■ noun someone who is no longer a child

adult coeliac disease (ad'əlt ˈsɪliək dɪˈzɪs) noun a condition in adults where the villi in the intestine become smaller and so reduce the surface which can absorb nutrients

adult dentition (ad'əlt ˈdentɪʃən) noun the 32 teeth which an adult has

adultonset diabetes (ad'əlt ənˈsɛt dɪˈzɪbətəs) noun the act of making something less pure by adding another substance

adult respiratory distress syndrome (a'dəlt ˈrɪspirətəri ˈdɛstres ˈstrɛnzəm) noun a description of various lung infections which reduce the lungs’ efficiency. Abbr ATLS

advanced trauma life support (ədəvənsd ˈtræmə ˈlaɪf ˈspɔrt) noun the management of a trauma patient during the critical first hour after injury. Abbr ATLS

adventitia (ədˈventɪʃə) noun same as tunic adventitia

adventitious (ədˈventɪʃəs) adjective on the outside or in an unusual place

adventitious bursa (ədˈventɪʃəs ˈbaʊsə) noun a bursa which develops as a result of continued pressure or rubbing

adverse (ədˈvɜrs) adjective harmful or unfavorable □ the treatment had an adverse effect on his dermatitis the treatment made the dermatitis worse

adverse occurrence (ədˈvɜrs əˈkərəns) noun a harmful event which occurs during treatment

adverse reaction (ədˈvɜrs ˈrɛkˈtʃən) noun a situation where someone experiences harmful effects from the application of a drug

advocacy (ədˈvərkəs) noun active support for something, especially in order to help people who would have difficulty in gaining attention without your help

adymic ileus (ədəˈdynamik ˈiəlas) noun same as paralytic ileus

aegophony (əˈiɡəfənə) noun a high sound of the voice heard through a stethoscope, where there is fluid in the pleural cavity

aer· (ə) prefix same as aero- (used before vowels)

aeration (əˈɛrəˈʃən) noun the adding of air or oxygen to a liquid

aerob· (ə) prefix referring to air

aerob·a (əˈrəʊbə) noun a tiny organism which needs oxygen to survive

aerobic (əˈrəʊbɪk) adjective needing oxygen to live, or taking place in the presence of oxygen

aerobic respiration (əˈrəʊbɪk ˌrɪspirətəri) noun the process where the oxygen which is breathed in is used to conserve energy as ATP

aeroembolism (əˈɛrəˌemˈbɔlɪzəm) noun same as air embolism

aerogen·s (əˈrəʊdʒənəs) adjective referring to a bacterium which produces gas

aerophagy (əˈɛrəˌfeɪdʒi) noun the habit of swallowing air when suffering from indigestion, so making the stomach pains worse

aerosol (əˈɛrəsəl) noun tiny particles of a liquid such as a drug or disinfectant suspended in a gas under pressure in a container and used as a spray

aetiological agent (əˈɛtələˈdʒɪklədʒi) noun an agent which causes a disease

aetiology (əˈɛtəliədʒi) noun 1. the cause or origin of a disease 2. the study of the causes and origins of diseases [note: [all senses] The US spelling is etiology] ‘…a wide variety of organs or tissues may be infected by the Salmonella group of organisms, presenting symptoms which are not immediately recognised as being of Salmonella aetiology’ [Indian Journal of Medical Sciences]

afebrile (əˈfɪbrəl) adjective with no fever

aff· (əf) verb to make something or someone change, especially to have a bad effect on something or someone □ Some organs are rapidly affected if the patient lacks oxygen for even a short time. ■ noun same as affection

affection (əˈfɛktʃən) noun the general state of a person’s emotions

affectionate (əˈfɛktɪv) adjective relating to a person’s moods or feelings

affection disorder (əˈfɛktɪv ˈdɪzərdər) noun a condition which changes someone’s mood, making him or her depressed or excited

afferent (əˈfɛrənt) adjective conducting liquid or electrical impulses towards the inside. Opposite efferent

afferent nerve (əˈfɛrənt nɜrv) noun same as sensory nerve

afferent vessel (əˈfɛrənt vesəl) noun a tube which brings lymph to a gland

affinity (əˈfɪnətɪ) noun an attraction between two substances

 aflatoxin (əˈflətəksən) noun a poison produced by some moulds in some crops such as peanuts
African trypanosomiasis /əfriˈkən troʊpənəʊˈsəʊməsiəs/ noun same as sleeping sickness

afterbirth /ˈɑːftərˌbɑːθ/ noun the tissues, including the placenta and umbilical cord, which are present in the uterus during pregnancy and are expelled after the birth of a baby

during sickness

aftercare /ˈɑːftərˈkeə/ noun 1. the care of a person who has had an operation. Aftercare treatment involves changing dressings and helping people to look after themselves again. 2. the care of a mother who has just given birth

after-effect /ˈɑːftər ɪˈfɛkt/ noun a change which appears only some time after the cause

agglutinate /ˈɑːgljuˈtɪnət/ verb to form into groups or clusters, or to cause things to form into groups or clusters

agglutination /ˈɑːgljuˈtɪnəʃən/ noun the act of coming together or sticking to one another to form a clump, as of bacteria cells in the presence of serum, or blood cells when blood of different types is mixed

agent /ˈeɪdʒənt/ noun 1. a chemical substance which makes another substance react. 2. a substance or organism which causes a disease or condition. 3. a person who acts as a representative of another person or carries out some kind of work on his or her behalf

agglutinin /ˈɑːgljuˈtɪnɪn/ noun a factor in a serum which makes cells stick together in clumps

agnessis /eɡˈnɛsɪs/ noun the absence of an organ, resulting from a failure in embryonic development

agony /ˈeɪdʒəni/ noun the care of a mother who has just given birth

after-pains /ˈɑːftərpɛrnz/ plural noun regular pains in the uterus which are sometimes experienced after childbirth

agglutination test /ˈeɡljuˈtɪnəʃən ˈtest/ a test to identify bacteria

agglutinin /ˈɑːgljuˈtɪnɪn/ noun a factor in a serum which makes cells stick together in clumps

aggravate /eɡˈrævɪt/ verb to make something worse. 1. Playing football only aggravates his knee injury. 2. The treatment seems to aggravate the disease

agression /ˈeɡresʃən/ noun the state of feeling violently angry towards someone or something

aggressive /eɡˈresɪv/ adjective referring to treatment which involves frequent high doses of medication

agility /ˈeɡəlɪtɪ/ noun another spelling of agility

agility /ˈeɡəlɪtɪ/ noun another spelling of agility

agonist /ˈeɡənɪst/ noun 1. a muscle which causes part of the body to move. 2. a muscle which relaxes when it contracts. Also called

agonist /ˈeɡənɪst/ noun 1. a muscle which causes part of the body to move and another muscle to relax when it contracts. Also called
prime mover 2, a substance which produces an observable physiological effect by acting through specific receptors. antagonist

agony /ægənɪ/ noun a very severe physical or emotional pain. He lay in agony on the floor.

agoraphobia /ægəraʊfəbiə/ noun a fear of being in open spaces. Compare claustrophobia

agoraphobic /ægəraʊfəbɪk/ adjective afraid of being in open spaces. Compare claustrophobic

agranulocytosis /əˌɡrænjuˌlaʊsɪtəs/ noun a usually fatal disease where the number of granulocytes, a type of white blood cell, falls sharply because of a bone marrow condition

agraphia /əˈɡræfiə/ noun the condition of being unable to put ideas into writing

AHF abbr antihemophilic factor

aid /ɛid/ noun 1. help 2. a machine, tool or drug which helps someone do something. He uses a walking frame as an aid to exercising.

AIDS /ɛɪdz/ noun a viral infection which takes a long time, usually years, to show symptoms, and many people with HIV are unaware that they are infected. It causes a breakdown of the body’s immune system, making the patient susceptible to any infection and often results in the development of rare skin cancers. It is not curable.

AIDS dementia /ɛɪdz dɪˈmɛnʃə/ noun a form of mental degeneration resulting from infection with HIV

AIDS-related complex /ɛɪdz rɪˌkʌmplɛks/ noun early symptoms shown by someone infected with the HIV virus, e.g. weight loss, fever and herpes zoster.

Air abbr artificial insemination by husband

air /ɛə/ noun 1. fresh air 2. air which takes air to the lungs, e.g. the nostrils, pharynx, larynx, trachea and bronchi 3. air hunger

air hunger /ˈɛə ,hʌŋɡərnoun a queasy feeling, usually leading to vomiting, caused by the movement of an aircraft

airsick /ˈɛərɪsk/ noun 1. a queasy feeling, usually leading to vomiting, caused by the movement of an aircraft 2. air sickness

airsickness /ˈɛərɪskən/ noun a queasy feeling, usually leading to vomiting, caused by the movement of an aircraft

airsickness /ˈɛərɪskən/ noun a queasy feeling, usually leading to vomiting, caused by the movement of an aircraft

airway /ˈɛəwei/ noun a passage through which air passes, especially the trachea

airway clearing /ˈɛəwei ˈklearɪŋ/ noun making sure that the airways in a newborn baby or an unconscious person are free of any obstruction

airway obstruction /ˈɛəwei əˈbstrʌkʃən/ noun something which blocks the air passages

akathisia /ˌækəˈθiəsiə/ noun restlessness

akinesia /ˌækiˈnizə/ noun a lack of voluntary movement, as in Parkinson’s disease

akinetic /ˌækɪˈnɛtɪk/ adjective without movement

alkarina /ˈælkərɪnə/ noun same as xerosis

alactasia /ˌɛlæktəˈtɛzɪə/ noun a condition in which there is a deficiency of lactase in the intestine, making the patient incapable of digesting lactose, the sugar in milk

alalia /ˈæləliə/ noun a condition in which a person completely loses the ability to speak

albine /ˈælbən/ noun an amino acid

alanine aminotransferase /ˌæləˈniːn eɪˌmiəˈnəʊtrənˈfɜːrəz/ noun an enzyme which is found in the liver and can be monitored as an indicator of liver damage.

Albee’s operation /ˈælbɪz ˈɒpərəʃən/ noun 1. a surgical operation to fuse two or more vertebrae 2. a surgical operation to fuse...
Excessive use of alcohol adversely affecting a person’s health. Alcoholics Anonymous is an organisation of former alcoholics which helps people to overcome their dependence on alcohol by encouraging them to talk about their problems in group therapy. Abbr AA alcoholism /ælkəˈholɪzəm/ noun excessive drinking of alcohol which becomes addictive.

Alcohol poisoning /ælkəˈhol pəˈzɔɪŋ/ noun poisoning and disease caused by excessive drinking of alcohol.

Alcohol rub /ælkəˈhol rʌb/ noun the act of rubbing a bedridden person with alcohol to help protect against bedsores and as a tonic.

Alcoholism /ælkəˈholɪzəm/ noun a condition in which alcohol is present in the urine (Note: The level of alcohol in the urine is used as a test for drivers who are suspected of driving while drunk.)

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alienation /əˈliːnəʃən/ noun a psychological condition in which a person develops the feeling of not being part of the everyday world, and as a result often becomes hostile to other people
alignment /əˈlɪnmənt/ noun the arrangement of something in a straight line, or in the correct position in relation to something else
alimentary /əˈlɪment(ə)rɪ/ adjective providing food, or relating to food or nutrition
alimentary canal /əˈlɪment(ə)rɪ ˈkænal/ noun a tube in the body going from the mouth to the anus and including the throat, stomach and intestine, through which food passes and is digested
alimentary system /əˈlɪment(ə)rɪ ˈsɪstəm/ noun same as digestive system
aliquot /əˈlɪkwət/ noun a part of a larger thing, especially a sample of something which is taken to be examined
alive /əˈlɪv/ adjective living, not dead. The man was still alive, even though he had been in the sea for two days. (NOTE: Alive cannot be used in front of a noun: The person is alive but a living person. Note also that live can be used in front of a noun: The person was injected with live vaccine.)
alkaalemia /əˈlɪkələmiə/ noun an excess of alkali in the blood
alkali /əˈlɪkələ/ noun one of many substances which neutralise acids and form salts (NOTE: The UK plural is alkalis, but the US plural is alkalies.)
alkaline /əˈlɪkələn/ adjective containing more alkali than acid
alkalinity /əˈlɪkəlnətɪ/ noun the level of alkali in a body. Hyperventilation causes fluctuating carbon dioxide levels in the blood, resulting in an increase of blood alkalinity.
COMMENT: Alkalinity and acidity are measured according to the pH scale. pH7 is neutral, and pH8 and upwards are alkaline. Alkaline solutions are used to counteract the effects of acid poisoning and also of bee stings. If strong alkali, such as ammonia, is swallowed, the patient should drink water and an acid such as orange juice.
alkaloid /əˈlɪklɔɪd/ noun one of many poisonous substances found in plants and used as medicines, e.g. atropine, morphone or quinine
alkalosis /əˈlɪklələsɪs/ noun a condition in which the alkali level in the body tissue is high, producing cramps
alkaptonuria /əˈlɪkəptənjuəriə/ noun a hereditary condition where dark pigment is present in the urine
allantois /əˈlæntəʊs/ noun one of the membranes in the embryo, shaped like a sac, which grows out of the embryonic hindgut
allotropy /əˈlɑːtəpriə/ noun one of two or more alternative forms of a gene, situated in the same area on each of a pair of chromosomes and each producing a different effect
allergy /əˈlɜːdʒəri/ noun a substance which produces hypersensitivity. COMMENT: Allergies are usually proteins and include foods, dust, hair of animals, as well as pollen from flowers. Allergic reaction to serum is known as anaphylaxis. Treatment of allergies depends on correctly identifying the allergy to which the patient is sensitive. This is done by patch tests in which drops of different allergens are placed on scratches in the skin. Food allergens discovered in this way can be avoided, but other allergens such as dust and pollen can hardly be avoided and have to be treated by a course of desensitising injections.
allogenic /ˌələˈdʒɛnɪk/ adjective producing an allergic reaction. The allergenic properties of fungal spores
allergic agent /əˈlɜːdʒɪŋk/ noun a substance which produces an allergy
allergic /əˈlɜːdʒɪk/ adjective having an allergy to something. She is allergic to cats. I’m allergic to penicillin.
allergic reaction /əˈlɜːdʒɪk riˈækʃən/ noun a form of the skin condition purpura, found most often in children
allergic rhinitis /əˈlɜːdʒɪk ˈrəʊnətɪs/ noun inflammation of the nose and eyes caused by an allergic reaction to plant pollen, mould spores, dust mites or animal hair. Hayfever
allergist /əˈlɜːdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the treatment of allergies
allergy /əˈlɜːdʒi/ noun an unusual sensitivity to some substances such as pollen or dust, which cause a physical reaction such as sneezing or a rash in someone who comes into contact with them. She has an allergy to horse dust. He has a penicillin allergy. (NOTE: You have an allergy or you are allergic to something.)
allergy bracelet /əˈlɜːdʒi ˈbresliət/ noun a medical alert bracelet
alleviate /əˈlɪviət/ verb to make pain or discomfort less severe. The drug is effective in alleviating migraine headaches.
alien /əˈliːən/ noun a professional working in medicine who is not a doctor or nurse, e.g. a physiotherapist or paramedic
allo- /əˈləʊ/ prefix different
allograft  /əˌlɒɡrɑːft/ noun same as homograft
allopathy  /əˈloʊpəθi/ noun the treatment of a condition using drugs which produce opposite symptoms to those of the condition. Compare homeopathy
allopurinol  /'aləpərənəl/ noun a drug which helps to stop the body producing uric ac...
should try to get out of bed and walk about as the injured man was taken away in an ambulance. During the early stages of typhoid fever the bacteria multiply and can therefore act as a carrier, e.g. in the faeces of a typhoid patient.

By problems of circulation, as in diabetes, the patient is unable to absorb glucose in the small intestine and it is excreted in the faeces. Thus, the amebic dysentery is similar to diabetes mellitus.

Ambidextrous relating to a person who can use both hands equally well and who is not right- or left-handed.

Ambiguous genitalia: a condition in which the outer genitals do not look typical of those of either sex.

Ambidextrous adjective referring to a person who can use both hands equally well and who is not right- or left-handed.

Amblyopia: a lack of normal vision without a structural cause. A common example is squint and other forms of strabismus.

Amblyoscope (amblyopic) adjective affected by amblyopia.

Ambulanc_e /ˈæmbjuːləns/ noun a van for taking sick or injured people to hospital. The telephone number of the local ambulance service is in the phone book. St John Ambulance Association and Brigade.

Ambulant (ambulatory) adjective able to walk.

Ambulation: a drug used to treat many Gram-negative and some Gram-positive bacterial infections (note: Aminoglycosides include drugs with names ending in -cillin, gentamicin.)

Aminophylline /ˌæmɪnəˈfɪlɪn/ noun a drug that makes the bronchial tubes wider, used in the treatment of asthma.

Amiodarone /ˌæmɪdəˈrɒn/ noun a drug that makes the blood vessels wider, used in the treatment of irregular heartbeat.

Amotism /ˌæmətɪsɪs/ noun the multiplications of a cell by splitting of the nucleus.

Amtriptyline /ˌæmtrɪˈtrɪptɪlɪn/ noun a sedative drug used to treat depression and persistent pain.

Amiodipine /ˌæmiˌdɪpɪn/ noun a drug that helps to control the movement of calcium ions through cell membranes. It is used to treat hypertension and angina.

Ammonia /ˈæmənəˈmeɪə/ noun a gas with a strong smell, a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen, which is a usual product of human metabolism.

Ammonium /ˈæmənuːm/ noun an ion formed from ammonia.

Amnesia /ˌæmnɪˈzɪs/ noun loss of memory.

Amnion /ˈæmnɪən/ noun a membrane that surrounds the developing embryo in the uterus.

Amniocentesis /ˌæmniəˌsɛntɪsɪs/ noun the process of getting better.
amtihook /æmnihʊk/ noun a hooked instrument used to induce labour by pulling on the amniotic sac
amnio /ˈæmniəʊʊ/ noun same as amniocentesis (informal)
amniocentesis /ˌæmniəʊsənˈtɛsɪs/ noun a procedure which involves taking a test sample of the amniotic fluid during pregnancy using a hollow needle and syringe
amnion /ˈæmniəʊn/ noun the thin sac containing the amniotic fluid which covers an unborn baby in the uterus. Also called amniotic sac
amnioscope /ˌæmniəʊskəʊp/ noun an instrument used to examine a fetus through the cervical channel, before the amniotic sac is broken
amnioscopy /ˌæmniəʊskəʊpɪ/ noun an examination of the amniotic fluid during pregnancy
amniotic /ˌæmniəʊtɪk/ adjective relating to the amnion
amniotic cavity /ˌæmniəʊtɪk ’keɪvɪtɪ/ noun a space formed by the amnion, full of amniotic fluid
amniotic fluid /ˌæmniəʊtɪk ’fjuːɪd/ noun the fluid contained in the amnion which surrounds an unborn baby
amniotic sac /ˌæmniəʊtɪk ’sæk/ noun same as amnion
amniotomy /ˌæmniəʊtə’məʊli/ noun a puncture of the amnion to help induce labour
amoeba /ˈæmoʊəbə/ noun a form of animal life, made up of a single cell (NOTE: The plural is amoebae.)
amoebiasis /ˌæməʊbə’seɪsɪs/ noun an infection caused by amoebae which can result in amoebic dysentery in the large intestine (intestinal amoebiasis) and sometimes affects the lungs (pulmonary amoebiasis)
amoebic /’æmoʊbɪk/ adjective relating to or caused by amoebae
amoebic dysentery /’æmoʊbɪk ’dɪsɛntrɪ/ noun a form of dysentery mainly found in tropical areas that is caused by Entamoeba histolytica which enters the body through contaminated water or uncooked food
amoebicide /’æmoʊbɪskɪd/ noun a substance which kills amoebae
amoephous /’æməʊfəs/ adjective with no regular shape
amoxicillin /’æməʊsɪkɪlɪn/ noun an antibiotic
Amoxil /ə’moksɪl/ a trade name for amoxicillin
amphotericin /ˌæmfoʊtə’risɪn/ noun an antifungal agent, used against Candida
amphoteric /ˌæmfoʊtə’rɪtɪk/ adjective
amphotericin B /ˌæmfoʊtə’rɪtɪk ˈbɹɒʊtɪs/ noun a joint which only has limited movement, e.g. one of the joints in the spine
amphotery /ˌæmfoʊtə’rɪter/ noun
ampicillin /ˌæmˈpɪsɪlɪn/ noun a type of penicillin, used as an antibiotic
ampoule /’æmpjuːl/ ampule /’æmpjʊl/ noun a small glass container, closed at the neck, used to contain sterile drugs for use in injections
ampulla /’æmˈpʊlə/ noun a swelling of a canal or duct, shaped like a bottle (NOTE: The plural is ampullae.)
amputate /’æmpjʊteɪt/ verb to remove a limb or part of a limb in a surgical operation
amputation /’æmpjʊteɪʃən/ noun the surgical removal of a limb or part of a limb
amputee /’æmpjʊti/ noun someone who has had a limb or part of a limb removed in a surgical operation
amygdala /’æmɪgdələ/ noun an almond-shaped body in the brain, at the end of the caudate nucleus of the thalamus. Also called amygdaloid body
amygdaloid body /’æmɪgdəlɒɪd ’bɒdɪ/ noun same as amygdala
amyl- /’æmɪl/ prefix referring to starch
amylase /’æmɪləs/ noun an enzyme which converts starch into maltose
amyl nitrate /’æmɪl ’nɪtrət/ noun a drug used to reduce blood pressure (NOTE: Amyl nitrate is also used as a recreational drug.)
amyloid /’æmɪlɒɪd/ noun a waxy protein that forms in some tissues during the development of various diseases, e.g. forming disc-shaped plaques in the brain in Alzheimer’s disease
amyloid disease /’æmɪlɒɪd di’ziːd/ noun same as amyloidosis
amyloidosis /’æmɪlɒɪdəʊ’sɪs/ noun a disease of the kidneys and liver, where amyloid develops in the tissues. Also called amyloid disease
amyloid precursor protein /’æmɪlɒɪd pri’kɛrəs ’prəʊtɪn/ noun a compound found in cell membranes from which beta amyloid is derived. A mutation of the gene causes early-onset Alzheimer’s disease in a few families
amylopsin /’æmɪlɒpsɪn/ noun an enzyme which converts starch into maltose
amylose /’æmɪlɒs/ noun a carbohydrate of starch
amytonia /’æmɪtəˈtɒniə/ noun a lack of muscle tone
amyotonia congenita /əmɪəˈtɒnəʊ ðə kəˈnɛɡənətə/ noun a congenital disease of children in which the muscles lack tone. Also called floppy baby syndrome

amyotrophy /əˈmiːtərəfri/ noun a condition in which a muscle wastes away

amyotrophic lateral sclerosis /əˌmiːtrofri ˈleɪtərəl skəˈrəʊsər/ noun a motor neurone disease in which the limbs switch and the muscles gradually waste away. Also called Ghering’s disease. Abbrev ALS

anaesthetic /əˈnæsθɛtɪk/ noun US anaesthesiologist

anaesthesia /əˌnæsθiˈeɪziə/ noun US [L: anaesthesia] (NOTE: The US spelling is anaesthetic)

anaemic /əˈnɛmɪk/ adjective

anaerobic /əˈnɛrəbɪk/ adjective 1. not needing oxygen for metabolism ○ anaerobic bacteria 2. without oxygen ○ anaerobic conditions

anaesthesia /əˌnæsθɪˈziə/ noun 1. a state, deliberately produced in a patient by a medical procedure, in which he or she can feel no pain, either in a part or in the whole of the body 2. a loss of feeling caused by damage to nerves (NOTE: The US spelling is anesthesia.)

anaesthesiologist /əˌnæsθiəˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun US a specialist in the study of anaesthetics

anaesthetic /əˌnæsθiˈetɪk/ adjective inducing loss of feeling ○ noun a substance given to someone to remove feeling, so that he or she can undergo an operation without pain

'Spinal and epidural anaesthetics can also cause gross vasodilation, leading to heat loss' [British Journal of Nursing]

anaesthetic induction /əˌnæsθiˈetɪk ɪnˈdʌkʃn/ noun a method of inducing anaesthesia in a patient

anaesthetic risk /əˌnæsθiˈetɪk ˈrɪsk/ noun the risk that an anaesthetic may cause serious unwanted side effects

anaesthetise /əˌnæsθiˈtʌs/ verb to produce a loss of feeling in a person or in part of the person’s body

anaesthetist /əˌnæsθiˈtɪst/ noun a specialist who administers anaesthetics

anal /əˈnæl/ adjective relating to the anus

anal canal /əˈnæl kəˈnæl/ noun a passage leading from the rectum to the anus

analgetic /əˌnælˈdʒɛtɪk/ noun a drug used to make someone regain consciousness or to stimulate a patient

anal fissure /əˈnæl ˈfɪʃər/ noun a crack in the mucous membrane of the wall of the anal canal

anal fistula /əˈnæl ˈfɪstʃələ/ noun a fistula which develops between the rectum and the outside of the body after an abscess near the anus. Also called fistula in ano

analgesia /əˌnælˈdʒɪziə/ noun a reduction of the feeling of pain without loss of consciousness

analgesic /əˌnælˈdʒɪsɪk/ adjective relating to analgesia ○ noun a painkilling drug which produces analgesia and reduces pyrexia

COMMENT: There are two types of analgesic: non-opioid such as paracetamol and aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid), and opioid such as codeine phosphate. Opioid analgesics are used for severe pain relief such as in terminal care, as cough suppressants and to reduce gut motility in cases of diarrhoea. Analgesics are commonly used as local analgesics, for example in dentistry.

analgy /əˈnælˌɡeɪ/ noun (used before vowels)

The patient is not able to pass faeces anally.

analgesic analgesics an examination of a substance to find out what it is made of (NOTE: The plural is analyses.)
analyst

analytist

noun 1. a person who examines samples of substances or tissue, to find out what they are made of.

2. same as psychoanalyst

anamnesis

noun someone’s medical history, especially given in their own words

anamnestic

adjective showing a secondary immunological response to an antigen some time after immunisation

anaphase

noun a stage in cell division, after the metaphase and before the telophase

anaphylactic

adjective relating to or caused by extreme sensitivity to a substance

anaphylactic shock

noun a sudden severe reaction, which can be fatal, to something such as an injected substance or a bee sting

anaphylaxis

noun extreme sensitivity to a substance introduced into the body, same as anaphylactic shock

anaplasia

noun the loss of the ability to speak words properly

anasarca

noun the presence of fluid in the body tissues

anastomose

verb to join two blood vessels or tubular structures together

anastomosis

noun a connection made between two blood vessels or tubular structures, either naturally or by surgery

anat.

noun 1. anatomical 2. anatomy

anatomical

adjective relating to the anatomy

the anatomical features of a fetus

anatomical position

noun 1. a position of the body from which all directions and positions are derived. The body is assumed to be standing, with the feet together, the arms to the side, and the head, eyes and palms facing forward.

anatomy

noun 1. the structure, especially the internal structure, of the body. 2. the branch of science that studies the structure of the bodies of humans, animals and plants. They are studying anatomy.

the anatomy of a bone

a description of the structure and shape of a bone

ancillary staff

noun the staff in a hospital who are not administrators, doctors or nurses, e.g. cleaners, porters, kitchen staff

ancillary worker

noun someone who does a job for patients such as cooking or cleaning which is supplementary to medical care

anconeus

noun a small triangular muscle at the back of the elbow

Ancylostoma

noun a parasitic worm in the intestine which holds onto the wall of the intestine with its teeth and lives on the blood and protein of the carrier

anctolomiasis

noun a disease of which the symptoms are weakness and anaemia, caused by a hookworm which lives on the blood of the carrier.

In severe cases the person may die.

androgen

noun a male sex hormone, testosterone or androsterone, which increases the male characteristics of the body

androgenic

adjective producing male characteristics

androgynous

noun same as hermaphrodite

andrology

noun the study of male sexual characteristics and subjects such as impotence, infertility and the male menopause

androsterone

noun one of the male sex hormones

anaemia

noun US same as anaemia

anencephaly

noun the absence of a brain, which causes a fetus to die a few hours after birth

energy

noun 1. a state of severe weakness and lack of energy. 2. lack of immunity

anaesthesia, etc

noun US same as anaesthesia, etc

anerine

noun same as Vitamin B12

aneurysm

noun a swelling caused by the weakening of the wall of a blood vessel

Aneurysm usually occurs in the wall of the aorta, ‘aortic aneurysm’, and is often due to atherosclerosis, and sometimes to syphilis.

angi- /-angy/ prefix same as angio- (used before vowel)

angiecstasy

noun an inflammation of the blood vessels

angitis

noun an inflammation of a blood vessel

anguina

noun a pain in the chest following exercise or eating, which is caused by an inadequate supply of blood to the heart muscles because of narrowing of the arteries.
It is commonly treated with nitrates or calcium channel blocker drugs.

**anginal** (ən′dʒıˈnəl) adjective referring to angina. He suffered anginal pains.

**angina pectoris** (ən′dʒıˈnə pək′tərəs) noun a condition of the chest caused by reduced blood supply to the heart muscle, characterized by chest pain or discomfort.

**angio-** (ən′dʒıˈō-) prefix referring to a blood vessel

**angiogram** (ən′dʒıˈgrəm) noun a series of pictures resulting from angiography

**angiography** (ən′dʒıˌgrəfı) noun an X-ray examination of the cardiovascular system after injection with an opaque dye so that the organs show up clearly on the film

**angiodysplasia** (ən′dʒıˌdəsˈpləsə) noun a condition where the blood vessels in the colon dilate, resulting in loss of blood

**angiogenesis** (ən′dʒıˌdənəˈjızəsə) noun the formation of new blood vessels, e.g. in an embryo or as a result of a tumour

**angiogram** (ən′dʒıˌgrəm) noun an X-ray picture of blood vessels

**angiography** (ən′dʒıˌgrəfı) noun an X-ray examination of blood vessels after injection with an opaque dye so that they show up clearly on the film

**angiology** (ən′dʒıˌləjı) noun the branch of medicine which deals with blood vessels and the lymphatic system

**angioma** (ən′dʒıˌōmə) noun a benign tumour formed of blood vessels, e.g. a naevus

**angioneurotic oedema** (ən′dʒıˌn(yu)ˈrətık əˈdēmə) noun a sudden accumulation of fluid under the skin, similar to nettle rash

**angiosarcoma** (ən′dʒıˌsərˈkəmə) noun a malignant tumour in a blood vessel

**angioplasty** (ən′dʒıˌplōstə) noun a disease of vessels such as blood and lymphatic vessels

**angioplasty** (ən′dʒıˌplōstı) noun plastic surgery to repair a blood vessel, e.g. a narrowed coronary artery

**angiosarcoma** (ən′dʒıˌsərˈkəmə) noun a malignant tumour in a blood vessel

**anisometropia** (ən′ızəməˈtrəpıə) noun a condition in which the eyes are different in length of the legs

**anisometropia** (ən′ızəməˈtrəpıə) noun a condition in which the eyes are different in length of the legs

**ankle joint** (′ankl dʒənt) noun the part of the body where the foot is connected to the leg.

**ankle bone** (′ankl bən) noun same as talus

**ankle jerk** (′ankl dʒərk) noun a sudden jerk as a reflex action of the foot when the back of the ankle is tapped
ankyloblepharon

ankyloblepharon /ˈæŋkiloʊˌblefərən/ noun a state where the edges of the eyelids are stuck together

ankylose /ˈæŋkiloʊz/ verb to fuse together, or to cause bones to fuse together

ankylosing spondylitis /ˈæŋkiloʊzɪŋ sɒnˈdɪlɪtəs/ noun a condition occurring more frequently in young men, in which the vertebral and sacroiliac joints are inflamed and become stiff

ankylosis /ˈæŋkiloʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which the bones of a joint fuse together

Ankylostoma /ˈæŋkɪlɔʊsˈtɔʊmə/ noun same as Ancylostoma

ankylostomiasis /ˈæŋkɪlɔʊsˈtɔʊmaɪəs/ noun same as ankylostomiasis

ANLL /ˈænbər ˈɛnəlɪmpəʊkətɪkˈleːkuəmiə/ abbr acute nonlymphocytic leukaemia

annular /ˈæŋjʊlər/ adjective shaped like a ring

annulus /ˈæŋjʊlus/ noun a structure shaped like a ring

ano- /ˈænəʊ/ prefix referring to the anus

anococcygeal /ˌænəkɒksɪˈdʒiːəl/ adjective referring to both the anus and coccyx

anodyne /ˈænəʊdʌni/ noun a drug which reduces pain, e.g. aspirin or codeine

anorectal /ˈænərɛktəl/ adjective referring to both the anus and coccyx

anorexia /ˈænərɛksɪə/ noun a state where the edges of the eyelids are stuck together

anorexia nervosa /ˈænərɛksɪə ˈnɜrvoʊsə/ noun a psychological condition, usually found in girls and young women, in which a person refuses to eat because of a fear of becoming fat

anorexia /ˈænərɛksɪə/ noun loss of appetite

anorexia nervosa /ˈænərɛksɪə ˈnɜrvoʊsə/ noun a psychological condition, usually found in girls and young women, in which a person refuses to eat because of a fear of becoming fat

anorexia /ˈænərɛksɪə/ adjective 1. referring to anorexia 2. having anorexia  ○ The school has developed a programme of counselling for anorexic students,

anosmia /ˈænəʊzmiə/ noun the lack of the sense of smell

anovulant /ˈænəˌvʊvlənt/ noun a drug that prevents ovulation, e.g. a birth-control pill

anovular /ˈænəˌvʊjlər/ adjective without an ovum

anovular bleeding /ˈænəˌvʊjlərˈbiːldɪŋ/ bleeding from the uterus when ovulation has not taken place

anovulation /ˈænəˌvʊvləˈleʃən/ noun a condition in which a women does not ovulate and is therefore infertile

anoxemia /ˈænəsɪˌmiə/ noun a reduction of the amount of oxygen in the blood

anoxia /ˈænəksɪə/ noun a lack of oxygen in body tissue

anoxic /ˈænəsɪk/ adjective referring to anoxia or lacking oxygen

anterior /ˈæntəriər/ adjective referring to the period before death

anterior /ˈæntəriər/ adjective referring to what is usually

anomalies /ˈænəmələs/ plural noun something which is different from the usual

anomalous /ˈænəmələs/ adjective referring to something which is different from the usual

anomaly /ˈænəməlɪ/ noun a psychological condition in which a person develops the feeling of not being part of the everyday world, and behaves as though they do not have any supporting social or moral framework

anonychia /ˈænəmi tanker/ noun a congenital absence of one or more nails

anopheles /ˈænəfɪliːz/ noun a mosquito which carries the malaria parasite

anoplasty /ˈænəpləstɪ/ noun surgery to repair the anus, as in treating haemorrhoids

anorchism /ˈænərˈɔrkɪzəm/ noun a congenital absence of testicles

antegrade amnesia /ˌæntɪg्रɛd ənmɪˈnɛsɪə/ noun a form of memory loss relating to the things that happen after a traumatic event

antemortem /ˌæntɪmɔrˈtɛm/ noun the period before death

antenatal /ˌæntɪnˈteɪtl/ adjective during the period between conception and childbirth

antenatal clinic /ˌæntɪnˈteɪtl/ əˈklinɪk/ noun a clinic where expectant mothers are taught how to look after babies, do exercises and have medical checkups. Also called maternity clinic
antibody-positive /antibɒdi/ adjective referring to a drug which is stimulating the body to produce foreign substances such as bacteria, as part of an immune reaction. Tests showed that he had antibodies against Rh D in his blood.

antibody-negative /antibɒdi 'negətɪv/ adjective showing none of a particular antibody in the blood. He was given a course of antibiotics. Antibiotics have no effect against viral diseases.

antibiotic /antɪˈbaɪɒtɪk/ noun. A substance which blocks nerve impulses or a drug which can control or destroy cancer cells. Antibiotics, together with streptomycin, tetracycline, erythromycin and many others. Although antibiotics are widely and successfully used, new forms of bacteria have developed which are resistant to them.

antibody /antɪˈbɒdi/ noun.

anthelminthic /ænθelˈmɪntɪk/ adjective referring to something such as a cosmetic which stops the spread of bacteria. Antibiotics are widely and successfully used, new forms of bacteria have developed which are resistant to them.

antiallergenic /æntiˈalərɡɪk/ adjective referring to a drug which corrects an irregular heartbeat.

antiallergenetic /æntɪəlˈɛrɡɛnɛtɪk/ adjective referring to something such as a cosmetic which will not aggravate an allergy.

antiaetiological /æntɪəˈtaɪɒlədʒɪk/ adjective referring to a drug which corrects an irregular heartbeat.

anterior /æntɪˈrɪər/ adjective in front. Opposite posterior.

anterior aspect /æntɪˈrɪər ˈæspekt/ noun a view of the front of the body, or of the front of part of the body. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement.

anterior chamber /æntɪˈrɪər ˈʃɛməriə/ noun part of the aqueous chamber of the eye which is in front of the iris.

anterior fontanelle /æntɪˈrɪər ˈfɒntə/ noun a small jugular vein in the neck.

anterior naries /æntɪˈrɪər ˈnɛriə/ plural the two nostrils. Also called external nares.

anterior superior iliac spine /æntɪˈrɪər ˈsjuːprɪər ɪlɪək ˈspɪn/ noun a projection at the front end of the iliac crest of the pelvis.

anterior synecchia /æntɪˈrɪər ˈsɪnɛkʃɪə/ noun a condition of the eye, where the iris sticks to the cornea.

anterograde amnesia /æntɪˈrɪərəɡred ˈæmɪˈnɪəsɪə/ noun a brain condition in which the person cannot remember things which happened recently.

anterversion /æntɪˈvɜːrs(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ noun the tilting forward of an organ, whether usual, as of the uterus, or unusual.

anthelmintic /ænθelˈmɪntɪk/ noun a substance which removes worms from the intestine. Adjective removing worms from the intestine.

anthracosis /ænθrəkˈɒsɪs/ noun a lung disease caused by breathing coal dust.

anthrax /ænθræks/ noun a disease of cattle and sheep which can be transmitted to humans. Comment: Caused by Bacillus anthracis, anthrax can be transmitted by touching infected skin, meat or other parts of an animal, including bone meal used as a fertiliser. It causes pustules on the skin or in the lungs, woolsorter’s disease.

anthropo- /ænθrəp-/ prefix referring to human beings.

anthropometry /ænθrəˈpɒmətrɪ/ noun the study of human body measurements. (Note: The uses of anthropometry include the design of ergonomic furniture and the examination and comparison of populations.)
antidepressant

antidepressant /ˌæntɪˈdɛprəˈzent/ adjective acting to relieve depression • noun a drug used to relieve depression by stimulating the mood of a depressed person. Examples are tricyclic antidepressants, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and monoamine oxidase inhibitors.

antidiabetic /ˌæntɪdaɪˈætɪk/ adjective referring to an antidiabetic drug

antidiarrhoeal /ˌæntɪdəˈrɪəʊəl/ noun a drug used in the treatment of diarrhoea • adjective referring to an antidiarrhoeal drug (note: [all senses] the us spelling is antidiarreal.)

anti-D immunoglobulin /ˌænti ˈdiː im ˈjuːnəɡloʊˈbjuːlɪn/ noun immunoglobulin administered to Rh-negative mothers after the birth of an Rh-positive baby, to prevent haemolytic disease of the newborn in the next pregnancy

antidiuretic /ˌæntɪdjuˈrɛtɪk/ noun a substance which stops the production of excessive amounts of urine • adjective preventing the excessive production of urine

antidiuretic hormone /ˌæntɪdjuˈrɛtɪk ˈhɔrmən/ noun a hormone secreted by the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland which acts on the kidneys to regulate the quantity of salt in body fluids and the amount of urine excreted by the kidneys. Also called vasopressin

antidote /ˌæntɪˈdɔt/ noun a substance which counters the effect of a poison • There is no satisfactory antidote to cyanide.

antiembolic /ˌæntɪˈeməˈbolɪk/ adjective preventing embolism

antiemetic /ˌæntɪˈemɪtɪk/ adjective preventing vomiting

antiemetic /ˌæntɪˈemɪtɪk/ noun a drug which prevents vomiting • adjective acting to prevent vomiting

antiepileptic drug /ˌæntɪˈepɪlɛptɪk drʌg/ noun a drug used in the treatment of epilepsy and convulsions, e.g. carbamazepine

antifibrinolytic /ˌæntɪˌfɪbrɪnəˈlɪtɪk/ adjective acting to reduce fibrinosis

antifungal /ˌæntɪˈfʌŋɡəl/ adjective referring to a substance which kills or controls fungal and yeast infections, e.g. candida and ringworm (note: Antifungal drugs have names ending in -conazole: fluconazole.)

antigen /ˌæntɪˈdʒen/ noun a substance that stimulates the body to produce antibodies, e.g. a protein on the surface of a cell or microorganism

antigenic /ˌæntɪˈdʒenɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which stimulates the formation of antibodies

antihelminthic /ˌæntɪˈhelmɪnθɪk/ adjective referring to a drug which helps to suppress nausea

antihistamine /ˌæntɪˈhɪstəməˈnɪn/ noun a drug used to control the effects of an allergy which releases histamine, or reduces gastric acid in the stomach for the treatment of gastric ulcers (note: Antihistamines have names ending in -line: loratidine for allergies, cimetidine for gastric ulcers.)

anti-HIV antibody /ˌæntiˌɛvɪ ˈɛntiˌhiːv ˈæntɪˌhɪv ˈæntɪˌhiːv ˈæntɪˌhɪv ˈænti-hematological /ˌæntiˌhiːməˈtɒləʤɪk/ adjective referring to a drug which reduces in-flammation

antihypertensive /ˌæntihaɪpəˈtɛnsɪv/ adjective acting to reduce blood pressure • noun a drug used to reduce high blood pressure

anti-inflammatory /ˌæntiˌɪnˈfləmətərɪ/ adjective referring to a drug which reduces in-flammation

antihyperlipidemic /ˌæntiˌhaɪpəˈlɪpədɪmɪk/ adjective referring to a drug which reduces cholesterol or triglycerides.

antihyperlipidaemic /ˌæntiˌhaɪpəˈlɪpədɪmɪk/ adjective referring to a drug which reduces cholesterol or triglycerides.

antilymphocytic /ˌæntɪˌlɪm̩fəˈsɪtɪk/ noun a serum used to produce immunosuppression in people undergoing transplant operations. Abbr ALS

antimalarial /ˌæntɪˈmælərɪəl/ noun a drug used to treat malaria and in malaria prophylaxis • adjective treating or preventing malaria

antimetabolite /ˌæntɪˌmetəˈbɒlɪt/ noun a substance which can replace a cell metabolism, but which is not active

antimicrobial /ˌæntɪˌmɜːrɪˈbɜːrɪəl/ adjective acting against microorganisms that cause disease

antimigraine /ˌæntiˈmɪgrən/ noun a drug used in the treatment of migraine

antimitotic /ˌæntiˈmiːtɒtɪk/ adjective preventing the division of a cell by mitosis

antimuscarinic /ˌæntɪməˈskərɪnɪk/ adjective referring to a drug which blocks acetylcholine receptors found on smooth muscle in the gut and eye

antimycotic /ˌæntɪˈmaɪkətɪk/ adjective destroying fungi

antinauseaent /ˌæntɪˈnoʊzərənt/ adjective referring to a drug which helps to suppress nausea

antioxidant /ˌæntɪˈɒksɪdənt/ noun a substance which makes oxygen less damaging, e.g. in the body or in foods or plastics • antioxidant vitamins

antiparasitic /ˌæntɪˌpærəˈstætɪk/ noun a movement in the oesophagus or intestine which causes their contents to move in the opposite direction to usual peristalsis, so leading to vomiting

antiperspirant /ˌæntɪˈpɜːspəˈrænt/ noun a substance which prevents sweating • adjective preventing sweating

antihaemophilic factor /ˌæntɪhəˈməfɪlɪk / noun factor VIII, used to encourage blood-clotting in haemophiliacs. Abbr AHF

antihelminthic /ˌæntɪˈhelmɪnθɪk/ noun a drug used in the treatment of worm infections such as threadworm, hookworm or roundworm
antipruritic /ˌæntɪprʊˈtrɪtɪk/ noun a substance which prevents itching ■ adjective preventing itching
antipsychotic /ˌæntɪsɪˈfarɪk/ noun a neuroleptic or major tranquilliser drug which calms disturbed people without causing sedation or confusion by blocking dopamine receptors in the brain
COMMENT: Extrapyramidal side effects can occur from the use of antipsychotics, including Parkinsonian symptoms and restlessness.
antipyretic /ˌæntɪpɪˈrɛtɪk/ noun a drug which helps to reduce a fever ■ adjective reducing fever
anti-Rh body /ˌænti ˈrɛ boʊdi/ noun an antibody formed in a mother’s body in reaction to a Rhesus antigen in the blood of the fetus
antiseptic /ˌæntɪˈsɛpsɪk/ noun a procedure intended to prevent sepsis
antiseptic /ˌæntɪˈsɛptɪk/ adjective preventing harmful microorganisms from spreading ○ She gargled with an antiseptic mouthwash. ■ noun a substance which prevents germs growing or spreading ○ The nurse painted the wound with antiseptic.
antiserum /ˌæntiˈsɜːrəm/ noun + serum (NOTE: The plural is antisera.)
antiasial /ˌæntiˈsɪəsiəl/ adjective referring to behaviour which is harmful to other people
antispasmodic /ˌæntɪspæzˈmɑːdɪk/ noun a drug used to prevent spasms
antitetanus serum /ˌæntɪˈtekənəs ˈsɜːrəm/ noun a serum which protects a patient against tetanus. Abbrev ATST
antithrombin /ˌæntiθrəˈmɪn/ noun an anticoagulant drug formed from an animal which has developed antibodies to a disease, used to prevent a person from that disease
antitoxin /ˌæntɪˈtɑːksɪn/ noun an antibody produced by the body to counteract a poison in the body
antitragus /ˌæntɪˈtreɪɡəs/ noun a small projection on the outer ear opposite the tragus
antituberculous drug /ˌæntitjuˈbɜːrk jʊləs ˈdrʌg/ noun a drug used to treat tuberculosis, e.g.isoniazid or rifampicin
antitussive /ˌæntɪˈtʌsvi/ noun a drug used to reduce coughing
antivenin /ˌæntɪˈvɛnɪn/, antivenom /ˌæntiˈvənəm/, antivenene /ˌæntiˈvənən/ noun a substance which helps the body to fight the effects of a particular venom from a snake or insect bite
antiviral /ˌæntiˈvɑːrəl/ adjective referring to a drug or treatment which stops or reduces the damage caused by a virus ■ noun same as antiviral drug
antiviral drug /ˌæntiˈvɑːrəl drʌg/ noun a drug which is effective against a virus (NOTE: Antiviral drugs have names ending in -civivir.)
antiserum /ˌæntiˈsɜːrəm/ noun the fluid in the wall of the maxillary sinus to remove fluid
antral /ˌæntrəl/ adjective referring to an antrum
antral puncture /ˌæntrəl ˈpʌŋktʃər/ noun making a hole in the wall of the maxillary sinus
antrum /ˌæntrəm/ noun any cavity inside the body, especially one in bone (NOTE: The plural is antra.)
anuria /ˌænjuəriə/ noun a condition in which the patient does not make urine, either because of a deficiency in the kidneys or because the urinary tract is blocked
anus /ˈænəs/ noun a short passage after the rectum at the end of the alimentary canal, leading outside the body between the buttocks and through which faeces are passed. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement, UROGENITAL SYSTEM (MALE) in Supplement (NOTE: For other terms referring to the anus, see anal and words beginning with ano-.)
avulv /ˌænvəlv/ noun same as incus
anxiety /ˈænʃəti/ noun a neurotic condition where the patient is very worried and afraid
anxiety disorder /ˈænʃəti ˈdɪzər/ noun a mental disorder where someone is very worried and afraid, e.g. a phobia
anxiety neurosis /ˈænʃəti ˈnjuərəsɪs/ noun a neurotic condition where the patient is anxious and has morbid fears
anxiolytic /ˌæŋkʃəˈlɪtɪk/ noun a drug used in the treatment of anxiety ■ adjective treating anxiety
anxious /ˈæŋkʃəs/ adjective 1. very worried and afraid ○ My sister is ill – I am anxious about her. 2. eager ○ She was anxious to get home. ○ I was anxious to see the doctor
aorta /ˈɑːtərə/ noun the main artery in the body, which sends blood containing oxygen from the heart to other blood vessels around the body. See illustration at HEART in Supplement
COMMENT: The aorta is about 45 centimetres long. It leaves the left ventricle, passes where the carotid arteries branch off, then goes downwards through the abdomen and divides into the two iliac arteries. The aorta is the blood vessel which carries all arterial blood from the heart.
aortic /eɪˈtɔːrɪk/ adjective relating to the aorta
aortic aneurysm /eɪˈtɔːrɪk ənˈjʊərɪs/ noun a serious aneurysm of the aorta, associated with atherosclerosis
aortic arch /eɪˈtɔːrɪk arch/ noun a bend in the aorta which links the ascending aorta to the descending aorta
aortic hiatus /eɪˈtɔːrɪk ˈhætɪəs/ noun an opening in the diaphragm through which the aorta passes
aortic incompetence /eɪˈtɔːrɪk ˈɪnkəmpətns/ noun a condition in which the aortic valve does not close properly, causing regurgitation
aortic regurgitation /eɪˈtɔːrɪk ˈrɛɡɜːrʒətʃən/ noun a backward flow of blood caused by a malfunctioning aortic valve
aortic sinuses /eɪˈtɔːrɪk ˈsɛnəsəz/ plural noun swellings in the aorta from which the coronary arteries lead back into the heart itself
aortic stenosis /eɪˈtɔːrɪk stəˈnəsəs/ noun a condition in which the aortic valve is narrow, caused by rheumatic fever
aortic valve /eɪˈtɔːrɪk ˈvælv/ noun a valve with three flaps, situated at the opening into the aorta
aortitis /ˌɔːrtəˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the aorta
aortography /ˌɔːrtəˈtɒɡrəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the aorta after an opaque substance has been injected into it
a.p. adjective before a meal. Full form ante prandium
apathetic /əˈpeθətɪk/ adjective referring to a person who takes no interest in anything
apathy /əˈpeθi/ noun the condition of not being interested in anything, or of not wanting to do anything
aperient /əˈpɛriənt/ noun a substance which causes a bowel movement, e.g. a laxative or purgative
aperistalsis /əˈpɛrɪstəlɪsɪs/ noun a lack of the peristaltic movement in the bowel
Apert’s syndrome /əˈpɛrɪtʃəs ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a condition in which the skull grows tall and the lower part of the face is underdeveloped
aperture /əˈpɛptər/ noun a hole
apex /əˈpek/ noun 1. the top of the heart or lung 2. the end of the root of a tooth
apex beat /əˈpek ˈbiːt/ noun a heartbeat which can be felt if the hand is placed on the heart
Apgar score /əˈpeɡər skɔːr/ noun a method of judging the condition of a newborn baby in which the baby is given a maximum of two points on each of five criteria: colour of the skin, heartbeat, breathing, muscle tone and reaction to stimuli [Described 1952. After Virginia Apgar (1909–74), US anaesthesiologist.]
...in this study, babies having an Apgar score of four or less had 100% mortality. The lower the Apgar score, the poorer the chance of survival [Indian Journal of Medical Sciences]

APH abbr antepartum haemorrhage
aphagia /əˈfeɪdʒiə/ noun a condition in which a person is unable to speak or write, or to understand speech or writing because of damage to the brain centres controlling speech
apheresis /ˌæfərəˈзɪzɪs/ noun the transfusion of blood, from which some components have been removed, back into a patient
aphasia /əˈfeɪziə/ noun a condition in which a person is unable to make sounds
aphrodisiac /əˈfroʊˌdɪzɪk/ noun a substance which increases sexual urges

aphtha /əˈfθə/ noun a small white ulcer which appears in groups in the mouth in people who have the fungal condition thrush (NOTE: The plural is apheres.

aphthous stomatitis /əˈfθəs ˈstɔməˌtɪtɪs/ noun canker sores which affect the mucous membrane in the mouth
aphthous ulcer /əˈfθəs ˈəlsə/ noun same as mouth ulcer
apical /əˈpekəl/ adjective situated at the top or tip of something
aphical abscess /əˈpekəl ˈəbˌses/ noun an abscess in the socket around the root of a tooth
apicectomy /əˈpɛktəˌsɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the root of a tooth
aplasia /əˈpleɪzɪə/ noun a lack of growth of tissue
aplastic /əˈpleɪstɪk/ adjective unable to develop new cells or tissue
aplastic anaemia /əˈplæstɪk əˈnɛmiə/ noun anaemia caused by the bone marrow failing to form red blood cells
apnoea /əˈpnoʊə/ noun US same as apnea
apneusis /əˈpnoʊəsɪz/ noun breathing pattern caused by brain damage, in which each breath is held for a long time
apnoea /əˈpnoʊə/ noun the stopping of breathing (NOTE: The US spelling is apnea.)
apneic /əˈpnoʊɪk/ adjective where breathing has stopped (NOTE: The US spelling is apneic.)
apocrine /əˈpɔkrɪn/ adjective referring to apocrine glands
apocrine gland /əˈpɔkrɪn ˈɡlænd/ noun a gland producing body odour where parts of the gland’s cells break off with the secretions, e.g. a sweat gland
apocrinitis /əˈpɒkrɪnˈtɪtɪs/ noun the formation of abscesses in the sweat glands
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>apolipoprotein E</td>
<td>/əˌpɒlɪˌɒpərəˈtrɔɪtʃən/ noun a compound found in three varieties which transport lipids within the cell and across cell membranes, the genes for two of which are linked with increased risk of Alzheimer's disease. Abbr ApoE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apomorphine</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈmor菲n/ noun a substance that comes from morphine, used to make a person cough, sleep or be sick. (NOTE: It is not administered under the skin and is used to treat drug overdose, accidental poisoning and Parkinson's disease.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apoptosis</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈpɒtəsɪs/ noun a form of cell death that is necessary both to make room for new cells and to remove cells whose DNA has been damaged and which may become cancerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APP</td>
<td>abbr amyloid precursor protein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apparatus</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈrætəs/ noun equipment used in a laboratory or hospital. ○ The hospital has installed new apparatus in the physiotherapy department. ○ The blood sample was tested in a special piece of apparatus. (NOTE: No plural: use a piece of apparatus; some new apparatus.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appendage</td>
<td>/ˈæpendɪdʒ/ noun a part of the body or piece of tissue which hangs down from another part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appendectomy</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈdentktəmi/ noun US same as appendicectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appendicectomy</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈdɛntʃəl/ adjective relating to the appendix ○ There is a risk of appendiceal infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appendicectomy</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈdɛntʃəl/ adjective ○ The surgical removal of an appendix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appendicular</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈdɛntʃəl/ adjective ○ referring to body parts which are associated with the arms and legs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appendicular skeleton</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈdɛntʃəl/ adjective ○ a small tube attached to the caecum which serves no function but can become infected, causing appendicitis. Also called vermiform appendix. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement 2. any small tube or sac hanging from an organ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appendageal</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈfɪziəl/ adjective referring to appendage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apophasis</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈfəsɪs/ noun a growth of bone, not at a joint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apoplexy</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈpleksə/ noun same as cerebrovascular accident (dated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apo-</td>
<td>/ˌæpəʊ/ prefix 1. a condition in eating food ○ a condition in which someone is unable to make proper movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apophasis</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈfəsɪs/ noun ○ a band of tissue which attaches muscles to each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arthropyaseal</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈfɪzɪəl/ adjective referring to arthropysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apophasis</td>
<td>/ˌæpəˈfəsɪs/ noun a growth of bone, not at a joint</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**apparatus:** A piece of equipment used in a laboratory or hospital.
apyrexia /əˈpɜːrɪkˈsiːə/ noun the absence of fever
apyrexial /əˈpɜːrɪkˈsiːəl/ adjective no longer having any fever
aquæ /ˈeɪkwəʊ/ noun water
aqueduct /əˈkwɪdʌkt/ noun a tube which carries fluid from one part of the body to another
aqueduct of Sylvius /əˈkwɪdʌkt əv ˈsɪlvɪəs/ noun same as cerebral aqueduct
aerial vessel /əˈkrɪvɪəl ˈvɛsəl/ adjective referring to a solution made with water
arcuate ligament /ɑːrkjuˈeɪt ɔˈlɪgəmənt/ noun a fibrous arch to which the diaphragm is attached
articular facet

Illustration at Bone Structure in Supplement, Synovial Joint in Supplement

Articular facet /ˈɑːtikjʊlər/ 'ferət/ noun the point at which a rib articulates with the spine

Articular process /ˈɑːtikjʊlər/ 'prəʊses/ noun a piece of bone which sticks out of the neural arch in a vertebra and links with the next vertebra

Articulate /ˈɑːtikjʊleɪt/ verb to be linked with another bone in a joint

Articulating bone /ˈɑːtikjʊleɪtɪŋ bɔːn/ noun a bone which forms a joint

Articulating process /ˈɑːtikjʊleɪtɪŋ pɹəʊses/ noun same as articular process

Articulation /ˈɑːtikjʊleɪʃn/ noun a joint or series of joints

Artificial /ərtɪˈfɪʃl/ adjective 1. made by humans and not a natural part of the body 2. happening not as a natural process but through action by a doctor or another person or a machine

Artificial insufflation /ərtɪˈfɪʃl ɪnˈsʌfleɪʃn/ noun the introduction of semen into a woman's uterus by artificial means

Artificial insufflation by donor /ərtɪˈfɪʃl ɪnˈsʌfleɪʃn baɪ ˈdɔːnaɪ/ noun same as donor insufflation

Artificial insemination by husband /ərtɪˈfɪʃl ɪnˈsaɪmənət ˈbaɪ hʌzbd/ noun artificial insemination using the semen of the husband.

Abbreviate

Artificial lung /ərtɪˈfɪʃl ˈlʌŋ/ noun a machine through which a person's deoxygenated blood is passed to absorb oxygen to take back to the bloodstream

Artificial pneumothorax /ərtɪˈfɪʃl ˈpjuːməˈθɔːræks/ noun a former method of treating tuberculosis, in which air was introduced between the layers of the pleura to make the lung collapse

Artificial respiration /ərtɪˈfɪʃl ˈrɛspərəʃn/ noun a way of reviving someone who has stopped breathing, e.g. mouth-to-mouth resuscitation

Artificial rupture of membranes /ərtɪˈfɪʃl ˈrʌptər əv ˈmɛmbrenz/ noun the breaking of the amniotic sac with an amniocentesis, releasing the amniotic fluid

Artificial ventilation /ərtɪˈfɪʃl ˈvɛnəltʃən/ noun artificial breath which is assisted or controlled by a machine

Arytenoid /ərˈtɛnɪəd/ adjective located at the back of the larynx

Arytenoid cartilage /ərˈtɛnɪəd ˈkɑːrtɪldʒ/ noun a small cartilage at the back of the larynx

Arytenoidectomy /ərˈtɛnɪədˌɛkˈtəʊmɪ/ noun the removal of the arytenoid cartilage

Asbestosis /ˌæsˈbɛstəsɪs/ noun a disease of the lungs caused by inhaling asbestos dust

Comment: Asbestos was formerly widely used in cement and cladding and other types of fireproof construction materials. It is now recognised that asbestos dust can cause many lung diseases, leading in some cases to forms of cancer.

Ascariasis /ˌæskəˈræsɪs/ noun a disease of the intestine and sometimes the lungs, caused by infestation with Ascaris lumbricoides

Ascaris lumbricoides /ˌæskərɪs ˈlʌmbrɪkoʊdɪz/ noun a type of large roundworm which is a parasite in the human intestine

Ascending aorta /əˈsendɪŋ əˈɔːtroʊ/ noun the first section of the aorta as it leaves the heart and turns upwards.

Ascending aortic arch /əˈsendɪŋ əˈɔːtɪk ərʃ/ noun the first part of the aortic arch which goes up the right side of the body from the caecum.

Ascending colon /əˈsendɪŋ kəˈlɔːn/ noun the first part of the colon which goes up.

See illustration at Digestive System in Supplement

Aschoff's nodules /əˈʃɒfs nəˈdʒʊlz/ noun nodules which are formed mainly in or near the heart in rheumatic fever

Ascorbic acid /əˈskɔrˈbɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun same as Vitamin C

Comment: Ascorbic acid is found in fresh fruit, especially oranges and lemons and in vegetables. Lack of Vitamin C can cause anaemia and scurvy.

AsD abbr autistic spectrum disorders

-Ase /əˈsɛz/ eɪ/ suffix enzyme

Asepsis /əˈsɛpsɪs/ noun the absence of microorganisms which cause infection, usually achieved by sterilisation

Aseptic /əˈsɛptɪk/ adjective sterilised, or involving sterilisation, and therefore without infection

Aseptic surgery /əˈsɛptɪk ˈsɜːdʒərɪ/ noun surgery using sterilised equipment, rather than relying on antiseptic drugs to kill harmful microorganisms. Compare Antiseptic technique

Asexual /əˈsɛksjuəl/ adjective not sexual, not involving sexual intercourse

Asexual reproduction /əˈsɛksjuəl ˌrɪprəˈdʌkʃən/ noun reproduction of a cell by cloning

Asian flu /əˈsɪnfl/ noun a flu

Asiatic /əˈsɪstɪk/ -iastic

Asleep /əˈslɪp/ adjective sleeping

Comment: Asleep is asleep and must not be disturbed. (Note: Asleep cannot be used in front of a noun: as a...
the patient is asleep but a sleeping patient.) □

she fell asleep she began to sleep: fast asleep

sleeping deeply

asparagine /'æspərægɪn/ noun an amino acid

aspartame /'æspærtəm/ noun a protein produced from aspartic acid, used to make substances sweeter

aspartate aminotransferase /'æspærtət /,aminotransferase/ noun an enzyme found in heart muscle, liver cells, skeletal muscle cells and some other tissues. It is used in the diagnosis of liver disease and heart attacks.

aspartic acid /'æs porter/ noun an amino acid

aspect /'æspekt/ noun a direction from which the body is viewed, e.g. the view from above is the 'superior aspect'

Asperger's syndrome /'æspərærgəz /'sin drəmə/ noun a developmental disorder characterised by difficulty in social interaction and a restricted range of interests, more common in boys than girls [Described 1944. After Hans Asperger (1906–80), Austrian psychiatrist.]

aspergillosis /'æspərəgləsɪs/ noun infection of the lungs with the fungus Aspergillus

aspermatia /'æs porter miə/ noun the absence of sperm in semen

asphyxia /'æs fiksiə/ noun a condition in which someone is prevented from breathing, e.g. by strangulation or breathing poisonous gas, and therefore cannot take oxygen into the bloodstream

asphyxia neonatorum /'æs fetiksiə neɪtənətərəm/ noun failure to breathe in a newborn baby

asphyxiate /'æs fetiksiət/ verb to prevent someone from breathing, or be prevented from breathing. An unconscious patient may become asphyxiated or may asphyxiate if left lying on his back. □ suffocate

asphyxiation /'æs fetiksiəʃən/ noun the state of being prevented from breathing, or the act of preventing someone from breathing. □ suffocation

aspirate /'æs prərət/ verb 1. to remove liquid or gas by suction from a body cavity. To inhale something, especially a liquid, into the lungs

aspiration /'æs prərəʃən/ noun 1. the act of removing fluid from a cavity in the body, often using a hollow needle. 2. same as vacuum suction

aspiration pneumonia /'æs prərəʃən pnɪəmənɪə/ noun a form of pneumonia in which infected matter is inhaled from the bronchi or oesophagus

aspirator /'æs prərətər/ noun an instrument used to suck fluid out of a cavity such as the mouth or the site of an operation

aspirin /'æs prərn/ noun a common pain-killing drug, or a tablet containing this drug. Also called acetylsalicylic acid

assey /'æs eɪt/ noun the testing of a substance. □ bioassay, immunoassay

assimilate /'æs səmlət/ verb to take into the body's tissues substances which have been absorbed into the blood from digested food

assimilation /'æs səmləʃən/ noun the action of assimilating food substances

assistance /'æs səntəs/ noun help

assistant /'æs səntət/ noun a person who helps someone, usually as a job

assisted conception /'æs səntəd kan/ noun, assisted reproduction /'æs səntəd rɪprərədʌkʃən/ noun a technique used to prevent the suicide of someone who is terminally ill with the help of a doctor or friend at the request of the person who is dying

associate /'æs sərəs tʃənt/ verb to be related to or connected with something. □ side effects which may be associated with the drug. □ The condition is often associated with diabetes.

associate nurse /'æs sərəs nt 'nɜːθət/ noun a nurse who assists a primary nurse by carrying out agreed care for someone based on a plan designed by a primary nurse

association area /'æs sərəs /'eɪtʃən arə /'ɛərə/ noun an area of the cortex of the brain which is concerned with relating stimuli coming from different sources

association neuron /'æs sərəs /'eɪtʃən nəˈʃən/ noun a neuron which links an association area to the main parts of the cortex

association tract /'æs sərəs /'eɪtʃən trækt/ noun one of the tracts which link areas of the cortex in the same cerebral hemisphere

asthenia /'æstfəniə/ noun a condition in which someone is weak and does not have any strength

asthenic /'æstfənik/ adjective referring to a general condition in which someone has no strength and no interest in things

asthenopia /'æstfənpəʊpə/ noun same as eye strain

asthma /'æsθmə/ noun a lung condition characterised by narrowing of the bronchial tubes, in which the muscles go into spasm and the person has difficulty breathing. □ cardiac asthma

asthmatic /'æsθmætɪk/ adjective having the lung disease asthma, or relating to asthma. □ He has asthma an attack every spring. □ acute asthmatic attack a sudden attack of asthma. □ noun a person who has asthma
asthmatic bronchitis

asthmatic bronchitis /æs'mætɪk bɹɒŋ 'kætrɪs/ noun asthma associated with bronchi-

asthmatic /æs'mætɪk/ adjective 1 status asthmaticus

astigmatic /ɛstɪg'mætɪk/ adjective referring to astigmatism or he is astigmatic he has astigmatism

astigmatism /æs'tɪgmətɪzəm/ noun a condition in which the eye cannot focus vertical and horizontal lines simultaneously, leading to blurring of vision

atremal /ɛstrəməl/ noun an old name for the talus (anklebone)

strangulating /stræn'dʒənt/ noun a substance which makes the skin tissues contract and harden [adjective referring to an astringent

astrocyte /æstrə'saɪt/ noun a star-shaped cell of the connective tissue of the nervous system

astrocystoma /æstrə'saɪstaʊmə/ noun a type of brain tumour which develops slowly in the connective tissue of the nervous system

asymmetric /ɛs'tɪmɛtrɪk/ adjective shaped or arranged so that the two sides do not match or balance each other

asymmetry /æs'ɪmətrɪ/ noun a state in which the two sides of the body or of an organ do not resemble each other

asymptomatic /ɛs'ɜmpˈtɒmɪk/ adjective not showing any symptoms of disease

asynclitism /æsɪnˈkltɪzɪm/ noun in childbirth, a situation in which the head of the baby enters the vagina at an angle

asynergia /æsɪnˈdʒɛrɪə/ noun awkward movements and bad coordination, caused by a disorder of the cere-

asynergy /æs'ɪnɡərɪə/ noun a state in which the heart has stopped beating

ataxic /ætə'tɛksɪk/ noun a drug which has a calming effect [adjective calming

ataxia /ætə'tɛksɪə/ noun the state of being calm and not worrying

ataxic /ætə'tɛksɪk/ noun, adjective same as atartic

ataxia /ætə'tɛksɪə/ noun a failure of the brain to control movements

ataxic /ætə'tɛksɪk/ adjective having ataxia, or relating to ataxia

ataxic gait /ætə'tɛksɪk /ˈɡeɪt/ noun a way of walking in which the person walks unsteadily due to a disorder of the nervous system

ataxia /ætə'shəni/ noun a condition in which the arteries and veins in the brain are not properly formed, leading to strokes or epilep-

atherogenesia /ə'thərə'jɛnɛsɪə/ noun the formation of fatty deposits (atheromas) in arteries

atherogenic /ə'thərə'jɛnɪk/ adjective referring to something which may produce atheroma

atheroma /ə'thərəʊmə/ noun thickening of the walls of an artery by deposits of a fatty substance such as cholesterol

atheromatous /ə'thərəmətəs/ adjective referring to atheroma

atherosclerosis /ə'thərəskə'luːsəs/ noun a condition in which deposits of fats and minerals form on the walls of an artery, especially the aorta or one of the coronary or cerebral arteries, and prevent blood from flowing easily

atherosclerotic /ə'thərəskə'luːtɪk/ adjective referring to atherosclerosis

atherosclerotic plaque /ə'thərəskə'luːtɪk plɹk/ noun a deposit on the walls of arteries

athetosis /æθə'təsɪs/ noun repeated slow movements of the limbs, caused by a brain dis-

athetosis /æθə'təsɪs/ noun a state in which the surfaces of the brain do not grow symmetrically

athlete's foot /etəlɪts 'fʊt/ noun an infectious skin disorder between the toes, caused by a fungus. Also called tinea pedis

athletic /æθə'tɪk/ noun the top vertebra in the spine, which supports the skull and pivots on the

atmospheric pressure /ætəˈmɪsfərɪk /'préʃər/ noun the pressure of the air on the surface of the Earth

atmospheric pressure /ætəˈmɪsfərɪk /'préʃər/ noun the pressure of the air on the surface of the Earth

atomic cocktail /ɑtə'mɔtɪk 'lʊkntɪki/ noun a radioactive substance in liquid form, used to diagnose or treat cancer (informal)

atomiser /ə'təmɪzaɪr/ noun an instrument which sprays liquid in the form of very small drops like mist. Also called nebuliser

atomic /ætə'mɔtɪk/ adjective referring to lack of muscle tone or tension

atony /ætəni/ noun a lack of tone or tension in the muscles

atopic /ætə'pɒk/ noun an allergen which causes an atopy

atopic /ætə'pɒk/ adjective referring to conditions arising from an inherited tendency to react to specific allergens, as in hay fever, some skin conditions and asthma

atopic eczema /ætəpɪk 'ɛksmə/ noun a type of eczema often caused by a hereditary all-

atopy /ætə'tɒpi/ noun a hereditary allergic reaction

ATP abbr adenosine triphosphate
atrium /əˈtrɪəm/ plural of atrium
atrial /əˈtrɪəl/ adjective referring to one or both of the atria of the heart
atrial fibrillation /əˈtrɪəl fəˈbrɪləˈʃən/ noun a rapid uncoordinated flutting of the atria of the heart, which causes an irregular heartbeat
atrial seaptal defect /əˈtrɪəl ˈseptəl dɪˈfekt/ noun a congenital condition in which a hole in the wall between the two atria of the heart allows blood to flow through the heart and lungs. Compare ventricular seaptal defect
atrioventricular /əˌtrɪəʊˌventrəˈkrɪl/ adjective referring to the atra and ventricles
atrioventricular bundle /əˌtrɪəˌvəntrəˈkrɪl ˈbʌndl/ noun a bundle of modified cardiac muscle which conducts impulses from the atrioventricular node to the septum and then divides to connect with the ventricles. Also called AV bundle, bundle of His
atrioventricular groove /əˌtrɪəˌvəntrəˈkrɪl ˈgrʊv/ noun a groove round the outside of the heart, showing the division between the atra and ventricles
atrioventricular node /əˌtrɪəˌvəntrəˈkrɪl ˈnɑʊd/ noun a mass of conducting tissue in the right atrium of the heart, which continues as the atrioventricular bundle and passes impulses from the atra to the ventricles. Also called AV node
at-risk /ətˈrɪsk/ adjective exposed to danger or harm of some kind □ at-risk children
atrium /əˈtrɪəm/ noun 1. one of the two upper chambers in the heart. See illustration at HEART in Supplement 2. a cavity in the ear behind the eardrum (note: the plural is atra.) COMMENT: The two atra in the heart both receive blood from veins. The right atrium receives venous blood from the superior and inferior venae cavae and the left atrium receives oxygenated blood from the pulmonary veins.
atrophic cirrhosis /əˌtrɪəfɪk sɪˈrɒθəs/ noun advanced portal cirrhosis in which the liver has become considerably smaller and clumps of new cells are formed on the surface of the liver where fibrous tissue has replaced damaged liver cells. Also called roth belly liver
atrophic gastritis /əˌtrɪəfɪk ˈɡæstrətɪs/ noun inflammation of the stomach caused by being unable to produce enough acid to kill bacteria
atrophic vaginitis /əˌtrɪəfɪk ˈveɡnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation, thinning and shrinking of the tissues of the vagina caused by a lack of oestrogen
atrophy /əˈtrəfi/ noun the wasting of an organ or part of the body □ verb (of an organ or part of the body) to waste away
atropine /əˌtrəˈpiːn/ noun an alkaloid substance derived from the poisonous plant belladonna and used, among other things, to enlarge the pupil of the eye, to reduce salivary and bronchial secretions during anaesthesia and as a muscarinic antagonist
ATS, at tit: /ət ˈtɪt/ abbrev antitetanus serum
attack /əˈtæk/ noun a sudden occurrence of an illness ◇ He had an attack of fever. ◇ She had two attacks of laryngitis during the winter.
temperature /əˈtɛmpərəˈʃən/ noun an unsuccessful attempt to kill oneself
attending physician /ətˈtɛndɪŋ fɪˈzɪkən/ noun a doctor who is looking after a particular patient ◇ He was referred to the hypension unit by his attending physician.
attention deficit disorder /əˈtɛnʃən dɪˈfɪʃt dɪˈsɔr/ noun a condition in which a person is unable to concentrate, does things without considering their actions properly and has little confidence. It occurs mainly in children. Abbr ADD
attention deficit hyperactivity disorder /əˌtɛnʃən dɪˈfɪʃt hɪˈpɜərəˈtɪvɪətɪ dɪˈsɔr/ noun a condition in which a child has an inability to concentrate and shows disruptive behaviour. Abbr ADHD
attention deficit syndrome /əˌtɛnʃən dɪˈfɪʃt sɪˈndrəʊm/ noun same as attention deficit disorder
attenuation /əˌtɛnʃən ɪˈtɜːʃən/ noun a reduction in the effect or strength of something such as a virus, either because of environmental conditions or as a result of a laboratory procedure
atticotomy /əˈtɪktəmə/ noun the removal of the wall in the inner ear. Also called cortical mastoidectomy
attitude /əˈtɪtjuːd/ noun 1. an opinion or general feeling about something ◇ a positive attitude towards the operation 2. a way of standing or sitting
attributable risk /əˌtrɪbjʊəˈrɪsk/ noun a risk of the excess risk of disease due to exposure to a particular risk. The excess risk of bacteriuria in oral contraceptive users attributable to the use of oral contraceptives is 1,566 per 100,000. Abbr AR
attrition /əˌtrɪʃən/ noun the condition of being worn away, as may be caused by friction ◇ Examination showed attrition of two extensor tendons
atyphical /əˈtɪfɪkəl/ adjective not usual or expected □ an atypical renal cyst
audi- /əˈdiː/ prefix same as audio- (used before vowels)
audible limits /ədˈsɛlb(ə)l/ plural /əldʒ/ limit noun upper and lower limits of the sound frequencies which can be heard by humans

audio /ˈædʒiəʊ/ prefix referring to hearing or sound

audiogram /ədˈsɪgrəm/ noun a graph drawn by an audiometer

audiologist /ədˈɒlədʒɪst/ noun a specialist who deals in the treatment of hearing disorders

audiology /ədˈɒlədʒi/ noun the scientific study of hearing, especially for diagnosing and treating hearing loss

auricle /ˈɔːkʃəl/ noun the three little bones, the malleus, incus and stapes, in the middle ear

Auerbach’s plexus /ˈɔːrəbæks/ˈpʌlɛks/ noun a group of nerve fibres in the intestine wall (Described 1862. After Leopold Auerbach (1828–97), Professor of Neuropathology at Breslau, now in Poland.)

aura /ˈɔːrə/ noun a warning sensation which is experienced before an attack of epilepsy, migraine or asthma

aural /əˈrɔl/ adjective referring to the ear

aural polyp /əˈrɔl ˈpɒlp/ noun a polyp in the middle ear

aural surgery /əˈrɔl ˈsɜrdʒəri/ noun surgery on the ear

auricle /ˈɔːrk(ə)l/ noun the tip of each atrium in the heart

auricular /ɔːˈriːkʃəl/ adjective referring to the ear

auricular vein /ɔːˈriːkʃəl ˌviːn/ noun a vein which leads into the posterior facial vein

auriscope /əˈrɪskəʊp/ noun an instrument for examining the ear and eardrum. Also called otoscope

auscultation /ˌɔsəkˈteɪʃn/ noun the act of listening to the sounds of the body using a stethoscope

auscultatory /ˌɔsəkˈtərə ri/ adjective referring to auscultation

Australia antigen /əˈstʌriəl ˌæntɪdʒən/ noun an antigen produced on the surface of liver cells infected with the hepatitis B virus

autism /ˈɔtɪzm/ noun a condition developing in childhood, characterised by difficulty in social interaction, language and communication problems, learning difficulties and obsessive repetitive behaviour (Note: Autism is more common in boys than in girls.)

autistic /ˈɔtɪstɪk/ adjective affected by, or relating to, autism

autistic spectrum disorders /ˌɔtɪstɪk ˈspekrəm dɪˈzɔːrəti/ plural noun autism in all its different forms and degrees of severity. Abbr ASD

autoclave /ˈɔtəkləv/ noun a machine for sterilising surgical instruments using heat under high pressure. Able to be sterilised in an autoclave

autoclavable /ˈɔtəkləvəb(ə)l/ adjective able to be sterilised in an autoclave

autoclaving /ˈɔtəkləvɪŋ/ verb to sterilise equipment

autogenous /əˈtɒdʒənəs/ adjective made using parts of the person’s own body

autograft /əˈtɒgræft/ noun a transplant made using parts of the person’s own body

autoantibody /əˈtəʊtɪbədi/ noun an antibody formed to attack antigens in the body’s own cells

autimmune /əˈtɜːmən/ adjective referring to an immune reaction in a person against antigens in their own cells

autoimmune disease /əˈtɜːmən ˌdɪˈziːz/ noun a disease in which the person’s own cells are attacked by autoantibodies

autoimmunisation /əˈtɜːmənˌɪmjuˈnɪzəʃən/ noun the process leading to an immune reaction in a person to antigens produced in their own body

autoimmunity /əˈtɜːmənˈɪmjuːnəti/ noun a condition in which a person’s own cells are attacked by autoantibodies

autoinfection /əˈtɜːmənˈfɛkʃən/ noun an infection by a microorganism already in the body, or infection of one part of the body by another part
Knowing that he or she is acting in which a person acts without consciously action by itself, without anyone giving instructions produced in the body itself

A person acts without consciously action by itself, without anyone giving instructions produced in the body itself.

Avulsion fracture /əˈvəlsʃən/ noun a fracture in which a tendon pulls away part of the bone to which it is attached.

Awake /əˈwake/ adjective not asleep. He was awake at 2 a.m.

Autolysis /ɔ/ lengthmark /g/ cursive /pipe/ vertstrokesuperior z /vertstrokeinferior ləri /vertstrokesuperior α /lengthmark /t/ Ω /pipe/ vertstrokesuperior o /noun...
axis /ˈæksɪs/ noun 1. an imaginary line through the centre of the body 2. a central vessel which divides into other vessels 3. the second vertebra on which the atlas sits (NOTE: The plural is axes.)

axodendrite /ˌæksəʊˈdendrɪt/ noun an appendage like a fibril on the axon of a nerve

axolemma /ˌæksəˈlemə/ noun a membrane covering an axon

axon /ˈæksən/ noun a nerve fibre which sends impulses from one neurone to another, linking with the dendrites of the other neurone. See illustration at neurone in Supplement

axon covering /ˌæksən ˈæknɪŋ/ noun the myelin sheath which covers a nerve

Ayurvedic medicine /ˌævərˈdik/ noun a traditional Hindu system of healing that reviews a person’s state of health and lifestyle and recommends treatment based on herbal products, dietary control and spiritual practices

azathioprine /ˌæziθəˈprɪn/ noun a drug which suppresses the immune response, used after transplant surgery to prevent rejection

-azepam /ˌæzɪpəm/ suffix used in names of benzodiazepines (cliazepam)

azidothymidine /ˌæzɪdəθaɪmɪdɪn/ noun a drug used in the treatment of AIDS. Abbr AZT. Also called zidovudine

azo- /ˌɛzəʊ/ prefix containing a nitrogen group

azoospermia /ˌæzəʊˈsɜːprəmɪə/ noun the absence of sperm

azotaemia /ˌæzəˈteɪmɪə/ noun the presence of urea or other nitrogen compounds in the blood

azoturia /ˌæzəˈtjʊəriə/ noun the presence of urea or other nitrogen compounds in the urine, caused by kidney disease

AZT abbr azidothymidine

azygous /ˌæzɪɡəs/ adjective single, not one of a pair

azygous vein /ˌæzɪɡəs ˈveɪn/ noun a vein which brings blood back into the vena cava from the abdomen
babesiosis /ˌbæbɪsəˈsɪəs/ noun a disease caused by infection of red blood cells by a protozoan introduced by a tick bite

Babinski reflex /ˌbæbɪnskɪ/ˈrɪflɛks/, Babinski’s reflex /ˌbæbɪnskɪ/ˈrɪflɛks/ noun an unusual curling upwards of the big toe when a finger is lightly run across the sole of the foot, while the others turn down and spread out, a sign of hemiplegia and pyramidal tract disease. Compare plantar reflex [Described 1896. After Joseph François Felix Babinski (1857–1932), French-born son of Polish refugees. A pupil of Charcot, he was head of the Neurological clinic at hôpital de la Pitié, 1890–1927.]

Babinski test /ˌbæbɪnskɪ tɛst/ noun a test for a Babinski reflex

baby /ˈbeɪbi/ noun a very young child who is not yet old enough to talk or walk. Babies start to walk when they are about 12 months old. (Note: If you do not know the sex of a baby you can refer to the child as it. The baby was sucking its thumb)

baby blues /ˈbeɪbi bluːz/ plural noun same as postnatal depression (informal)

baby care /ˈbeɪbi kɛə/ noun the act of looking after babies

baby clinic /ˈbeɪbi ˈklinik/ noun a special clinic which deals with babies

bacillaeemia /ˈbæsɪliəˈmiə/ noun an infection of the blood by bacilli

bacillary dysentery /ˌbæsɪlərɪˈdɪsɛntrɪ/ noun dysentery caused by the bacillus Shigella in contaminated food

bacille Calmette-Guérin /ˌbæsɪl ˈkɑlmeɪt ɡwɜːrɪn/ noun full form of BCG [After A. Calmette (1863–1933) and C. Guérin (1872–1961), French bacteriologists.]

bacilluria /ˌbæsɪləˈljuəriə/ noun the presence of bacilli in the urine

bacillus /ˌbæsɪləs/ noun a bacterium shaped like a rod (Note: The plural is bacilli.)

back /bæk/ noun 1. the part of the body from the neck downwards to the waist, which is made up of the spine and the bones attached to it (Note: For other terms referring to the back, see dorsal and words beginning with dorso-, dorso-)] 2. the other side from the front (Note: She has a swelling on the back of her hand. (dorsum)

backache /ˈbækək/ noun pain in the back, often without a specific cause

COMMENT: Backache can result from bad posture or muscle strain, but it can also be caused by rheumatism (lumbago), fevers such as typhoid fever and osteoarthritis. Pains in the back can also be referred pains from gallstones or kidney disease.

backbone /ˈbækbɔʊn/ noun a series of bones, the vertebrae, linked together to form a flexible column running from the pelvis to the skull. Also called rachis, spine

background carboxyhaemoglobin level /ˌbækɡrəʊd kɑrˈkɒksɪhæməˈɡlobɪn ˈlevəl/ noun the level of carboxyhaemoglobin in the blood of a person who is not exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide

back muscles /ˈbækməsɪlz/ plural noun the strong muscles in the back which help hold the body upright

back pain /ˈbæk petən/ noun pain in the back, especially long-lasting or severe pain

backsides /ˈbækˌsайдz/ noun someone’s buttocks (informal)

back strain /ˈbæk streɪn/ noun a condition in which the muscles or ligaments in the back have been strained

baclofen /ˈbækˌləfiən/ noun a drug that relaxes skeletal muscles which are in spasm, either because of injury or as a result of multiple sclerosis

bacteriaemia /ˈbæktrɪəˈmiə/ noun the fact of having bacteria in the blood. Bacteriaemia is not necessarily a serious condition. Compare septicaemia. (blood poisoning

bacterium /ˌbækˈtrɪəm/ plural of bacterium

bacterial /ˌbækˈtrɪərɪəl/ adjective relating to bacteria or caused by bacteria (Note: Children with sickle-cell anaemia are susceptible to bacterial infection.

bacterial plaque /ˌbækˈtrɪərɪəl ˈplæk/ noun a hard smooth bacterial deposit on teeth
bacterial pneumonia

bacterial pneumonia /ˈbækˌtrɪəriəl ɲjuː; 'mənəɪə/ noun a form of pneumonia caused by pneumococcus. ◄ bronchopneumonia

bacterial strain /ˈbækˌtrɪəriəl ˈstrɛm/ noun a group of bacteria which are different from others of the same general type

bactericidal /ˌbækˌtrɪərɪˈsaɪdəl/ adjective referring to a substance which destroys bacteria and which destroys bacteria

bactericide /ˈbækˌtrɪərɪsɪd/ noun a substance which destroys bacteria

bacteriological /ˌbækˌtrɪəriəˈlɑdʒɪkəl/ adjective referring to bacteriology

bacteriologist /ˈbækˌtrɪəriəˈlɑdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of bacteria

bacteriology /ˈbækˌtrɪəriəˈlɑdʒi/ noun the scientific study of bacteria

bacteriolsin /ˈbækˌtrɪəriəˈlɪsɪn/ noun a protein, usually an immunoglobulin, which destroys bacteria

bacteriolytic /ˈbækˌtrɪərɪˌlɪtɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which can destroy bacteria

bacteriophage /ˈbækˌtrɪəriəˈfeɪdʒ/ noun a virus which affects bacteria

bacteriostasis /ˈbækˌtrɪərɪəˈstɛsɪs/ noun the action of stopping bacteria from multiplying

bacteriostatic /ˈbækˌtrɪərɪəˈstætɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which does not kill bacteria but stops them from multiplying

bacterium /ˈbækˌtrɪəriəm/ noun a microscopiv organism. Some types are permanently present in the gut and can break down food tissue, but many can cause disease. (Note: The plural is bacteria.)

COMMENT: Bacteria can be shaped like rods (bacilli), like balls (coccii) or have a spiral form (spirochaetes). Bacteria, especially bacilli and spirochaetes, can move and reproduce very rapidly.

bacteriuria /ˈbækˌtrɪəriəˈjʊəriə/ noun a condition in which bacteria are present in the urine

Bactrim /ˈbæktrɪm/ a trade name for co-trimoxazole

bad breath /ˈbæd ˈbreθ/ noun same as halitosis (informal)

Baghdad boil /ˈbægdəd ˈboʊl, Baghdad sore /ˈbægdəd ˈsoʊ/ noun a skin disease of tropical countries caused by the parasite Leishmania. Also called Oriental sore

bag of waters /ˈbæɡ əv ˈwɔrətiz/ noun part of the amnion which covers an unborn baby in the uterus and contains the amniotic fluid

BAHA /ˈbæhoʊ/ abbr bone anchored hearing aid

Baker’s cyst /ˈbækərz ˈsɪst/ noun a swelling filled with synovial fluid, at the back of the knee, caused by weakness of the joint membrane [Described 1877. After William Morrant Baker (1838–96), member of staff at St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London, UK.]

baker’s itch /ˈbɛkərˌɪtʃ, ‘bækərˌɪtʃ/, baker’s dermatitis /ˈbɛkərˌdɑrəˌmɑtɪʃəs/ noun an irritation of the skin caused by handling yeast

BAL /ˈbɛl/ abbr British anti-lewisite

balance /ˈbɛləns/ noun 1. the act of staying upright, not falling ◄ he stood on top of the fence and kept his balance he did not fall off 2. the proportions of substances in a mixture, e.g. in the diet ◄ to maintain a healthy balance of vitamins in the diet

balanced diet /ˈbɛlənsd ˈdɪt/ noun a diet which provides all the nutrients needed in the correct proportions

balance of mind /ˈbɛləns əv ˈmaɪnd/ noun someone’s mental state ◄ disturbed balance of mind a state of mind when someone is for a time incapable of reasoned action, because of illness or depression

balanitis /ˈbɛləntɪts/ noun inflammation of the glans of the penis

balanoposthitis /ˌbɛlənəˈpɑʊstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the foreskin and the end of the penis

balantidiasis /ˌbɛləntɪdɪəˈsɪs/ noun an infestation of the large intestine by a parasite Balantidium coli, which causes ulceration of the wall of the intestine, leading to diarrhoea and finally dysentery

balanus /ˈbɛlənəs/ noun the round end of the penis. ◄ glans

bald /bɔld/ adjective with no hair, especially on the head ◄ he is going bald or he is becoming bald he is beginning to lose his hair

baldness /ˈbɔldnəs/ noun the state of not having any hair

COMMENT: Baldness in men is hereditary; it can also occur in both men and women as a reaction to an illness or to a drug.

Balkan frame /ˌbɔlˈkɑn ˈfrem/, Balkan beam /ˌbɔlˈkɑn ˈbɪrm/ noun a frame fitted above a bed to which a leg in plaster can be attached. ◄ Pearson bed

ball /bɔl/ noun 1. the soft part of the hand below the thumb 2. the soft part of the foot below the big toe

ball and cage valve /bɔl ən ˈkɛrdʒ vɛlv/ noun an artificial heart valve, formed of a silicon ball which moves inside a metal cage to open and shut the valve

ball and socket joint /bɔl ən ˈsɔktət ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint where the round end of a long bone is attached to a cup-shaped hollow in another bone in such a way that the long bone can move in almost any direction. Compare ginglymus

balloon /bɔlˈluːn/ noun a bag of light material inflated with air or a gas, used to unblock arteries
balloon angioplasty /ˈbaːləʊn ˈæŋɡɪˈplæsɪ/ noun same as percutaneous angioplasty

balloon catheter /ˈbaːləʊn ˈkæθətər/ noun a tube that can be inserted into a blood vessel or other body part and then inflated, e.g. to widen a narrow artery

ballottement /ˈbaːlɔːtəmənt/ noun a method of examining the body by tapping or moving a part, especially during pregnancy

ban /bæn/ verb to say that something is not permitted ○ Smoking is banned throughout the building. ○ Use of this drug has been banned.

barbiturate poisoning /ˈbaːrɪbərət ˈpoʊzənɪŋ/ noun poisoning caused by an overdose of barbiturates

barbiturate /ˈbaːrɪbərət/ noun a method of spinal analgesia by which cerebrospinal fluid is withdrawn and then injected back into the brain

bare /bɛər/ adjective with no covering ○ bare area of the liver a large triangular part of the liver not covered with peritoneum

barrasion /ˈbɑːriəʃərən/ noun the medical treatment of obesity

bariatrics /ˈbɑːrɪətri/ noun the medical treatment of obesity

barbitone /ˈbaːrɪbərən/ noun US same as barbiturate

barbiturate abuse /ˈbaːrɪbərət ˈəˌbjuːs/ noun repeated addictive use of barbiturates which in the end affects the brain

barbiturate dependence /ˈbaːrɪbərət ˈdɛnˌˈdʒɛndərən/ noun being dependent on regularly taking barbiturate tablets

barrel chest /ˈbɑːrəl ˈtʃest/ noun a chest formed like a barrel, caused by asthma or emphysema
barrier cream 38

barrier cream /'ba:riə kri:m/ noun a cream put on the skin to prevent the skin coming into contact with irritating substances

barrier method /'ba:riə ,meθt/ method noun a method of contraception in which the entry of sperm to the womb is blocked by a protective device such as a condom or diaphragm

barrier nursing /'ba:riə ,næsɪŋ/ noun the nursing of someone who has an infectious disease. It involves keeping them away from other patients and making sure that faeces and soiled bedclothes do not carry the infection to other patients.

...those affected by salmonella poisoning are being nursed in five isolation wards and about forty suspected sufferers are being barrier nursed in other wards [Nursing Times]

bartholinitis /bɑθələˈnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the Bartholin’s glands

Bartholin’s glands /bɑθələˈlnz glændz/ plural noun two glands at the side of the vagina and between it and the vulva, which secrete a lubricating substance. Also called greater vestibular glands [After Caspar Bartholin (1655–1748), Danish anatomist]

basal /'beɪsəl/ adjective located at the bottom of something, or forming its base

basal cell /'beɪsəl sel/ noun a cell from the stratum germinativum. ◄ stratum

basal cell carcinoma /'beɪsəl selˌkeɪsərəm/ noun a large ulcer of the skin which everything else comes ◄ basement membrane ◄ stratum

basal ganglia /'beɪsəl ˈɡæŋɡlɪə/ plural noun masses of grey matter at the base of each cerebral hemisphere which receive impulses from the thalamus and influence the motor impulses from the frontal cortex

basalis /'beɪsəlis/ adjective ◄ stratum

basal metabolic rate /'beɪsəl ˈmeɪtəbəlɪk rɛt/ noun the amount of energy used by the body in exchanging oxygen and carbon dioxide when at rest. It was formerly used as a way of testing thyroid gland activity. Abbr BMR

basal metabolism /'beɪsəl ˈmeɪtəbəlɪmˌlɪmətəri/ noun the minimum amount of energy needed to keep the body functioning and the temperature standard when at rest

basal narcosis /'beɪsəl ˈnɑrˌsɒsɪs/ noun the administration a narcotic before a general anaesthetic

basal nuclei /'beɪsəl ˈnjuːklɪə/ plural noun masses of grey matter at the bottom of each cerebral hemisphere

base /beɪs/ noun 1. the bottom part ◄ base of the spine of the head ◄ base of the brain 2. the bottom surface of the cerebrum 3. the main ingredient of an ointment, as opposed to the active ingredient 4. a substance which reacts with an acid to form a salt ◄ verb to use something as a base ◄ cream based on zinc oxide cream which uses zinc oxide as a base

Basedow’s disease /ˈbæzdəʊz ˈdɪz/ noun a form of hyperthyroidism. ◄ described 1840. After Carl Adolph Basedow (1799–1854), general practitioner in Mersburg, Germany

basement membrane /ˈbeɪsəmənt ˈmeɪmbrən/ a membrane at the base of an epithelium

basic /ˈbeɪsɪk/ adjective 1. very simple, from which everything else comes ◄ basic structure of the skin 2. referring to a chemical substance which reacts with an acid to form a salt

basic salt /ˈbeɪsɪk ˈsɔlt/ noun a chemical compound formed when an acid reacts with a base

basilar /ˈbeɪzələ/ adjective referring to a base

basilar artery /ˈbeɪzələ ˈɑrtərɪ/ noun an artery which lies at the base of the brain

basilar membrane /ˈbeɪzələ ˈmiːmbərn/ a membrane in the cochlea which transmits nerve impulses from sound vibrations to the auditory nerve

basilic /ˈbeɪsəlɪk/ adjective important or prominent

basilic vein /ˈbeɪzəlɪk ˈvɛn/ noun a large vein running along the inside of the arm

basin /ˈbeɪsən/ noun a large bowl

basophil /ˈbeɪsəfəl/ noun a type of white blood cell which has granules in its cytoplasm and contains histamine and heparin

basophilia /ˈbeɪsəfəlɪə/ noun an increase in the number of basophils in the blood

basophilic granulocyte /ˌbeɪsəfəlˈɪk ˈɡrænəˌlʌsətˌsɪd/ noun same as basophil

basophilic leucocyte /ˌbeɪsəfəlˈɪk ˈljuːsətˌsɪd/ noun same as basophil

Batchelor plaster /ˈbætʃələr ˈplæstər/ noun a plaster cast which keeps both legs apart [After J.S. Batchelor (b. 1905), British orthopaedic surgeon]

bathe /beɪθ/ verb to wash a wound ◄ He bathed the grazed knee with boiled water

Batten’s disease /ˈbætənz ˈdɪz/ noun a hereditary disease which affects the enzymes of the brain, causing cells in the brain and eye to die

battered baby syndrome /ˈbætərd, ˈbeɪbi ˌsɪndrəm/, battered child syndrome /ˈbætərd ˈʃɪld ˌsɪndrəm/ noun a condition in which a baby or small child is frequently beaten, usually by one or both of its parents, sustaining injuries such as multiple fractures

battledore placenta /ˈbeɪtədəˌplæntə, ˈplæntəˌplæntə/ noun a placenta where the umbilical cord is attached at the edge and not at the centre

Bazin’s disease /ˈbeɪzɪn ˈdɪz/ noun same as erythema induratum [Described 1861. After Pierre Antoine Ernest Bazin (1807–78), dermatologist at Hôpital St Louis, Paris, France]
also associated with uterine prolapse.

Now used in place of the

an illness

someone can urinate or defecate without get-

shown as a percentage of all the beds in the

Bq

measurement of radiation. Abbr

(NOTE: Bearing-down pain is

or knee (beat knee) caused by frequent sharp

tion of a joint such as the elbow (beat elbow)

bed rest

bed rest

bedpan

bedrest

bedridden


bedside manner

the way in which a doctor behaves towards a

patient, especially a patient who is in bed ○ a
good bedside manner the ability to make pa-

tients feel comforted and reassured

bedsore /bedsɔr/ noun an inflamed patch of

skin on a bony part of the body, which devel-

ops into an ulcer, caused by pressure of the part

on the mattress after lying for some time in one

position. Special beds such as air beds, ripple

beds and water beds are used to try to prevent

the formation of bedsores. Also called pres-

sure sore, decubitus ulcer

bedtable /bedˈteɪlər/ noun a specially de-

dsigned table which can be used by a person sit-

ting up in bed

bedwetting /ˈbedwɪtɪŋ/ noun same as noc-

turnal enuresis (NOTE: This term is used mainly

about children.)

Beer’s knife /ˈbɛər nɑːf/ noun a knife with a

triangular blade, used in eye operations [After

George Joseph Beer (1763–1821), German

ophthalmologist]

behaviour /ˌbɛhrəˈvɪər/ noun a way of acting

○ His behaviour was very aggressive. (NOTE:
The US spelling is behavior.)

behavioural /ˌbɛhrəˈvɪərəl/ adjective relating to

behaviour (NOTE: The US spelling is behav-

ioral.)

behavioural scientist /ˌbɛhrəˈvɪərəl

ˈsɛnstri/ noun a person who specialises in

the study of behaviour

behaviourism /ˌbɛhrəˈvɪərəzɪzəm/ noun a

psychological theory proposing that only

someone’s behaviour should be studied to dis-

cover their psychological problems

behaviourist /ˌbɛhrəˈvɪərɪst/ noun a psy-

chologist who follows behaviourism

behaviour therapy /ˌbɛhrəˈvɪərəpi/ noun a

form of psychiatric treatment in which

someone learns how to improve their condi-

tion

Behçet’s syndrome /ˈbɛhʃəts, ˌsɪndrəʊm/ noun a

chronic condition of the immune sys-

tem with no known cause, experienced as a

series of attacks of inflammation of small blood

vessels accompanied by mouth ulcers and

sometimes genital ulcers, skin lesions and in-

flamed eyes [Described 1937. After Hakasti Be-

çet (1889–1948), Turkish dermatologist.]

behind /ˌbɛhrəˈhɑːrd/ noun same as buttock

(informal)

bejel /ˈbeʒəl/ noun a non-veneral form of

syphilis which is endemic among children in

some areas of the Middle East and elsewhere

and is caused by a spirochaete strain of bacte-

ria

belch /bɛltʃ/ noun the action of allowing air

in the stomach to come up through the mouth

verb to allow air in the stomach to come up

through the mouth
belching /ˈbeltʃɪŋ/ noun the action of allowing air in the stomach to come up through the mouth. Also called eructation
belladonna /ˈbelə’dənə/ noun 1. a poisonous plant with berries containing atropine. Also called deadly nightshade 2. a form of atropine extracted from the belladonna plant
belle indifference /ˈbelə nɪˈdɪfərəns/ noun an excessively calm state in a person, in a situation which would usually produce a show of emotion
Bellocq’s cannula /ˈbɛlkɒkˈs ˈkænnjələ/ Bellocq’s sound /ˈbɛlkɒksˈsɒʊnd/ noun an instrument used to control a nosebleed [After Jean Jacques Bellocq (1732–1807), French surgeon]
Bell’s mania /ˈbelz ˈmɛnɪə/ noun a form of acute mania with delirium [After Luther Hose Bell (1806–62), American physiologist]
Bell’s palsy /ˈbelz pɔlˈzlɪ/ noun paralysis of the facial nerve on one side of the face, preventing one eye being closed. Also called facial paralysis [Described 1821. After Sir Charles Bell (1774–1842), Scottish surgeon. He ran anatomy schools, first in Edinburgh and then in London, Professor of Anatomy at the Royal Academy]
belly /ˈbeli/ noun 1. same as abdomen 2. the fatter central part of a muscle
bellyache /ˈbeliək/ noun a pain in the abdomen or stomach
belly button /ˈbeli, ˈbeli(ə)n/ noun the navel (informal)
Bence Jones protein /ˈbɛns dʒəˈnuːnzˈprɔsɔtɪn/ noun a protein found in the urine of people who have myelomatosis, lymphoma, leukaemia and some other cancers [Described 1848. After Henry Bence Jones (1814–73), physician at St George’s Hospital, London, UK]
bendz /ˈbɛndz/ plural noun the bends caisson disease
Benedict’s solution /ˈbɛnɪdɪktɪz ˈsəˈluʃ(ə)n/ noun a solution used to carry out Benedict’s test
Benedict’s test /ˈbɛnɪdɪktɪz ˈtest/ noun a test to see if sugar is present in the urine [Described 1915. After Stanley Rossiter Benedict (1884–1936), physiological chemist at Cornell University, New York, USA]
benign /ˈbɛniŋ/ adjective generally harmless
benign growth /ˈbɛniŋ ɡrəʊθ/ noun same as benign tumour
benign pancreatic disease /ˈbɛniŋ ˈpærəsɪtɪk diˌzɪs/ noun chronic pancreatitis
benign prostatic hypertrophy /ˈbɛniŋ pɹəˈstætɪk hɑrˈpɹɪstɹə/ noun a nonmalignant enlargement of the prostate. Abbe BPH
benign tumour /ˈbɛniŋ tjuːmə/ noun a tumour which will not grow again or spread to other parts of the body if it is removed surgically, but which can be fatal if not treated. Also called benign growth. Opposite malignant tumour
Bennett’s fracture /ˈbɛntz ˈfræktʃə/ noun a fracture of the first metacarpal, the bone between the thumb and the wrist [Described 1886. After Edward Halloran Bennett (1837–1907), Irish anatomist, later Professor of Surgery at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland]
bent /ˈbɛnt/ adjective bent double bent over completely so that the face is towards the ground. He was bent double with pain
benzocaine /ˌbenzəˈkeɪn/ noun a drug with anaesthetic properties used in some throat lozenges and skin creams
benzodiazepine /ˌbenzoʊˈdeɪzəpɪn/ noun a drug which acts on receptors in the central nervous system to relieve symptoms of anxiety and insomnia, although prolonged use is to be avoided (NOTE: Benzodiazepines have names ending in -azepam: diazepam)
benzoin /ˈbenzoʊɪn/ noun a resin used to make friar’s balsam
benzyl benzoate /ˌbenzəˈl ˈbenzoʊɪt/ noun a colourless oily liquid which occurs naturally in balsams, used in medicines and perfumes
benzylpenicillin /ˌbenzɪl ˈpenəsɪlɪn/ noun an antibacterial drug used against streptococcal infections, meningococcal meningitis and other serious infections
bereavement /ˌbɛriˈvɛmənt/ noun the loss of someone, especially a close relative or friend, through death
beriberi /ˈbɛriˌberi/ noun a disease of the nervous system caused by lack of vitamin B₁. Comment: Beriberi is prevalent in tropical countries where the diet is mainly formed of white rice, which is deficient in thiamine.
berylliosis /ˈbɛriˌlɪsiəs/ noun poisoning caused by breathing in particles of the poisonous chemical compound beryllium oxide
Besnier’s prurigo /ˈbɛznjɜrˈpraɪrəɡu/ noun an itchy skin rash on the backs of the knees and the insides of the elbows [After Ernest Besnier (1831–1909), French dermatologist]
beta /ˈbiːtə/ noun the second letter of the Greek alphabet
beta-adrenergic receptor /ˌbiːtə ,əd्रəˈnɛrɡɪk rɪˈtɛrkt/ noun one of two types of nerve endings that respond to adrenaline by speeding up the heart rate or dilating the bronchi
beta amyloid /ˌbiːtə ˌɛmˌaɪlɔɪd/ noun a wax-like protein formed from amyloid precursor protein in nerve cells which aggregates in Alzheimer’s disease to form plaques
beta blocker /ˌbiːtə ˈblʌŋkə/ noun a drug which reduces the activity of the heart (NOTE: Beta blockers have names ending in -olol: atenolol, propranolol hydrochloride.)
beta cell /ˈbiːtə sel/ noun a type of cell found in the islets of Langerhans, in the pancreas,
which produces insulin. Also called B cell.  
alpha cell
Betadine /bɛtədɪn/ noun a trade name for a form of iodine
betamethasone /bɛtəmeθeɪsən/ noun a very strong corticosteroid drug
beta rhythm /bɛtə ˈrθʌm/ noun a pattern of electrical waves in the brain of someone who is awake and active, registering on an electroencephalograph at 18–30 hertz
betaxolol /ˈbetæksoʊləl/ noun a beta blocker drug used in the treatment of high blood pressure and glaucoma.
bethanechol /ˌbetənɛkˈɔl/ noun an agonist drug used to increase muscle tone after surgery
Betnovate /ˈbetnəvət/ noun a trade name for an ointment containing betamethasone
b.i.d. /baɪ ˈdiː/ noun two or twice
bias /baɪəs/ noun a systematic error in the design or conduct of a study which could explain the results
bicarbonate of soda /ˈbaɪkɑrənət əv ˈsaʊda/ noun same as sodium bicarbonate
bicellar /ˈbaɪselər/ adjective having two cells
biceps /ˈbaɪsɛps/ noun any muscle formed of two parts joined to form one tendon, especially the muscles in the front of the upper arm (biceps brachii) and the back of the thigh (biceps femoris),  
triceps (NOTE: The plural is biceps.)
bicipital /ˈbaɪsɪpɪtəl/ adjective 1. referring to a biceps muscle 2. with two parts
biconcave /ˈbaɪkɑŋkwəv/ adjective referring to a lens which is concave on both sides
biconvex /ˈbaɪkənvɛks/ adjective referring to a lens which is convex on both sides
bicornuate /ˈbaɪkərnjuːt/ adjective divided into two parts (NOTE: The word is sometimes applied to a malformed of the uterus.)
bicuspid /ˈbaɪkəspɪd/ adjective with two points  
premolar tooth
bicuspid valve /ˈbaɪkəspɪd ˈvælv/ noun same as mitral valve, see illustration at HEART in Supplement
b.i.d. /baɪˌdiː/ adjective (used on prescriptions) twice daily. Full form bis in die
bifid /ˈbaɪfɪd/ adjective in two parts
bifida /ˈbaɪfɪdə/ noun a spine bifida
bifocal /ˈbaɪfɔkəl/ adjective referring to lenses made with two sections which have different focal lengths, one for looking at things which are near, the other for looking at things which are far away
bifocal glasses /ˈbaɪfɔkəl ˈɡlaʊsɪz/; bifocals /ˈbaɪfəkəls/ plural noun spectacles with lenses which have two types of lens combined in the same piece of glass, the top part being used for seeing at a distance and the lower part for reading

41 bilharziasis

bifurcate /ˈbaɪfərkət/ adjective separating or branching off into two parts  
verb to split or branch off into two parts
bifurcation /ˈbaɪfərkeɪʃən/ noun a place where something divides into two parts
bigeminy /ˈbaɪdʒɪməni/ noun same as pulsus bigeminus
big toe /ˈbaɪ tɔʊ/ noun the largest of the five toes, on the inside of the foot. Also called great toe
biguanide /ˈbaɪɡwənɪd/ noun a drug which lowers blood sugar, used in the treatment of Type II diabetes
bilateral /baɪˈlətərəl/ adjective affecting both sides
bilateral adrenalectomy /baɪˈlətərəl ədˈrɛnlɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of both adrenal glands
bilateral pneumonia /baɪˈlətərəl ˈnʌpəməniə/ noun pneumonia affecting both lungs
bilateral vasectomy /baɪˈlətərəl ˈvæsɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut both vas deferentia and so make a man sterile
bile /baɪl/ noun a thick bitter brownish yellow fluid produced by the liver, stored in the gall bladder and used to digest fatty substances and neutralise acids (NOTE: For other terms referring to bile, see words beginning with chol.)
COMMENT: In jaundice, excess bile pigments flow into the blood and cause the skin to turn yellow.
bile acid /baɪl əˈsɪd/ noun an acid found in the bile, e.g. cholic acid
bile canal /baɪl kəˈnæl/ noun a very small vessel leading from a hepatic cell to the bile duct
bile duct /baɪl dʒʌkt/ noun a tube which links the cystic duct and the hepatic duct to the duodenum
bile pigment /baɪl ˈpɪgmənt/ noun colouring matter in bile
bile salts /baɪl səltz/ plural noun sodium salts of bile acids
bilharzia /baɪˈhɑrzɪə/ noun 1. a fluke which enters the bloodstream and causes bilharziasis. Also called Schistosoma 2. same as bilharziasis (NOTE: Although strictly speaking, bilharzia is the name of the fluke, it is also generally used for the name of the disease: bilharzia patients; six cases of bilharzia.)
bilharziasis /baɪˈhɑrzɪəsɪs/ noun a tropical disease caused by flukes in the intestine or bladder. Also called bilharzia, schistosomiasis
COMMENT: The larvae of the fluke enter the skin through the feet and lodge in the walls of the intestine or bladder. They are passed out of the body in stools or urine and return to water, where they lodge and develop in the water snail, the secondary host, before going back into humans. Patients experience fever and anaemia.
biliary /ˈbɪliər/ adjective referring to bile (NOTE: For other terms referring to bile, see words beginning with chol-, chole-)
biliary /ˈbɪliər/ adjective referring to bile
biliary colic /ˈbɪliər ˈkɒlik/ noun pain in the abdomen caused by gallstones in the bile duct or by inflammation of the gall bladder
biliary fistula /ˈbɪliər ˌfɪstjʊlə/ noun an opening which discharges bile on to the surface of the skin from the gall bladder, bile duct or liver
bilious /ˈbɪliəs/ adjective 1. referring to bile. 2. referring to nausea (informal)
biliousness /ˈbɪliəsəsnəs/ noun a feeling of indigestion and nausea (informal)
bilirubin /ˈbɪli ˈrʌbɪn/ noun a red pigment in bile
bilirubinaemia /ˈbɪli ˈrʌbɪnəˌɛmiə/ noun an excess of bilirubin in the blood
biluria /ˈbɪli jʊəriə/ noun the presence of bile in the urine. Also called choloria
biliverdin /ˈbɪli ˈvɜːrdɪn/ noun a green pigment in bile, produced by oxidation of bilirubin
Billings method /ˈbɪlɪnz ˌmeθəd/ noun a method of birth control which uses the colour and consistency of the cervical mucus as a guide to whether ovulation is taking place
Billroth’s operations /ˈbɪlroʊθz ˈɒpsərəʃənz/ plural noun surgical operations in which the lower part of the stomach is removed and the part which is left is linked to the duodenum (Billroth I) or jejunum (Billroth II) [Described 1881. After Christian Albert Theodore Billroth (1829–94), Prussian surgeon.]
bilobate /ˌbɪləʊbət/ adjective with two lobes
bimanual /ˈbəmənjuːləl/ adjective done with two hands, or needing both hands to be done
binary /ˈbərnəri/ adjective made of two parts
binary fission /ˈbərnəri ˈfɪʃən/ noun the process of splitting into two parts in some types of cell division
binaural /ˈbɪnərəl/ adjective using, or relating to, both ears
binder /ˈbɪndər/ noun a bandage which is wrapped round a limb to support it
Binet’s test /ˈbɪnɛtstɛst/ noun an intelligence test for children [Originally described 1905 but later modified at Stanford University, California, USA. After Alfred Binet (1857–1911), French psychologist and physiologist.]
binocular /ˈbɪnəkələr/ adjective referring to the two eyes
binocular vision /ˈbɪnəkələr ˈvɪʒən/ noun ability to see with both eyes at the same time, which gives a stereoscopic effect and allows a person to judge distances. Compare monocular
binovular /ˈbɪnəvələr/ adjective referring to twins who develop from two different ova
bio- /bɪəʊ/ prefix referring to living organisms
bioactive /bɪəʊˈæktɪv/ adjective producing an effect in living tissue or in a living organism
bioassay /bɪəʊˈæsɪ/ noun a test of the strength of a drug, hormone, vitamin or serum, by examining the effect it has on living animals or tissue
bioavailability /bɪəʊəˈveɪlətɪv/ noun the extent to which a nutrient or medicine can be taken up by the body
biochemical /bɪəʊˈkɛmɪkl/ adjective referring to biochemistry
biochemistry /bɪəʊˌkɛmɪstrɪ/ noun the chemistry of living tissues
biocide /bɪəʊˈsaɪd/ noun a substance which kills living organisms
biocompatibility /bɪəʊˌkəməptɪˈrɪtɪv/ the compatibility of a donated organ or artificial limb with the living tissue into which it has been introduced or with which it is brought into contact
biodegradable /bɪəʊˈdʒrɛdərəbl/ adjective easily decomposed by organisms such as bacteria or by the effect of sunlight, the sea, etc.
bioengineering /bɪəʊəˈdʒɜːnɪərɪŋ/ noun the study of the human body in its mechanical, chemical, or electrical aspects
bioethics /bɪəʊ ˈɪθɪks/ noun the study of the moral and ethical choices in medical research and treatment of patients, especially when advanced technology is available
biofeedback /bɪəʊˈfɛdbɪk/ noun the control of the autonomic nervous system by someone’s conscious thought, as he or she sees the results of tests or scans
biogenesis /bɪəʊˈdʒnəsɪs/ noun a theory that living organisms can only develop from other living organisms
biohazard /bɪəʊˈhæzd/ noun a danger to human beings or their environment, especially one from a poisonous or infectious agent
bioinstrumentation /bɪəʊˌɪnstrəˈməntæn/ noun instruments used to record and display information about the body’s functions, the use of such instruments
biological /bɪəʊˈlɒdʒɪkl/ adjective referring to biology
biological clock /bɪəʊəˈlɒdʒɪkl ˈkɒlk/ noun the rhythmic activity of the body which repeats every twenty-four hours. Also called circadian rhythm
biological parent /ˌbɪəʊəˈlɒdʒɪkl ˈpeərəmənt/ noun a parent who was physically involved in producing a child
biologist /bɪəʊˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a scientist who specialises in biology
biology /bɪəʊˈlɒdʒi/ noun the study of living organisms
biomaterial /ˌbaɪəˈmætərɪəl/ noun a synthetic material which can be used as an implant in living tissue
biomedical engineering /ˌbaɪəˈmædɪskəl ɪˌnɜ:ˈmɪŋ/ noun the application of engineering science such as robotics and hydraulics to medicine
biomedicine /ˌbaɪəˈmɒdɪsɪn/ noun 1. the use of the principles of biology, biochemistry, physiology and other basic sciences to solve problems in clinical medicine 2. the study of the body's ability to withstand unusual or extreme environments
biometry /ˌbaɪəˈmɔːtrɪ/ noun the science which applies statistics to the study of living things □ biometry of the eye measurement of the eye by ultrasound □ biometry of a fetus the measurement of the key parameters of growth of a fetus by ultrasound
biomonitoring /ˌbaɪəˈmɔːnɪtərɪŋ/ noun the measurement and tracking of a chemical substance in a living organism or biological material such as blood or urine, usually to check environmental pollution or chemical exposure
bionic ear /ˌbaɪəˈnɪk ɜːr/ noun a cochlear implant (informal)
bionics /ˌbaɪəˈnɪks/ noun the process of applying knowledge of biological systems to mechanical and electronic devices
biopharmaceutical /ˌbaɪəˈfɜːmətʃərɪəl/ adjective a drug produced by biotechnological methods
biophysical profile /ˌbaɪəˈfɪzɪkəl ˈprəʊfəʊr/ noun a profile of a fetus, based on such things as its breathing movement and body movement
biopsy /ˌbaɪəpˈsaɪpsɪ/ noun the process of taking a small piece of living tissue for examination and diagnosis □ The biopsy of the tissue from the growth showed that it was benign.
biorhythm /ˌbaɪərɪθm/ noun a regular process of change which takes place within living organisms, e.g. sleeping, waking or the reproductive cycle (NOTE: Some people believe that biorhythms affect behaviour and mood.)
biosensor /ˌbaɪəˈsɛnsər/ noun a device that uses a biological agent such as an enzyme or organelle to detect, measure or analyse chemicals (NOTE: Biosensors are increasingly used in tests to diagnose medical conditions such as blood pressure)
biostatistics /ˌbaɪəˈstætɪstɪks/ plural noun statistics used in medicine and the study of disease
biosurgery /ˌbaɪəˈsɜːrɔrɪ/ noun the use of living organisms in surgery and post-surgical treatment, especially the use of maggots or leeches to clean wounds
biotechnology /ˌbaɪəˈtekətriˌnɒlədʒi/ noun 1. the use of biological processes in industrial production, e.g. in the production of drugs 2. same as genetic modification
biotherapy /ˌbaɪəˌθɛrəpi/ noun the treatment of disease with substances produced through the activity of living organisms such as sera, vaccines or antibiotics
biotin /ˌbaɪətɪn/ noun a type of vitamin B found in egg yolks, liver and yeast
biparietal /ˌbaɪəpəˈreɪʃəl/ adjective referring to the two parietal bones
biparous /ˌbaɪəˈpærəs/ adjective producing twins
biopuncture /ˌbaɪəˈpʌŋktʃər/ adjective referring to a muscle with fibres which rise from either side of the tendon
bipolar /ˌbaɪəˈpɔːlər/ adjective with two poles. See illustration at NEURONE in Supplement
bipolar disorder /ˌbaɪəˈpɔːlər ˈdɪsərdər/ noun a psychological condition in which someone moves between mania and depression and experiences delusion. Also called manic-depressive illness, manic depression
bipolar neurone /ˌbaɪəˈpɔːlpəl ˈnɪərən/ noun a nerve cell with two processes, a dendrite and an axon, found in the retina. See illustration at NEURONE in Supplement. Compare multipolar neurone, unipolar neurone
birth /bɜːθ/ noun the act of being born □ to give birth to have a baby □ She gave birth to twins.
birth canal /ˈbɜːθ kæn/ noun the uterus, vagina and vulva
birth control /ˈbɜːθ kɔːntrəl/ noun same as contraception
birth control pill /ˈbɜːθ kɔːnˌtrəʊl plɪ/ noun same as oral contraceptive
birth defect /ˈbɜːθ dɪˈfɛkt/ noun same as congenital anomaly (NOTE: The word 'defect' is now avoided)
birthing /ˈbɜːθɪŋ/ noun the process of giving birth using natural childbirth methods. □ adjec- tive designed to help in childbirth
birthing chair /ˈbɜːθɪŋ ˈtʃeər/ noun a special chair in which a woman sits to give birth
birthing pool /ˈbɜːθɪŋ pʊl/ noun a special large bath in which pregnant women can relax before and when giving birth
birthing room /ˈbɜːθɪŋ ruːm/ noun an area set up for childbirth in a hospital or other building to provide comfortable and homely surroundings
birth injury /ˈbɜːθ ˈɪnʃərɪ/ noun an injury which a baby experiences during a difficult birth, e.g. brain damage
birthmark /ˈbɜːθmɑːk/ noun an unusual coloured or raised area on the skin which someone has from birth. Also called naevus
birth mother /ˈbɜːθ ˈmʌðə/ noun the woman who gave birth to a child
birth parent /ˈbɜːθ ˈpeərənt/ noun one of the parents that physically produced a child
birth plan

birth plan /bɜːθ plæn/ noun a list of a pregnant woman’s wishes about how the birth of her baby should take place, e.g. whether she wants a natural birth and what pain relief she should be given

birth rate /ˈbɜːθ rɛt/ noun the number of births per year, shown per thousand of the population ○ a birth rate of 15 per thousand ○ There has been a severe decline in the birth rate.

birth trauma /bɜːθ trəˈmeɪn/ noun an injury caused to a baby during delivery

birth weight /ˈbɜːθ wɛt/ noun the weight of a baby at birth

bisacodyl /ˌbɪsəˈkɒdɪl/ noun a laxative drug

bisexual /baɪˈsɛksjuəl/ noun someone who has both male and female sexual partners ○ adjective referring to a person who is sexually attracted to both males and females. Compare heterosexual, homosexual

bisexuality /ˌbaɪsɛksjuəˈləti/ noun the state of being sexually attracted to both males and females

bis in die /ˈbɪz ɪn dɪə/ adverb full form of b.i.d.

bismuth /ˈbaɪzmuθ/ noun a chemical element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Bi.)

bismuth salts /ˈbaɪzmuθ sɔːltz/ plural noun salts used to treat acid stomach and formerly used in the treatment of syphilis

bistoury /ˈbɪstɔːri/ noun a sharp thin surgical knife

bite /baɪt/ verb 1. to cut into something with the teeth ○ He bit a piece of the apple. ○ to bite on something to hold onto something with the teeth ○ The dentist told him to bite on the bite wing. 2. (of an insect) to puncture someone’s skin ○ noun 1. the action of biting or of being bitten. 2. a place or mark where someone has been bitten ○ a dog bite ○ an insect bite

bite wing /ˈbaɪt wɪŋ/ noun a holder for dental X-ray film, which a person clenches between the teeth, so allowing an X-ray of both upper and lower teeth to be taken

Bleomycin’s spots /ˈbliːəmɪs məˈspeɪts/ plural noun small white spots on the conjunctiva, caused by vitamin A deficiency [Described 1863. After Pierre A. Bleomycin (1822-88), French physician.]

bivalve /ˌbaɪəvɔlv/ noun an organ which has two valves ○ adjective referring to a bivalve organ

black eye /ˌblæk ‘eɪ/ noun bruising and swelling of the tissues round an eye, usually caused by a blow

blackhead /ˈblækhed/ noun same as comedo (informal)

black heel /ˌblæk ˈhɛl/ noun a haemorrhage inside the heel, characterised by black spots

black out /ˌblæk ‘aʊt/ verb to have sudden loss of consciousness ○ I suddenly blacked out and I can’t remember anything more

blackout /ˈblækaut/ noun a sudden loss of consciousness (informal) ○ She must have had a blackout while driving. Also called fainting fit

black spots /ˌblækˈspɔts/ plural noun ○ black spots in front of the eyes moving black dots seen when looking at something, more noticeable when a person is tired or run-down, and more common in shortsighted people

blackwater fever /ˈblækwaɪtər fɪvər/ noun a form of malaria where haemoglobin from red blood cells is released into plasma and makes the urine dark

bladder /ˈblɛdər/ noun any sac in the body, especially the sac where the urine collects before being passed out of the body ○ He is suffering from bladder trouble. ○ She is taking antibiotics for a bladder infection.

Blalock’s operation /ˈblaɪlkɔks əˌpərə/ noun a surgical operation to connect the pulmonary artery to the subclavian artery, in order to increase blood flow to the lungs of someone who has tetralogy of Fallot

bland /ˈblænd/ adjective referring to food which is not spicy, irritating or acid

bland diet /ˈblænd ˈdɪət/ noun a diet in which someone eats mainly milk-based foods, boiled vegetables and white meat, as a treatment for peptic ulcers

blanket bath /ˈbleɪkɪŋ bæt/ noun same as bed bath

blast /ˈblæst/ noun 1. a wave of air pressure from an explosion which can cause concussion 2. an immature form of a cell before distinctive characteristics develop ○ -blast /ˈblæst/ suffix referring to a very early stage in the development of a cell

blast injury /ˈblæst_ɪnˈdʒəri/ noun a severe injury to the chest following a blast

blasto- /ˈblæstoʊ/ prefix referring to a germ cell

blastocoele /ˈblæstəkˌsɔli/ noun a cavity filled with fluid in a morula (NOTE: The US spelling is blastocyst.)

blastocyst /ˈblæstəkst/ noun an early stage in the development of an embryo

Blastomyces /ˈblaɪstəmɪs/ noun a type of parasitic fungus which affects the skin

blistomycosis /ˈblaɪstəməkˈɔsɪs/ noun an infection caused by Blastomyces

blestula /ˈblaɪstjʊlə/ noun the first stage of the development of an embryo in animals

bleb /ˈblɛb/ noun a blister. Compare bulla

bled /ˈbled/ verb

bit
bleed /bldid/ verb to lose blood ○ His knee was bleeding. ○ He was bleeding from a cut on the head. (NOTE: bleeding – bled)
bleeder /‘blidər/ noun 1. a blood vessel which bleeds during surgery 2. a person who has haemophilia (informal)
bleeding /‘blidɪŋ/ noun an unusual loss of blood from the body through the skin, through an orifice or internally
COMMENT: Blood lost through bleeding from an artery is bright red and can rush out because it is under pressure. Blood from a vein is darker red and flows more slowly.
bleeding point /‘blidɪŋ pɔɪnt/ noun a place in the body where bleeding is taking place
bleeding time /‘blidɪŋ taim/ noun a test of the clotting ability of someone’s blood, by timing the length of time it takes for the blood to congeal
blenno- /‘blnəʊ-|/ prefix referring to mucus
blenorrhagia /‘blnərəʊdʒiə/ noun 1. the discharge of mucus 2. gonorrhoea
blenorrhoea /‘blnərəʊɪə/ noun 1. the discharge of watery mucus 2. gonorrhoea
bleomycin /‘bləʊməsɪn/ noun an antibiotic used to treat forms of cancer such as Hodgkin’s disease
blephar- /‘blfərəʊ-|/ prefix same as blepharo-
blepharitis /‘blfərərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the eyelid
blepharo- /‘blfərəʊ-|/ prefix referring to the eyelid
blepharoconjunctivitis /‘blfərəʊkɒŋˈʃʌŋktɪvɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the conjunctiva of the eyelids
blepharon /‘blfərəʊn/ noun an eyelid
blepharospasm /‘blfərəʊspæzm/ noun a condition in which the upper eyelid is half closed because of paralysis of the muscle or nerve
blind /‘blænd/ adjective not able to see
blindness /‘blændəʊs/ noun the fact of not being able to see
blind spot /‘blænd spɔt/ noun the point in the retina where the optic nerve joins it, which does not register light
blind study /‘blænd stʌdɪ/ noun an investigation to test an intervention such as giving a drug, in which a person does not know if he or she has taken the active medicine or the placebo
blink /‘blnk/ verb to close and open the eyelids rapidly several times or once ○ He blinked in the bright light.
blister /‘blɪstə/ noun a swelling on the skin containing serum from the blood, caused by rubbing, burning or a disease such as chickenpox ■ verb to produce blisters
bloated /‘blotət|d|/ adjective experiencing the uncomfortable sensation of a very full stomach
block /‘blk/ noun 1. the stopping of a function 2. something which obstructs 3. a large piece of something ○ A block of wood fell on his foot. 4. a period of time ○ The training is in two three-hour blocks. 5. one of the different buildings forming a section of a hospital ○ The patient is in Block 2, Ward 7. ○ She is having treatment in the physiotherapy block. ■ verb to fill the space in something and stop other things passing through it ○ The artery was blocked by a clot. ○ He swallowed a piece of plastic which blocked his oesophagus.
blockage /‘blkɪdʒ/ noun 1. something which obstructs ○ There is a blockage in the rectum. 2. the act of being obstructed ○ The blockage of the artery was caused by a blood clot.
blocker /‘blkɜ:/ noun a substance which blocks an action. ■ beta blocker
blocking /‘blknɪŋ/ noun a psychiatric disorder, in which someone suddenly stops one train of thought and switches to another
blood bank /‘bld bæŋk/ noun a section of a hospital or a special centre where blood given by donors is stored for use in transfusions
blood blister /bləd _blaistər/ noun a swelling on the skin with blood inside, caused by nipping the flesh

blood-borne virus /bləd ‘bərn vərəs/ noun a virus carried by the blood

blood-brain barrier /bləd ‘brain ‘bærıə/ noun the process by which some substances, which in other parts of the body will diffuse from capillaries, are held back by the endothelium of cerebral capillaries, preventing them from coming into contact with the fluids round the brain

blood casts /bləd ‘kæsts/ plural noun pieces of blood cells which are secreted by the kidneys in kidney disease

blood cell /bləd sel/ noun a red or a white cell in the blood

blood clot /bləd klɒt/ noun a soft mass of coagulated blood in a vein or an artery. Also called thrombus

blood clotting /bləd _kloʊtɪŋ/ noun the process by which blood changes from being liquid to being semi-solid and so stops flowing

blood corpuscle /bləd _kɔrpsəl/ noun a blood cell

blood count /bləd kɔnt/ noun a test to count the number and types of different blood cells in a sample of blood, in order to give an indication of the condition of the person's blood as a whole

blood culture /bləd ‘kʌltʃə/ noun a method of testing a sample of blood by placing it on a culture medium to see if foreign organisms in it grow

blood donor /bləd ‘dənər/ noun a person who gives blood which is then used in transfusions to other people

blood dyscrasia /bləd _dɪs kraizia/ noun any unusual blood condition such as a low cell count or platelet count

blood formation /bləd _fɔr,meʃ(ə)n/ noun same as haemopoiesis

blood-glucose level /bləd _glaʊkəs _lev(ə)l/ noun the amount of glucose present in the blood. The usual blood-glucose level is about 60–100 mg of glucose per 100 ml of blood.

blood group /bləd _gruːp/ noun one of the different groups into which human blood is classified. Also called blood type

blood letting /bləd _letɪŋ/ noun same as phlebotomy

blood loss /bləd _lɔs/ noun loss of blood from the body by bleeding

blood picture /bləd _prɪkʃ(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ noun US a full blood count

blood pigment /bləd _pɪg_mənt/ noun same as haemoglobin

blood plasma /bləd _plezmə/ noun a yellow watery liquid which makes up the main part of blood

blood platelet /bləd _plətələt/ noun a small blood cell which releases thromboplastin and which multiplies rapidly after an injury, encouraging the coagulation of blood

blood poisoning /bləd _pəʊzɪnɪŋ/ noun a condition in which bacteria are present in the blood and cause illness (informal) of septicaemia, bacteraemia, toxicemia

blood pressure /bləd _pə_s(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ noun the pressure, measured in millimetres of mercury, at which the blood is pumped round the body by the heart (informal) of high blood pressure or raised blood pressure a level of blood pressure which is higher than usual

...raised blood pressure may account for as many as 70% of all strokes. The risk of stroke rises with both systolic and diastolic blood pressure in the normotensive and hypertensive ranges. Blood pressure control reduces the incidence of first stroke and aspirin appears to reduce the risk of stroke after TIAs' [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]

COMMENT: Blood pressure is measured using a sphygmomanometer. A rubber tube is wrapped round the patient's arm and inflated and two readings of blood pressure are taken: the systolic pressure, when the heart is contracting and so pumping out, and the diastolic pressure, which is always a lower figure, when the heart relaxes. Healthy adult values are considered to be 160/95, unless the patient is diabetic or has heart disease, when lower target values are set.

blood product /bləd _prədʌkt/ noun a substance such as plasma taken out of blood and used in the treatment of various medical conditions

blood relationship /bləd _rɪləʃ(ə)nʃ(ə)p/ noun a relationship between people who come from the same family and have the same parents, grandparents or ancestors, as opposed to a relationship by marriage

blood sample /bləd _sʌmpəl/ noun a sample of blood, taken for testing

blood serum /bləd _ˈsɪərəm/ noun same as serum

bloodshot /bləd _ʃɔt/ adjective referring to an eye with small specks of blood in it from a small damaged blood vessel

bloodstained /bləd _steɪnd/ adjective having blood in or on it ○ He coughed up bloodstained sputum.

bloodstream /bləd _strɪm/ noun the blood flowing round the body ○ Hormones are secreted by the glands into the bloodstream.
clearly skin other person or taken from the patient at an

blue litmus./vertstrokesuperiorbl/vinvertedd /vertstrokesuperiorltməs

bohn's nodules

blood sugar /blʌd 'ʃʊgə/ noun glucose

blood sugar level /blʌd 'ʃʊgə ,lev(ə)/ noun the amount of glucose in the blood, which is higher after meals and in people with diabetes

blood test /'blʌd test/ noun a laboratory test of a blood sample to analyse its chemical composition. The patient will have to have a blood test.

blood transfusion /'blʌd tɛns,fjuːz(ə)n/ noun a procedure in which blood given by another person is taken from the patient at an earlier stage is transferred into the patient's vein

blood type /'blʌd tʌp/ noun same as blood group

blood typing /'blʌd ,tʌpɪŋ/ noun the analysis of blood for transfusion factors and blood group

blood urea /'blʌd ju:'riziə/ noun urea present in the blood. A high level occurs following heart failure or kidney disease.

blood vessel /'blʌd ,vɛs(ə)l/ noun any tube which carries blood round the body, e.g. an artery, vein or capillary (NOTE: For other terms referring to blood vessels, see words beginning with angi-).

blood volume /'blʌd ,vɔlju:m/ noun the total amount of blood in the body

blotch /'blɒtʃ/ noun a reddish patch on the skin

blot test /'blɒt test/ noun a Rorschach test

blue baby /'bluː 'bɛbɪ/ noun a baby who has congenital cyanosis, born either with a congenital heart condition or with a collapsed lung, which prevents an adequate supply of oxygen reaching the tissues, giving the baby’s skin a slight blue colour (informal)

blue disease /'bluː 'dɪzəz/, bluelessness / 'bluːnəs/ noun a cyanosis

blue litmus /'bluː 'lɪtməs/ noun treated paper which indicates the presence of acid by turning red

blurred vision /'blʌd ˈvɪʒ(ə)n/ noun a condition in which someone does not see objects clearly

blush /blʌʃ/ noun a rush of red colour to the skin of the face, caused by emotion verb to go red in the face because of emotion

BM abbr bowel movement

BM abbr Bachelor of Medicine

BMA abbr British Medical Association

BMI abbr body mass index

BMJ abbr British Medical Journal

BMR abbr basal metabolic rate

BMRI abbr body cavity

BNF abbr British National Formulary

bodily /'bɒdɪli/ adjective referring to the body

body /'bɒdi/ noun 1. the physical structure of a person, as opposed to the mind 2. the main part of a person’s body, not including the head or arms and legs 3. a dead person an amount of something noun 1. the main part of something noun 2. the main central part of the breastbone noun of vertebrae the main part of a vertebra which supports the weight of the body noun of the stomach the main part of the stomach between the fundus and the pylorus. See illustration at stomach in supplement 2. a foreign body

body cavity /'bɒdi,kɛvəri/ noun an opening in the body, e.g. the mouth, oesophagus, vagina, rectum or ear

body fat /'bɒdɪ fæt/ noun tissue where the cells contain fat which replaces the fibrous tissue when too much food is eaten

body fluid /'bɒdɪ fljuːd/ noun a liquid in the body, e.g. water, blood or semen

body image /'bɒdɪ 'ɪmæдж/ noun the mental image which a person has of their own body. Also called body schema

body language /'bɒdɪ ˈlaːndʒɪdʒ/ noun the expression on your face, or the way you hold your body, interpreted by other people as unconsciously revealing your feelings

body mass index /'bɒdɪ 'meɪs ,ɪndəks/ noun a figure obtained by dividing someone’s weight in kilos by the square of his or her height in metres. 19–25 is considered usual. Abbr BMI

COMMENT: If a person is 1.70m (5ft 7in.) and weighs 82kg (180 lbs), his or her BMI is 28 and so above average.

body odour /'bɒdɪ ˈɔdə/ noun an unpleasant smell caused by perspiration

body scan /'bɒdɪ skən/ noun an examination of the whole of the body using ultrasound or other scanning techniques

body schema /'bɒdɪ ˈskɛmə/ noun same as body image

body substance isolation /'bɒdɪ ,sʌbstanst ɪˌzaːʃən/ noun making sure that a trauma victim is kept isolated from the possibility of infection from moist body substances

body temperature /'bɒdɪ ,ˈtɛmpərətʃər/ noun the internal temperature of the human body, usually about 37°C

boeck's disease /'beks di'zɪts/, boeck's sarcoid /'beks sɑrˈkɔɪd/ noun same as sarcoidosis [Described 1899. After Caesar Peter Moeller Boeck (1845–1913), Professor of Dermatology at Oslo, Norway.]

bohn's nodules /boʊnz 'nɒdjʊlz/, bohn's epithelial pearls plural noun tiny cysts found in the mouths of healthy infants
boil /boil/ noun a tender raised mass of infect-
ed tissue and skin, usually caused by infection of a hair follicle by the bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus*. Also called furuncle
 bolus /boʊləs/ noun 1. a mass of food which has been chewed and is ready to be swallowed 2. a mass of food passing along the intestine
 bonding /ˈbɒndɪŋ/ noun the process by which a psychological link is formed between a baby and its mother. In autistic children bonding is difficult.
 bone /bəʊn/ noun 1. calcified connective tissue 2. one of the calcified pieces of connective tissue which make the skeleton. There are several small bones in the human ear. See illustration at SYNOVIAL JOINT in Supplement
 bone structure /ˈbɒn strʌktʃər/ noun the system of jointed bones forming the body.
 bone anchored hearing aid /ˈbæʊn əˌpɜːndʒd ˈhɔrɪŋ erd/ noun a hearing aid that is fitted surgically into the skull, usually behind the ear. Abbr BAHA
 bone conduction /ˈbɒn kən,dʌkʃən/ noun same as osteophony
 bone damage /ˈbɒn dəmədʒ/ noun damage caused to a bone. No bone damage
 bone graft /ˈbɒn ɡrɑft/ noun a piece of bone taken from one part of the body to repair another bone
 bone marrow /ˈbɒn mɔrəʊ/ noun soft tissue in cancellous bone. For other terms referring to bone marrow, see words beginning with myel-, myelo-.
 comment: Two types of bone marrow are to be found: red bone marrow or myeloid tissue, which forms red blood cells and is found in cancellous bone in the vertebrae, the sternum and other flat bones. As a person gets older, fatty yellow bone marrow develops in the central cavity of long bones.
 bone marrow transplant /ˈbɒn mɔrəʊ ˌtrænspɔlənt/ noun the transplant of marrow from a donor to a recipient
 bone scan /nɔn ˈskæn/ a scan which tracks a radioactive substance injected into the body to find areas where a bone is breaking down or repairing itself.
 Boynon's blue /ˈbɒnənz ˈblu/ noun a blue dye used as a disinfectant (After William Francis Victor Bonney (1872–1953), British gynaecologist)
 bony /ˈbɒʊn/ adjective 1. relating to bones, or made of bone. 2. referring to a part of the body where the structure of the bones underneath can be seen. Thin bony hands
 boney labyrinth /ˈbɒnəni ˈlaːbərənθ/ noun a hard part of the temporal bone surrounding the membranous labyrinth in the inner ear. Also called osseous labyrinth
 booster /ˈbʌsətʃər ɪnˈdʒɛks/ noun a repeat injection of vaccine given some time after the first injection to maintain the immunising effect
 boracic acid /ˈbɔːrəsɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun a soluble white powder used as a general disinfectant. Also called boric acid
 borax /ˈbɔræks/ noun same as boracic acid
 born /bɔrn/ verb to be born to begin to live outside the mother’s uterus
 Bornholm disease /ˈbɔrnholm ˈdɜrˌzɪz/ noun same as epidemic pleurodynia
 bottle feeds /ˈbɒt(ə)l ˌfiːdz/ noun same as breast feeding
 bottle feeding /ˈbɒt(ə)l ˌfiːdz/ adjective referring to a baby which is fed from a bottle. Compare breast feeding
 bottle shuffling /ˈbɒt(ə)l ʃʌflɪŋ/ noun the process by which a baby who cannot yet walk moves around by moving itself along on its hands and buttocks
 botulinum toxin /ˈbɒtəljʊn ˌtɒsɪn/ noun a type of food poisoning, often fatal, caused by a toxin of *Clostridium botulinum* and used, in small doses, to treat muscular cramps and spasms
 botulism /ˈbɒtəlɪzəm/ noun a type of food poisoning, often fatal, caused by a toxin of *Clostridium botulinum* in badly canned or preserved food. Symptoms include paralysis of the muscles, vomiting and hallucinations.
 bougie /ˈbuʒi/ noun a thin tube which can be inserted into passages in the body such as the oesophagus or rectum, either to allow liquid to be introduced or to dilate the passage
 bout /bɔt/ noun a sudden attack of a disease, especially one which recurs. He is recovering from a bout of flu. A bout of fever a period
when someone is feverish ○ She has recurrent bouts of malarial fever.

bovine spongiform encephalopathy /ˌboʊvɪn ˈspɒŋfɔr ɪm ˌɛn ˈkɛfəlɒpəlɒθi/ noun a fatal brain disease of cattle. Abbrev. BSE ○ Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Also called mad cow disease

bowel /ˈbouəl/ noun the intestine, especially the large intestine (Note: Bowel is often used in the plural in everyday language.) ○ to open the bowels to have a bowel movement

bowel movement /ˈbouəl ˈmjuːvmənt/ noun 1. an act of passing faeces out of the body through the anus ○ The patient had a bowel movement this morning. Also called motion, defecation 2. the amount of faeces passed through the anus

bowels /ˈbouəlz/ plural noun same as bowel

Bowen’s disease /ˈboʊzn dʒiˈziː/ noun a form of carcinoma, appearing as red plaques on the skin

bow /ˈbou/ noun a wide shallow container used for holding liquids

bow-legged /ˌbouˈlegd/ adjective with bow legs

bow legs /ˈbou ˈleɡz/ noun a state where the ankles touch and the knees are apart when a person is standing straight. Also called genu varum

Bowman’s capsule /ˌboʊmənzs ˈkeɪpsjuːl/ noun the expanded end of a renal tubule, surrounding a glomerular tuft in the kidney, which filters plasma in order to reabsorb useful foodstuffs and eliminate waste. Also called Malpighian glomerulus, glomerular capsule [Described 1842. After Sir William Paget Bowman (1816–92), surgeon in Birmingham and later in London, who was a pioneer in work on the kidney and in ophthalmology]

BP abbrev. 1. blood pressure 2. British Pharmacopoeia

BPH abbrev. benign prostatic hypertrophy

Bq symbol. Becquerel

brace /breɪs/ noun any type of splint or appliance worn for support, e.g. a metal support used on children’s legs to make the bones straight or on teeth which are forming badly ○ She wore a brace on her front teeth.

bracelet /ˈbreɪslat/ noun 1 identity bracelet, medical alert bracelet 2. /ˈbreɪkli/ prefix same as brachio- (used before vowels)

brachial /ˈbreɪkli/ adjective referring to the arm, especially the upper arm

brachial artery /ˈbreɪkli ˈɔttəri/ noun an artery running down the arm from the axillary artery to the elbow, where it divides into the radial and ulnar arteries

brachialis muscle /ˈbreɪkli ˈmjuːs(ə)/ noun a muscle that causes the elbow to bend

brain /breɪn/ noun 1 a group of nerves at the armpit and base of the neck which lead to the nerves in the arms and hands. Injury to the brachial plexus at birth leads to Erb’s palsy.

brachial pressure point /ˈbreɪkli ˈpreʃər poʊnt/ noun the point on the arm where pressure will stop bleeding from the brachial artery

brachial vein /ˈbreɪkli ˈvɛn/ noun a vein accompanying the brachial artery, draining into the axillary vein

brachio- /ˈbreɪkiə/ prefix referring to the arm

brachiocephalic artery /ˈbreɪkiəˈsɛfəli/ noun the largest branch of the arch of the aorta, which continues as the right common carotid and right subclavian arteries

brachiocephalic vein /ˈbreɪkiəˈsɛfəlɪk/ noun one of a pair of large veins on opposite sides of the neck that join to form the superior vena cava. Also called innominate vein

brachium /ˈbreɪkiəm/ noun an arm, especially the upper arm between the elbow and the shoulder (Note: The plural is brachia.)

brachy- /ˈbræki/ prefix short

brachycephaly /ˌbræki ˈsefəli/ noun a condition in which the skull is shorter than usual

brachytherapy /ˌbrækiθəˈrepi/ noun a radioactive treatment in which the radioactive material actually touches the tissue being treated

Bradford’s frame /ˈbrædfɔd feɪm/ noun a frame of metal and cloth, used to support a patient [After Edward Hickling Bradford (1848–1926), US orthopaedic surgeon]

brady- /ˈbrædi/ prefix slow

bradycardia /ˌbrædɪˈkaːdiə/ noun a slow rate of heart contraction, shown by a slow pulse rate of less than 70 beats per minute

bradykinesia /ˌbrædɪˈkɪniəsə/ noun a condition in which the person walks slowly and makes slow movements because of disease

bradykinin /ˌbrædɪˈkɪnɪn/ noun a chemical produced in the blood when tissues are injured, that plays a role in inflammation. ○ kinin

bradypnoea /ˌbrædɪˈpnəʊə/ noun unusually slow breathing (Note: The US spelling is bradypnea.)

Braille /breɪl/ noun a system of writing using raised dots on the paper to indicate letters which a blind person can read by passing their fingers over the page ○ The book has been published in Braille. Introduced 1829–30. After Louis Braille (1809–52), blind Frenchman and teacher of the blind; he introduced the system which had originally been proposed by Charles Barbier in 1826.

brain /breɪn/ noun the part of the central nervous system situated inside the skull. Also called encephalon. See illustration at brain in Supplement

COMMENT: The main part of the brain is the cerebrum, formed of two sections or hemi-
branchiae

The plural is rhage, accident, or though disease and sugar deprivation, e.g. after a haemorrhage of a main part to the spinal cord row part of the brain which connects the brain branchial cyst

branchial

branchia

branch

brain wave 

brain tumour

brain stem /'breɪn stɛm/ noun the lower narrow part of the brain which connects the brain to the spinal cord

brain tumour /'breɪn tuːrəm/ noun a tumour which grows in the brain

COMMENT: Tumours may grow in any part of the brain. The symptoms of brain tumour are usually headaches and dizziness, and as the tumour grows it may affect the senses or mental faculties. Operations to remove brain tumours can be very successful.

brain wave /'breɪn wɛv/ noun a rhythmic wave of voltage produced by electrical activity in the brain tissue

brain /'breɪn/ noun the outside covering of the wheat seed, removed when making white flour, but an important source of roughage in the diet

branch /'brɑːntʃ/ noun any part which grows out of a main part /'brɑːntʃ/ verb to split out into smaller parts ○ The radial artery branches from the brachiial artery at the elbow.

branchia /'brɑːŋkɪə/ noun a breathing organ similar to the gill of a fish found in human embryos in the early stages of development (NOTE: The plural is branchiae.)

branchial /'brɑːŋkʃəl/ adjective referring to the branchiae

branchial cyst /'brɑːŋkʃəl 'sɪst/ noun a cyst on the side of the neck of an embryo

branchial pouch /'brɑːŋkʃəl 'pouʃ/ noun a pouch on the side of the neck of an embryo

Braun's frame /'braʊnz 'freɪm/, Braun's splint /'braʊnz '²plɪnt/ noun a metal splint and frame to which pulleys are attached, used for holding up a fractured leg while the person is lying in bed [After Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Braun (1862–1934), German surgeon]

Braxton-Hicks contractions /'brɛkstɔn 'hɪks kəntrækʃənz/ plural noun contractions of the uterus which occur throughout a pregnancy and become more frequent and stronger towards the end [After Dr Braxton-Hicks, 19th century British physician]

break /breɪk/ noun the point at which a bone has broken ○ clean break a break in a bone which is not complicated and where the two parts will join again easily

breakbone fever /'breɪkbəʊn fɪvər/ noun same as dengue

break down /'breɪk daʊn/ verb 1. to experience a sudden physical or psychological illness (informal) ○ After she lost her husband, her health broke down. 2. to start to cry and become upset (informal) ○ She broke down as she described the symptoms to the doctor.

break through /'breɪk ðɹəʊθ/ verb to split or cause to split into smaller chemical components, as in the digestion of food

breakdown /'breɪkdaʊn/ noun nervous breakdown

breakdown product /'breɪkdaʊn prədɔkts/ noun a substance which is produced when a compound is broken down into its parts

breakbone /'breɪkbəʊn/ noun a bone which is in the centre of the front of the thorax and to which the ribs are connected. Also called sternum

break cancer /'breɪk kɛnsər/ noun a malignant tumour in a breast

break-fed /'breɪk fɛd/ adjective referring to a baby which is fed from the mother’s breasts ○ She was breast-fed for the first two months.

break feeding /'breɪk fɛdɪŋ/ noun feeding a baby from the mother’s breasts as opposed to from a bottle. Compare bottle feeding

break implant /'breɪk ɪmplænt/ noun a sac containing silicone, implanted to improve the appearance of a breast

break milk /'breɪk mɪlk/ noun the milk produced by a woman who has recently had a baby
breast palpation /ˈbrestr pəl,pəˌʃən/ noun the act of feeling for a lump as present which might indicate breast cancer

breast pump /ˈbrestr pʌmp/ noun an instrument for taking milk from a breast

breast reconstruction noun the construction of a new breast for a woman who has had a breast removed because of cancer

breast reduction /ˈbrestr ˈredʌkʃən/ noun a reduction of the size of the breast for cosmetic purposes

breath /briθ/ noun air which goes in and out of the body when you breathe ○ He ran so fast he was out of breath. ○ Stop a moment to get your breath back. ○ She took a deep breath and dived into the water. ○ to hold your breath to stop breathing out, after having inhaled deeply

breathe /briθ/ verb to take air in and blow air out through the nose or mouth ○ The patient has begun to breathe normally. ○ to breathe in to take air into your lungs ○ to breathe out to let the air out of your lungs ○ He breathed in the smoke from the fire and it made him cough. ○ The doctor told him to take a deep breath and breathe out slowly. COMENT: Children breathe about 20 to 30 times per minute, men 16–18 per minute, and women about 12–14 per minute. The breathing rate increases if the person is taking exercise or has a fever. Some babies and young children hold their breath and go blue in the face, especially when crying or during a temper tantrum.

breath-holding attack /ˈbrestr ˈhɔldɪŋ ætæk/ noun a period when a young child stops breathing, usually because he or she is angry

breathing /ˈbrestr ˈhɑːniŋ/ noun same as respiration ○ If breathing is difficult or has stopped, begin artificial ventilation immediately. NOTE: For other terms referring to breathing see words beginning with pneum-, pneumo-, pneumat-, pneumato-

breathing rate /ˈbrestr ˈrɛt/ noun the number of times a person breathes in and out in a specific period

breathless /ˈbrestr ˈleʃs/ adjective referring to someone who finds it difficult to breathe enough air ○ After running upstairs she became breathless and had to sit down.

breathlessness /ˈbrestr ˈblɑːsnəs/ noun difficulty in breathing enough air

26 patients were selected from the outpatient department on grounds of disabling breathlessness present for at least five years. [Lancet]

breath sounds /ˈbreθ ˈsaʊndz/ noun hollow sounds made by the lungs and heard through a stethoscope placed on a person's chest, used in diagnosis

breach /breʃ/ noun the breaking of an agreement, especially if it is illegal

breach birth /ˈbreʃ ˈbaʃθ/ noun a position of the baby in the uterus in which the buttocks will appear first during childbirth

breed /brit/ verb to reproduce, or reproduce animals or plants ○ The bacteria breed in dirty water. ○ Insanitary conditions help to breed disease.

bregma /ˈbregrəmə/ noun the point at the top of the head where the soft gap between the bones of a baby's skull hardens

bretsignum /briˈstʃənəm/ noun a position of the baby in the uterus in which the buttocks will appear first during childbirth

British anti-lewisite /ˈbrɪtʃ ˌæntɪluːˈzɪt/ noun an antidote for gases which cause blistering, also used to treat cases of poisoning such as mercury poisoning. Abbr BAL

British Dental Association /ˈbrɪtʃ dɛnt(ə)l əˌsəʊsɪ,ɛf(ə)ˈʃən/ noun in the UK, a professional association of dentists. Abbr BDA

British Medical Association /ˈbrɪtʃ med(ɪ)əl əˌsəʊsɪ,ɛf(ə)ˈʃən/ noun in the UK, a professional association of doctors. Abbr BMA

British National Formulary /ˈbrɪtʃ ˈneɪʃən fɔˈmɔːrli/ noun a book listing key information on the prescribing, dispensing and administration of prescription drugs used in the UK. Abbr BNF

British Pharmacopoeia /ˈbrɪtʃ ˈfæsməkəpɪə/ noun a book listing drugs approved in the UK and their dosages. Abbr BP

COMMENT: Drugs listed in the British Pharmacopoeia have the letters BP written after them on labels.

brittle /ˈbrɪtl/ adjective easily broken ○ The people's bones become brittle as they get older.

brittle bone disease /ˈbrɪtl ˈboʊn dɪz/ noun 1. same as osteogenesis imperfecta 2. same as osteoporosis

Broadbent's sign /ˈbrɔdbruːnts ˈsɑːn/ noun a movement of someone's left side near the lower ribs at each beat of the heart, indicating adhesion between the diaphragm and pericardium in cases of pericarditis. [After Sir William
brochial /bɹɒŋkɪəl/ noun a very small air tube in the lungs leading from a bronchus to the alveoli. See illustration at lungs in Supplement
bronchiolitis /bɹɒŋkɪəl'laɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the bronchioles, usually in small children
bronchitis /bɹɒŋkɪ'kɒtɪs/ noun inflammation of the mucous membrane of the bronchi: an acute bronchitis an attack of bronchitis caused by a virus or by exposure to cold and wet
broncho- /bɹɒŋkəʊ/ prefix referring to the windpipe
bronchoconstrictor /bɹɒŋkəʊkən'strɪktə/ noun a drug which narrows the bronchi
bronchodilator /bɹɒŋkəʊ'dɪlətə/ noun a drug which makes the bronchi wider, used in the treatment of asthma and allergy (note: Bronchodilators usually have names ending in -terol; however, the most common bronchodilator is salbutamol.)
bronchogram /bɹɒŋkəʊɡrəm/ noun an X-ray picture of the bronchial tubes obtained by bronchography
bronchography /bɹɒŋkəʊɡrəfɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the lungs after an opaque substance has been put into the bronchi
bronchomediastinal trunk /bɹɒŋkəʊ'medɪəstɪnəl tʌŋk/ noun the set of lymph nodes draining part of the chest
bronchomycosis /bɹɒŋkəʊ'maɪsəs/ noun an infection of the bronchi by a fungus
bronchophony /bɹɒŋkəʊfənɪ/ noun vibrations of the voice heard over the lungs, indicating solidification in the lungs
bronchopleural /bɹɒŋkəʊ'plʊərəl/ adjective referring to a bronchus and the pleura
bronchopneumonia /bɹɒŋkəʊ'njuːmənɪə/ noun an infectious inflammation of the bronchioles, which may lead to general infection of the lungs
bronchopulmonary /bɹɒŋkəʊ'pʊlmənærɪ/ adjective referring to the bronchi and the lungs
bronchorhoea /bɹɒŋkəʊ'rɔːə/ noun the secretion of mucus by the bronchi
bronchoscope /bɹɒŋkəʊskəʊs/ noun an instrument which is passed down the trachea into the lungs, which a doctor can use to inspect the inside passages of the lungs
brunt /brʌnt/ noun an unusual noise heard through a stethoscope

Branner’s glands /brær nəz, glændz/ plural noun glands in the duodenum and jejunum [Described 1887. After Johann Konrad Branner (1653–1727), Swiss anatomist at Heidelberg, then at Strasbourg.]

bruxism /brʌksɪz/ noun the action of grinding the teeth, as a habit

BSE a br/lengthmarkbovine spongiform encephalopathy

bubo /bjuːbəʊ/ noun a swelling of a lymph node in the groin or armpit

bubonic plague /ˈbjuːbrənik, ˈplezə/ noun a usually fatal infectious disease caused by Yersinia pestis in the lymph system, transmitted to humans by fleas from rats

COMMENT: Bubonic plague was the Black Death of the Middle Ages. Its symptoms are fever, delirium, vomiting and swelling of the lymph nodes.

buccal /ˈbʌkəl/ adjective referring to the cheek or mouth

buccal cavity /ˈbʌkəl ˈkeɪvəti/ noun the mouth

buccal fat /ˈbʌkəl ˈfæt/ noun a pad of fat separating the buccinator muscle from the masseter

buccal smear /ˈbʌkəl smɔːr/ noun a gentle scraping of the inside of the cheek with a spatula to obtain cells for testing

buccinator /ˈbʌksiˌnetə/ noun a cheek muscle which helps to move when chewing

Budd–Chiari syndrome /ˈbʌd kəˈʃiəri ˌsɪndrəʊm/ noun a disease of the liver, where thrombosis has occurred in the hepatic veins [Described 1908. After Leo Buerger (1879–1943), New York physician of Viennese origin.]

buff /ˈbʌf/ verb to cause a bruise on part of the body ○ She bruised her knee on the corner of the table. ○ She bruises easily even a soft blow will give her a bruise

bruised /ˈbrʌzd/ adjective painful after a blow or showing the marks of a bruise ○ a badly bruised leg

bruising /ˈbrʌziŋ/ noun an area of bruises ○ The baby has bruising on the back and legs.

bruise /brʌz/ noun a dark painful area on the skin, where blood has escaped under the skin following a blow ○ black eye

buffed /ˈbʌft/ adjective from becoming acid ○ buffered aspirin

buffer action /ˈbʌfər ækˈʃɔn/ noun the balancing process between acid and alkali

buffered /ˈbʌfrd/ adjective prevented from becoming acid ○ buffered aspirin

bug /bʌɡ/ noun an infectious disease (informal) ○ He caught a bug on holiday. ○ Half the staff have got a stomach bug.
build /bild/ noun the general size and shape of a person’s body. | He has a heavy build for his height. | The girl is of slight build.

build up /bild ‘apid/ verb to form gradually by being added to, or to form something in this way (note: building — built) build-up /bild ‘apid/ noun a gradual process of being added to or a build-up of fatty deposits on the walls of the arteries

built /bu/ adjective referring to the general size of a person’s body or a heavily built man or She’s slightly built.

bulf /ba/ noun a round part at the end of an organ or bone | bulb of the penis the round end of the penis. Also called glans penis

bulb /bulb/ noun 1. referring to a bulb 2. referring to the medulla oblongata

bulbar paralysis /bulbər ‘paraləs/ bulb bar paralysis /bulbə ‘parələz/ noun a form of motor neurone disease which affects the muscles of the mouth, jaw and throat

bulbar poliomyelitis /bulbər ‘poləmiələtɪs/ noun a condition in which a person eats too much and is incapable of controlling his or her eating. The eating is followed by behaviour designed to prevent weight gain, e.g. vomiting, use of laxatives or excessive exercise.

bulimic /bulimIk/ adjective 1. referring to bulimia 2. having bulimia | bulb noun someone who has bulimia

bulimia /bulimIə/ bulimia nervosa /bulimIə ‘nɜvəsə/ noun a psychological condition in which a person eats too much and is incapable of controlling his or her eating. The eating is followed by behaviour designed to prevent weight gain, e.g. vomiting, use of laxatives or excessive exercise.

build-up /bild ‘apid/ noun a gradual process of being added to or a build-up of fatty deposits on the walls of the arteries

bump /bamp/ noun a slightly swollen part on the skin, caused by something such as a blow or sting

bumber fracture /bampə ‘fræktʃə/ noun a fracture in the upper part of the tibia (note: It has this name because it can be caused by a blow from the bumper of a car.)

bursa /bərsə/ noun a sac containing fluid, forming part of the usual structure of a joint
such as the knee and elbow, where it protects against frequent pressure and rubbing. (NOTE: The plural is *bursae*.)

*bursitis* /bərˈsɪtɪs/ *noun* the inflammation of a bursa, especially in the shoulder

*Buscopan* /ˈbʌskəpən/ a trade name for a form of hyoscine

*butobarbitone* /ˈbjuːtəˌbɑːrbiːtəʊn/ *noun* a barbiturate drug used as a sedative and hypnotic

*buttock* /ˈbʌtək/ *noun* one of the two fleshy parts below the back, on which a person sits, made up mainly of the gluteal muscles. Also called *nates*

*buttonhole surgery* /ˈbatəʊnhol/ *noun* a surgical operation through a small hole in the body, using an endoscope

*bypass* /ˈbæpəs/ *noun* 1. a surgical operation to redirect the blood, usually using a grafted blood vessel and usually performed when one of the person’s own blood vessels is blocked 2. a new route for the blood created by a bypass operation

*byssinosis* /ˈbɪsɪnəsɪs/ *noun* a lung disease which is a form of pneumoconiosis caused by inhaling cotton dust
C

c symbol centi-
C symbol Celsius
CABG abbr coronary artery bypass graft
cachet /ˈkeɪʃeɪt/ noun a quantity of a drug wrapped in paper, to be swallowed
cachexia /ˈkeɪkɛksɪə/ noun a state of ill health characterised by wasting and general weakness
cadaver /ˈkeɪdævər/ noun a dead body, especially one used for dissection
cadaveric /ˈkeɪdəvərɪk/, cadaverous /ˈkeɪdəvərəs/ adjective referring to a person who is thin or wasting away
cæca /ˈsɪkə/ plural of caecum
cæcal /ˈsɪkəl/ adjective referring to the caecum
caecosigmoidostomy /ˌsɪkəˌsɪgmoɪdˈstɒməʊ/ noun an operation to open up a connection between the caecum and the sigmoid colon
caecostomy /ˈsɪkəˈstɒməʊ/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening between the caecum and the abdominal wall to allow faeces to be passed without going through the rectum and anus
cæcum /ˈsɪkəm/ noun the wider part of the large intestine in the lower right-hand side of the abdomen at the point where the small intestine joins it and which has the appendix attached to it. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement. Also called cecum (NOTE: The plural is caeca.)
cæsarean /ˈsɛzəriən/, caesarean section /ˈsɛzərəniən, ˈsɛkəˈʃən/ noun a surgical operation to deliver a baby by cutting through the abdominal wall into the uterus. Compare vaginal delivery (NOTE: The US spelling is cesarean.)
COMMENT: A caesarean section is performed only when it appears that natural childbirth is impossible or might endanger mother or child, and only after the 28th week of gestation.
cæsium /ˈsɛziəm/ noun a radioactive element, used in treatment by radiation (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Cs.)
cæsium-137 /ˌsɛziəm-wənˈθɜːt/ ˈsɛviən/ noun a radioactive substance used in radiology

café au lait spots /ˌkeɪˈfeɪə lɛt ˈspɔts/ plural noun brown spots on the skin, which are an indication of von Recklinghausen’s disease
caffeine /ˈkeɪfɪn/ noun an alkaloid found in coffee, tea and chocolate, which acts as a stimulant
COMMENT: Apart from acting as a stimulant, caffeine also helps in the production of urine. It can be addictive, and exists in bothoffee and coffee in about the same percentages as well as in chocolate and other drinks.
caisson disease /ˈkeɪs(ə)n ˈdiːˌzɪzi/ noun a condition in which a person experiences pains in the joints and stomach, and dizziness caused by nitrogen in the blood. Also called the bends, compressed air sickness, decompression sickness
COMMENT: The disease occurs in a person who has moved rapidly from high atmospheric pressure to a lower pressure area, such as a diver who has come back to the surface too quickly after a deep dive. The first symptoms, pains in the joints, are known as ‘the bends’. The disease can be fatal.
calamine /ˈkeɪlmən/, calamine lotion /ˈkeɪlmən ˈloʊʒən/ noun a lotion, based on zinc oxide, which helps relieve skin irritation, caused e.g. by sunburn or chickenpox
calc- /ˈkælk/ prefix same as calcium (used before vowels)
calcaemia /ˈkeɪlˈsiːmiə/ noun a condition in which the blood contains an unusually large amount of calcium
calcaneal /ˈkeɪlˌkɛrniəl/ adjective referring to the calcaneus
calcaneal tendon /ˈkeɪlˌkɛrniəl ˈtɛndən/ noun the Achilles tendon, the tendon at the back of the ankle which connects the calf muscles to the heel and which acts to pull up the heel when the calf muscle is contracted
calcaneus /ˈkeɪlˌkɛrniəs/, calcaneum /ˈkeɪlˌkɛrniəm/ noun the heel bone, situated underneath the talus. See illustration at FOOT in Supplement
calcareous degeneration /ˈkeɪlˌkɛrniəs dɪˌdʒɛnərəˈʃən/ noun the formation of calcification on bones or at joints in old age
calc- /ˈkælk/ prefix referring to calcium
**calcification** /ˈkælɪfəˈʃən/ noun  a process of hardening caused by the formation of deposits of calcium salts

**COMMENT:** Calcification can be expected in the formation of bones, but can occur unusually in joints, muscles and organs, where it is known as calcinosis.

**calcified** /ˈkælɪsfɪd/ adjective made hard ○ Bone is calcified connective tissue.

**calcinosis** /ˈkælɪnəsɪs/ noun a medical condition where deposits of calcium salts form in joints, muscles and organs

**calcitonin** /ˈkæltəʊnɪn/ noun a hormone produced by the thyroid gland, which is believed to regulate the level of calcium in the bloodstream. Also called thyrocalcitonin

**calcium** /ˈkælkʃəm/ noun a metallic chemical element which is a major component of bones and teeth and which is essential for various bodily processes such as clotting (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Ca.)

**COMMENT:** Calcium is an important element in a balanced diet. Milk, cheese, eggs and certain vegetables are its main sources. Calcium deficiency can be treated by injections of calcium salts.

**calcium antagonist** /ˈkælkʃəm ənˈtæŋɡəst/ noun an agent that prevents calcium from entering the muscle cells and thereby inhibiting muscle contraction. Also called dihydropyridine calcium antagonist.

**calcium channel blocker** /ˈkælkʃəm ˈʃeɪnl ˈblɒkər/ noun a drug which blocks the entry of calcium into the muscle cells, thereby preventing muscle contraction. Also called calcium channel blocker

**calcium supplement** /ˈkælkʃəm ˈsʌpləmənt/ noun the addition of calcium to the diet, or as injections, to improve the level of calcium in the bloodstream

**calcification** /ˈkælkʃəfɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun a condition in which calcification occurs

**calcus** /ˈkælkəs/ noun a hard mass like a little piece of stone, which forms inside the body. Also called stone (NOTE: The plural is calculi)

**COMMENT:** Calculi are formed of cholesterol and various inorganic substances, and are commonly found in the bladder, the gall bladder (gallstones) and various parts of the kidney.

**Caldwell-Luc operation** /ˈkældwel lʊk ˈɒpərəʃən/ noun a surgical operation to drain the maxillary sinus by making an incision above the canine tooth (Described 1893. After George Walter Caldwell (1834–1918), US physician; Henri Luc (1855–1925), French laryngologist)

**calif** /ˈkælf/ noun a muscular fleshy part at the back of the lower leg, formed by the gastrocnemius muscles (NOTE: The plural is calves)

**caliber** /ˈkælɪbər/ noun US same as calibre

**calibrate** /ˈkælɪbret/ verb 1. to measure the inside diameter of a tube or passage 2. to measure the sizes of two parts of the body to be joined together in surgery 3. to adjust an instrument or piece of equipment against a known standard

**calibrator** /ˈkælɪbreɪtər/ noun an instrument used to enlarge a tube or passage 2. an instrument for measuring the diameter of a tube or passage

**calibre** /ˈkælɪbrə/ noun the interior diameter of a tube or of a blood vessel

**calciectomy** /ˈkælsɪˈkɛktəmɪ/ noun swelling of the calcaneus.

**caliper** /ˈkælɪpər/ noun same as caliper 3

**callisthenics** /ˈkælɪsθɛnɪks/ plural noun energetic physical exercises for improving fitness and muscle tone, including push-ups, sit-ups and star jumps

**callosity** /kəˈlɔsəti/ noun 1. a hard patch on the skin, e.g. a corn, resulting from frequent pressure or rubbing. Also called callosus

**callosus** /kəˈlɒsəs/ noun 2. tissue which forms round a broken bone as it starts to mend, leading to consolidation ○ Callus formation is more rapid in children and young adults than in elderly people.

**calm** /kəm/ adjective quiet, not upset ○ The patient was delirious but became calm after the injection.

**calomel** /ˈkæləmɛl/ noun mercurous chloride, a poisonous substance used to treat pinworms in the intestine. Formula: Hg₂Cl₂

**calor** /ˈkælər/ noun heat

**caloric** /ˈkælərɪk/ adjective referring to calories or to heat

**caloric energy** /ˈkælərɪk ˈeənədʒɪ/ noun the amount of energy shown as a number of calories

**caloric requirement** /ˈkælərɪk ˈrɪkwərənt/ noun the amount of energy shown in calories which a person needs each day
calorie /kʌləri/ noun 1. a unit of measurement of heat or energy, equivalent to the amount of heat needed to raise the temperature of 1 g of water by 1 °C. Now called joule. 2. also Calorie a unit of measurement of energy in food (informal) or a low-calorie diet. Now called calorie to count calories to be careful about how much you eat.

calvaria /'kevləriə/ noun the top part of the skull
calyx /'kælɪks/ noun a part of the body shaped like a cup especially the tube leading to the lung.
calyx-shaped /'kælɪks-ʃəd/ adjective

CAM abbr complementary and alternative medicine
camphor /'kæmplə/ noun a strong smell, made from a tropical tree, used in medicines and the making of scented goods

Campylobacter /'kæmpɪləbæktr/ noun a bacterium which is a common cause of food poisoning in humans and of spontaneous abortion in farm animals
canal /'kænəl/ noun a tube along which something flows

canalculus /'kænəlkələs Ι/ noun inflammation of the tear duct canal
canalulotomy /'kænəlkələtəmə/ noun a surgical operation to open up a little canal

cancelling bone //'kænsəlɪng, 'bɒnə/ noun a light spongy bone tissue which forms the inner core of a bone and also the ends of long bones. See illustration at bone structure in Supplement

cancer /'kænsər/ noun a malignant growth or tumour which develops in tissue and destroys it, which can spread by metastasis to other parts of the body and which cannot be controlled by the body itself. Cancer cells develop in the lymph. She has been diagnosed as having lung cancer or as having cancer of the lung. (Note: For other terms referring to cancer, see words beginning with carcin-.)

COMMENT: Cancers can be divided into cancers of the skin (carcinomas) or cancers of connective tissue such as bone or muscle (sarcomas). They have many causes. Many are curable by surgery, by chemotherapy or by radiation, especially if they are detected early.
cancerophobia /'kænsərə'fəubɪə/ noun a fear of cancer
cancerous /'kænsərəs/ adjective referring to cancer. The X-ray revealed a cancerous growth in the breast.
cancer phobia /'kænsə, 'fɒbɪə/ noun same as cancerophobia
canthal /ˈkænθəl/ adjective referring to the corner of the eye
cantholysis /ˈkænθəlɪsɪs/ noun same as cantholysis
canthoplasty /ˈkænθəpləstɪ/ noun 1, an operation to repair the canthus of the eye 2, an operation to cut through the canthus to enlarge the groove in the eyelid
canthus /ˈkænθəs/ noun a corner of the eye
canula noun another spelling of cannula
canulate verb another spelling of cannulate
cap /kæp/ noun 1, a covering which protects something 2, an artificial hard covering for a damaged or broken tooth
CAPD abbr continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis
capeline bandage /ˈkæpəlæn bændidʒ/ noun a bandage shaped like a cap, either for the head, or to cover a stump after amputation
capillary /ˈkæpɪlərɪ/ noun 1, a tiny blood vessel between the arterioles and the venules, which carries blood and nutrients into the tissues 2, any tiny tube carrying a liquid in the body
capillary bleeding /ˈkæpɪlərɪ bˈlɪdɪŋ/ noun bleeding where blood oozes out from small blood vessels
capita /ˈkæpɪtə/ plural of caput
capitate /ˈkæpɪtət/, capitate bone /ˈkæpɪtət, ˈkæpɪtət/ noun the largest of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist. See illustration
in Supplement
capitellum /ˈkæpiˈteləm/ noun a rounded enlarged part at the end of a bone, especially this part of the upper arm bone, the humerus, that forms the elbow joint with one of the lower bones, the radius. Also called capitulum of humerus (NOTE: The plural is capitella.)
capitilis /ˈkæpiˌtɪlɪs/ noun same as capitellum
-capitular /ˈkæpiˌtjuːlər/ adjective describing the rounded end (capitulum) of a bone
capitulum /ˈkæpiˈtjuːləm/ noun the rounded end of a bone which articulates with another bone, e.g. the distal end of the humerus (NOTE: The plural is capitula.)
capitulum of humerus /ˈkæpiˌtjuːləm əv ˈhjuːmərəs/ noun same as capitellum
caplet /ˈkæpəlt/ noun a small oblong tablet with a covering that dissolves easily and which usually cannot be broken in two
caps, abbr capsule
capsular /ˈkæpsjʊlər/ adjective referring to a capsule
capsule /ˈkæpsjʊl/ noun 1, a membrane round an organ or joint 2, a small hollow digestible case filled with a drug that is taken by swallowing 2, the swallowed three capsules of painkiller 3, the doctor prescribed the drug in capsule form
-capuslectomy /ˈkæpsjʊlɛktəmi/ noun the surgical removal of the capsule round a joint
capsulitis /ˈkæpsjʊlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a capsule
capsulotomy /ˈkæpsjʊlətəmi/ noun a surgical procedure involving cutting into the capsule around a body part, e.g. cutting into the lens of the eye during the removal of a cataract
captopril /ˈkæptəprɪl/ noun a drug which helps to prevent the arteries from being made narrower by an angiotensin. It is used to control high blood pressure.
caput /ˈkæpət/ noun 1, the head 2, the top of part of something (NOTE: All senses) The plural is capita.
carbamazepine /ˈkɑːbəməˈziːpɪn/ noun a drug which reduces pain and helps to prevent convulsions. It is used in the treatment of epilepsy, pain and bipolar disorder.
carbon dioxide /ˈkɑːbən dəˌoʊdɛd/ noun a colourless gas produced by the body’s metabolism as the tissues burn carbon, and breathed out by the lungs as waste (NOTE: The chemical symbol is CO₂)
carbonate /ˈkɑːbəˌnət rɛkt/ noun a biological compound containing carbon, hydrogen and oxygen. Carbohydrates derive from sugar and are an important source of food and energy. 2, food containing carbohydrates ⊕ high carbohydrate drinks
carboxylic acid /ˈkɑːbəˌrɪksɪd/ noun same as phenol
carbon /ˈkɑːbərn/ noun one of the common non-metallic elements, an essential component of living matter and organic chemical compounds (NOTE: The chemical symbol is C.)
carbon dioxide /ˈkɑːbən dəˌoʊdɛd/ noun a colourless gas produced by the body’s metabolism as the tissues burn carbon, and breathed out by the lungs as waste (NOTE: The chemical symbol is CO₂)
carbon dioxide snow /ˈkɑːbən dəˌoʊdɛd ˈsnɔː/ noun solid carbon dioxide, used in treating skin growths such as warts, or to preserve tissue samples
-carbonic anhydrase /ˈkɑːbən ɪkˈænˈhɑːdrəz/ noun an enzyme which acts as a buffer and regulates the body’s water balance, including gastric acid secretion and aqueous humour production
-carbon monoxide /ˈkɑːbərn məˌnɔksəd/ noun a poisonous gas found in fumes from car engines, from burning gas and cigarette smoke (NOTE: The chemical symbol is CO)
COMMENT: Carbon monoxide is dangerous because it is easily absorbed into the blood and takes the place of the oxygen in the blood, centreing with haemoglobin to form carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide has no smell and people do not realise that they are being poisoned by it. They become unconscious, with a characteristic red colouring to the skin. Poisoning with car exhaust fumes is sometimes used as a method of suicide. The treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning is very rapid inhalation of fresh air together with carbon dioxide if this can be provided.

carbon monoxide poisoning  /kaɪbən mʌnˈkaʊdɪz/ noun poisoning caused by breathing carbon monoxide

carboxyhaemoglobin /ˈkɑːrboxiheɪməʊləʊbɪn/ noun a compound of carbon monoxide and haemoglobin formed when a person breathes in carbon monoxide from tobacco smoke or car exhaust fumes

carboxyhaemoglobinemia /ˈkɑːrboxiheɪməʊlɪnɪmɪə/ noun the presence of carboxyhaemoglobin in the blood

carbuncle /ˈkɑːrbʌŋkəl/ noun a localised staphylococcal infection, which goes deep into the tissue

carcin-/kɑːrsɪn/ prefix same as carcino-( used before vowels)
carcino-/kɑːrsɪnəʊ/ prefix referring to carcino- or cancer

carcinogen /ˌkɑːrsɪnˈdʒenən/ noun a substance which produces a carcinoma or cancer

COMMENT: Carcinogens are found in pesticides such as DDT, in asbestos, tobacco, aromatic compounds such as benzene and reactant substances.
carcinogenesis /ˌkɑːrsɪnəˈdʒenəsɪs/ noun the process of forming a carcinoma in tissue

carcinogenic /ˌkɑːrsɪnˈdʒenɪk/ adjective causing a carcinoma or cancer

carcinoid /ˌkɑːrsɪnɔɪd/ noun an intestinal tumour, especially in the appendix, which causes diarrhoea.
carcinoid syndrome /ˌkɑːrsɪnɔɪd ˈsɜːndrəʊm/ noun a group of symptoms which are associated with a carcinoid tumour

carcinoid tumour /ˌkɑːrsɪnɔɪd ˈtjuːmər/ noun a malignant tumour containing elements of both a carcinoma and a sarcoma

cardio-/kɑːrdiə/ prefix same as cardi- ( used before vowels)
cardia /ˈkɑːrdiə/ noun 1. an opening at the top of the stomach which joins it to the gut; 2. the heart

cardiac /ˈkɑːrdiək/ adjective 1. referring to the heart; 2. referring to the cardia

cardiac achalasia /ˌkɑːrdiək əkəˈleɪzɪə/ noun a condition in which the patient is unable to relax the cardia, the muscle at the entrance to the stomach, with the result that food cannot enter the stomach.

cardiomyotomy /ˌkɑːrdiəmiˈtɒmɪ/ noun difficulty in breathing caused by heart failure

cardiac catheter /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈkæθətər/ noun a catheter passed through a vein into the heart, to take blood samples, to record pressure or to examine the interior of the heart before surgery

cardiac catheterisation /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈkæθətərɪzaʃən/ noun a procedure which involves passing a catheter into the heart

cardiac cirrhosis /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈsɜːrəʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which the liver is caused by liver disease

cardiac compression /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈkɒmprɪzən/ noun the compression of the heart by fluid in the pericardium

cardiac conducting system /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈkɒndəktɪŋ ˈsɪstəm/ noun the nerve system in the heart which links an atrium to a ventricle, so that the two beat at the same rate

cardiac cycle /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈsɑːk(ə)l/ noun the repeated beating of the heart, formed of the diastole and systole

cardiac decompression /ˌkɑːrdiək ˌdɪkəmˈpreʃən/ noun the removal of a haematoma or constriction of the heart

cardiac failure /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈfeɪlər/ noun same as heart failure

cardiac glycoside /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈglɪkəʊsaɪd/ noun a drug used in the treatment of tachycardia and atrial fibrillation, e.g. digoxin

cardiac impression /ˌkɑːrdiək ɪnˌˈpreʃən/ noun 1. a concave area near the centre of the upper surface of the liver under the heart; 2. a depression on the mediastinal part of the lungs where they touch the pericardium

cardiac index /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈɪndeks/ noun the cardiac output per square metre of body surface, usually between 3.1 and 3.81/min/m² (litres per minute per square metre)
cardiac infarction /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈɪnfərʃən/ noun same as myocardial infarction

cardiac monitor /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈmɒnɪtər/ nounsame as electrocardiograph

cardiac murmur /ˌkɑːrdiək ˈmɜːmər/ noun same as heart murmur
cardiac muscle /kəˈdɪək məs(ə)/ noun a muscle in the heart which makes the heart beat.

cardiac neurosis /ˌkɑdiək njuˈrəsɪs/ noun same as disordered action of the heart

cardiac notch /ˌkɑdiək nɑtʃ/ noun 1. a point in the left lung, where the right inside wall is bent. See illustration at lungs in Supplement 2. a notch at the point where the oesophagus joins the greater curvature of the stomach.

cardiac orifice /ˌkɑdiək ˈɔrɪfɪs/ noun an opening where the oesophagus joins the stomach.

cardiac output /ˌkɑdiək ˈaʊtput/ noun the volume of blood expelled by each ventricle in a specific time, usually between 4.8 and 5.3 l/min (litres per minute).

cardiac pacemaker /ˌkɑdiək ˈpæsɪmɛkər/ noun an electronic device implanted on a patient’s heart, or which a patient wears attached to the chest, which stimulates and regulates the heartbeat.

cardiac patient /ˌkɑdiək ˈpeʃ(ə)nt/ noun a patient who has a heart disorder.

cardiac reflex /ˌkɑdiək ˈrɪfleks/ noun the reflex which controls the heartbeat automatically.

cardiac surgery /ˌkɑdiək ˈsɜrdʒəri/ noun surgery to the heart.

cardiac tamponade /ˌkɑdiək ˈtæmpəˌneɪd/ noun the presence of fluid in the pericardial cavity fills with blood. Also called heart tamponade.

cardiac vein /ˌkɑdiək vɛn/ noun one of the veins which lead from the myocardium to the right atrium.

cardinal /ˈkɑrdɪn(ə)l/ adjective most important.

cardinal ligaments /ˌkɑrdɪn(ə)l ˈlɪgəmənts/ plural noun ligaments forming a band of connective tissue that extends from the uterus cervix and vagina to the pelvic walls. Also called Mackenrodt’s ligaments.

cardio-/ /ˈkɑrdiəʊ-/ prefix referring to the heart.

cardiogenic /ˌkɑrdiəˈdʒenɪk/ adjective resulting from activity or disease of the heart.

cardiogram /ˈkɑrdiəɡræm/ noun a graph showing the heartbeat, produced by a cardiograph.

cardiograph /ˈkɑrdiəɡraf/ noun an instrument which records the heartbeat.

cardiographer /ˈkɑrdiəɡrɑfə/ noun a technician who operates a cardiograph.

cardiologist /ˌkɑrdiəˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of the heart.

cardiology /ˌkɑrdiəˈlɒdʒi/ noun the study of the heart, its diseases and functions.

cardiomegaly /ˌkɑrdiəˈmɛɡəli/ noun an enlarged heart.

cardiomyopathy /ˌkɑrdiəˈməʊpəθi/ noun a disease of the heart muscle.

cardiomyoplasty /ˌkɑrdiəˈməʊpləstɪ/ noun an operation to improve the functioning of the heart, by using the latissimus dorsi as a stimulant.

cardiomyotomy /ˌkɑrdiəˈməʊtəmə/ noun an operation to treat cardiac achalasia by splitting the ring of muscles where the oesophagus joins the stomach. Also called Heller’s operation.

cardiopath /ˌkɑrdiəˈpɑθi/ noun any kind of heart disease.

cardiophone /ˌkɑrdiəˈfoun/ noun a microphone attached to a patient to record sounds, usually used to record the heart of an unborn baby.

cardioplegia /ˌkɑrdiəˈplɪdʒiə/ noun the stopping of a patient’s heart, by chilling it or using drugs, so that heart surgery can be performed.

cardiopulmonary /ˌkɑrdiəˈpʊlmənəri/ adjective relating to both the heart and the lungs.

cardiopulmonary bypass /ˌkɑrdiəˈpʊlmənərɪˌbæspɔs/ noun a machine or method for artificially circulating the patient’s blood during open-heart surgery. The heart and lungs are cut off from the circulation and replaced by a pump.

cardiopulmonary resuscitation /ˌkɑrdiəˌpʊlmənərɪˌrɪsəˈskjʊteɪʃən/ noun an emergency technique to make a person’s heart start beating again. It involves clearing the airways and then alternately pressing on the chest and breathing into the mouth. Abbr CPR.

cardiopulmonary system /ˌkɑrdiəˌpʊlmənərɪˈsɪstem/ noun the heart and lungs considered together as a functional unit.

cardiorespiratory /ˌkɑrdiəˈrəspɪrətɜri/ adjective referring to both the heart and the respiratory system.

cardioscope /ˈkɑrdiəskɑʊp/ noun an instrument formed of a tube with a light at the end, used to inspect the inside of the heart.

cardiospasm /ˌkɑrdiəspæzm/ noun same as cardiac achalasia.

cardiothoracic /ˌkɑrdiəˈθɔrəsɪk/ adjective referring to the heart and the chest region.

cardiotocography /ˌkɑrdiəˌtəkəˈɡrɑfi/ noun the recording of the heartbeat of a fetus.

cardiotomy /ˌkɑrdiəˈtɒmɪ/ noun an operation that involves cutting the wall of the heart.

cardiomyopathy /ˌkɑrdiəˈtɒmɪˈəri/ noun an operation that involves cutting the wall of the heart.

cardiomyopathy syndrome /ˌkɑrdiəˈtɒmɪˌsɜrdʒən/ noun inflammation of the membranes round the heart after cardiotomy.

cardiovascular /ˌkɑrdiəˈtɔrɪsveɪ/ adjective which is toxic to the heart.
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cardiovascular

cardiovascular /'kaediovækju:lor/ adjective referring to the heart and the blood circulation system

cardiovascular disease /'kaediovækju:lor deɪz/ noun any disease which affects the circulatory system, e.g. hypertension. Cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of death in the United States. [Journal of the American Medical Association]

cardiovascular system /'kaediovækju:lor 'sistem/ noun the system of organs and blood vessels by means of which the blood circulates round the body and which includes the heart, arteries and veins which circulates round the body and which includes the heart, arteries and veins by means of which the blood circulates round the body and which includes the heart, arteries and veins which includes the heart, arteries and veins

carotid /'kaediovækju:lor/ noun a procedure to correct an irregular heartbeat by applying an electrical impulse to the chest wall. [defibrillation]

carditis /'kaediovækju:lor də'faɪtəs/ noun inflammation of the connective tissue of the heart

care giver /'keiə,giːvər/ noun same as carer

care pathway /'keiə,pərəthweɪ/ noun the entire process of diagnosis, treatment and care that a patient goes through

care plan /'keiə,plæn/ noun a plan drawn up by the nursing staff for the treatment of an individual patient

Care plan: all relevant sections of the nurses' care plan and nursing process had been left blank. [Nursing Times]

carer /'keiər/ care giver /'keiə,giːvə/ noun someone who looks after a sick or dependent person

Care giving: most research has focused on those caring for older people or for adults with disability and chronic illness. Most studied are the carers of those who might otherwise have to stay in hospital for a long time. [British Medical Journal]

carries /'keiəri/ noun decay in a tooth or bone

carina /'keiənə/ noun a structure shaped like the bottom of a boat, e.g. the cartilage at the point where the trachea branches into the bronchi.

carriage /'kærɪdʒ/ noun carriegenic /'kaediovækju:lor dʒɛnətɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which causes carries

carminative /'kærɪmətɪv/ noun a substance which relieves colic or indigestion ■ adjective relieving colic or indigestion

carneous /'kaediovækju:lor 'mɔʊl/ noun matter in the uterus after the death of a fetus

caroteneaemia /'kaediovækju:lor ˌnɪtɪmə/ noun an excessive amount of carotene in the blood, usually as a result of eating too many carrots or tomatoes, which gives the skin a yellow colour. Also called xanthaeemia

carotene /'kaediovækju:lor tɛn/ noun an orange or red pigment in carrots, egg yolk and some oils, which is converted by the liver into vitamin A. Carotene is also known as lycopene, which gives the skin a yellow colour. Also called xanthaeemia

carotid /'kaediovækju:lor/ noun each of the two large arteries in the neck which supply blood to the head

Carotid arteries are the common carotid arteries which arise from the arch of the aorta in the lower part of the neck and branches upwards into the external and internal carotids. The carotid body is situated at the point where the carotid divides.

carotid artery thrombosis /'kaediovækju:lor əˈθraʊmˌbɒsɪs/ noun the formation of a blood clot in the carotid artery

carotid body /'kaediovækju:lor 'bɒdɪ/ noun tissue in the carotid sinus which is concerned with cardiovascular reflexes

carotid pulse /'kaediovækju:lor ˈpʌls/ noun a pulse felt in the carotid artery at the side of the neck

carditis /'kaediovækju:lor dəˈfaɪtəs/ noun inflammation of the connective tissue of the heart

carotid sinus /'kaediovækju:lor ˈsɪnəs/ noun an expanded part attached to the carotid artery, which monitors blood pressure in the skull

carp- /'ka:pər/ prefix same as carpo-(used before vowels)

carpal /'ka:pər(ə)l/ adjective referring to the wrist

carpal bone /'ka:pərəl bɔːnz/ carpal bones /'ka:pərəl ˈbɒns/ plural noun the eight bones which make up the carpus or wrist. See illustration at wrist in Supplement

carpal tunnel release /'ka:pərəl ˈtʌnəl ˈreɪls/ noun an operation to relieve the compression of the median nerve

carpal tunnel syndrome /'ka:pərəl ˈtʌnəl ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a condition, usually affecting women, in which the fingers tingle and hurt at night. It is caused by compression of the median nerve.

carpathology /'kaːθəproʊlədʒi/ noun the action of pulling at the bedclothes, a sign of delirium in typhoid and other fevers. Also called floridation

carpi /ˈkaːpəl/ plural of carpus

carpo- /'kaːpoʊ/ noun, prefix referring to the wrist

carpometacarpal joint /'kaːpmə'tekəpɔɭ/ noun one of the joints between the carpal bones and metacarpals. Also called CM joint

carpopedal spasm /'kaːpəpəˌdɔːl ˈspæzm/ noun a spasm in the hands and feet caused by lack of calcium

carpus /'kaːpəs/ noun the bones by which the lower arm is connected to the hand. Also called wrist. See illustration at wrist in Supplement (Note: The plural is carpi.)

Carpus: The carpus is formed of eight small bones (the carpals); the capitate, hamate, lunate, pisiform, scaphoid, trapezium, trapezoid and triquetral.

carrier /ˈkærɪər/ noun 1. a person who carries bacteria of a disease in his or her body and who can transmit the disease to others without showing any signs of being infected with it © Ten per cent of the population are believed to be unwitting carriers of the bacteria. 2. an insect which carries disease and infects humans. 3. a healthy person who carries a chromosome variation that gives rise to a hereditary disease such as haemophilia or Duchenne muscular dystrophy
63 catatonic schizophrenia

catabolism /kə'tæbəlizəm/ noun the process of breaking down complex chemicals into simple chemicals
catalase /kə'tæleɪz/ noun an enzyme present in the blood and liver which catalyses the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen
cataplegy /kə'tæpliːz/ noun a condition often associated with schizophrenia, where a person becomes incapable of sensation, the body is rigid and he or she does not move for long periods
catalyse /kætəˈlɪz/ verb to act as a catalyst and help make a chemical reaction take place (NOTE: The US spelling is catalyze.)
catalysis /kəˈtælɪsɪs/ noun a process where a chemical reaction is helped by a substance (the catalyst) which does not change during the process
catalyst /kəˈtælist/ noun a substance which produces or helps a chemical reaction without itself changing or an enzyme which acts as a catalyst in the digestive process
catalytic /ˌkætəˈlɪtɪk/ adjective referring to catalysis
catalytic reaction /ˌkætəˈlɪtɪk reɪˈʃɛn/ noun a chemical reaction which is caused by a catalyst which does not change during the reaction
catamnia /ˌkætəˈmɪniə/ noun menstruation (technical)
catalepsy /ˌkætəˈleɪpsɪ/ noun a condition in which a person’s muscles become suddenly rigid and he or she falls without losing consciousness, possibly caused by a shock
catatonia /ˌkætəˈtɒniə/ noun a condition in which the lens of the eye gradually becomes hard and opaque

COMMENT: Cataracts form most often in people after the age of 50. They are sometimes caused by a blow or an electric shock. Cataracts can easily and safely be removed by surgery.
cataract extraction /ˌkætəˈrækt ɪkˌstrækʃən/ noun the surgical removal of a cataract from the eye
cataractous lens /ˌkætəˈræktəs lɛnz/ noun a lens on which a cataract has formed
cataract /ˌkætəˈrækt/ noun inflammation of the mucous membranes in the nose and throat, creating an excessive amount of mucus
cataractal /ˌkætəˈræktəl/ adjective referring to cataract or a cataractous cough
catatonia /ˌkætəˈtəniə/ noun a condition in which a psychiatric patient is either motionless or shows violent reactions to stimulation
catatonic /ˌkætəˈtɒnɪk/ adjective referring to behaviour in which a person is either motionless or extremely violent
catatonic schizophrenia /ˌkætəˈtɒnɪk ˌskɪtrəˈfrɪnɪə/ noun a type of schizophrenia

carry /ˈkæri/ verb to have a disease and be capable of infecting other people

cartilage /ˈkɑrtɪldʒ/ noun thick connective tissue which lines and cushions the joints and which forms part of the structure of an organ. Cartilage in small children is the first stage in the formation of bones.
cartilaginous /ˈkɑrtɪlɪdʒnəs/ adjective made of cartilage
cartilaginous joint /ˈkɑrtɪlɪdʒnəs dʒɔɪnt/ noun 1. primary cartilaginous joint same as synchondrosis 2. secondary cartilaginous joint same as symphyses
caruncle /ˈkærəŋkəl/ noun a small swelling
cascara /ˈkæsrə/, cascara sagrada /ˈkæsərə səɡrədə/ noun a laxative made from the bark of a tropical tree

case /keɪs/ noun 1. a single occurrence of a disease ○ There were two hundred cases of cholera in the recent outbreak 2. a person who has a disease or who is undergoing treatment ○ The hospital is only admitting urgent cases.
caseation /keɪˈʃeɪʃən/ noun the formation of caseous material in tissues ○ Caseation is a finding in tuberculosis

case history /keɪˈhɪstəri/ noun details of what has happened to a patient undergoing treatment

casein /ˈkeɪsɪn/ noun one of the proteins found in milk

caseinogen /ˈkeɪsɪŋən/ noun the main protein in milk, from which casein is formed

casey’s model /ˈkeɪsɪz ˈmɒdl/ noun a model for the care of child patients, where the parents are involved in the treatment

cast /kæst/ noun a mass of material formed in a hollow organ or tube and excreted in fluid

castor oil /ˈkæstər ˈɔɪl/ noun a plant oil which acts as a laxative

castration /ˈkæstrəʃən/ noun the surgical removal of the sexual organs, usually the testicles, in males

casualty /ˈkeɪʒuəlti/ noun 1. a person who has had an accident or who is suddenly ill ○ The fire caused several casualties. ○ The casualties were taken by ambulance to the nearest hospital. 2. also casualty department same as accident and emergency department ○ The accident victim was rushed to casualty ward

casualty ward /ˈkeɪʒuəlti ˈwɜːd/ noun same as accident ward

cAT /keɪt/ noun same as computerised axial tomography

cata /ˈkætə/ prefix downwards
catabolic /ˈkætəbɒlɪk/ adjective referring to catabolism
catching

where the patient is alternately apathetic or very active and disturbed

catching /'ka:tʃɪŋ/ adjective infectious (informal) 

catchment area /'ka:tʃmənt ə'riːs/ noun an area around a hospital which is served by that hospital

catecholamines /ˈkeɪtʃələmənɪz/ plural noun the hormones adrenaline and noradrenaline which are released by the adrenal glands

category /'kætərəri/ noun a classification, the way in which things can be classified 

caudal analgesia /'kɔdəl ə'nələdʒiə/ noun a method of pain relief that involves injecting an anaesthetic into the base of the spine to remove feeling in the lower part of the body

caudal block /'kɔdəl blok/ noun a local anaesthesia of the cauda equina nerves in the lower spine

caudate /'kɔdət/ adjective like a tail

caudate lobe /'kɔdət ləub/ noun a lobe at the back of the liver, behind the right and left lobes. Also called posterior lobe

cauliflower ear /'kɔlfljuər 'tɛr/ noun a permanently swollen ear, caused by blows in boxing

causalgia /'kɔsəlʤiə/ noun burning pain in a limb, caused by a damaged nerve

causal organism /'kɔsəl ərəzmənɪzəm/ noun an organism that causes a particular disease

cautic /'kwɔtɪk/ noun a chemical substance that destroys tissues that it touches ■ adjective corrosive and destructive

cauterisation /'kɔtəriəzəʃən, kɔtəriəzə/ noun the act of cauterising 

cauterisation was removed by cauterisation. 

cauterize /'kɔtəraɪz/ verb to use cautery, to burn, radiotherapy or laser beams to remove tissue or to stop bleeding

cautery /'kɔtəri/ noun a surgical instrument used to cauterise a wound

cave /'keiv/ noun a cave

cavernous /'kævnəs/ adjective like a tail

cavernous breathing sounds /'kævnəs b्रɪtʃɪŋ ˈsɔʊndz/ plural noun hollow sounds made by the lungs and heard through a stethoscope placed on a patient's chest, used in diagnosis

cavernous haemangioma /'kævnəs hə'mænʤiəmə/ noun a tumour in connective tissue with wide spaces which contain blood

cavernous sinus /'kævnəs ˈsəmsən/ noun one of two cavities in the skull behind the eyes, which form part of the venous drainage system

cavity /'kævətɪ/ noun the forming of a cavity

CD4 /'siːdī / noun a compound consisting of a protein combined with a carbohydrate which is found in some cells and helps to protect the body against infection ■ CD4 count noun a test used to monitor how many CD4 cells have been destroyed in people with HIV
CDH /ˌsɛr.dɛn.tɪˈkeɪl/ abbr congenital dislocation of the hip
cæcum /ˈsɪkəm/ noun US same as caecum
cefaclor /ˈsɛf.eɪklɔr/ noun an antibacterial
 drug used to treat septicemia
cefotaxime /ˌsɛf.oʊ.ˈtæks.iːm/ noun a synthetic cephalosporin used to treat bacterial infection
by pseudomonads
-cele /ˈsiːl/ suffix referring to a swelling
cellular /ˈsiːluər/ adjective US same as coelic
-cell /ˈsel/ noun a tiny unit of matter which is
the base of all plant and animal tissue (NOTE: 
For other terms referring to cells, see words be-
ing with cyt-, cyto-.)
COMMENT: The cell is a unit which can repro-
duce itself. It is made up of a jelly-like sub-
stance (cytoplasm) which surrounds a nucle-
us; and encloses many other small structures
which are different according to the type of cell. Cells reproduce by division (mitosis) and
their process of feeding and removing waste
products is metabolism. The division and re-
production of cells is the way the human body
is formed.
cell body /ˈsel.bɔdi/ noun the part of a nerve
cell which surrounds the nucleus and from
which the axon and dendrites begin
cell division /ˈsel.dɪv.iːz.ən/ noun the way
in which a cell reproduces itself. 1 mitosis,
meiosis
-cell membrane /ˈsel.mɛmbriən/ noun a mem-
brane enclosing the cytoplasm of a cell. 5 columnar cell, target cell
-cellular /ˈsel.jʊələr/ adjective 1. referring to
cells, or formed of cells 2. made of many sim-
ilar parts connected together
cellular tissue /ˈsel.tʃʊələˌtʃuːz/ noun a form
of connective tissue with large spaces
-cellulite /ˈsel.jʊlət/ noun lumpy deposits of
subcutaneous fat, especially in the thighs and
buttocks
-cellulitis /ˈsel.jʊlətɪs/ noun a usually bacte-
rial inflammation of connective tissue or of
the subcutaneous tissue
cellulose /ˈsel.jʊləs/ noun a carbohydrate
which makes up a large percentage of plant
matter
COMMENT: Cellulose is not digestible and is
passed through the digestive system as
roughage.
Celsius /ˈsɛlfəs/ noun a metric scale of tem-
perature on which 0° is the point at which wa-
ter freezes and 100° is the point at which
water boils under average atmospheric conditions. Also called centigrade. (NOTE: It
is usually written as a C after the degree sign: 52°C (say: fifty-two degrees Celsius).) [De-
scribed 1742. After Anders Celsius (1701–44),
Swedish astronomer and scientist.]
COMMENT: To convert Celsius temperatures to
Fahrenheit, multiply by 1.8 and add 32. So
20°C is equal to 68°F. Celsius is used in
many countries, though not in the US, where
the Fahrenheit system is still preferred.
Celsius temperature /ˈsɛlfəsˌtemprɪˌfɔː/ noun temperature as measured on the Celsius
scale
CEMACH /ˈsɛrmək/ noun a UK research
project investigating the causes of infant
deaths and stillbirths. Full form Confidential
Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health
cement /ˈsiːmənt/ noun 1. an adhesive used in
dentistry to attach a crown to the base of a
tooth 2. same as cementum
cementum /ˈsiːməntəm/ noun a layer of
thick hard material which covers the roots of
teeth
census /ˈsɛnsəs/ noun a systematic count or
survey
center /ˈsɛntər/ noun US same as centre
centenarian /ˈsɛntənəriən/ noun one hundredth (10⁻²).
Symbol c
-centigrade /ˈsɛntɪɡreɪd/ noun same as Cel-
sius
centile chart /ˈsɛntəhl tʃɑrt/ noun a chart
showing the number of babies who fall into
each percentage category, as regards, e.g.,
birth weight
centilitre /ˈsɛntɪlɪt/ noun a unit of
measurement of liquid equal to one hun-
dredth of a litre. Symbol cl
-central /ˈsɛntərəl/ adjective referring to the
centre
-central canal /ˈsɛntəral kæˈnæl/ noun a thin
tube in the centre of the spinal cord contain-
ing cerebrospinal fluid
-central line /ˈsɛntəral lайн/ noun a catheter
inserted through the neck, used to monitor
central venous pressure in conditions such as
shock where fluid balance is severely upset
-central nervous system /ˌsɛntəˈnɔrs ˈsɪstəm/ noun the brain and spinal cord which
link together all the nerves
-central sulcus /ˈsɛntərəˌsəlkəs/ noun one of the grooves which divide a cerebral hemi-
sphere into lobes
-central temperature /ˈsɛntəralˈtemprɪˌfɔː/ noun the temperature of the brain, thorax and
abdomen, which is constant
central vein /ˈsɛntəral ˈveɪn/ noun a vein in
the liver
central venous pressure /ˈsɛntəral ˈveɪnəs ˈpreshər/ noun blood pressure in the right atrium
of the heart, which can be measured by means
of a catheter
centre /ˈsɛntər/ noun 1. the middle point, or
the main part of something 2. The aim of the
examination is to locate the centre of infection.

2. a large building 3. the point where a group
of nerves come together (NOTE: [all senses] The
US spelling is center.)
centrifugal

centrifugation /ˌsɛntrɪˈfjuːɡəʃən/ noun the process of separating the components of a liquid by rapid spinning

centrifuge /ˌsɛntrɪˈfjuːdʒ/ noun a device to separate the components of a liquid by rapid spinning

centriole /ˈsɛntriəl/ noun a small structure found in the cytoplasm of a cell, which involved in forming the spindle during cell division

centripetal /ˌsɛntrɪˈpetəl/ noun an organ moving towards the centre

centromere /ˌsɛntrəˈmɪr/ noun a constricted part of a chromosome, seen as a cell divides

centrosome /ˌsɛntrəˈsəʊm/ noun the structure in the cytoplasm of a cell, near the nucleus, and containing the centrioles

centrum /sʊˈtɜːm/ noun the central part of an organ (NOTE: The plural is centra.)

cephal- /ˌsɛfəl/ prefix same as cephalo- (used before vowels)

cephalalgia /ˌsɛfələˈlɒdʒiə/ noun same as headache

cephalexin /ˌsɛfəˈleksɪn/ noun an antibiotic used to treat infections of the urinary system or respiratory tract

cephalhaematoma /ˌsɛfəˈleɪmətəʊmə/ noun a swelling found mainly on the head of babies delivered with forceps

cephalic /ˈsɛfəlɪk/ adjective referring to the head

cephalic index /ˌsɛfəˈlɪk ˈɪndɛks/ noun a measurement of the shape of the skull

cephalic presentation /ˌsɛfəˈleɪk ˈprɛzərən/ noun the usual position of a baby in the uterus, where the baby’s head will appear first

cephalic version /ˌsɛfəˈlɪk ˈvɜːʃən/ noun turning a wrongly positioned fetus round in the uterus, so that the head will appear first at birth

cephalohæmatoma /ˌsɛfələhæmətəʊmə/ noun a swelling caused by part of the brain passing through a weak point in the bones of the skull

cephalogram /ˌsɛfələɡrɑːm/ noun an X-ray photograph of the bones of the skull

cephalometry /ˌsɛfələˈmətrɪ/ noun measurement of the head

cephalopelvic /ˌsɛfələˈpɛlvɪk/ adjective referring to the head of the fetus and the pelvis of the mother

cephalopelvic disproportion /ˌsɛfələˈpɛlvɪk ˈdɪsprəfərən/ noun a condition in which the pelvic opening of the mother is not large enough for the head of the fetus

cephalospinorin /ˌsɛfələˈspɪnərɪn/ noun a drug used in the treatment of bacterial infection

cephradine /ˌsɛfəˈrædɪn/ noun an antibacterial drug used to treat sinusitis and urinary tract infections

cerebellar /ˌsɛrəˈbelər/ adjective referring to the cerebellum

cerebellar ataxia /ˌsɛrəˈbelər əˈtekʃəs/ noun a disorder where a person staggers and cannot speak clearly, due to a disease of the cerebellum

cerebellar cortex /ˌsɛrəˈbelər ˈkɔrɛktʃəs/ noun the outer covering of grey matter which covers the cerebellum

cerebellar gait /ˌsɛrəˈbelər ˈgæt/ noun a way of walking where a person staggers along, caused by a disease of the cerebellum

cerebellar peduncle /ˌsɛrəˈbelər pɪˈdʌŋkəl/ noun a band of nerve tissue connecting parts of the cerebellum

cerebellar syndrome /ˌsɛrəˈbelər ˈsɪn ˈdrəʊm/ noun a disease affecting the cerebellum, the symptoms of which are lack of muscle coordination, spasms in the eyeball and impaired speech

Cerebellum /ˌsɛrəˈbeləm/ noun a section of the hindbrain, located at the back of the head beneath the back part of the cerebrum. See illustration at Brain in Supplement

COMMENT: The cerebellum is formed of two hemispheres with the vermis in the centre. Fibres go into or out of the cerebellum through the peduncles. The cerebellum is the part of the brain where voluntary movements are co-ordinated and is associated with the sense of balance.

cerebro- /ˌsɛrəˈbroʊ/ prefix same as cerebral- (used before vowels)

cerebra /ˈsɛrəbrə/ plural of cerebrum

cerebral /ˌsɛrəˈbrɔl/ adjective referring to the cerebrum or to the brain in general

cerebral aqueduct /ˌsɛrəˈbrɔl ekˈwɪdɛkt/ noun a canal connecting the third and fourth ventricles in the brain. Also called aqueduct of Sylvius

cerebral artery /ˌsɛrəˈbrɔl ˈærtəri/ noun one of the main arteries which take blood into the brain

cerebral cavity /ˌsɛrəˈbrɔl ˈkævəti/ noun one of the four connected fluid-filled spaces in the brain

cerebral cortex /ˌsɛrəˈbrɔl ˈkɔrɛks/ noun the outer layer of grey matter which covers the cerebrum

cerebral decompression /ˌsɛrəˈbrɔl ˈdɪkəmprəʃən/ noun the removal of part of the skull to relieve pressure on the brain

cerebral dominance /ˌsɛrəbrəl ˈdʌmnəns/ noun the usual condition where the centres for various functions are located in one cerebral hemisphere
cerebral haemorrhage /ˌserəbrəl hæmərˈfɪdʒ/ noun bleeding inside the brain from a cerebral artery. Also called brain haemorrhage.

cerebral hemisphere /ˌserəbrəl ‘hɛmɪsfrɪf/ noun one of the two halves of the cerebrum.

cerebral infarction /ˌserəbrəl inˈfærkʃən/ noun a sudden blockage of blood vessels in the brain resulting in permanent or temporary paralysis or death. Also called stroke.

cerebrovascular disease /ˌserəbrəvəˈseɪləri dɪˈziːs/ noun a disease of the blood vessels in the brain.

cerebrum /səˈbrʌm/ noun the largest part of the brain, formed of two sections, the cerebral hemispheres, which run along the length of the head. The cerebrum controls the main mental processes, including the memory. Also called telencephalon.

certificate /ˈsɜːtɪfɪkət/ noun an official paper which states something.

cervical /sɜːvɪkl/ prefix same as cervico-

cervical canal /sɜːvɪkl kænəl/ noun a tube running through the cervix, from the point where the uterus joins the vagina to the entrance of the uterine cavity. Also called cervical canal.

cervicouterine canal /sɜːvɪkətɔrɪn kænəl/ noun a specialized strong orthopaedic collar to support the head of a person with neck injuries or a condition such as cervical spondylolisthesis.

cervical cancer /sɜːvɪkl kənˈsɜːr/ noun a cancer of the cervix of the uterus.

cervical collar /sɜːvɪkl kəl/ noun a special orthopaedic collar to support the head of a person with neck injuries or a condition such as cervical spondylolisthesis.

cervical erosion /sɜːvɪkl ɪəˈrəʊʃən/ noun a condition in which the epithelium of the mucous membrane lining the cervix uteri extends outside the cervix.

cervical ganglion /sɜːvɪkl ˈgæŋgliən/ noun one of the bundles of nerves in the neck.

cervical incompetence /sɜːvɪkl ɪnkˈɪmpləntɪns/ noun a dysfunction of the cervix of the uterus which is often the cause of spontaneous abortions and premature births and can be remedied by Shirrodak’s operation.

cervical intraepithelial neoplasia /sɜːvɪkl ɪntraɪˈpiːθɪəl nɪəˈplɛsɪə/ noun changes in the cells of the cervix which may lead to cervical cancer. Abbr CIN.

cervical nerve /sɜːvɪkl nɜːv/ noun a spinal nerve in the neck.

cervical node /sɜːvɪkl nəʊd/ noun lymph node in the neck.

cervical plexus /sɜːvɪkl ˈpleksəs/ noun a group of nerves in front of the vertebræ in the neck, which lead to nerves supplying the
cervical rib

Skin and muscles of the neck, and also the phrenic nerve which controls the diaphragm.

**cervical rib** /səˈvɪlɪk(ə)l/ 'rib' noun an extra rib sometimes found attached to the vertebrae above the other ribs and which may cause thoracic inlet syndrome.

**cervical smear** /səˈvɪlɪk(ə)l/ 'smear' noun a test for cervical cancer, where cells taken from the mucus in the cervix of the uterus are examined.

**cervical spondylosis** /səˈvɪlɪk(ə)l/ spondylosis noun degenerative change in the neck bones.

**cervical vertebrae** /səˈvɪlɪk(ə)l/ v'satibr/ plural noun the seven bones which form the neck.

**cervicectomy** /səˈvɪtəkstəmi/ noun the surgical removal of the cervix uteri.

**cervicides** /səˈvɪsɪdz/ plural of cervix

**cervicitis** /səˈvɪtətɪs/ noun inflammation of the cervix uteri.

**cervico-** /səˈvɪkəʊ-/ prefix 1. referring to the neck; 2. referring to the cervix of the uterus.

**cervicography** /səˈvɪkrəɡrəfi/ noun the act of photographing the cervix uteri, used as a method of screening for cervical cancer.

**cervicouterine canal** /səˈvɪktərən/ /juːtrəmən/ noun cervix kəˈnɛl/ noun same as cervical canal.

**cervix** /səˈvɪks/ noun 1. any narrow neck of an organ 2. the neck of the uterus, the narrow lower part of the uterus leading into the vagina.

Also called cervix uteri.

**CESDI** noun full form Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy.

**CEMACh**

**cesium** /səˈziəm/ noun US same as caesium.

**cestode** /sɛsˈtoʊd/ noun a type of tapeworm.

**cetrimide** /sɛtrɪmɪd/ noun a mixture of ammonium compounds, used in disinfectants and antiseptics.

**CF** abbr cystic fibrosis.

**CFT** abbr complement fixation test.

**chafe** /tʃeɪf/ verb to rub something, especially to rub against the skin. ○ *The rough cloth of the collar chafed the girl’s neck.*

**chafing** /tʃeɪfɪŋ/ noun irritation of the skin due to rubbing. ○ *She was experiencing chafing of the thighs.*

**Chagas’ disease** /tʃæɡəs dʒeɪz/ noun a type of sleeping sickness found in South America, transmitted by insect bites which pass trypanosomes into the bloodstream. Children are mainly affected and if untreated the disease can cause fatal heart block in early adult life. [Described 1909. After Carlos Chagas (1879–1934), Brazilian scientist and physician.]

**CHAI** abbr Commission for Healthcare Audit and Improvement.

**chalasia** /tʃeɪˈlɛzɪə/ noun an excessive relaxation of the oesophageal muscles, which causes regurgitation.

**chalazion** /kəˈleɪzɪən/ noun same as meibomian cyst.

**challenge** /tʃɛlɪndʒ/ verb to expose someone to a substance to determine whether an allergy or other adverse reaction will occur. ○ *nour exposure of someone to a substance to determine whether an allergy or other adverse reaction will occur.*

**chalumeau** /keɪlˈmɔː/ 'kælˈmɔː/ noun a hormone which stops a secretion, as opposed to those hormones which stimulate secretion.

**chamber** /tʃæmbər/ noun a hollow space (atrium or ventricle) in the heart where blood is collected.

**chancery** /tʃæŋkri/ noun a sore on the lip, penis or eyelid which is the first symptom of syphilis.

**chancre** /tʃæŋkri/ noun a vascular sore with a soft base, situated in the groin or on the genitals and caused by the bacterium *Haemophilus ducreyi.* Also called soft chancre.

**change of life** /tʃeɪndʒ əv ləf/ noun same as menopause (dated informal)

**chapped** /tʃæpt/ adjective referring to skin which is cracked due to cold.

**characterise** /kəˈrɪktaɪəˈraɪzi/ characterise verb to be a typical or special quality or feature of something or someone. ○ *The disease is characterised by the development of lesions throughout the body.*

**characteristic** /kərɪktaˈrɪstɪk/ noun a quality which allows something to be recognised as different. ○ *Cancer destroys the cell’s characteristics.*

**CHE** abbr Amarillo, Texas.

**CHESI** abbr Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy.

**chalybeate** /kəˈleɪbɪət/ noun a curative or curiously effective medicine.

**chalazion** /tʃeɪlˈzɪən/ noun a small lesion of the eyelid which may cause flaking of the skin around the eye.

**charcot’s joint** /tʃæktɔz dʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint which becomes deformed because the patient cannot feel pain in it when the nerves have been damaged by syphilis, diabetes or leprosy. [Described 1868. After Jean-Martin Charcot (1825–93), French neurologist.]

**Charcot’s triad** /tʃæktɔz trɪæd/ noun three symptoms of multiple sclerosis: rapid eye movement, tremor and scanning speech.

**charleyhorse** /tʃɛriˈhɔː/ noun US a painful cramp in a leg or thigh (informal)

**Charnley clamps** /tʃɛriˈli/ kˈleɪmpls/ plural noun metal clamps fixed to a rod through a bone to hold it tight.
terns appear on the palms of the hand and the sides of the buttocks.

A chelating agent is used to remove heavy substances which can combine with the blood to cause health problems.

The chemist can buy medicine, toothpaste, soap and similar items.

Go to the chemist to get some cough preparations.

The MRI body scanner is able to provide a chemical analysis of tissues without investigative surgery.

Blood samples to find out their chemical composition.

If a cell which responds to the presence of a chemical compound by activating a nerve, e.g. a taste bud reacting to food or cells in the carotid body reacting to lowered oxygen and raised carbon dioxide in the blood.

The use of drugs such as antibiotics, painkillers or antiseptic lotions to fight a disease, especially using toxic chemicals to destroy rapidly developing cancer cells.

Chemotherapy is the use of drugs to treat cancer.

The moving of a cell when it is attracted to or repelled by a chemical substance.

Inflammation of the chest due to infection such as a chesty cough.

A chest examination is an examination of someone's chest by the doctor.

An examination of someone's chest by percussion, stethoscope or X-ray.

A chest pain may be caused by heart disease.

A chesty cough is due to infection in the lungs, or having a tendency to chest complaints.

Cheyne-Stokes respiration is a type of breathing in which the breathing appears to stop.

The CHI abbr. Commission for Health Improvement.
chiasm /ˈkaɪəzm/ noun, chiasma /ˈkaɪəzma/ noun • optic chiasma
chickenpox /ˈtʃɪkɪnˌpoʊks/ noun an infectious disease of children, with fever and red spots which turn into itchy blisters. Also called varicella

COMMENT: Chickenpox is caused by a herpesvirus. In later life, shingles is usually a re-emergence of a dormant chickenpox virus and an adult with shingles can infect a child with chickenpox.

Chief Medical Officer /ˈtʃɪfɪl ˈmedɪkəl/ noun in the UK, a government official responsible for all aspects of public health. Abbr CMO

Chief Nursing Officer /tʃɪfl ˈnɜːznɪŋ /noun in the UK, an official appointed by the Department of Health to advise Government Ministers and provide leadership to nurses and midwives. Abbr CNO

chilblain /ˈtʃɪlbleɪn/ noun a condition in which the skin of the fingers, toes, nose or ears becomes red, swollen and itchy because of exposure to cold. Also called erythema pernio

child /ˈtʃɪld/ noun a young boy or girl. Child is the legal term for a person under 14 years of age. (NOTE: The plural is children. For other terms referring to children, see words beginning with paed-, paedo- or ped-, pedo-)

child abuse /ˈtʃɪldəbjuːs/ noun cruel treatment of a child by an adult, including physical and sexual harm

childbirth /ˈtʃɪlbɜːθ/ noun the act of giving birth. Also called parturition

child care /ˈtʃɪldkɛə/ noun the care of young children and study of their special needs

child health clinic /ˈtʃɪld hɛlθ klɪnɪk/ noun a special clinic for checking the health and development of small children under school age. Abbr CHC

childhood illness /ˈtʃɪldhʊdl ˈɪlnəs/ noun an illness which mainly affects children and not adults

child-proof /ˈtʃɪldprəʊf/ adj adjective designed so that a child cannot use it ○ child-proof containers. The pills are sold in bottles with child-proof lids or caps

child protection /ˈtʃɪldprəˈtekʃən/ noun the measures taken to avoid abuse, neglect or exploitation of any kind towards children

children's hospital /ˈtʃɪldrənz ˈhɒspɪtəl/ noun a hospital which specialises in treating children

child /ˈtʃɪld/ noun a short illness causing a feeling of being cold and shivering, usually the sign of the beginning of a fever, of flu or a cold

chin /ˈtʃɪn/ noun the bottom part of the face, beneath the mouth

Chinese medicine /ˈtsʰaɪni ˈmedɪsɪn/ noun a system of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of illness developed in China over many centuries. It uses herbs, minerals and animal products, exercise, massage and acupuncture.

Chinese restaurant syndrome /ˈtsʰaɪni ˈrestərɒnt ˈsɪndrəm/ noun an allergic condition which gives people severe headaches after eating food flavoured with monosodium glutamate (informal)

chiropractor /ˌkɪprəˈpɑːtər/ noun a person who specialises in treatment of minor disorders of the feet

chiropractic /ˌkɪprəˈpɑːtɪk/ noun the study and treatment of minor diseases and disorders of the feet

chiropractor /ˌkɪprəˈpɑːtər/ noun a person who treats musculoskeletal disorders by making adjustments primarily to the bones of the spine

chiropractic /ˌkɪprəˈpɑːtɪk/ noun same as chiropractic (informal)

Chlamydia /ˈklɛmədʒə/ noun a bacterium that causes trachoma and urogenital diseases in humans and psittacosis in birds, which can be transmitted to humans. It is currently a major cause of sexually transmitted disease.

chlamydial /ˈklɛmɪdɪəl/ adj adjective referring to infections caused by Chlamydia

chloasma /ˌkləʊˈzəmə/ noun the presence of brown spots on the skin from various causes

chlor- /ˈklɔr-/ prefix (used before vowels)

chlorambucil /ˈklɔrəmbjuːsɪl/ noun a drug which is toxic to cells, used in cancer treatment

chloramphenicol /ˌklɔrəmˌfɛnɪkəl/ noun a powerful antibiotic which sometimes causes the collapse of blood cell production, so is used only for treating life-threatening diseases such as meningitis

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chlordecone /ˌklaʊrdəˈkɔn/ noun a salt of hydrochloric acid

chlorhexidine /ˌklɔrɪksegˈziːnaɪd/ noun a disinfectant mouthwash

chloroform /ˌklaʊroʊˈfɔːrm/ noun a yellow crystalline powder, used as a tranquilliser and treatment for alcoholism

chlorination /ˌklaʊriˈneɪʃən/ noun sterilisation by adding chlorine

COMMENT: Chlorination is used to kill bacteria in drinking water, in swimming pools and sewage farms, and has many industrial applications such as sterilisation in food processing.

chlorinator /ˈklaʊrɪnətər/ noun apparatus for adding chlorine to water
chlorine /'klɔrɪn/ noun a powerful greenish gas, used to sterilise water (Note: The chemical symbol is Cl)
chloromethiazole /'klɔrəmeθɪəzəl/ noun a sedative used in the treatment of people with alcoholism
chloro-/kluəro/ prefix referring to chlorine
chloroform /'klɔrəfɔːrm/ noun a powerful drug formerly used as an anaesthetic
chloroquine /'klɔrəkwəin/ noun a drug used to prevent and treat malaria, but to which resistance has developed in some parts of the world
chlororam /'klɔrərəm/ noun a bone tumour associated with acute leukaemia
chloroquine /'klɔrəkwəin/ noun a drug used to prevent and treat malaria, but to which resistance has developed in some parts of the world
chlorosis /'klɔrəsɪs/ noun a type of severe anaemia due to iron deficiency, affecting mainly young girls
chlorothiazide /'klɔrəθiəzɪd/ noun a drug which helps the body to produce more urine, used in the treatment of high blood pressure, swelling and heart failure
chloroxylenol /'klɔrəksɪlən/ noun a chemical used as an antimicrobial agent in skin creams and in disinfectants
chlorpheniramine /'klɔrfaɪərəmɪn/ noun an antihistamine drug
chlorpromazine hydrochloride /'klɔrprəʊməzain 'haɪdrəklɔrɪd/ a drug used to treat schizophrenia and other psychoses
chlorpropamide /'klɔrprəpəmeɪd/ noun a drug which lowers blood sugar, used in the treatment of diabetes
chlorothalidone /'klɔrəθəldən/ noun a diuretic
ChM abbr Master of Surgery
choana /'kəʊənə/ noun any opening shaped like a funnel, especially one leading from the nasal cavity to the pharynx (Note: The plural is choanae.)
chocolate cyst /'ʃɔktəl 'sɪst/ noun an ovarian cyst containing old brown blood
choke /ʃəʊk/ verb to stop breathing because the windpipe becomes blocked by a foreign body or by inhalation of water, or to stop someone breathing by blocking the windpipe ⊕ to choke on (something) to take something into the windpipe instead of the gullet, so that the breathing is interrupted ⊕ A piece of bread made him choke or He choked on a piece of bread.
choking /'ʃəʊknɪŋ/ noun a condition in which someone is prevented from breathing. ⊕ asphyxia
chol- /kluəl/ prefix same as chole- (used before vowels)
cholaemia /'kələliəmɪə/ noun the presence of an unusual amount of bile in the blood
cholagogue /'kələgəʊdʒ/ noun a drug which encourages the production of bile
cholangiocarcinoma /kəˌlæŋdʒɪəkərˈsɪnəmə/ a rare cancer of the cells of the bile ducts
cholangiography /kəˌlæŋdʒɪəˈɡrəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the bile ducts and gall bladder
cholangiolitis /kəˌlæŋdʒɪəˈlətɪs/ noun inflammation of the small bile ducts
cholangiopancreatography /kəˌlæŋdʒɪəˌpænkrəˈtreɪətəɡrəfi/ an X-ray examination of the bile ducts and pancreas
cholangitis /ˌkəʊləŋˈɡɪtəsɪs/ noun inflammation of the bile ducts
chole-/kluəl/ prefix referring to bile
cholecystectomy /ˌkəʊləsɪsˈtekstəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the gall bladder
cholecystitis /ˌkəʊləsɪstˈstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the gall bladder
cholecystoduodenostomy /ˌkəʊləsɪstəˌduːədəˈnɒstəmɪ/ a surgical operation to join the gall bladder to the duodenum to allow bile to pass into the intestine when the main bile duct is blocked
cholecystogram /ˌkəʊləsɪstˈɡrəʊmə/ an X-ray photograph of the gall bladder
cholecystography /ˌkəʊləsɪstˈɡrəʊfərɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the gall bladder
cholecystokinin /ˌkəʊləsɪstˈkəʊmɪn/ noun a hormone released by cells at the top of the small intestine. It stimulates the gall bladder, making it contract and release bile.
cholecystotomy /ˌkəʊləsɪstˈtɒmə/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut in the gall bladder, usually to remove gallstones
choledoch-/kluəledək/ prefix referring to the common bile duct
choledocholithiasis /ˌkəˌlædəkəlˈθɔrətɪsɪs/ noun same as choledolithiasis
choledocholithotomy /ˌkəˌlædəkəlˈθɔrətəmɪ/ a surgical operation to make an opening in a bile duct
choledochochromatosis /ˌkəˌlædəkəˈkrɔmətəsɪs/ noun a surgical operation to remove a gallstone by cutting into the bile duct
choledocholithotomy /ˌkəˌlædəkəˈθɔrətəmɪ/ a surgical operation to make a cut in the common bile duct to remove gallstones
cholelithiasis /ˌkəˌlæliˈθɔrətɪsɪs/ noun a condition in which gallstones form in the gall bladder or bile ducts. Also called choledocholithiasis
cholelithotomy /ˌkəˌlæliˈθɔrətəmɪ/ the surgical removal of gallstones by cutting into the gall bladder
cholera /ˈkələrə/ noun a serious bacterial disease spread through food or water which has
choleretic /ˈkʰəlәˈrɛtɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which increases the production and flow of bile
choleretic /ˈkʰəlәˈrɛtɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which increases the production and flow of bile
cholestasis /ˌkʰələˈstæsɪs/ noun a condition in which all bile does not pass into the intestine but some remains in the liver and causes jaundice
cholesterolemia /ˌkʰələˈstərələˈmiə/ noun high level of cholesterol in the blood
cholesterosis /ˌkʰələˈstərəsɪs/ noun inflammation of the gall bladder with deposits of cholesterol
cholesterol /ˌkʰələˈsɛrəl/ noun a fatty substance found in fats and oils, also produced by the liver and forming an essential part of all cells
choline /ˈkʰəlɪn/ noun a compound involved in fat metabolism and the precursor for acetylcholine
cholinergic /ˈkʰəlɪnərˈdʒɪk/ adjective referring to a neurone or receptor which responds to acetylcholine
cholinesterase /ˈkʰəlɪnəˈɛstərəs/ noun an enzyme which breaks down choline ester
choluria /ˈkʰəlʊərɪə/ noun same as biluria
chondr- /ˈkʰɔndr-/ prefix referring to cartilage
chondritis /ˈkʰɔndrəˌdɪtrɪs/ noun inflammation of cartilage
chondroblast /ˌkʰɔndrəˈblaʊst/ noun a cell from which cartilage develops in an embryo
chondrocalcinosis /ˌkʰɔndrəˌkælˈsɪnəsɪs/ noun a condition in which deposits of calcium phosphate are found in articular cartilage
chondrocyte /ˌkʰɔndrəˈsɪt/ noun a mature cartilage cell
chondrodyplasia /ˌkʰɔndrəˌdɪpləˈzɪə/ noun a hereditary disorder of cartilage which is linked to dwarfism
chondrodystrophy /ˌkʰɔndrəˈdɪstrəfɪ/ noun any disorder of cartilage
chondroma /ˌkʰɔndrəˈmɔːrə/ noun a tumour formed of cartilaginous tissue
chondromacia /ˌkʰɔndrəˈməʃə/ noun degeneration of the cartilage of a joint
chondrosarcoma /ˌkʰɔndrəˌsɑrˈkoʊmə/ noun a malignant, rapidly growing tumour involving cartilage cells
chorda /ˈkʰɔrdə/ noun a cord or tendon (note: The plural is chordae.)
chordae tendineae /ˌkʰɔrdə tənˈdɪniə/ plural noun tiny fibrous ligaments in the heart which attach the edges of some of the valves to the walls of the ventricles
chordee /ˈkʰɔrdi/ noun a painful condition where the erect penis is curved, a complication of gonorrhoea
chorditis /ˈkʰɔrdəˌtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the vocal cords
chordotomy /ˈkʰɔrdətəməˈnɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut a cord such as a nerve pathway in the spinal cord in order to relieve intractable pain
choria /ˈkʰɔrɪə/ noun a sudden severe twitching, usually of the face and shoulders, which is a symptom of disease of the nervous system
chordon /ˈkʰɔrdən/ noun a membrane covering the fertilised ovum
chorionic /ˈkʰɔrɪən/ adjective referring to the chorion
chorionic gonadotrophin /ˈkʰɔrɪən ˌɡɒnədəˈtrɒfɪn/ noun human chorionic gonadotrophin
chorionic villus sampling /ˈkʰɔrɪən ˌvɪləsˌsʌmplɪŋ/ noun an antenatal screening test carried out by examining cells from the chorionic villi of the outer membrane surrounding an embryo, which have the same DNA as the fetus
choroid /ˈkʰɔrəˌɪd/ noun the middle layer of tissue which forms the eyeball, between the sclera and the retina. See illustration at EYE in Supplement
choroiditis /ˌkʰɔrəˌdɪtrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the choroid in the eyeball
choroidocytitis /ˌkʰɔrəˌdɪsətɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the choroids and ciliary body
choroid plexus /ˌkʰɔrəˌdɪd pˈlɛksəs/ noun part of the pia mater, a network of small blood vessels in the ventricles of the brain which produce cerebrospinal fluid. See illustration at EYE in Supplement
Christmas disease /ˈkrɪsməs dɪˌziː/ noun same as haemophilia B [After Mr Christmas, the person in whom the disease was first studied in detail]
Christmas factor /k्रəms ˌfæktaʊ/ noun same as Factor IX
chrom- /krəʊm/ prefix same as chromo-
(chromosomes) /krəʊməˈsiːəs/ plural chromosomes /krəʊməˈsiːəs/ singular chromosome /krəʊməˈsiːəʊm/ definite article the chromosome /krəʊməˈsiːəʊm/ a chromosome
chromatid /krəʊmatɪd/ noun one of two parallel filaments making up a chromosome
chromatography /krəʊmatəˈɡɹaɹi/ noun a method of separating chemicals through a porous medium, used in analysing compounds and mixtures
chromatophore /krəʊˈmeɪtʃəʊr/ noun any pigment-bearing cell in the eyes, hair and skin
chromatic /krəʊmɑtɪk/ adjective referring to colour
chromatic acid /krəʊmɑtɪk ˈeɪsɪd/ noun an unstable acid existing only in solution or in the form of a salt, sometimes used in the removal of warts
chromic acid /kρəυμɪəˈsəʊm/ a rod-shaped structure in the nucleus of a cell, formed of DNA, which carries the genes
chromosome aberration /krəʊməˈsəʊməl ˌæbəˈreɪʃən/ noun same as chromosone aberration
chromosome /krəʊməˈsəʊm/ noun a rod-shaped structure in the nucleus of a cell formed of DNA, which carries the genes
chromosomes /krəʊməˈsəʊmz/ plural chromosome /krəʊməˈsəʊm/ a chromosome
chromosomal aberration /krəʊməˈsəʊməl ˌæbəˈreɪʃən/ noun same as chromosome aberration
chronic /ˈkrɒnɪk/ adjective 1. referring to a disease or condition which lasts for a long time
chronic appendicitis /ˈkrɒnɪk əˈ pendɪ təˈsɪtɪs/ noun a condition in which the vermiform appendix is always slightly inflamed. Grumbling appendix
chyme /ˈkaɪm/ noun a semi-liquid mass of food and gastric juices, which passes from the stomach to the intestine.

chymotrypsin /ˌkaɪmoʊˈtrɪpsɪn/ noun an enzyme which digests protein.

Ct abbr curie.

cicatrise /ˈsɪkstrəz/; cicatrise verb to heal and form a scar, or to cause a wound to heal and form a scar.

cicatrix /ˈsɪkstrɪks/ noun same as scar.

cilovir /sɪləvɪr/ suffix used in the names of antiviral drugs.

clude /səld/ suffix referring to killing.

cilia /ˈsɪlɪə/ plural of cillum.

ciliary /ˈsɪlɪərɪ/ adjective 1. referring to the eyelid or eyelashes. 2. referring to cilia.

ciliary body /ˈsɪlɪərɪ ˈbɔrdl/ noun the part of the eye which connects the iris to the choroid. See illustration at eye in Supplement.

ciliary ganglion /ˈsɪlɪərɪ ˈɡæŋɡlɪən/ noun a parasympathetic ganglion in the orbit of the eye, supplying the intrinsic eye muscles.

ciliary muscle /ˈsɪlɪərɪ ˌmʌs(ə)r/ noun a muscle which makes the lens of the eye change its shape to focus on objects at different distances. See illustration at eye in Supplement.

ciliary processes /ˈsɪlɪərɪ ˈprɔʊəsəz/ plural noun the ridges behind the iris to which the lens of the eye is attached.

ciliated epithelium /ˈsɪlɪətɛd ɛpˈθɪlɪəm/ noun simple epithelium where the cells have tiny hairs or cilia.

cillum /ˈsɪlɪəm/ noun 1. an eyelash. 2. one of many tiny hair-like processes which line cells in passages in the body and by moving backwards and forwards drive particles or fluid along the passage (NOTE: The plural is cilia.)

cillin /ˈsɪlɪn/ suffix used in the names of penicillin drugs. O amoxycillin.

cimetidine /ˈsɪmətɪdɪn/ noun a drug which reduces the production of stomach acid, used in peptic ulcer treatment.

cimex /ˈsaimeks/ noun a bedbug or related insect which feeds on birds, humans and other mammals. (NOTE: The plural is cimex.)

CIN abbr cervical intraepithelial neoplasia.

-cin /ˈsɪn/ suffix referring to aminoglycosides. O genanicin.

cinematics /ˈsɪnɪmətɪks/ noun the science of movement, especially of body movements.

cineplasty /ˈsɪnɪplæstɪ/ noun an amputation where the muscles of the stump are operated on to create an artificial limb.

cineradiography /ˌsɪnɪrəˈdʒrəfi/ noun the practice of taking a series of X-ray photographs for diagnosis, or to show how something moves or develops in the body.

cinesiology /ˌsɪnəsɪˈlɒdʒi/ noun the study of muscle movements, particularly in relation to treatment.

cingulectomy /ˌsɪŋɡjuˈlektəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the cingulum.

cingulum /ˌsɪŋɡjʊləm/ noun a long curved bundle of nerve fibres in the cerebrum. (NOTE: The plural is cingula.)

cinnaamin /ˌsɪnərəˈmɪn/ noun an antihistaminic used to treat Ménière’s disease.

ciprofloxacin /ˌsɪpɾəˈflɔksən/ noun a powerful antibiotic used in eye drops to treat cornal ulcers and surface infections of the eye, and in the treatment of anthrax in humans.

circadian /ˈsɜrkəˌdɪən/ adjective referring to a pattern which is repeated approximately every 24 hours.

circadian rhythm /ˈsɜkəˌdɪən ˈrɪðəm/ noun same as biological clock.

circle of Willis /ˌsɜrkəl ɔf ˈwɪls/ noun a circle of branching arteries at the base of the brain formed by the basilar artery, the anterior and posterior cerebral arteries, the anterior and posterior communicating arteries and the internal carotid arteries. (Described 1664. After Thomas Willis (1621–75), English physician and anatomist.)

circular fold /ˈsɜrkəl ˈfɔld/ noun a large transverse fold of mucous membrane in the small intestine.

circulation /ˌsɜrkələˈkeɪʃən/ noun 1. circulation (of the blood) movement of blood around the body from the heart through the arteries to the capillaries and back to the heart through the veins. O She has poor circulation in her legs. O Rub your hands to get the circulation going.

COMMENT: Blood circulates around the body, carrying oxygen from the lungs and nutrients from the liver through the arteries and capillaries to the tissues. The capillaries exchange the oxygen for waste matter such as carbon dioxide which is taken back to the lungs to be expelled. At the same time the blood obtains more oxygen in the lungs to be taken to the tissues. The circulation pattern is as follows: blood returns through the veins to the right atrium of the heart. From there it is pumped through the right ventricle into the pulmonary artery, and then into the lungs. From the lungs it returns through the pulmonary veins to the left atrium of the heart and is pumped from there through the left ventricle into the aorta and from the aorta into the other arteries.

circulatory /ˌsɜrkəˈleɪtəri/ adjective referring to the circulation of the blood.

circulatory system /ˌsɜrkəˈleɪtəri ˈsɪstəm/ noun a system of arteries and veins, together with the heart, which makes the blood circulate around the body.

circum- /sɜrkəm/ prefix around.

circumcise /ˈsɜrkəmsɪz/ verb to remove the foreskin of the penis.

circumcision /ˈsɜrkəmsəˈziʃən/ noun the surgical removal of the foreskin of the penis.
Circumduction /ˌsɜːkəmˈdʌkʃən/ noun the action of moving a limb so that the end of it makes a circular motion.

Circumflex /ˌsɜːkəmˈfleks/ adjective bent or curved.

Circumflex artery /ˌsɜːkəmˈfleks ˈɑːtɜːrɪ/ noun a branch of the femoral artery in the upper thigh.

Circumflex nerve /ˌsɜːkəmˈfleks ˈnɜːrv/ noun a sensory and motor nerve in the upper arm.

Circumoral /ˌsɜːkəmˈɔːrəl/ adjective referring to rashes surrounding the lips.

Circumvallate papillae /ˌsɜːkəmˈvɔːlət/ noun large papillae at the base of the tongue, which have taste buds.

Cirrhosis /ˈsɜːrəhoʊs/ noun a progressive disease of the liver, often associated with alcoholism, in which healthy cells are replaced by scar tissue. ○ Cirrhosis of the liver hepatocirrhosis, a condition where some cells of the liver die and are replaced by hard fibrous tissue.

COMMENT: Cirrhosis can have many causes: the commonest cause is alcoholism (alcoholic cirrhosis or Laennec’s cirrhosis). It can also be caused by heart disease (cardiac cirrhosis), by viral hepatitis (postnecrotic cirrhosis), by autoimmune disease (primary biliary cirrhosis) or by obstruction or infection of the bile ducts (biliary cirrhosis).

Cirrhotic /ˈsɜːrətɪk/ adjective referring to cirrhosis. ○ The patient had a cirrhotic liver.

Clamps /ˈklæmpz/ prefix referring to dilatation.

Cirop in, which means ‘posture’ or ‘standing’

Cirop inergy referring to a varicocele vein which is dilated

Ciropoid aneurysm /ˌsɜːsˈɔɪd əˈnɪrəs(ə)m/ noun a condition in which arteries become swollen and twisted.

Ciropatin /ˌsɜːsˈplɛtɪn/ noun a chemical substance which may help fight cancer by binding to DNA. It is used in the treatment of ovarian and testicular cancer.

Cirop in /ˈsɪstərn/ noun a space containing fluid.

Cirop ina magna /ˌsɪstərərəˈmɑːŋɡə/ noun a large space containing cerebrospinal fluid, situated underneath the cerebellum and behind the medulla oblongata.

Cirop ic acid /ˌsɪstrɪk ˈæsɨd/ noun an acid found in fruit such as oranges, lemons and grapefruit.

Cirop ic cycle /ˌsɪstrɪk ˈæsɨd ˌsæk(ə)/ noun an important series of events concerning amino acid metabolism, which takes place in the mitochondria in the cell. Also called Krebs cycle.

Cirop ulinaemia /ˌsɪstrʊlɪˈnɛmɪə/ noun a deficiency of an enzyme which helps break down proteins.

Cirop line /ˌsɪstrʊln/ noun an amino acid.

CJD abbr Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Clap /ˈklæp/ noun a surgical instrument to hold something tightly, e.g. a blood vessel during an operation. ■ verb to hold something tightly.

Clasp /ˈklæsp/ noun same as gonorrhoea (slang).

Classic /ˈklæsɪk/ adjective referring to a typically well-known symptom. ○ She showed classic heroin withdrawal symptoms: sweating, fever, sleeplessness and anxiety.

Classification /ˌklæsɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun the work of putting references or components into order so as to be able to refer to them again and identify them easily. ○ The ABO classification of blood.

Classify /ˌklæsɪfɪˈeɪt/ verb to put references or components into order so as to be able to refer to them again and identify them easily. ○ The medical records are classified under the surname of the patient. ○ Blood groups are classified according to the ABO system.

Claudication /ˌklɔdɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun the fact of limping or being lame.

COMMENT: At first, the person limps after having walked a short distance, then finds walking progressively more difficult and finally impossible. The condition improves after rest.

Claustrophobia /ˌklɔsˈtrofəbiə/ noun a fear of enclosed spaces or crowded rooms.

Compare agoraphobia.

Claustrophobic /ˌklɔsˈtrofəˈbɪk/ adjective afraid of being in enclosed spaces or crowded rooms.

Compare agoraphobic.

Clavicle /ˌklævɪkəl/ noun same as collarbone.

Clavicular /ˌklævɪˈkjuːlər/ adjective referring to the clavicle.

Claw /ˈklɔː/ noun 1. a corn on the foot. 2. severe pain in the head, like a nail being driven in.

Claw foot /ˈklɔː /noun 1. a deformed foot with the toes curved towards the instep and with a very high arch. Also called pes cavus.

Claw hand /ˈklɔː /noun a deformed hand with the fingers, especially the ring finger and little finger, bent towards the palm, caused by paralysis of the muscles.

Clean /kliːn/ adjective 1. free from dirt, waste products or unwanted substances. 2. sterile or free from infection. ○ a clean dressing. ○ a clean wound. 3. not using recreational drugs.

Cleanliness /ˈklinləns/ noun the state of being clean. ○ The report praised the cleanliness of the hospital kitchen.

Clear /klɛər/ adjective 1. easily understood. ○ The doctor made it clear that he wanted the patient to have a home help. ○ The words on the medicine bottle are not very clear. 2. not cloudy and easy to see through. ○ a clear glass bottle. ○ The urine sample was clear.

COMMENT: ○ The area is now clear of infec- tion. ■ verb to take away a blockage. ○ The inhalant will clear your blocked nose. ○ He is on...
clear up

antibiotics to try to clear the congestion in his lungs.

clear up /ˈklɪər/ verb to get better ○ His infection should clear up within a few days. ○ I hope your cold clears up before the holiday.
clearance /ˈklɪərəns/ noun the repeated division of cells in an embryo
clearance lines plural noun same as Langer's lines
cleft /kliːt/ noun a small opening or hollow place in a surface or body part ■ adjective referring to a surface or body part which has separated into two or more sections
cleft foot /ˈkliːft/ noun same as talipes
cleft lip /ˈkliːlt/ noun a congenital condition in which the upper lip fails to form in the usual way during fetal development. Also called harelip
cleft palate /ˈkliːptəl/ noun a congenital condition in which the palate does not fuse during fetal development, causing a gap between the mouth and nasal cavity in severe cases. ○ COMMENT: A cleft palate is usually associated with a cleft lip. Both can be successfully corrected by surgery.
cleido- /ˈklɛdəʊ/ prefix referring to the clavicle
cleidocranial dysostosis /klɛɪdɒkraˈniəl dɪsˈɒstəsɪs/ noun a hereditary bone malformation, with protruding jaw, lack of collarbone and malformed teeth
clerking /ˈklɛrkiŋ/ noun the practice of writing down the details of a person on admission to a hospital (internal)
client /ˈklɛnt/ noun a person visited by a health visitor or social worker
climacteric /ˈklɪmətɪk/ adjective 1. same as menopause. 2. a period of diminished sexual activity in a man who reaches middle age
climax /ˈklɪmæks/ noun 1. an orgasm 2. the point where a disease is at its worst ■ verb to have an orgasm
clinidamycin /ˈklɪnɪdəməsɪn/ noun a powerful antibiotic used to treat severe infections and acne
clinic /ˈklɪnɪk/ noun 1. a small hospital or a department in a large hospital which deals only with out-patients or which specialises in the treatment of particular medical conditions ○ He is being treated in a private clinic. ○ She was referred to an antenatal clinic. 2. a group of students under a doctor or surgeon who examine patients and discuss their treatment
clinical /ˈklɪnɪk(ə)l/ adjective 1. referring to the physical assessment and treatment of patients by doctors, as opposed to a surgical operation, a laboratory test or experiment 2. referring to instruction given to students at the bedside of patients as opposed to class instruction with no patient present 3. referring to a clinic

"...we studied 69 patients who met the clinical and laboratory criteria of definite MS" [Lancet]

"...the allocation of students to clinical areas is for their educational needs and not for service requirements" [Nursing Times]
clinical audit /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l əˈdɪt/ noun an evaluation of the standard of clinical care
clinical care /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l ˈkeər/ noun the care and treatment of patients in hospital wards or in doctors' surgeries
clinical effectiveness /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l ɪˈfɛktɪvəs/ noun the ability of a procedure or treatment to achieve the desired result
clinical governance /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l ˈɡʌvərn(ə)ns/ noun the responsibility given to doctors to coordinate audit, research, education, use of guidelines and risk management to develop a strategy to raise the quality of medical care
clinically /ˈklaɪnɪkli/ adverb using information gathered from the treatment of patients in a hospital ward or in the doctor's surgery ○ Smallpox is now clinically extinct.
clinical medicine /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l ˈmɛdɪsɪn/ noun the study and treatment of patients in a hospital ward or in the doctor's surgery, as opposed to in the operating theatre or laboratory
clinical nurse manager /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l ˈnɜːsɪmənər/ noun the administrative manager of the clinical nursing staff of a hospital
clinician /ˈklinɪʃən/ noun 1. a nurse who specialises in a particular branch of clinical care
clinical pathology /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l ˈpæθələdʒi/ noun the study of disease as applied to the treatment of patients
clinician /ˈklinɪʃən/ noun a psychologist who studies and treats sick patients in hospital
clinical psychologist /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l ˈpsikələdʒɪst/ noun a psychologist who studies and treats sick patients in hospital
clinical thermometer /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l ˈθəmətər/ noun a thermometer used in a hospital or by a doctor for measuring a person's body temperature
clinical trial /ˈklaɪnɪk(ə)l ˈtraɪəl/ noun a trial carried out in a medical laboratory on a person or on tissue from a person
clinometer /ˈklaɪnəmətər/ noun a device for measuring the angle of inclination of a surface or object
clinoactily /ˌklaɪnəʊˈækteɪlɪ/ noun the permanent bending of a finger to one side
clip /klɪp/ noun a piece of metal with a spring, used to attach things together
cloaca /ˈkləʊəkə/ noun the end part of the hindgut in an embryo
clonus

noun

an individual organism by asexual means

to do this

cloning

noun

a drug used to treat depression, phobias and obsessive-compulsive disorder

clonazepam

noun

a drug used to treat epilepsy

clobe

noun

a group of cells derived from a single cell by asexual reproduction and so identical to the first cell in when used to reproduce an individual organism by asexual means

clonic

adjective

1. referring to clonus 2. having spasmodic contractions

clonic spasms

noun

clonus ‘spæzəməz/ plural noun spasms which recur regularly

clonidine

noun

a drug which relaxes and widens the arteries, used in the treatment of hypertension, migraine headaches and heart failure

cloning

noun

the reproduction of an individual organism by asexual means

clonorchiasis

noun

Clonorchis sinensis

the fluke

which is not transparent but which has an opaque substance in it

cloth

noun

a drug that changes from a solid to a liquid when healing

closed fracture

noun

a fracture which cannot be moved

clostridium

noun

a type of bacteria

Clutton's joint

noun

Clutton's joint occurring in congenital syphilis [Described 1886. After Henry Hugh Clutton (1850–1909), surgeon at St Thomas's Hospital, London, UK.]

cm

abbr

centimetre

CMHN

abbr

community mental health nurse

CM joint

noun

the carpometacarpal joint

CMO

abbr

Chief Medical Officer

CMV

abbr

cytomegalovirus

C/N

abbr

charge nurse

CNS

abbr

central nervous system

COAD

abbr

chronic obstructive airways disease

coagulant

noun

a substance which can make blood clot

coagulase

noun

an enzyme produced by a staphylococcal bacteria which makes blood plasma clot

coagulate

verb

to change from liquid to semi-solid, or cause a liquid to do this

his blood does not clot easily

clot

noun

the disturbed sediment in a blood clot

clotting time

noun

coagulation time

noun

clotting factors

noun

substances in plasma, called Factor I, Factor II, and so on, which act one after the other to make the blood coagulate when a blood vessel is damaged

clothing

noun

the action of clotting

coagulation time

noun

same as clotting time

coagulum

noun

same as blood clot (Note: The plural is coagula.)

correlation

noun

the process by which wound edges come together when healing

correction

noun

the process of narrowing

coarseness

noun

the process by which wound edges come together when healing

course

noun

severe trembling
coating /kəʊtɪŋ/ noun a thin covering ○ a pill with a sugar coating

cobalt /'kəʊbɔlt/ noun a metallic element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Co.)
cobalt 60 /ˌkɔbɔlt ˈsɪksəti/ noun a radioactive isotope which is used in radiotherapy to treat cancer
coccygeal vertebrae /ˈkɒksi dʒali/ plural of coccyx
coccygodynia /ˈkɒksɪ dɒniə/ noun a sharp pain in the coccyx, usually caused by a blow. Also called coccydynia
coccyx /ˈkɒksɪs/ noun the lowest bone in the backbone (NOTE: The plural is coccyges.)

cochlea /ˈkɒklɪə/ noun a spiral tube inside the inner ear, which is the essential organ of hearing. See illustration at EAR in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is cochleae.)

cochlear /ˈkɒklɪər/ adjective referring to the cochlea
cochlear duct /ˈkɒklɪər ˈdakt/ noun a spiral channel in the cochlea
cochlear implant /ˈkɒklɪər ˈɪmpləmənt/ noun a type of hearing aid for profound hearing loss
cochlear nerve /ˈkɒklɪər ˈnɜv/ noun a division of the auditory nerve
"Cochrane database /ˈkɒkrən ˈdɛrtəβərs/ a database of regular reviews carried out on research

code /kəʊd/ noun 1. a system of numbers, letters or symbols used to represent language or information 2. same as genetic code ■ verb 1. to convert instructions or data into another form 2. (of a codon or gene) to provide the genetic information which causes a specific amino acid to be produced ○ Genes are sections of DNA that code for a specific protein sequence.
codeine /ˈkəʊdɪn/, codeine phosphate /ˌkəʊdɪn ˈfərsət/ noun a common painkilling drug that can also be used to suppress coughing and in the treatment of diarrhoea
code of conduct /ˈkəʊd av ˈkəʊndəkənt/ noun a set of general rules showing how a group of people such as doctors or nurses should work
cod liver oil /ˌkɔd livər ˈojəl/ noun a fish oil which is rich in calories and vitamins A and D -codeine /ˈkəʊdəni/ noun 1. a bitter, white or brownish powder, used as a cough suppressant and also as an analgesic 2. a word or symbol used in code
coccygeal /ˈkɒksi dʒiəl/ adjective referring to the coccyx
coccygeal trunk /ˈkɒksi dʒiəl ˈtrʌŋk/ noun same as coeliac trunk
coccyx /ˈkɒksɪks/ noun the lowest bone in the backbone (NOTE: The plural is coccyges.)

coecal /ˈkɒksi/ noun
coccygeal /ˈkɒksi dʒiəl/ adjective referring to the coccyx
cognitive disorder /ˈkɒgnɪtɪv dɪˈzɔːdər/ noun impairment of any of the mental processes of perception, memory, judgment and reasoning

cognitive therapy /ˈkɒgnɪtɪv ˈθɛərəpi/ noun a treatment of psychiatric disorders such as anxiety or depression which encourages people to deal with their negative ways of thinking

cohort /ˈkɑʊərɪt/ noun a group of people sharing a particular characteristic such as age or gender who are studied in a scientific or medical investigation

cohort study /ˈkɑʊərɪt ˈstʌdi/ noun an investigation in which a group of people are classified according to their exposure to various risks and studied over a period of time to evaluate the links between risk and disease

cold /kɔld/ noun a device fitted into a woman’s uterus as a contraceptive
cointection /ˌkɔɪntɪˈʃeɪʃən/ noun infection with two or more diseases or viruses at the same time

coital /ˈkɔɪt(ə)l/ adjective referring to sexual intercourse

coitus /kəʊtəs, kəʊˈtʃəs/ noun same as sexual intercourse
coitus interruptus /ˌkɔɪtəs ɪntəˈrʌŋptəs/ noun removal of the penis from the vagina before ejaculation, sometimes used as a method of contraception although it is not very efficient

cold /kɔld/ adjective not warm or hot ■ noun an illness, with inflammation of the nasal passages, in which someone sneezes and coughs and has a blocked and running nose ○ She had a heavy cold. Also called common cold, colyza

COMMENT: A cold usually starts with a virus in-fection which causes inflammation of the mucous membrane in the nose and throat. Symptoms include running nose, cough and loss of taste and smell. Coronaviruses have been identified in people with colds, but there is no cure for a cold at present.
cold burn /ˈkɔld bɔrn/ noun an injury to the skin caused by exposure to extreme cold or by touching a very cold surface

cold cauter y /ˈkɔld kɔˈtəri/ noun the removal of a skin growth using carbon dioxide snow

cold compress /ˈkɔld ˈkɔmpres/ noun a wool of cloth soaked in cold water, used to relieve a headache or bruise

cold pack /ˈkɔld pæk/ noun a cloth or a pad filled with gel or clay which is chilled and put on the body to reduce or increase the temperature

cold sore /ˈkɔld sɔr/ noun a painful blister, usually on the lips or nose, caused by herpes simplex Type I

collagen /ˈkɒlədʒən/ noun a thick protein fibre forming bundles, which make up the connective tissue, bone and cartilage

collagen disease /ˈkɒlədʒən ˈdɪzi/ noun any disease of the connective tissue

COMMENT: Collagen diseases include rheumatic fever, rheumatoid arthritis, periarthritis nodosa, scleroderma and dermatomyositis.
collagenous /ˈkɒlədʒənəs/ adjective containing collagen

collapsing lung /ˈkɔlæpsɪŋ lʌŋ/ noun same as pneumothorax

collarbones /ˈkɔlbɒnəz/ noun one of two long thin bones which join the shoulder blades to the breastbone. Also called clavicles (NOTE: Collarbones fracture is one of the most frequent fractures in the body.)
collateral /ˈkɔlət(ə)rəl/ adjective secondary or less important...

...embolisation of the coeliac axis is an effective treatment for severe bleeding in the stomach or duodenum, localized by endoscopic examination. A good collateral blood supply makes occlusion of a single branch of the coeliac axis safe. [British Medical Journal]
collateral circulation /ˌkɔlətərəl ˈsɜːkrɪˈʃæn/ noun an enlargement of some secondary blood vessels as a response when the main vessels become slowly blocked

collection chamber /ˌkələkʃən ˈtʃæmbr/ noun a section of the heart where blood collects before being pumped out

colles’ fracture /ˈkɔləz(ə)frækt/ noun a fracture of the lower end of the radius with...
colliculus /koʊˈlɪkjuːləs/ noun one of four small protruberances (superior colliculi and inferior colliculi) in the midbrain. See illustration at BRAIN in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is colliculi).

collodium /kəˈlʌdɪəm/ noun a liquid used for painting on a clean wound, where it dries to form a flexible covering

colloid /kəˈlɔɪd/ noun a mass of tiny particles of one substance dispersed in another substance; the particles which are suspended in a colloid 3. a thick jelly-like substance which stores hormones, produced in the thyroid gland □ adjective relating to or resembling a colloid ○ colloid acne

collyrium /kəˈlɪriəm/ noun a solution used to bathe the eyes (NOTE: The plural is collyria.)

colo- /koʊləʊ/ prefix referring to the colon
coloboma /koʊˈləʊbəʊmə/ noun a condition in which part of the eye, especially part of the iris, is missing

colon /ˈkələn/ noun the main part of the large intestine, running from the caecum at the end of the small intestine to the rectum

COMMENT: The colon is about 1.35 metres in length, and rises from the end of the small intestine up the right side of the body, then crosses beneath the stomach and drops down the left side of the body to end as the rectum. In the colon, water is extracted from the waste material which has passed through the small intestine, leaving only the faeces which are pushed forward by peristaltic movements and passed out of the body through the rectum.

colonic /koʊˈlɒnik/ adjective relating to the colon

colic /ˈkəlɪk/ adjective relating to the colon

colic /ˈkəlɪk/ noun the washing out of the contents of the large intestine using a tube inserted in the anus

colonitis /ˌkɒləˈnɪtɪs/ noun same as colitis

colonoscope /ˈkɒlənɒskəʊp/ noun a surgical instrument for examining the interior of the colon

colonoscopy /ˌkɒləˈnɒski/ noun an examination of the inside of the colon, using a colonoscope passed through the rectum (NOTE: The plural is colonoscopies.)

colony /ˈkɒlni/ noun a group or culture of microorganisms

colorectal /ˌkɒləˈrektəl/ adjective referring to both the colon and rectum

colostomy /ˌkɑːləˈstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening between the colon and the abdominal wall to allow faeces to be passed out without going through the rectum (NOTE: The plural is colostomies.)

COMMENT: A colostomy is carried out when the colon or rectum has had to be removed.

colostomy bag /ˌkɑːləˈstəmi bæɡ/ noun a bag attached to the opening made by a colostomy, to collect faeces as they are passed out of the body

colostrum /ˌkɑːləˈstrʌm/ noun a fluid rich in antibodies and low in fat, secreted by the mother’s breasts at the birth of a baby, before the true milk starts to flow

colour blindness /ˈkələrbəʊnɪznəs/ noun a condition of being unable to tell the difference between specific colours

COMMENT: Colour blindness is a condition which almost never occurs in women. The commonest form is the inability to tell the difference between red and green. The Ishihara test is used to test for colour blindness.

colour index /ˈkələr ɪndeks/ noun the ratio between the amount of haemoglobin and the number of red blood cells in a specific amount of blood

colouring /ˈkələrɪŋ/ noun colouring matter

colostomy /ˌkɑːləˈstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to lift and stitch the vagina (NOTE: The plural is colostomies)

colposuspension /ˌkɒlpəsəˈpleʃən/ noun a surgical operation in which the womb is removed through the vagina (NOTE: The plural is colposuspensions)

colporrhaphy /ˌkɒlpərəˈfi/ noun a surgical operation to stitch a prolapsed vagina (NOTE: The plural is colporrhaphies)

colporrhaphies /ˌkɒlpərəˈfiːz/ noun a surgical operation to stitch a prolapsed vagina (NOTE: The plural is colporrhaphies)

colpopexy /ˌkɒlpəˈpɛksɪ/ noun a surgical operation to fix a prolapsed vagina to the abdominal wall (NOTE: The plural is colpopexies)

colpopexies /ˌkɒlpəˈpɛksɪz/ noun a surgical operation to lift and stitch the vagina and bladder to the abdominal wall (NOTE: The plural is colpopexies)

colposcopy /ˌkɒlpəˈskəʊpi/ noun an examination of the inside of the vagina, using a colposcope passed through the vagina (NOTE: The plural is colposcopies)

colposcopies /ˌkɒlpəˈskəʊpiːz/ noun an examination of the inside of the vagina, using a colposcope passed through the vagina (NOTE: The plural is colposcopies)

colposcope /ˌkɒlpəˈskəʊp/ noun a surgical instrument used to examine the inside of the vagina. Also called vaginoscope

colpohysterectomy /ˌkɒlpəˈhɪstərɪktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to repair a damaged vagina (NOTE: The plural is colpohysterectomies)

colpostasis /ˌkɒlpəˈsteɪsɪs/ noun a prolapse of the walls of the vagina. Also called colpoecele (NOTE: The plural is colpooectes)

collody /ˈkɒлədi/ noun colour blindness

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**81 communicable disease**

**colotomy** /kəlˈtɒmə/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut in the vagina (NOTE: The plural is colotomies.)

**column** /ˈkʌləm/ noun a vertebral column

**columnar cell** /ˈkʌləmər sel/ noun a type of epithelial cell shaped like a column

**coma** /ˈkɒmə/ noun a state of unconsciousness from which a person cannot be awakened by external stimuli.

**Committee on Safety of Medicines** /ˈkɒmɪˌsiən ə məd ˈmedəsɛnz/ noun the official body which advises the British Government on the safety and quality of medicines.

**commando** /ˈkɒməndəʊ/ noun a special chair or commode

**comminuted fracture** /ˈkɒmɪnjuʃtɪd /ˈfræktʃər/ noun a fracture where the bone is broken in several places.

**Common Commission for Health Improvement** in the UK, the independent inspection body for the National Health Service, with the role of helping to raise standards of patient care. It aims to identify where improvement is required and share good practice. Abbreviation: CHI

**commisure** /ˈkɒmjʊsjuər/ noun a structure which joins two similar tissues, particularly nerves which cross from one part of the central nervous system to another.

**Corpus callosum** /kərˈpəs kəˈlɔsəm/ noun a mass of grey commissure, grey commissure, white commissure.

**comment** /ˈkɒmənt/ noun an act of verbally arranging legally for someone to enter a mental health facility, perhaps without the person’s consent.

**Committee on Safety of Medicines** /ˈkɒmɪˌsiən ə məd ˈmedəsɛnz/ noun the official body which advises the British Government on the safety and quality of medicines.

**common** /ˈkɒmən/ adjective 1. communicable disease

**common iliac vein** /ˈkɒmən ɪliək vɑːn/ noun one of the veins draining the legs, pelvis and abdomen, which unite to form the inferior vena cava.

**common salt** /ˈkɒmən ˈsɔlt/ noun sodium chloride, sodium chloride.

**common cold** /ˈkɒmən kəʊld/ noun a communicable disease, infectious disease.
communicating artery

**communicating artery** /kaˈmjʊnɪkɪŋərɪˈtɜːrɪ/ noun one of the arteries which connect the blood supply from each side of the brain, forming part of the circle of Willis

**community** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ/ noun a group of people who live and work in a district ○ The health services serve the local community.

**community care** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /kaʊn/ noun the providing of help to people such as those who are elderly or mentally ill in order to allow them to stay in their own homes, rather than requiring them to be cared for in hospitals or care homes.

**community health** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /ˈhelθ/ noun the health of a local community, or provision of services for a local community

**community health council** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /ˈhelθ /kaʊnˈsɔːl/ noun a statutory body of interested people from outside the medical professions charged with putting forward the patients’ point of view on local health issues. Abbr CHC

**community hospital** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /hɒs /ˈpɪt(ə)l/ noun a hospital serving a local community

**community medicine** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /ˈmed(ə)nsi/ noun the study of medical practice which examines groups of people and the health of the community, including housing, pollution and other environmental factors.

**community mental health nurse** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /ment(ə)l/ˈhelθ /nɔːz/ noun a specialist nurse who works in a particular district visiting people in the area with mental health problems. Abbr CMHN

**community midwife** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /ˈmɪd/ wʌfɪ/ noun a midwife who works in a community as part of a primary health care team

**community nurse** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /ˈnɜːs/ noun a nurse who treats people in a local community

**community psychiatric nurse** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /′sɛksɪ/tri/′kɜːr/ noun. Also called community mental health nurse. Abbr CPN

**community services** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /′sɜːvɪsɪz/ plural noun nursing services which are available to the community

**community trust** /kaˈmjʊnətɪ /ˈtrʌst/ noun an independent non-profit-making body set up to represent an area of public concern

**compact bone** /ˈkɒmpəkt /ˈbɒn/ noun a type of bone tissue which forms the hard outer layer of a bone. See illustration at **bone structure** in Supplement

**compatibility** /kɒm,pərəˈbɪlɪtɪ/ noun 1. the ability of two drugs not to interfere with each other when administered together 2. the ability of a body to accept organs, tissue or blood from another person and not to reject them compatible /kɒmˈpərətɪb(ə)/ adjective able to function together without being rejected ○ The surgeons are trying to find a compatible donor or a donor with a compatible blood group.

**compensate** /kɒmpənsət/ verb 1. to give someone an amount of money or something else to pay for loss or damage 2. (of an organ) to make good the failure of an organ by making another organ, or the undamaged parts of the same organ, function at a higher level ○ The heart has to beat more strongly to compensate for the narrowing of the arteries. 3. to emphasise a particular ability or personality characteristic in order to make the lack of another one seem less bad

**compensation** /kɒmpənsˈeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. something which makes something else seem less bad or less serious 2. an amount of money or something else given to pay for loss or damage ○ The drugs caused him to develop breathing problems, so he thinks he’s entitled to medical compensation. 3. the act of giving money to pay for loss or damage ○ compensation for loss of a limb 4. a situation where the body helps to correct a problem in a particular organ by making another organ, or the undamaged parts of the same organ, function at a higher level 5. behaviour that emphasises a particular ability or personality characteristic in order to make the lack of another one seem less bad

**competence** /kɒmpərəns/ noun the ability to do something well, measured against a standard, especially ability which you get through experience or training ○ encouraging the development of professional competence in the delivery of care to patients

**complaint** /kɒmplɛnt/ noun 1. an expression of dissatisfaction about something or someone ○ The hospital administrator wouldn’t listen to the complaints of the consultants. 2. an illness ○ a chest complaint ○ a nervous complaint

**complement** /kɒmpləmənt/ noun /kɒmpləmənt/ 1 a substance which forms part of blood plasma and is essential to the work of antibodies and antigens 2 verb /kɒmpləmənt/ to complete something by providing useful or pleasing qualities which it does not itself have

**complementary** /kɒmpləˈmɛnt(ə)rɪ/ adjective 1. combining with or adding to something else ○ Ultrasound and CT provide complementary information. 2. used in or using complementary medicine ○ complementary therapy 3. referring to genes which are necessary to each other and produce their effect only when they are present together

**complementary medicine** /ˈkɒmpləˌmɛnt(ə)ri/ noun alternative medicine in the forms which are now accepted by practitioners of conventional Western medicine, e.g. acupuncture and osteopathy

**complement fixation test** /,kɒmpləˌmɛnt fɪkˈseɪʃ(ə)n tɛst/ noun a test to measure the
amount of complement in antibodies and antigens. Abbreviation: CFT

**complete abortion** *noun* An abortion where the whole contents of the uterus are expelled.

**complete blood count** *noun* A test to find the exact numbers of each type of blood cell in a sample of blood.

**complex** *noun* A group of ideas which are based on the experience a person has had in the past and which influence the way he or she behaves. 

**complexion** *noun* The general colour of the skin on the face. People with fair complexions burn easily in the sun.

**complex fracture** *noun* A fracture where the skin surface is damaged or where the broken bone penetrates the surface of the skin. Also called open fracture

**compress** *verb* To squeeze or press something out of an infected wound.

**compressed air sickness** *noun* A condition which changes the course of treat-ment for the first time. It is caused by the process of admitting someone to hospital suffering from pneumonia with complications.

**complication** *noun* The act of squeezing or pressing. 

**compression** *noun* Applied compression to the chest of the casualty.

**compression stocking** *noun* A strong elastic stocking worn to support a weak joint in the knee or to hold varicose veins tightly.

**compulsion** *noun* An act of forcing someone to do something, or the fact of being forced to do something. You are under no compulsion to treat a violent patient.

**computed tomography** *noun* A test to find the exact numbers of each type of blood cell in a sample of blood.

**conceive** *verb* To come into existence through the fertilisation of an ovum. Our son was conceived during our holiday in Italy.

**concave** *adjective* Curving away from the observer.

**concentrate** *noun* A solu-
to give full attention to something 2. to concentrate on to examine something in particular 3. to reduce a solution and increase its strength by evaporation

concept /ˈkɒnsep(t)/ noun a thought or idea, or something which someone might be able to imagine

conception /ˈkɒnsepʃən/ noun the point at which a woman becomes pregnant and the development of a baby starts

conceptual framework /ˈkɒnsepʃuəl/ noun the theoretical basis on which something is formed

concrete /ˈkɒnkept/ adjective referring to a particular thing, and not abstract

condensed /ˈkɒndens/ adjective made compact or more dense

condition /ˈkɒndɪʃən/ noun 1. a state in which two or more things are in the correct or expected relationship to each other 2. a disease or disorder of the body

conditioned reflex /ˈkɒndɪʃənd rifleks/ noun an automatic reaction by a person to a stimulus, or an expected reaction to a stimulus which comes from past experience

conditioned response /ˈkɒndɪʃənd rɪspɔns/ noun a response to a stimulus as a result of associating it with an earlier stimulus

conducting system /ˈkɒndɪktɪŋ sɪstəm/ noun the nerve system in the heart which links an atrium to a ventricle, so that the two beat at the same rate

condom /ˈkɒndəm/ noun a rubber sheath worn on the penis during intercourse as a contraceptive and also as a protection against sexually transmitted disease

condyloma /ˈkɒndɪləmə/ noun a growth usually found on the vulva (NOTE: The plural is condylomas or condylomata.)

cone /ˈkɒn/ noun 1. a shape with a circular base and top and a part that tapers to a point, or an object with this shape 2. one of two types of cell in the retina of the eye which is sensitive to light, used especially in the perception of brightness and contrast 3. a response to a stimulus as a result of associating it with an earlier stimulus

confabulation /ˈkɒnfəˌbeɪʃən/ noun the act of making up plausible stories to cover up loss of memory
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confidentiality /kənˈfɪdənləti/ noun an obligation not to reveal professional information about a person or organisation
confined /kənˈfɪmd/ adjective kept in a place ○ She was confined to bed with pneumonia ○ The patient has been confined to a wheelchair.
confinement /kənˈfɪmənt/ noun the period when a woman giving birth stays in hospital, from the beginning of labour until some time after the birth of her baby. This period is very short nowadays.

confounding factor /kənˈfaundɪŋ fəkˈtər/ noun a factor which has an association with both a disease and a risk factor and thus complicates the nature of the relationship between them
confused /kənˈfjuːzd/ adjective unable to think clearly or act rationally ○ Many severely confused patients do not respond to spoken communication.

confusion /kənˌfjuːzən/ noun the state of being confused
congeal /ˈkɒnˌdʒɪəl/ verb (of fat or blood) to become solid
congenital /kənˈdʒɛntəl/ adjective existing at or before birth
congenital aneuryism /kənˈdʒɛntəl əˈnɪrɔɪzəm/ noun a weakening of the arteries at the base of the brain, present at birth
congenital anomaly /kənˈdʒɛntəl əˈnɒməlɪ/ noun a medical condition arising during development of the fetus and present at birth. Also called congenital defect

COMMENT: A congenital condition is not always hereditary or linked to the genes, as it may be due to factors such as a disease which the mother had during pregnancy, e.g. German measles, or a drug which she has taken.

congenital cataract /kənˈdʒɛntəl ˈkətərækt/ noun a cataract which is present at birth
congenital defect /kənˈdʒɛntəl ˈdɛfəkt/ noun same as congenital anomaly (NOTE: The word 'defect' is now avoided.)
congenital dislocation of the hip /kənˈdʒɛntəl ˈdɪsloʊkeɪʃən/ noun a condition in which a person is born with weak ligaments in the hip, so that the femur does not stay in position in the pelvis
congenital heart disease /kənˈdʒɛntəl ˈhɑːrt dʒɪˈzɪzɪ, kənˈdʒɛntəl ˈhɑːrt ˈdɛfəkt/ noun a heart condition existing at birth
congenital hyperthyroidism noun a disease caused by a malfunction of the thyroid before birth or in early life

congenitally /kənˈdʒɛntɪli/ adverb at or before birth ○ The baby is congenitally incapable of absorbing gluten.
congenital malformation /kənˈdʒɛntəl ˈmælfərˈmeɪʃən/ noun a malformation which is present at birth, e.g. a cleft palate
congenital syphilis /kənˈdʒɛntəl ˈsɪfɪlɪs/ noun syphilis which is passed on from a mother to her unborn child
congenital toxoplasmosis /kənˈdʒɛntəl ˈtɒksoʊplæsəmsɪs/ noun a condition in which a baby is infected with toxoplasmosis by its mother while still in the uterus
congested /kənˈdʒɛstɪd/ adjective with blood or fluid inside ○ congested face a red face, caused by blood rushing to the face
congestion /kənˈdʒɛstʃən/ noun an accumulation of blood in an organ ○ nasal congestion
congestive /kənˈdʒɛstɪv/ adjective referring to congestion
congestive heart failure /kənˈdʒɛstɪv ˈhɑːrt ˈfeɪlər/ noun a condition in which the heart is unable to pump away the blood returning to it fast enough, causing congestion in the veins

confi /ˈkɒnfi/ plural of conus
conisation /kənˌzaɪˈzeɪʃən/ noun the surgical removal of a cone-shaped piece of tissue
conjoined twins /kənˈdʒʊnd/ ˈtwɪnz/ plural twins who are joined together at birth. Also called Siamese twins

COMMENT: Conjoined twins are always identical and can be joined at the head, chest or hip. In some cases they can be separated by surgery, but this is not possible if they share a single important organ such as the heart.

conjugate /ˈkɒndʒʊɡət, ˈkɒndʒʊɡət ˈdiːmətər/ noun a measurement of space in a woman's pelvis, used to calculate if it is large enough for a child to be delivered
conjectural /ˈkɒndʒɛktʃərəl/ adjective referring to the conjectural

conjecturally /ˈkɒndʒɛktʃʊrəli/ noun a membrane which covers the front of the eyeball and the inside of the eyelids. See illustration at eye in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is conjecturals or conjecturative.)

conjecturativise /kənˈdʒɛktʃʊrətɪvɪz/ verb to provide with the conjectural from a range of causes
connective tissue /kəˈnekɪtɪv ˈtrɪʃən/ noun tissue which forms the main part of bones and cartilage, ligaments and tendons, in which a large proportion of fibrous material surrounds the tissue cells

Conn's syndrome /ˈkɒnz ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a condition in which excessive production of the hormone aldosterone causes fluid retention and high blood pressure
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consanguinity / 'kansənjuinəti/ noun a blood relationship between people.

conscious / 'kɔnʃəs/ adjective 1. awake and aware of what is happening ○ He became conscious in the recovery room two hours after the operation. 2. deliberate and intended ○ a conscious choice.

-consciously / 'kɔnʃəsli/ adverb in a deliberate and knowing way.

consciousness / 'kɔnʃəsənəs/ noun the state of being mentally alert and knowing what is happening ○ to lose consciousness to become unconscious ○ to regain consciousness to become conscious after being unconscious.

consensus management / 'kɔnsənsəmænɪmən/ noun a form of management which aims to get everyone to agree on what actions should be taken.

consent / 'kɔnsent/ noun agreement to allow someone to do something ○ The parents gave their consent for their son’s heart to be used in the transplant operation.

consent form / 'kɔnsentfɔrm/ noun a form which a patient signs to show that he or she agrees to have a particular operation.

conservative / 'kɔnsərvətiv/ adjective 1. reluctant to accept new things 2. (of a treatment) designed to help relieve symptoms or preserve health with a minimum of medical intervention or risk ○ Symptoms usually resolve with conservative treatment.

consolidation / 'kɔnsəldʒən/ noun 1. a stage in mending a broken bone in which the callus formed at the break changes into bone 2. a condition in which part of the lung becomes solid, e.g. in pneumonia.

constipated / 'kɔnstɪpətɪd/ adjective unable to pass faeces often enough.

constitution / 'kɔnsəstrjuʃən/ noun 1. a substance which forms part of something ○ the chemical constituents of nerve cells 2. the general health and strength of a person ○ She has a strong constitution or a healthy constitution. ○ He has a weak constitution and is often ill.

constitutional / 'kɔnsəstrjuʃənl/ adjective referring to a person’s constitution.

constitutively / 'kɔnstɪtjuʃənlɪ/ adverb because of a person’s constitution.

constrict / 'kɔnstrɪkt/ verb 1. to make a passage narrower ○ a constricted bowel? 2. to slow down or stop the flow of something such as blood.

constriction / 'kɔnstrɪkʃən/ noun the process of becoming narrow, or the state of being narrow.

stenosis / 'stənəsıs/ noun a narrowing of a tube, especially an artery.

constriuctive / 'kɔnstrɪktiv/ adjective restricting.

constructive pericarditis / 'kɔnstrɪktiv pəəkɑrdɪtɪs/ noun a heart muscle which squeezes an organ or which makes an organ contract.

consult / 'kɔnsalt/ verb to ask someone for his or her opinion ○ He consulted an eye specialist.

consultancy / 'kɔnsaltənsi/ noun the post of consultant ○ She was appointed to a consultancy at a London hospital.

consultant / 'kɔnsaltənt/ noun a doctor who is a senior specialist in a particular branch of medicine and who is consulted by GPs ○ She referred to a consultant at the orthopaedic hospital.

consultation / 'kɔnsəltəʃən/ noun 1. a discussion between two doctors about a case 2. a meeting between a doctor and a patient, in which the doctor may examine the patient, discuss his or her condition and prescribe treatment.

consulting room / 'kɔnsəltəŋ ruːm/ noun a room where a doctor sees his or her patients.

consumer / 'kɔnsəʊmə/ noun the act of taking food or liquid into the body ○ the patient’s increased consumption of alcohol.

contact / 'kɔntækt/ noun 1. an act of touching someone or something, or the state of touching ○ to have (physical) contact with someone ○ to be in or come into contact with someone 2. to meet or get in touch with someone.

contact dermatitis / 'kɔntækt dərəmatɪtɪs/ noun an inflammation of the skin caused by touch, e.g. by touching some types of plant, soap or chemical. Also called irritant dermatitis.

contact lens / 'kɔntækt lɛnz/ noun a tiny plastic lens which fits over the eyeball and is worn instead of spectacles to improve eyesight.
contact tracing /ˈkɒntækt ,træsn/) noun the process of tracing people with whom someone with an infectious disease has been in contact
contagion /ˈkɒntɪdʒən/) noun 1. the process of spreading a disease by touching an infected person or objects which an infected person has touched 2. a disease spread by touch ○ The contagion spread through the whole school.
contagious /ˈkɒntɪdʒəs/) adjective able to be transmitted by touching an infected person or objects which an infected person has touched ○ communicable disease, infectious disease
containment /ˈkɒntəmənt/) noun 1. action taken to restrict the spread of something undesirable or dangerous such as a disease ○ government policy of containment of the SARS virus 2. the eradication of a global disease such as smallpox by removing it region by region
contaminant /ˈkɒntəmənt/) noun a substance which contaminates something
contaminate /ˈkɒntəmənet/) verb 1. to make something impure by touching it or by adding something to it ○ Supplies of drinking water were contaminated by refuse from the factories. ○ The whole group of tourists fell ill after eating contaminated food. 2. to spread infection to someone or something
contamination /ˈkɒntəməneı/) noun the action of contaminating something, or the state of being contaminated ○ The contamination resulted from polluted water.
continence /ˈkɒntɪnəns/) noun 1. the ability to control the discharge of urine and faeces 2. self-restraint
continent /ˈkɒntɪnənt/) adjective able to exercise control over the discharge of urine and faeces
continuing education /ˈkɒntɪnjuːɪndʒi/) noun regular courses or training designed to bring professional people up to date with the latest developments in their particular field
continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis /ˈkɒntɪnjuəri, əmbjʊdələrɪ pɜrɪˈtoʊn,dʌlˈeɪʃɪs/) noun a method of dialysis of people while they are walking about. Abbr CAPD
continuous positive airways pressure /ˈkɒntɪnjuəri, pɛzɪˈtraɪv,cɛˈweɪz, prɛˈfɔr/) noun a method used in intensive care which forces air into the lungs of someone with lung collapse. Abbr CPAP
contraception /ˈkɒntrəsɛpʃən/) noun the prevention of pregnancy, e.g. by using devices such as a condom or an IUD, or drugs in the form of contraceptive pills or injections at regular intervals. Also called birth control
contraceptive /ˈkɒntrəsɛptɪv/) adjective preventing conception ○ a contraceptive device or drug: ■ noun a drug or device which prevents pregnancy
contraceptive sheath /ˈkɒntrəsɛptɪv/ fiʃ/) noun same as condom
contraceptive sponge /ˈkɒntrəsɛptɪv/ spɔŋ/) noun a piece of synthetic sponge impregnated with spermicide, which is inserted into the vagina before intercourse
contract /ˈkɒntrækt/) verb 1. to become smaller and tighter, or make a muscle or part of the body smaller and tighter ○ As the muscle contracts the limb moves. ○ The diaphragm acts to contract the chest. 2. to catch a disease ○ He contracted Lassa fever. 3. to make a formal or legally binding agreement with someone ○ An outside firm is contracted to do the hospital cleaning. ■ noun a formal or legally binding agreement
contractibility /ˈkɒntræktɪbɪləti/) noun the capacity to contract
contractile tissue /ˈkɒntræktɪl/) noun the tissue in muscle which makes the muscle contract
contraction /ˈkɒntrækʃən/) noun 1. the act of making something smaller or of becoming smaller ○ the contraction of dental services 2. a tightening movement which makes a muscle shorter, which makes the pupil of the eye smaller or which makes the skin wrinkle 3. a movement of the muscles of the uterus occurring during childbirth ○ Her contractions began at one o’clock.
contraceptive de- /ˈkɒntrəsɛptɪv/) noun a permanent tightening of a muscle caused by fibrosis
contraindication /ˈkɒntrəɪnˈdɪkʃən/) noun something which suggests that someone should not be treated with a specific drug or not continue with a specific treatment because circumstances make that treatment unsuitable
contralateral /ˈkɒntrəlærəl/) adjective located on or affecting the opposite side of the body. Opposite ipsilateral
contrast medium /ˈkɒntrəst ,mɪdɪəm/) noun a radio-opaque dye, or sometimes gas, put into an organ or part of the body so that it will show up clearly in an X-ray photograph ○ In an MRI scan no contrast medium is required; in a CAT scan iodine-based contrast media are often required.
contrecoup /ˈkɒntrəkʌp/) noun an injury to one point of an organ such as the brain, caused by a blow received on an opposite point of the organ
control verb 1. to have the ability or authority to direct someone or something ○ Sometimes
we need help to control people who think they have waited too long. 2. to limit or restrain something ○ administered drugs to control the pain 1, the ability or authority to control something ○ After her stroke she had no control over her left arm. ○ The administrators are in control of the admissions policy. 2. a person or group whose test data are used as a comparison in a study 2. a comparison in a study

control group /ˈkɒntrəul gruːp/ noun a group of people who are not being treated but whose test data are used as a comparison in a study

counted drug /ˈkɒntrəul dɹɡ/ noun a drug which is not freely available, which is restricted by law and classified as A, B, or C and of which possession may be an offence. Also called controlled substance

counted respiration /ˈkɒntrəuld rɛspəˈrɛʃən/ noun the control of a person's breathing by an anaesthetist during an operation, when regular breathing has stopped

controlled substance /ˈkɒntrəuld ˈsʌbstanst/ noun same as controlled drug

counted trial /ˈkɒntrəuld ˈtrɪəl/ noun a trial in which members of one group are treated with a test substance and those of another group are treated with a placebo as a control

counts assurance /ˈkɒntrəul əˈʃərsəns/ noun a process designed to provide evidence that NHS organisations are doing their best to manage themselves both in order to meet their objectives and to protect patients, staff and the public against risks of all kinds

coupled wound /ˈkʌpəld wʊnd/ noun a wound caused by a blow where the skin is bruised as well as torn and bleeding

coupled respiration /ˈkʌpəld ˈrɛspəˈrɛʃən/ noun same as coupled respirations

coupled respirations /ˈkʌpəld ˈrɛspəˈrɛʃən/ plural noun a condition in which one or both of a person's eyes look towards the nose. Also called cross eye

coupled /ˈkʌpəld/ adjective referring to conditions ○ has had a convulsive seizure. ○ electroconvulsive therapy

Coombs' test /ˈkʌmbz tɛst/ noun a test for antibodies in red blood cells, used as a test for erythroblastosis fetalis and other haemolytic syndromes [Described 1945. After Robin Royston Amos Coombs (1921–), Quick Professor of Biology, and Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, UK.]

correlative /ˌkɔːrəˈrɛltɪv/ verb 1. to make things work together ○ He was unable to coordinate the movements of his arms and legs. 2. to organise a complex procedure ○ There are four rectus muscles and two oblique muscles in each eye, which coordinate the movement of the eyes and enable them to work as a pair [Nursing Times]

coordination /ˌkɔːrdəˈneɪʃən/ noun 1. the combining of two or more things as an effective unit, or the way things combine effectively ○ requires coordination between nursing staff and doctors 2. the ability to use two or more parts of the body at the same time to carry out a movement or task ○ The patient showed lack of coordination between eyes and hands.

‘Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive disorder which sees a gradual decline in intellectual functioning and deterioration of physical coordination’ [Nursing Times]

COPD abbr chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

coping mechanism /ˈkɔʊpiŋˌməkənɪzəm/ noun a method of dealing with situations which cause psychological stress
copper /ˈkopər/ noun a metallic trace element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Cu.)
copr- /ˈkopər/- prefix faeces
coprolith /ˈkoprəlɪθ/ noun a lump of hard faeces in the bowel
copropropyrin /ˌkɒprəˈprɒpərɪn/ noun porphyrin excreted by the liver
copulate /ˈkopjʊleɪt/ verb to have sexual intercourse
copulation /ˌkɒpjuˈleʃn/ noun same as sexual intercourse
cor /kɔr/ noun the heart
coraco-acromial /ˌkɔrəkoʊˈækruːmiəl/ adjective referring to the coracoïd process and the acromion
coracobraclialis /ˌkɔrəkoʊˈbərəklaɪlz/ noun a muscle on the medial side of the upper arm, below the amput
coracoid process /ˌkɔrəkɔɪd/ præsiəs/ noun a projecting part on the shoulder blade
cord /kɔrd/ noun a long flexible structure in the body like a thread
cordectomy /ˌkɔrdəˈɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove a vocal cord (NOTE: The plural is cordectomies.)
cordon sanitaire /ˌkɔrdən sənˈteɪrε/ noun a restriction of movement to and from an area to control the spread of a disease
cordotomy /ˌkɔrdəˈtəmi/ noun another spelling of chordotomy
correctopia /ˌkɔrɪkˈtɔrpiə/ noun ectopia of the pupil of the eye
corium /ˈkɔrɪəm/ noun same as dermis
corn /kɔrn/ noun a hard painful lump of skin usually on a foot, where something such as a tight shoe has rubbed or pressed on the skin. Also called heloma
cornea /ˈkɔrnəə/ noun a transparent part of the front of the eyeball. See illustration at eye in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is cornneas. For other terms referring to the cornea, see words beginning with kerato, kerato-)
corneal /ˈkɔrnəl/ adjective relating to a cornea
corneal abrasion /ˌkɔrnəl əˈbreɪʒən/ noun a scratch on the cornea, caused by something sharp getting into the eye
corneal bank /ˈkɔrnəl bænk/ noun a place where eyes of dead donors can be kept ready for use in corneal grafts
corneal graft /ˌkɔrnəl ˈɡrɑːft/ noun 1. a surgical operation to graft corneal tissue from a donor or from a dead person to replace diseased tissue. Also called corneal transplant, keratoplasty 2. a piece of corneal tissue used in a graft
corneal reflex /ˌkɔrnəl ˈrɪsˈfleks/ noun a reflex from touching or hitting the cornea which makes the eyelid close
corneal transplant /ˌkɔrnəl ˌtɜrˈpleɪnt/ noun same as corneal graft

coronary obstruction /ˌkɔrənərɪ əbˈstrækʃn, ˌkɔrənərɪ əˌstræktʃn, ˌkɔrənərɪ əˈstrækʃn/ noun a thickening of the walls of the coronary arteries or a blood clot in the coronary arteries which prevents...
coronary sinus /ˌkɔrəni ˈsɪnəs/ noun the body of a dead person

corpus /ˈkɔrpus/ noun any mass of tissue (NOTE: The plural is corpora.)
corpus albicans /ˌkɔrpus ˈælbɪkæns/ noun scar tissue which replaces the corpus luteum in the ovary
corpus callosum /ˌkɔrpus ˈkæləsəm/ noun the thick band of nerve fibres that connects the two hemispheres of the brain and allows them to communicate. See illustration at brain in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is corpora callosa.)
corpus cavernosum /ˌkɔrpus ˈkevnərəsn/ noun a part of the erectile tissue in the penis and clitoris. See illustration at urogenital system (male) in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is corpora cavernosa.)
corpuscle /ˌkɔrpusˈskl/ noun 1. a small round mass 2. a cell in blood or lymph
corpus haemorrhagicum /ˌkɔrpus ˈheɪmərəˈrɪdʒəkəm/ noun a blood clot formed in an ovary where a Graafian follicle has ruptured (NOTE: The plural is corpora haemorrhagica.)
corpus luteum /ˌkɔrpus ˈljuːtəm/ noun a body which forms in each ovary after a Graafian follicle has ruptured. The corpus luteum secretes the hormone progesterone to prepare the uterus for implantation of the fertilised ovum. (NOTE: The plural is corpora lutea.)
corpus spongiosum /ˌkɔrpus ˈspʌŋɡəʊsəm/ noun a condition occurring in the arterial pulse in the neck in which there is a visible rise in pressure followed by a sudden collapse, caused by aortic regurgitation. Also called water-hammer pulse
corrosive /kəˈrɒsvi/ adjective destroying tissue noun a substance which destroys tissue, e.g. acid or alkali
coroner /ˈkɔrənər/ noun a public official, e.g. when inquests are held
cortex /ˈkɔrടx/ noun 1. the outer layer of an organ, e.g. a brain or kidney cortex, as opposed to the soft inner medulla (NOTE: The plural is cortices or cortices.)
cortical /ˈkɔrtɪkl/ adjective referring to a cortex
cortical mastoidectomy /ˌkɔrtɪkl ˈmeɪstɔrɪdɛktəm/ noun same as atticotomy
cortices plural of cortex
corticospinal /ˌkɔrtɪkɔˈspɛnəl/ adjective referring to both the cerebral cortex and the spinal cord
corticosteroid /ˌkɔrtɪkɔˈstərid/ noun 1. any steroid hormone produced by the cortex of the adrenal glands, a drug which reduces inflammation, used in asthma, gastro-intestinal disease and in adrenocortical insufficiency
corticosterone /ˌkɔrtɪkɔˈstərən/ noun a hormone secreted by the cortex of the adrenal glands
corticotropic /ˌkɔrtɪkɔˈtrəʊpɪk/ noun same as adrenocorticotropic hormone (NOTE: The US spelling is corticotropin)
cortisol /ˌkɔrtɪsəl/ noun same as hydrocortisone
cortisone /ˌkɔrtɪsɔn/ noun a hormone secreted in small quantities by the adrenal cortex

corridor /ˈkɔrɪdɔr/ noun 2. a passageway, e.g. in a hospital
coronary /ˈkɔrənəri/ adjective 1. referring to a blood vessel which leads to the heart muscles and supplies them with oxygen and nutrients 2. relating to the heart disease and its symptoms

NOTE: The plural is coronaries.
coronary sinus /ˌkɔrənəri ˈsɪnəs/ noun a vein which takes most of the venous blood from the heart muscles to the right atrium

coronary thrombosis /ˌkɔrənəri ˈθɔrməbəsɪs/ noun a blood clot which blocks the coronary arteries, leading to a heart attack. Also called coronary

coronary vein /ˌkɔrənəri ˈveɪn/ noun a vein that drains blood from the muscles of the heart
coronavirus /ˌkɔrənəvɜːrəs/ noun a type of virus which has been identified in people who have the common cold

coroner /ˈkɔrənər/ noun a public official, either a doctor or a lawyer, who investigates sudden or violent deaths

COMMENT: Coroners investigate deaths which are caused by poison, violence, neglect or deprivation, deaths from unnatural causes, during the post-operative recovery period and when the doctor feels unable to give a reliable cause of death. They also investigate deaths of prisoners and deaths involving the police.
coronoid process /ˌkɔrənɔɪd ˈprəʊses/ noun 1. a projecting piece of bone on the ulna 2. a projecting piece on each side of the lower jaw

corpora plural of corpus
corpus /ˈkɔrpus/ noun a part of the erectile tissue in the penis and clitoris. See illustration at urogenital system (male)
corpus cavernosum /ˌkɔrpus ˈkævənərəsn/ noun a part of the erectile tissue in the penis and clitoris. See illustration at urogenital system (male) in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is corpora cavernosa.)
corpus spongiosum /ˌkɔrpus ˈspʌŋɡəʊsəm/ noun a mass of nervous tissue in each cerebral hemisphere (NOTE: The plural is corpora spongiosa.)
corrosive /kəˈrɒsvi/ adjective destroying tissue noun a substance which destroys tissue, e.g. acid or alkali
coroner /ˈkɔrənər/ noun a public official, e.g. when inquests are held
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corticosteroid /ˌkɔrtɪkɔˈstərid/ noun 1. any steroid hormone produced by the cortex of the adrenal glands, a drug which reduces inflammation, used in asthma, gastro-intestinal disease and in adrenocortical insufficiency
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cortisol /ˌkɔrtɪsəl/ noun same as hydrocortisone
cortisone /ˌkɔrtɪsɔn/ noun a hormone secreted in small quantities by the adrenal cortex

The doctor gave her a cortisone injection in the ankle.
COMMENT: Synthetic cortisone was used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, asthma and skin disorders, but it is now replaced by other drugs.

Corynebacterium /ˈkoʊrɪniˌbæktrɪərɪəm/ noun a genus of bacteria which includes the bacterium which causes diphtheria

coryza /ˈkɔrɨza/ noun an illness, with inflammation of the nasal passages, in which someone sneezes and coughs and has a blocked and running nose (technical). Also called cold, common cold

cosmetic surgery /ˈkɒzmɪtɪk sɜrˈdʒərɪ/ noun a surgical operation to improve a person’s appearance

COMMENT: Whereas plastic surgery may be prescribed by a doctor to correct skin or bone conditions or the effect of burns or alter a disfiguring operation, cosmetic surgery is carried out on the instructions of the patient to remove wrinkles, enlarge breasts or make some other perceived improvement.

cost- /ˈkɒst-/ prefix same as costo- (used before vowels)

costal /ˈkɒst(ə)l/ adjective referring to the ribs

costal cartilage /ˈkɒst(ə)l kərˈtɪldʒ/ noun cartilage which forms the end of each rib and either joins the rib to the breastbone or to the rib above

costal pleura /ˈkɒst(ə)l pluˈrə/ noun a part of the pleura lining the walls of the chest

costive /ˈkɒstɪv/ adjective same as constipated

costo- /ˈkɒst-/ prefix referring to the ribs

costocervical trunk /ˈkɒstəˌsɜrˈvɪkl(ə)l tʌŋk/ noun a large artery in the chest

costodiaphragmatic /ˌkɒstəˈdaɪərəˌmætɪk/ adjective referring to both the ribs and the diaphragm

costovertebral joint /ˌkɒstəvərˈtɛbrəl(ə)l dʒɒint/ noun a joint between the ribs and the vertebral column

cot death /ˈkɒt dɛθ/ noun a sudden infant death syndrome (NOTE: The US term is crib death.)

counteraction /ˈkaʊntərækʃən/ noun the action of one drug which acts against another drug

counterirritation /ˌkaʊntərɪˈrɪteɪʃən/ noun a skin irritant applied artificially to alleviate the pain in another part of the body

cotyloid cavity /ˈkɒtɪloid kəˈvɛrti/ noun same as acetabulum

couch /ˈkauʃ/ noun a long bed on which a person lies when being examined by a doctor in a surgery

coughing /ˈkauʃɪŋ/ noun a surgical operation to displace the opaque lens of an eye as a treatment for cataracts

cough /ˈkauʃ/ noun a reflex action, caused by irritation in the throat, when the glottis is opened and air is sent out of the lungs suddenly □ hacking cough a loud noisy dry cough □ dry cough a cough where no phlegm is produced □ hacking cough a continuous short dry cough □ an infection that causes coughing □ She has a bad cough and cannot make the speech. ■ verb to send air out of the lungs suddenly because the throat is irritated □ The smoke made him cough. □ She has a cold and keeps on coughing and sneezing.

coughing fit /ˈkʌfɪŋ fɪt/ noun a sudden attack of coughing

cough medicine /ˈkʌf med(ə)ˈsɪn/ noun an opioid or sedative antihistamine drug such as pholcodine which suppresses the cough reflex

cough up /ˈkʌf ʌp/ verb to cough hard to expel a substance from the trachea □ He coughed up phlegm. □ She became worried when the girl started coughing up blood.

counselling /ˈkaʊnsəlɪŋ/ noun a method of treating especially psychiatric disorders in which a specialist talks with a person about his or her condition and how to deal with it

counsellor /ˈkaʊnsələ/ noun a person who advises and talks with someone about his or her problems

counteract /ˈkaʊntəræk/ verb to act against something or reduce the effect of something □ The lotion should counteract the irritant effect of the spray in the eye.

counteraction /ˌkaʊntərækʃən/ noun the action of one drug which acts against another drug

counterextension /ˌkaʊntərɪkˈstenʃən/ noun an orthopaedic treatment in which the upper part of a limb is kept fixed and traction is applied to the lower part of it

counterirritant /ˌkaʊntərɪˈrɪtənt/ noun a substance which alleviates the pain in an internal organ by irritating an area of skin whose sensory nerves are close to those of the organ in the spinal cord

counterirritation /ˌkaʊntərɪˈrɪtəʃən/ noun a skin irritant applied artificially to alleviate the pain in another part of the body
counterstain /ˈkaʊntəstɛn/ noun a stain used to identify Gram-negative bacteria after having first stained them with violet dye.

coupling /ˈkɔplɪŋ/ noun 1. an act of joining together or linking two people, things, or processes 2. something which joins two things, especially a device for connecting two pieces of pipe, hose or tube.

course /kɔːs/ noun 1. a programme of study or training 2. went on a course to update his nursing skills 2. a series of drugs to be taken, or a series of sessions of treatment 3. We'll put you on a course of antibiotics.

course of treatment /ˌkoʊrs av ˈtrɪmtɛnt/ noun a series of applications of a treatment, e.g. a series of injections or physiotherapy.

cover test /ˈkʌvər ˈtest/ noun a test for a squint in which an eye is covered and its movements are checked when the cover is taken off.

cowper’s glands /ˈkʌupərz ˈɡlɛndz/ plural noun two glands at the base of the penis which secrete into the urethra. Also called bulbourethral glands [Described 1700. After William Cowper (1666–1709), English surgeon.]

cowpox /ˈkʌupɔks/ noun an infectious viral disease of cattle which can be transmitted to humans. It was used as a constituent of the first vaccines for smallpox.

cox- /ˈkɒks-/ prefix the hip joint.

coxa /ˈkɔksə/ noun the hip joint (note: The plural is coxae.)

coxalgia /ˈkɔksəldʒiə/ noun pain in the hip joint.

coxa vara /ˈkɔksə ˈvɛərə/ noun an unusual development of the hip bone, making the legs bow.

coxackie virus /ˈkɔksəki ˈvɜərəs/ noun one of a group of enteroviruses which enter the cells of the intestines and can cause diseases such as aseptic meningitis and Bornholm disease [After Coxackie, New York, where the virus was first identified].

CPAP abbr continuous positive airways pressure.

CPN abbr community psychiatric nurse.

CPR abbr cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

crab /kræb/ crab louse /ˈkræbləʊs/ noun a louse, Phthirius pubis, which infests the pubic region and other parts of the body with coarse hair. Also called pubic louse.

crack /krek/ noun a thin break 1. There’s a crack in one of the bones in the skull. 2. verb to make a thin break in something, or become split 3. She cracked a bone in her leg. 4. cracked lip a lip where the skin has split because of cold or dryness.

cradle /ˈkredəl/ noun a metal frame put over a person in bed to keep the weight of the bedclothes off the body. verb to carry a child with one arm under the thigh and the other under the upper back.

cradle cap /ˈkreidləp/ kap/ noun a yellow deposit on the scalp of babies, caused by seborrhoea.

cram /kraemp/ noun a painful involuntary spasm in the muscles, in which the muscle may stay contracted for some time.

crani- /ˈkreɪni/ prefix same as cranio- (used before vowels).

cranial /ˈkreɪniəl/ adjective referring to the skull.

cranial bone /ˈkreɪniəl ˈbɔːni/ noun one of the bones in the skull.

cranial cavity /ˈkreɪniəl ˈkeɪvəti/ noun a space inside the bones of the cranium, in which the brain is situated.

cranial nerve /ˈkreɪniəl nɜəv/ noun each of the nerves, twelve on each side, which are connected directly to the brain, governing mainly the structures of the head and neck.

COMMENT: The cranial nerves are the ophthalmic, maxillary and mandibular, abducent, facial, auditory (vestibular and cochlear), glossopharyngeal, vagus, accessory and hypoglossal.

cranio- /ˈkreɪniəu/ prefix the skull.

cranio- /ˈkreɪniəm/ noun a surgical operation on the skull, especially one cutting away part of the skull (note: The plural is craniotomies).

cranium /ˈkreɪniəm/ noun same as skull (note: The plural is craniums or crania.)

COMMENT: The cranium consists of the occipital bone, two parietal bones, two temporal bones and the frontal, ethmoid and sphenoid bones.

cream /ˈkriəm/ noun a medicinal oily substance, used to rub on the skin.

creatine /ˈkriətɪn/ noun a compound of nitrogen found in the muscles, produced by protein metabolism and excreted as creatinine.

creatine phosphate /ˈkriətɪn fəˈsfeɪt/ noun a store of energy-giving phosphate in muscles.

COMMENT: The cranium consists of the occipital bone, two parietal bones, two temporal bones and the frontal, ethmoid and sphenoid bones.
cross-eyed noun someone who wears clothes usually worn by people of the opposite sex, e.g. by transvestites
cross-infection /kros ɪnˈfɛkʃn/ noun an infection passed from one patient to another in hospital, either directly or from nurses, visitors or equipment

crossmatch /krosˈmætʃ/ verb (in transplant surgery) to match a donor to a recipient as closely as possible to avoid tissue rejection. © blood group

crossmatching /krosˈmætʃɪŋ/ noun the process of matching a transplant donor to a recipient as closely as possible to avoid tissue rejection.

cross-resistance /ˈkros rɪˈzɪstəns/ noun the development by a disease agent of resistance to a number of similar drugs or chemicals of the same class.

cross-section /ˈkros ˈsekʃn/ noun 1. a small part of something, taken to be representative of the whole © The team consulted a cross-section of hospital ancillary staff. 2. a sample cut across a specimen for examination under a microscope © He examined a cross-section of the lung tissue.

crotamiton /ˈkroʊtəmɪtən/ noun a chemical that kills mites, used to treat scabies

crotch /krʊtʃ/ noun the point where the legs meet the body, where the genitals are. Also called crutch

croup /krʊp/ noun acute infection of the upper respiratory passages which blocks the larynx, affecting children. © COMMENT: The patient's larynx swells, and he or she breathe with difficulty and has a barking cough. Attacks usually occur at night. They can be fatal if the larynx becomes completely blocked.

crown /kraʊn/ noun 1. the top part of a tooth above the level of the gums 2. an artificial top attached to a tooth 3. the top part of the head © verb to put an artificial crown on a tooth

crowning /ˈkraʊnɪŋ/ noun 1. the act of putting an artificial crown on a tooth 2. a stage in childbirth in which the top of the baby's head becomes visible

cruciate /ˈkrʊkʃiət/ adjective shaped like a cross

cruciate ligament /ˈkrʊkʃiət lɪˈgəmənt/ noun any ligament shaped like a cross, especially either of two ligaments behind the knee which prevent the knee from bending forwards

crude death rate /ˈkrud ˈdɛθ rɛt/ noun the number of deaths in a year, divided by the total population

crur /ˈkrʊər/ plural of crus

cural /ˈkrʊərəl/ adjective referring to the thigh, leg or shin

crura of the diaphragm /ˈkrʊərə əv ˈdaɪəfægræm/ plural noun the long muscle fibres joining the diaphragm to the lumbar vertebrae

crus /krʌs/ noun a long projecting part (NOTE: The plural is crura.)

crus cerebrī /krʌs ˈserɪbri/ noun each of the nerve tracts between the cerebrum and the medulla oblangata (NOTE: The plural is crura cerebrī.)

crush fracture /ˈkraʊʃ ˈfræktʃər/ noun a fracture by compression of the bone

crush syndrome /ˈkraʊʃ ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a condition in which a limb has been crushed, as in an accident, causing kidney failure and shock

crus of penis /ˈkrʌs əv ˈpɪnəs/ noun a part of a corpus cavernosum attached to the pubic arch

crust /krʌst/ noun a dry layer of blood, pus or other secretion that forms over a cut or sore

crutch /krʌtʃ/ noun 1. a strong support for someone with an injured leg, formed of a stick with a T-bar which fits under the armpit, especially formerly, or a holding bar and elbow class 2. same as crotch

cry- /ˈkrʌri/ prefix same as cryo- (used before vowels)
cryaesthesia /ˈkrʌriəˈɛstɪliə/ noun the fact of being sensitive to cold

cryo- /ˈkrʌroʊ/ prefix cold

cryobank /ˈkrʌroʊbæŋk/ noun a place where biological material such as semen and body tissue can be stored at extremely low temperatures

cryoprecipitate /ˈkrʌrpriˌsɪprɪˌteɪt/ noun a precipitate such as from blood plasma, which separates out on freezing and thawing. © COMMENT: Cryoprecipitate from blood plasma contains Factor VIII and is used to treat haemophilia.

cryoprobe /ˈkrʌroʊpːrəʊb/ noun an instrument used in cryosurgery with a tip that is kept very cold to destroy tissue

cryosurgery /ˌkrʌroʊsˈɜərərɪə/ noun surgery which uses extremely cold instruments to destroy tissue

cryotherapy /ˌkrʌroʊˈθɛrəpɪ/ noun treatment using extreme cold, as in removing a wart with dry ice

crypt /krɪp/ noun a small cavity in the body

crypto- /ˈkrɪpəʊ/ prefix hidden

cryptococci /ˌkrɪptəˈkɒski/ plural of cryptococcus

cryptococcal meningitis /ˌkrɪptəˈkɒskəl ˈmɛnɪŋɪtɪs/ noun a form of meningitis that is a feature of cryptococcosis

cryptococcosis /ˌkrɪptəˈkɒskəsɪs/ noun an infection mainly affecting the brain or nervous system, caused by the fungus Cryptococcus neoformans. It occurs most often in people with HIV infection.

cryptococcus /ˌkrɪptəˈkɒskəs/ noun one of several single-celled yeasts which exist in the soil and can cause disease (NOTE: The plural is cryptococci.)
cryptomenorrhoea /kriptəʊmənəˈriːə/ noun the retention of menstrual fluid, usually caused by an obstruction
cryptorchism /ˈkriptərˌkɪzm/ noun a condition in a young male in which the testicles do not move down into the scrotum
cryptosporidiosis /ˌkriptəsˈpɔːrɪdɪəs/ noun an infectious condition of humans and domestic animals, spread by an intestinal parasite Cryptosporidium parvum. Its symptoms are fever, diarrhoea and stomach cramps.
cryptosporidium /ˌkriptəsˈpɔːriəm/ noun a parasite which contaminates drinking water supplies, causing intestinal infection (NOTE: The plural isCryptosporidium.)
crypts of Lieberkühn /ˌkriptz vəlˈbiːrkuːn/ plural noun tubular glands found in the mucous membrane of the small and large intestine, especially those between the bases of the villi in the small intestine. Also called Lieberkühn’s glands [Described 1745. After Johann Nathaniel Lieberkühn (1711–56), Berlin anatomist and physician.]
crystal /ˈkrɪstəl/ noun a chemical formation of hard regular-shaped solids

crystalline /ˈkrɪstəlɪn/ adjective clear like pure crystal
crystal violet /ˈkrɪstəl vɪəl/ ‘vɪəl/ noun same as gentian violet

CSF abbr cerebrospinal fluid
CT abbr computed tomography
CT scan /ˈsiːtriː skən/ noun a computer picture of a slice of the body or an organ produced by a CT scanner. Also called CAT scan
CT scanner /ˈsiːtriː skənər/ noun a device which directs a narrow X-ray beam at a thin section of the body from various angles, using a computer to build up a complete picture of the cross-section. Also called CAT scanner
cubital /ˈkuːbɪtl/ adjective referring to the ulna
cubital fossa /ˈkuːbɪtl fəʊsə/ noun a depression in the front of the elbow joint
cubitus /ˈkjuːbɪtəs/ noun same as ulna

cuboid /ˈkjuːbɔɪd/ noun a bone like a long thin spoon, used for scraping the inside of an organ (NOTE: The US spelling is curet.)
culture /ˈkʌrəl/ noun 1, the shared values and behaviour of a group 2, microorganisms or tissues grown in a culture medium in a laboratory. ■ verb to grow microorganisms or tissues in a culture medium
culture medium /ˈkʌrəlimiˈdɛn/ noun a substance in which a culture of microorganisms or tissue is grown in a laboratory, e.g. agar
cumulative /ˈkjuːmjuːlətɪv/ adjective growing by adding
cumulative action /ˈkjuːmjuːlətɪv æksən/ noun an effect of a drug which is given more often than it can be excreted and so accumulates in the tissues
cuneiform /ˈkjuːnɪfɔrm/ noun one of the three tarsal bones in the foot. See illustration at FOOT

cupola /ˈkjuːpələ/ noun 1, a dome-shaped structure 2, a piece of cartilage in a semicircular canal which moves by the fluid in the canal and connects with the vestibular nerve
curable /ˈkjuːərəbəl/ adjective able to be cured ○ a curable form of cancer
cure /kjʊər/ noun a drug derived from South American plants, antagonist to acetylcholine and used surgically to paralyse muscles during operations without causing unconsciousness (NOTE: Curare is the poison used to make poison arrows.)
curative /kjʊərətɪv/ adjective able to cure
curettage /ˈkjʊərɛtɪdʒ/ noun the procedure of scraping the inside of a hollow organ, often the uterus, to remove a growth or tissue for examination. Also called curettage

curette /ˈkjʊərɛt/ noun a surgical instrument like a long thin spoon, used for scraping the inside of an organ (NOTE: The US spelling is curet.) ■ verb to scrape an organ with a curette (NOTE: curettes – curettage – curetted. The US spelling is curet.)
curettage same as curettage
curie /ˈkjʊəri/ noun a former unit of measurement of radioactivity, replaced by the becquerel (NOTE: Symbol Ci)

curling’s ulcer /ˈkɜrlɪŋz əˈlɜːr/ noun an ulcer of the duodenum following severe injury to the body
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curvature /ˈkaʊvərətʃə/ noun the way in which something bends from a straight line  ○ greater or lesser curvature of the stomach

curvature of the spine /ˈkaʊvərətʃəvɜːr dəp ‘spain/ noun an unusual bending of the spine forwards or sideways

cushingoid /ˈkjuːʃənɔɪd/ adjective showing symptoms of Cushing’s disease

Cushing’s disease /ˈkjuːʃənɪz ˈdiːz/ noun a condition in which the adrenal cortex produces too many corticosteroids [Described 1932. After Harvey Williams Cushing (1869–1939), surgeon, Boston, U.S.]

COMMENT: The syndrome is caused either by a tumour in the adrenal gland, by excessive stimulation of the adrenals by the basophil cells of the pituitary gland, or by a corticosteroid-secreting tumour. The syndrome causes swelling of the face and trunk, weakening of the muscles, raised blood pressure and retention of salt and water in the body.

cusp /kʌsp/ noun 1. the pointed tip of a tooth. 2. a flap of membrane forming a valve in the heart
cuspid /ˈkʌspɪd/ noun same as canine
cut /kʌt/ noun 1. a reduction in the number or amount of something. 2. a place where the skin has been penetrated by a sharp instrument  ○ She had a bad cut on her left leg.  ○ The nurse will put a bandage on your cut.  ○ verb 1. to make an opening in something using a knife, scissors or other sharp thing  ○ The surgeon cut the diseased tissue away with a scalpel.  ○ She cut her finger on the broken glass. 2. to reduce the number or amount of something  ○ Accidents have been cut by 10%. (NOTE: cutting = cut)
cut- prefix referring to the skin
cutaneous /ˈkjuːtənəs/ adjective referring to the skin
cutaneous leishmaniasis /ˈkjuːtənəs ˈliːʃməˈnəsɪs/ noun a form of skin disease caused by the tropical parasite Leishmania. Also called Delhi boil
cutdown /ˈkʌtdaʊn/ noun the procedure of cutting a vein to insert a cannula or administer an intravenous drug
cuticle /ˈkjuːtɪkl/ noun 1. same as epidermis 2. a strip of epidermis attached at the base of a nail
cutis /ˈkjuːtɪs/ noun the skin
cutis anserina /ˈkjuːtɪs ənˈsɜːrɪnə/ noun a reaction of the skin when someone is cold or frightened, the skin being raised into many little bumps by the action of the arrector pili muscles. Also called goose bumps
cVA abbrev cerebrovascular accident
cyan- /ˈsɪən/ prefix same as cyan- (used before vowels)
cyanide /ˈsɪənəˌndaɪ/ noun a poison which kills very rapidly when drunk or inhaled
cyano- /ˈsɪənəʊ/ prefix blue
cyanocobalamin /ˈsɪənəˌkɒbəˈleɪmən/ same as Vitamin B12
cyanosed /ˈsɪənəʊdɪst/ adjective with blue skin  ○ The patient was cyanosed round the lips.
cyanosis /ˈsɪənəʊsɪs/ noun a condition characterised by a blue colour of the peripheral skin and mucous membranes, a symptom of lack of oxygen in the blood, e.g. in heart or lung disease
cyano tic /ˈsɪənəʊtɪk/ adjective referring to or having cyanosis
cyclandelate /ˈsaɪkləndəleɪt/ noun a drug used to treat cerebrovascular disease
cycle /ˈsɪlkli/ noun a series of events which recur regularly

cyclic /ˈsɪlklɪk/ adjective 1. occurring or repeated in cycles 2. referring to organic compounds composed of a closed ring of atoms
cyclical /ˈsɪlklik(ə)l/ adjective referring to cycles
cyclical vomiting /ˈsɪlkli vətʃɪŋ/ noun repeated attacks of vomiting

cycline /ˈsaɪklɪn/ suffix used in names of antiviral drugs
cyclodialysis /ˈsɪlkədələˈzaɪləsɪs/ noun a surgical operation to connect the anterior chamber of the eye and the choroid, as a treatment of glaucoma
cyclopentolate /ˈsɪlkəpənˈleɪtəl/ noun a drug used to paralyse the ciliary muscle
cyclophosphamide /ˈsɪlkəfɒsˈfeɪməd/ noun a drug which suppresses immunity, used in the treatment of leukaemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and tumours
cycloplegia /ˈsɪlkəplɪˈlɪdʒə/ noun paralysis of the ciliary muscle which makes it impossible for the eye to focus properly
cyclopropane /ˈsɪlkəprəˈpeɪn/ noun a flammable hydrocarbon gas used as a general anaesthetic and in organic synthesis
cyclothymia /ˈsɪlkəθɪmɪə/ noun a mild form of bipolar disorder in which the person experiences alternating depression and excitement
cyclo tomy /ˈsɪlkloʊtəmə/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut in the ciliary body (NOTE: The plural is cyclotomies.)
cyclovir /ˈsɪlkəvɪr/ suffix used in the names of antiviral drugs
cydon /ˈsaɪdən/ noun same as pregnancy (technical)
cylinder /ˈsaɪlndər/ noun 1. oxygen cylinder
cyst /ˈsɪst/ noun an unusual growth in the body shaped like a pouch, containing liquid or semi-liquid substances

cyst- /ˈsɪst/ prefix the bladder

cystadenoma /ˌsɪstdəˈnəʊmə/ noun an adenoma in which fluid-filled cysts form (NOTE: The plural is cystadenomas or cystadonoma-ta.)
cystalgia /ˈsɪstəldʒə/ noun pain in the urinary bladder

cystectomy /ˌsɪstɪktəˈmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove all or part of the urinary bladder (NOTE: The plural is cystectomies.)
cystic /ˈsɪstɪk/ adjective 1. referring to cysts 2. referring to a bladder

cystic artery /ˌsɪstɪk ˈɑrtri/ noun an artery leading from the hepatic artery to the gall bladder
cystic duct /ˌsɪstɪk dʌkt/ noun a duct which takes bile from the gall bladder to the common bile duct
cysticercosis /ˌsɪstɪskərˈsɔsɪs/ noun a disease caused by infestation of tapeworm larvae from pork
cysticercus /ˌsɪstɪskərˈkəs/ noun the larva of a tapeworm of the genus Taenia, found in pork, which is enclosed in a cyst (NOTE: The plural is cysticerci.)
cystic fibrosis /ˌsɪstɪk fɪbˈrɔsɪs/ noun a hereditary disease in which there is malfunction of the exocrine glands such as the pancreas, in particular those which secrete mucus, causing respiratory difficulties, male infertility and malabsorption of food from the gastrointestinal tract. Also called fibrocystic disease, mucoviscidosis

COMMENT: The thick mucous secretions cause blockage of ducts and many serious secondary effects in the intestines and lungs. Symptoms include loss of weight, abnormal faeces and bronchitis. If diagnosed early, cystic fibrosis can be controlled with vitamins, physiotherapy and pancreatic enzymes.
cystic vein /ˌsɪstɪk vɛn/ noun a vein which drains the gall bladder
cystine /ˌsɪstɪn/ noun an amino acid. It can cause stones to form in the urinary system of people who have a rare inherited metabolic disorder.
cystinosis /ˌsɪstɪnˈɔsɪs/ noun a disorder affecting the absorption of amino acids, resulting in excessive amounts of cystine accumulating in the kidneys
cystinuria /ˌsɪstɪnˈjʊərɪə/ noun cystine in the urine
cystitis /ˈsɪstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the urinary bladder, which makes someone pass water often and with a burning sensation

cystoscope /ˌsɪstəskɒp/ an instrument used to inspect the bladder and urethra

cystoscopy /ˌsɪstəskɒpi/ an examination of the bladder using a cystoscope (NOTE: The plural is cystoscopies.)
cystostomy /ˌsɪstəˈstɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening between the bladder and the abdominal wall to allow urine to pass without going through the urethra. Also called vesicostomy (NOTE: The plurals are cystostomies and cystotomies.)
cystourethroscope /ˌsɪstəʊrθˈrɒskəp/ noun an instrument used to inspect the bladder and urethra

cystourethrography /ˌsɪstəʊrθˈɡrɑfi/ noun X-ray examination of the bladder and urethra

cystourethrograph /ˌsɪstəʊrθˈɡrɑfɪ/ an examina-tion of the urinary bladder by X-rays after radio-opaque dye has been introduced

cytology /sɪˈtɒlədʒɪ/ noun the study of the structure and function of cells

cytology /sɪˈtɒlədʒɪ/ noun the study of the chemical activity of cells

cytogenetics /ˌsɪtəˌdʒɛntɪks/ noun a branch of genetics which studies the function of cells, especially chromosomes, in heredity

cytokine /ˈsɪtəkɪn/ noun a protein secreted by cells of the lymph system which is involved in controlling response to inflammation

cytokinesis /ˌsɪtkəˈsɪnəs/ noun changes in the cytoplasm of a cell during division

cytological smear /ˌsɪtəˌlɒdʒɪskəl ˈsmɪr/ a sample of tissue taken for examination under a microscope

cytology /ˈsɪtəlɒdʒɪ/ noun the study of the structure and function of cells

cytolysis /ˌsɪtəlˈɒlɪsɪs/ noun the breaking down of cells

cytomegalovirus /ˌsɪtəˌmɛɡəˈləʊvɜər/ one of the herpesviruses which can cause...
serious congenital disorders in a fetus if it in-
fec ts the pregnant mother. Abbr CMV

cytometer  /saɪtəˈmiːtə/ noun an instrument
attached to a microscope, used for measuring
and counting the number of cells in a specimen

cytopenia /saɪtəˈpiːnɪə/ noun a deficiency
of cellular elements in blood or tissue

cytoplasm /saɪtəˈplæzɪm/ noun a sub-
stance inside the cell membrane which sur-
rounds the nucleus of a cell

cytoplasmic /saɪtəˈplæzəm/ adjective re-
ferring to the cytoplasm of a cell

cytosine /saɪtəˈsɔɪn/ noun one of the four
basic chemicals in DNA

cytosome /saɪtəˈsɔʊm/ noun the body of a
cell, not including the nucleus

cytotoxic /saɪtəˈtɒksɪk/ adjective 1. refer-
ing to a drug or agent which prevents cell di-
vision 2. referring to cells in the immune sys-
tem which destroy other cells

cytotoxic drug /saɪtəˈtɒksɪkˈdrʌg/ noun
a drug which reduces the reproduction of cells,
used to treat cancer

cytotoxin /saɪtəˈtɒksɪn/ noun a substance
which has a toxic effect on cells
dactylomegaly /ˌdaktɪləˈmegəli/ noun a condition in which a person has longer fingers than usual.

DAH abbr disordered action of the heart
daily /ˈdeɪli/ adverb every day ○ Take the medicine twice daily.

Daltonism /ˈdeɪltoʊnɪzəm/ noun the commonest form of colour blindness, in which someone cannot see the difference between red and green. Also called protanopia [Described 1794. After John Dalton (1766–1844), English chemist and physician. Founder of the atomic theory, he himself was colour-blind.]
damage /ˈdeɪmɪdʒ/ noun harm done to things ○ The disease caused damage to the brain cells. ■ verb to harm something ○ His hearing or his sense of balance was damaged in the accident.
damp /dæmp/ adjective slightly wet ○ You should put a damp compress on the bruise.

D & C /dɪ/ abbreviation for dilation and curettage
dandery /ˈdændərɪ/ noun very small fragments that fall from the feathers, hair or skin of animals or people
dandruff /ˌdændrʌf/ noun pieces of dead skin from the scalp which fall out when the hair is combed. Also called pityriasis capitis, scurf

Dandy-Walker syndrome /ˈdændi ˈwɔːlkər ˌsɪndrəm/ noun a congenital condition in which there is no Magendie’s foramen in the brain
danger /ˈdeɪndʒər/ noun the possibility of harm or death ○ Unless the glaucoma is treated quickly, there’s a danger that the patient will lose his eyesight or a danger of the patient losing his eyesight. ○ out of danger no longer likely to die
dangerous /ˌdeɪndʒərəs/ adjective causing harm or death
dangerous drug /ˌdeɪndʒərəs ˈdrʌɡ/ noun 1. a drug which is harmful and is not available to the general public, e.g. morphine or heroin 2. a poison which can only be sold to specific persons
dark adaptation

noun a surgical operation which does not require the patient to stay overnight in hospital. Also called *day case surgery*.

dazed /dəzəd/ adjective confused in the mind

DaF

published in 1980.
er, while the remaining carbon and hydrogen from the amino acid provide the body with heat and energy.

death /deθ/ noun the permanent end of all natural functions
death certificate /'deθ sætʃɪfɪkət/ noun an official document signed by a doctor stating that a person has died and giving details of the person and the cause of death
death rate /'deθ ret/ noun the number of deaths per year per thousand of population ○ The death rate from cancer of the liver has remained stable.
debilitate /drˈbitltet/ verb to make someone or something weak ○ He was debilitated by a long illness.
debilitating disease /diˌbɪltətɪŋ ˈdɪzəs/ noun a disease which makes the person weak
debility /drˈbɪləti/ noun general weakness
debridement /drˈbrɪdəmənt/ noun the removal of dirt or dead tissue from a wound to help healing
decade /dɛkəd/ prefix ten. Symbol da
Decadron /'dɛkədrɒn/ a trade name for dexamethasone
decalcification /dɪˌkælsɪfɪˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the loss of calcium salts from teeth and bones
decannulation /dɪˌkænjuˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the removal of a tracheostomy tube
deaposition /dɪˌkæpˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the act or process of cutting off the head of a person or animal
decapsulation /dɪˌkæpsjʊˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a surgical operation to remove a capsule from an organ, especially from a kidney
decay /drˈkeɪ/ noun 1. the process by which tissues become rotten, caused by the action of microorganisms and oxygen 2. damage caused to tissue or a tooth by the action of microorganisms, especially bacteria ○ verb (of tissue) to rot ○ The surgeon removed decayed matter from the wound.
deci- /ˈdesɪ/ prefix one tenth (10⁻¹) ○ decigram Symbol d

decibel /dɛsɪbəl/ noun a unit of measurement of the loudness of sound, used to compare different levels of sound. Symbol dB ○ COMMENT: Normal conversation is at about 50dB. Very loud noise with a value of over 120dB, e.g. that of aircraft engines, can cause pain.
decidua /dɪˌsɪduə/ noun a membrane which lines the uterus after fertilisation (NOTE: The plural is deciduas or deciduae.) ○ COMMENT: The decidua is divided into several parts: the decidua basalis, where the embryo is attached, the decidua capsularis, which covers the embryo and the decidua vera which is the rest of the decidua not touching the embryo. It is expelled after the birth of the baby.
decidual /dɪˌsɪduəl/ adjective referring to the decidua
decleroma /dɪˌsɪluəmə/ noun a mass of decidua that remains in the uterus after birth (NOTE: The plural is deciduomas or decleromata.)
declerous /dɪˌsɪluəs/ adjective referring to teeth discarded at a later stage of development
declerous dentition /dɪˌsɪluəs ˈdentɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the set of twenty teeth which are gradually replaced by the permanent teeth as a child grows older
declerous tooth /dɪˌsɪluəs ˈtuθ/ noun same as primary tooth
decilitre /ˌdesɪliˈtre/ noun a unit of measurement of liquid equal to one tenth of a litre. Symbol dl (NOTE: The US spelling is deciliter.)
decimetre /ˌdesɪmɪˈtre/ noun a unit of measurement of length equal to one tenth of a metre. Symbol dm (NOTE: The US spelling is decimeter.)
decompensation /dɪˌkɒmpəˌzenəʃ(ə)n/ noun a condition in which an organ such as the heart cannot cope with extra stress placed on it and so is unable to perform its function properly
decompose /dɪˌkɒmpəˈzuː/ verb to rot or become putrefied (NOTE: decomposing – decomposed)
decomposition /dɪˌkɒmpəˈzɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the process where dead matter is rotted by the action of bacteria or fungi
decompression /dɪˌkɒmpəˈpreʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. a controlled reduction of atmospheric pressure which occurs as a diver returns to the surface
decompression sickness /dɪˌkɒmpəˈsɪknəs/ noun same as caisson disease
decongest /dɪˌkɒnˈjest/ verb to loosen or disperse mucus in the nasal passages, sinuses or bronchi
decongestant /dɪˌkɒnˈjestənt/ adjective reducing congestion and swelling ○ noun a drug which reduces congestion and swelling, sometimes used to unblock the nasal passages
decortication /dɪˌkɔrˈtɪkeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the surgical removal of the cortex of an organ ○ decortication of a lung a surgical operation to remove part of the pleura which has been thickened or made stiff by chronic empyema
decrudescence /dɪˌkrʌdərˈsɛns/ noun a reduction in the symptoms of a disease
decubitus /dɪˈkʌbɪtəs/ noun the position of a person who is lying down
decubitus ulcer /dɪˌkʌbɪtəs əˈlsə/ noun same as bedsore
decussation /ˌdɛksəˈʃ(ə)n/ noun the crossing of nerve fibres in the central nervous system. Also called chiasm
from showing emotion which a person prevents himself or herself from expressing before treatment to minimize the likelihood of a patient suing the doctor or hospital for negligence.

Deep 

Deep cervical vein /dip מדי'o/vein/ noun a vein in the neck which drains into the vertebral vein.

Deep dermal burn /dip 'dæmil/ burn/ noun a burn which is so severe that a graft will be necessary to repair the skin damage. Also called full thickness burn.

Deep facial vein /dip 'fæs(ə)/vein/ noun a small vein which drains from the pterygoid process behind the cheek into the facial vein deepening /dip/ verb so as to take in a large amount of air or He was breathing deeply.

Deep planar arch /dip 'plænər atʃ/ vein/ noun a curved artery crossing the sole of the foot.

Deep vein /dip 'vein/ noun a vein which is inside the body near a bone, as opposed to a superficial vein near the skin.

Deep ven thrombosis /dip vein throʊ'mbəʊz/ noun a condition arising when a thrombus formed in the deep veins of a leg or the pelvis travels to a lung where it may cause death. The condition may affect anyone who is inactive for long periods. Also called phlebothrombosis. Abb DVT.

Defecate /dɪfɪ'keɪt/ verb to pass faeces out from the bowels through the anus (Note: defecating defecating).

Defecation /dɪfɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/, defecation noun the act of passing out faeces from the bowels.

Defect /dɪfɛkt/ noun 1. an unsatisfactory or imperfect feature of something, 2. a lack of something which is necessary.

Defective /dɪfɪ'ektɪv/ adjective working badly or wrongly formed or The surgeons operated to repair a defective heart valve. II noun a person suffering from severe mental impairment (Note: The noun use is regarded as offensive.)

Defence /dɪfens/ noun 1. resistance against an attack of a disease, 2. behaviour of a person which is aimed at protecting him or her from harm (Note: The US spelling is defense.)

Defence mechanism /dɪfens,mɛkənɪz(ə)m/ noun a subconscious reflex by which a person prevents himself or herself from showing emotion.

Defend /dɪfend/ verb the action of passing food or liquid, and sometimes also air, from the mouth into the oesophagus (technical). Also called swallowing.

Defencless /dɪfɛnsl/ adjective referring to a wound which has split open after being closed.

Deficiency disease /dɪfɪsʃ(ə)nsi di/zəz/ noun a disease caused by lack of an essential element in the diet such as vitamins or essential amino and fatty acids.

Deficient /dɪfɪsʃnt/ adjective not meeting the required standard or deficient in something not containing the necessary amount of something. His diet is deficient in calcium or he has a calcium-deficient diet.

Deficit /dɪfɪsɪt/ noun the amount by which something is less than it should be.

Defloration /dɪfɪlər(ə)ʃ(ə)n/ noun the act of breaking the hymen of a virgin, usually at the first sexual intercourse.

Deflorescence /dɪflɔrəs(ə)n/ noun the disappearance of a rash.

Deformans /dɪfɔr'mænz/ o osteitis deformans.

Deformation /dɪfɔr'meiʃ(ə)n/ noun the process of becoming deformed, or the state of being deformed or The later stages of the disease are marked by bone deformation.

Defoemd /dɪfɔm'd/ adjective not shaped or formed in the expected way.

Deficiency /dɪfɪsʃnt/ noun an unusual shape of part of the body.

Degenerate /dɪdʒə'neɪrət/ verb to change so as not to be able to function or His health degenerated so much that he was incapable of looking after himself.

Degeneration /dɪdʒə'neɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a change in the structure of a cell or organ so that it no longer works properly.

Degenerative disease /dɪdʒə'neɪrətɪv dɪzər'ətɪv/ noun a disease or disorder in which there is progressive loss of function of a part of the body, or in which a part of the body fails to repair itself.

Degenerative joint disease /dɪdʒə'neɪrətɪv dʒɔint dɪzər'ətɪv/ noun same as osteoarthritis.

Deglutition /dɪdʒlə'tʃ(ə)n/ noun the act of passing food or liquid, and sometimes also air, from the mouth into the oesophagus (technical). Also called swallowing.

Defibrillation /dɪfɪbrɪlaʃ(ə)n/ noun a procedure to correct an irregular heartbeat by applying a large electrical impulse to the chest wall, especially in potentially life-threatening circumstances. Also called cardioversion.

Defibrillator /dɪfɪbɪlɪtə/ noun an apparatus used to apply an electric impulse to the heart to make it beat regularly.

Defibrination /dɪfɪbɪrə'nʃ(ə)n/ noun the removal of fibrin from a blood sample to prevent clotting.
dehiscence /ˈdɛhɪs(ə)ns/ noun the act of opening wide
dehydrate /ˌdɛhɪˈreɪt/ verb to lose water, or cause someone or something to lose water
During strenuous exercise it’s easy to become dehydrated. (Note: dehydrating – dehydrated)
dehydration /ˌdɛhɪˈreɪʃən/ noun loss of water
...an estimated 60–70% of diarrhoeal deaths are caused by dehydration [Indian Journal of Medical Sciences]
COMMENT: Water is more essential than food for a human being’s survival. If someone drinks during the day less liquid than is passed out of the body in urine and sweat, he or she begins to dehydrate.
dehydrogenase /ˌdɛhɪˈdrɔdʒənəz/ noun an enzyme that transfers hydrogen between chemical compounds
déjà vu /ˈdɛʒə voo/ noun an illusion that a new situation is a previous one being repeated, usually caused by a disease of the brain
Déjerine-Klumpke’s syndrome noun same as Klumpke’s paralysis
deleterious /ˌdɛləˈtɛriəs/ adjective damaging or harmful
Delhi boil /ˌdɛliˈboʊl/ noun same as cutaneous leishmaniasis
delicate /ˈdɛlɪkət/ adjective 1. easily broken or harmed
The bones of a baby’s skull are very delicate. 2. The eye is covered by a delicate membrane.
deliCE 2. easily falling ill
His delicate state of health means that he is not able to work long hours. 3. requiring great care or sensitivity
The surgeons carried out a delicate operation to join the severed nerves.
delirious /ˌdɛlɪrɪəs/ adjective affected by delirium. A person can become delirious because of shock, fear, drugs or fever.
delirium /ˌdɛlɪrɪəm/ noun a mental state in which someone is confused, excited and restless and has hallucinations
delirium tremens /ˌdɛlɪrɪəm ˈtrɛmənz/ delirium alcoholicum /ˌdɛlɪrɪəm ˈælkəˈhɔlɪkəm/ noun a state of mental illness usually found in long-term alcoholics who attempt to give up alcohol consumption. It includes hallucinations about insects, trembling and excitement.
Delirium tremens and delirium alcoholicum are forms of mental degeneration probably due to Alzheimer’s disease
dementia /ˈdɛməntə/ noun the loss of mental ability and memory due to organic disease of the brain, causing disorientation and personality changes
AIDS dementia is a major complication of HIV infection, occurring in 70–90% of patients [British Journal of Nursing]
dementia of the Alzheimer’s type /ˈdɛməntɪəv ˈɔldəmərˈzɪə(r)z tuːpɪk/ noun a form of mental degeneration probably due to Alzheimer’s disease
dementia paralytica /ˌdɛməntɪəpəˈlærɪtɪkə/ noun mental degeneration due to the tertiary stage of syphilis
dementia praecox /ˌdɛməntɪəpəˈrɛkʊks/ noun same as schizophrenia (old)
dementing /ˈdɛməntɪŋ/ adjective referring to someone with dementia
demif-/ˈdɛmi/ prefix half
demographic forecast /ˌdeməɡrəfɪk/ noun a forecast of the numbers of people of different ages and sexes in an area at some time in the future
demography /ˌdɛməɡrəfɪ/ noun the study of populations and environments or changes affecting populations
demulcent /ˌdɛməˈlɑnsnt/ noun a soothing substance which relieves irritation in the stomach
demyelinating /ˌdɛmɪˌɛlsɪˈnɛntɪŋ/ adjective relating to the destruction of the myelin sheath round nerve fibres
demyelination /ˌdɛmɪˌɛlsɪˈneɪʃən/ noun the destruction of the myelin sheath round nerve fibres, caused, e.g. by injury to the head, or as the main result of multiple sclerosis
denatured alcohol /ˌdɛnəˈtɜrəd ˈælkəhɔl/ noun ethyl alcohol such as methylated spirit, rubbing alcohol or surgical spirit with an additive, usually methyl alcohol, to make it unpleasant to drink
dendrite /ˈdɛndrɪt/ noun a branched structure growing out from a nerve cell, which receives impulses from the nerve endings of other nerves
dendritic nerve cells at synapses. See illustration at dendrite in Supplement. Also called dendron.

**dendritic ulcer** /dendr'trik/ adjective referring to a dendritic ulcer on the cornea, caused by a herpesvirus.

**dendron** /dendr'ón/ noun same as dendrite denervation.

**dengue** /deng/ noun a tropical disease caused by an arbovirus transmitted by mosquitoes, characterised by high fever, pains in the joints, headache and rash. Also called breakbone fever.

**denial** /dē'nəl/ noun a person’s refusal to accept that he or she has a serious medical problem.

**Denis Browne splint** /dents bru'en/ noun a metal splint used to correct a club foot. [Described 1934. After Sir Denis John Wolko Browne (1892–1967), Australian orthopaedic and general surgeon working in Britain.]

**denial** /dē'nəl/ noun a refusal to accept that he or she has a serious medical problem.

**dent** /dents/ noun a tooth, or something shaped like a tooth.

**dent** /dents/ prefix referring to a tooth or teeth.

**dental** /dent(ə)l/ adjective referring to teeth or to the treatment of teeth.

**dentist** /dentist/ noun a person who is qualified to look after teeth and gums.

**dentistry** /dentistrì/ noun the profession of a dentist, or the branch of medicine dealing with teeth and gums.

**dentition** /dent(i)′ʃən/ noun the number, arrangement and special characteristics of all the teeth in a person’s jaws.

**denture** /dentər/ noun a set of false teeth, fixed to a device which fits inside the mouth.

**deodorant** /di'odərənt/ noun a substance which hides or prevents unpleasant smells.

**deontology** /di'ontələdʒì/ noun the ethics of duty and of what is morally right or wrong.

**deoxygenate** /di'oaksəgən/ verb to remove oxygen from something.

**deoxygenated blood** /di'oaksəgənt/ 'blo̅d/ noun blood from which most of the oxygen has been removed by the tissues. It is darker than arterial oxygenated blood. Also called venous blood. Compare deoxygenated blood.

**deoxyribonucleic acid** /di'o̅ri'beðənoʊk'luːli kɑd/ noun the full form of DNA.

**Department of Health** /deiˈpɑrtn ment əv 'helθ/ noun in the UK, the government department in charge of health services. Abbrev: DH.

**dependent** /de'pendənt/ adjective referring to a part of the body.

**dependency** /de'pendənsi/ noun the fact of needing the support of something or someone such as a carer, nurse or doctor, or of being addicted to a drug.

**dependent** /de'pendənt/ adjective, needing the support of someone or something. 2. addicted to a drug, referring to a part of the body which is hanging down.

**relative** /re'lativ/ noun a person who is looked after by another member of the family.
experiencing depression

Dercum’s disease

depression

depressed

depression

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1. a disease

2. a muscle which pulls part of the body downwards

3. a nerve which reduces the activity of an organ such as the heart and lowers blood pressure

4. the fact of not being able to have something that you need or want

5. the lack of basic necessities of life

6. a musculoskeletal disease with a wasting inflammation of the skin and muscles

7. a fungal infection of the skin caused by a dermatophyte

8. a skin graft, replacing damaged skin by skin taken from another part of the body or from a donor

9. a disease of the skin

10. a thick layer of living skin beneath the epidermis. Also called corium

11. a psychological state in which someone feels the world around him or her is not real

12. a condition that prevents someone from carrying out the normal activities of life in the usual way

13. some foods leave a hard deposit on teeth

14. a deposit of fat forms on the walls of the arteries.

15. a type of dermatitis where large itchy blisters form on the skin

16. a doctor who specialises in the study and treatment of the skin and its diseases

17. a special knife used for cutting thin sections of skin for grafting

18. an area of skin supplied by one spinal nerve

19. a skin infection caused by a fungus that is not a dermatophyte

20. a skin infection caused by a fungus that is not a dermatophyte

21. a collagen disease with a wasting inflammation of the skin and muscles

22. a fungal infection of the skin caused by a dermatophyte

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dermographia /dəˈmɔːgrəfɪə/ noun a swelling on the skin produced by pressing with a blunt instrument, usually an allergic reaction. Also called dermographosis.

dermoid /ˈdezəmɔɪd/ adjective 1. referring to the skin, like skin

dermoid cyst /ˈdezəmɔrdst/ noun a cyst found under the skin, usually in the midline, containing hair, sweat glands and sebaceous glands.

Descemet's membrane /ˌdesɪˈmetəs,ˈmembroʊn/ noun one of the deep layers of the cornea. [Descended 1839. After Jean Descemet (1732–1810), French physician; Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Paris.]

descending aorta /ˌdeskənˈding/ noun the second section of the aorta, which turns downwards. Compare ascending aorta.

descending colon /ˌdaɪsɛndɪŋ/ noun the third section of the colon which goes down the left side of the body. Compare ascending colon. See illustration at Digestive System in Supplement.

descending tract /ˌdaɪsɛndɪŋ/ noun a set of nerves which takes impulses away from the head.

desensitisation /ˌdesənˈsɪtɪzaʃn/ noun 1. the act of making someone or something no longer sensitive to something such as an allergen. 2. the treatment of an allergy by giving a person injections of small quantities of the substance to which he or she is allergic over a period of time until they become immune to it.

desensitise /ˌdesənˈsɪtɪzaɪs/ verb 1. to desensitise.

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desensitise /ˌdesənˈsɪtɪzaɪs/ verb 1. to desensitise.

designer drug /ˈdaɪznər/ noun a drug that has been modified to enhance its properties (illegal).

desogestrel /ˌdesəˈdʒestrəl/ noun a hormone used as an oral contraceptive.

desquamation /ˌdeskwəˈmeɪʃn/ noun 1. the continual process of losing the outer layer of dead skin. 2. peeling off of the epithelial part of a structure.

detach /ˈdɛtʃ/ verb to separate one thing from another or an operation to detach the caps of the mitral valve. [Descended 1785. After Jean Descemet (1732–1810), French physician; Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Paris.]

detached retina /ˈdɛtətʃt/ noun a condition in which the retina becomes partially separated from the eyeball, causing loss of vision. Also called retinal detachment.

COMMENT: A detached retina can be caused by a blow to the eye, or simply is a condition occurring in old age. If left untreated the eye will become blind. A detached retina can sometimes be attached to the choroid again using lasers.

detect /ˈdɛtɛkt/ verb to sense or to notice, usually something which is very small or difficult to see or an instrument to detect microscopic changes in cell structure. The nurses detected a slight improvement in the patient's condition.

detection /ˌdɛtɛkʃn/ noun the action of detecting something or the detection of sounds by nerves in the ears. The detection of a cyst using an endoscope.

detergent /ˌdɛtərjənt/ noun a cleaning substance which removes grease and bacteria. Most detergents are not allergic but some biological detergents which contain enzymes to remove protein stains can cause dermatitis.

deteriorate /ˌdɛtərɪərɪət/ verb to become worse. The patient's condition deteriorated rapidly.

deterioration /ˌdɛtərɪərɪəʃn/ noun the fact of becoming worse. The nurses were worried by the deterioration in the patient's reactions.

determine /ˌdɛtərnɪn/ verb to find out something by examining the evidence. Health inspectors are trying to determine the cause of the outbreak of Salmonella poisoning.

detox /ˈdɛtɒks/ noun same as detoxication (informal).

detoxification /ˌdɛtɒksɪˈfɪkəʃn/ noun the removal of toxic substances to make a poisonous substance harmless.

detrition /dɪˈtrɪʃn/ noun the process of disappearing.

detritus /ˈdɛtɹtəs/ noun rubbish produced when something disintegrates.

detrusor muscle /ˌdɛtɹəsˈɔr/ noun the muscular coat of the urinary bladder.

dettol /ˈdɛtəl/ noun a trade name for a disinfectant containing chloroxylenol.

detumescence /ˌdɛtjuˈmɛnsɪən/ noun 1. (of the penis or clitoris after an erection or orgasm) the process of becoming limp. 2. (of a swelling) the process of disappearing.

deuteronopía /ˌdjuːtərəˈnɔpɪə/ noun a form of colour blindness in which someone cannot see green.

develop /ˌdɛvələp/ verb 1. to become larger and stronger, or more complex. The embryo is developing normally. A swelling developed under the arm pit. The sore throat developed into an attack of meningitis. 2. to make something start to happen. We're developing a new system for dealing with admission to A & E. 3. to make something start to grow or become larger, stronger or more complex. He does exercises to develop his muscles. 4. to start to have an illness. The baby...
may be developing a cold. He developed complications and was rushed to hospital.

...rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease which can affect many systems in the body, but mainly the joints. 70% of sufferers develop the condition in the metacarpophalangeal joints. [Nursing Times]

diagnosis

Development /di'v肺p'ment/ noun 1. the process of growing, or of becoming larger and stronger, or more complex ○ The development of the embryo takes place in the uterus. 2. something which happens and causes a change in a situation ○ Report any developments to me at once.

developmental /di'v肺p'ment(ə)/ adjective referring to the development of an embryo.

developmental delay /di'v肺p'ment(ə)/ noun the fact of being later than usual in developing, either physically or psychologically.

deviance /ˈd铆v Millennials/ noun sexual behaviour which is considered unusual

deviated nasal septum /ˈdeviətud ˈnэl ˈseptəm/, deviated septum /ˈdeviətud ˈseptəm/ noun an unusual position of the septum of the nose which may block the nose and cause nosebleeds

development /ˈdeviəlment/ noun 1. the fact of being different from what is usual or expected or something which is different from what is usual or expected. 2. an unusual position of a joint or of the eye, as strabismus.

Devic's disease /ˈd铆viks d铆t,ziizi/ noun same as neuromyelitis optica [Described 1894. After Devic, a French physician who died in 1935.]

dexamethasone /ˌdェksəˌmethəsən/ noun a synthetic steroid drug that is used to treat inflammation and hormonal imbalances.

Dexa scan noun a technique to assess changes in someone’s bone density, as in osteoporosis or in Paget’s disease. Full form Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry.

dextro- /ˌdekstrəu/ prefix referring to the right, or the right side of the body.

dextrocardia /ˌdekstrəˈkεrdɪə/ noun a congenital condition in which the apex of the heart is towards the right of the body instead of the left. Compare levo-cardia.

dextromoramide /ˌdekstrəˈmɔrəməd/ noun an opioid drug used to reduce pain

dextrose /ˌdekstrəz/ noun same as glucose

DH /ˈdェi/ Department of Health

diabetic /ˌdaɪəˈbetiθ/ adjective 1. referring to diabetes mellitus 2. referring to food which contains few carbohydrates and sugar ○ diabetic chocolate noun a person who has diabetes.

diabetic cataract /ˌdaɪəˈbetiθ kεərəkæt/ noun a cataract which develops in people who have diabetes.

diabetic coma /ˌdaɪəˈbetiθ kεəmə/ noun a state of unconsciousness caused by untreated diabetes.

diabetic diet /ˌdaɪəˈbetiθ dεi/ noun a diet which is low in carbohydrates and sugar.

diabetic retinopathy /ˌdaɪəˈbetiθ retəˈnεpəθi/ noun a disease of the retina, caused by diabetes.

diabetogenic /ˌdaɪəˈbetıθˈdεnθıθ/ adjective which causes diabetes.

diabetologist /ˌdaɪəˈbetəsˈtεldʒıθ/ noun a doctor specialising in the treatment of diabetes mellitus.

diabetes /ˌdaɪəˈbetıθs/ noun 1. a group of diseases which cause the body to produce large amounts of urine. ○ gestational diabetes 2. same as diabetes mellitus.

diabetes insipidus /ˌdaɪəˈbetıθ izˈspıdəs/ noun a rare disorder of the pituitary gland causing an inadequate amount of the hormone vasopressin, which controls urine production, to be produced, leading to excessive passing of urine and extreme thirst.

diabetes mellitus /ˌdaɪəˈbetıθ ˈmelθıθ/ noun a disease where the body cannot control sugar absorption because the pancreas does not secrete enough insulin.

COMMENT: Diabetes mellitus has two forms: Type I may have a viral trigger caused by an infection which affects the cells in the pancreas which produce insulin; Type II is caused by a lower sensitivity to insulin, is common in older people, and is associated with obesity. Symptoms of diabetes mellitus are tiredness, unusual thirst, frequent passing of water and sweet-smelling urine. Blood and urine tests show high levels of sugar. Treatment for Type II diabetes involves keeping to a strict diet and reducing weight, and sometimes the use of oral hypoglycaemic drugs such as glibenclamide. Type II diabetes is treated with regular injections of insulin.

Diabetic /ˌdaɪəˈbetıθ/ adjective referring to diabetes mellitus 2. referring to food which contains few carbohydrates and sugar ○ diabetic chocolate noun a person who has diabetes.

Diabetes /ˌdaɪəˈbetıθz/ noun 1. a disease which can affect many systems in the body, but mainly the joints. 70% of sufferers develop the condition in the metacarpophalangeal joints. [Nursing Times]

Diabetes insipidus /ˌdaɪəˈbetıθ izˈspıdəs/ noun a rare disorder of the pituitary gland causing an inadequate amount of the hormone vasopressin, which controls urine production, to be produced, leading to excessive passing of urine and extreme thirst.
subjected to dialysis

ring to diagnosis

which causes sweating

an opening in the diaphragm into the chest

from liquids, e.g. a kidney machine

which uses a membrane to separate solids

diaphragmatic pleurisy

diaphragmatic pleurisy is a condition in which the diaphragm rubs against an underlying structure, causing pain and discomfort.

diagnostic

found it difficult to make a diagnosis. Compare prognosis

prognosis (note: the plural is diagnoses)

diagnostic /ˌdɑːɡˈnæstɪk/ adjective referring to diagnosis

diagnostic and treatment centre /ˌdɑːɡˈnæstɪk ən ˈtrɛtmənt ˈsentə/ noun a facility mainly for daily surgery or short-term stay, where a range of planned operations such as joint replacements, hernia repair and cata
ract removal can be undertaken. Abbr DTC

diagnostic imaging /ˌdɑːɡˈnæstɪk ˈɪmɑːdʒɪŋ/ noun scanning for the purpose of diagnosis, e.g. of a pregnant woman to see if the fetus is healthy

diagnostic process /ˌdɑːɡˈnæstɪk ˈprəsəs/ noun the series of steps taken in making a diagnosis

diagnostic radiographer noun a radiographer

diagnostic test /ˌdɑːɡˈnæstɪk ˈtest/ noun a test which helps a doctor diagnose an illness

dialyse /ˈdɛələz/ verb to treat someone using a kidney machine

dialyser /ˈdɛələsər/ noun an apparatus which uses a membrane to separate solids from liquids, e.g. a kidney machine

dialysis /ˌdɛələˈsɪs/ noun 1. a procedure in which a membrane is used as a filter to separate soluble waste substances from the blood 2. same as renal dialysis

diapedesis /ˌdɪəpəˈdiːsɪs/ noun the movement of white blood cells through the walls of the capillaries into tissues in the development of inflammation

diaphoresis /ˌdaɪəˈfɔːrisɪs/ noun excessive perspiration

diaphoretic /ˌdaɪəˈfɔːrɪtɪk/ noun a drug which causes sweating ■ adjective causing sweating

diaphragm /ˌdɪəˈfrægm/ noun 1. a thin layer of tissue stretched across an opening, especially the flexible sheet of muscle and fibre which separates the chest from the abdomen and moves to pull air into the lungs in respiration 2. same as vaginal diaphragm

COMMENT: The diaphragm is a muscle which, in breathing, expands and contracts with the walls of the chest. The average rate of respiration is about 16 times a minute.

diaphragmatic /ˌdɪəfrəˈɡmætɪk/ adjective referring to a diaphragm, or like a diaphragm

diaphragmatic hernia /ˌdɪəfrəˈɡmætɪk ˈhɛrnɪə/ noun a condition in which a membrane and organ in the abdomen pass through an opening in the diaphragm into the chest

diaphragmatic pleura /ˌdɪəfrəˈɡmætɪk ˈplʊərə/ noun part of the pleura which covers the diaphragm
their susceptibility to specific diseases or allergies.

diazepam /ˌdaɪəzəpəm/ noun a tranquilliser used in the short term to treat anxiety and as a muscle relaxant. In the long term it is potentially addictive.
diazoxide /ˌdaɪəzoʊsɪd/ noun a drug used as a vasodilator, to reduce hypertension
dicab /əbər/ abbr disseminated intravascular coagulation
dicephalus /ˌdaɪsɛfələs/ noun a fetus with two heads

dichlorphenamide /ˌdaɪklaʊrˈfeɪməd/ noun a drug used to treat glaucoma
dichromatism /ˌdaɪkroʊəˌmɑrtɪzəm/ noun colour blindness in which only two of the three primary colours can be seen. Compare monochromatism, trichromatism
diclofenac sodium /ˌdaɪkloʊˈfɛnəs ˈsɑːdəm/ noun an anti-inflammatory drug used to treat rheumatic disease
dicrotic pulse /ˌdaɪkroʊtɪk ˈpʌls/ dicrotic wave /ˌdaɪkroʊtɪk ˈweɪv/ noun a pulse which occurs twice with each heartbeat
dicrotism /ˌdaɪkroʊˈtɪzəm/ noun a condition in which the pulse occurs twice with each heartbeat
diabetes /ˌdaɪəˈbetəs/ verb to stop living ○ His father died last year. ○ She died in a car crash. (Note: dying – died)
diencephalon /ˌdaɪəsɛfəˈlɒn, ˌdaɪəˈsɛfələn/ noun the central part of the forebrain, formed of the thalamus, hypothalamus, pineal gland and third ventricle
diet /ˈdaɪət/ noun the amount and type of food eaten ○ a balanced diet ■ verb to reduce the quantity of food you eat, or to change the type of food you eat, in order to become thinner or healthier ○ He is dieting to try to lose weight.
diabetic /ˌdaɪəˈbetɪk/ adjective referring to a diet
diabetic crisis /ˌdaɪəˈbetɪk ˈkraiəs/ noun a painful blockage of the ureter, causing back pain over the kidney which fills with urine and swells [After Joseph Dietl (1804–78), Polish physician]
diet sheet /ˈdaɪət ʃiːt/ noun a list of suggestions for quantities and types of food given to someone to follow
differential /ˌdaɪəˈrɛnʃəl/ adjective referring to a difference
differential blood count /ˌdaɪəˈrɛnʃəl ˈbləʊd ˈkaʊnt/ differential white cell count /ˌdaɪəˈrɛnʃəl ˈwɛlt ˈseɪl ˈkaʊnt/ noun a test that shows the amounts of different types of white blood cell in a blood sample
differential diagnosis /ˌdaɪəˈrɛnʃəl dɪˈzaɪnəs/ noun the identification of one disease from a number of other similar diseases by comparing the range of symptoms of each
differentiation /ˌdaɪəˈrɛnʃiˈeɪʃən/ noun the development of specialised cells during the early embryo stage
diffuse verb /dɪˈfjuːs/ to spread through tissue, or cause something to spread ○ Some substances easily diffuse through the walls of capillaries. ■ adjective /dɪˈfjuːsɪŋ/ referring to a disease which is widespread in the body, or which affects many organs or cells
diffusion /ˌdɪfjʊˈzeɪʃən/ noun 1, the process of mixing a liquid with another liquid, or a gas with another gas 2, the passing of a liquid or gas through a membrane
digest /dɪˈgest/ verb to break down food in the alimentary canal and convert it into components which are absorbed into the body
digestible /ˌdɪgɪˈstəbl/ adjective able to be digested ○ Glucose is an easily digestible form of sugar.
digestion /ˈdɪgɪʃən/ noun the process by which food is broken down in the alimentary canal into components which can be absorbed by the body
dietetic /ˌdaiˈɛtɪtɪk/ adjective relating to digestion
dietetics /ˌdaiˈɛtɪtɪks/ noun the study of food, nutrition and health, especially when applied to people’s food intake
dieting /ˌdaiˈtɪŋ/ noun the act of attempting to reduce weight by reducing the amount of food eaten ○ Eat sensibly and get plenty of exercise, then there should be no need for dieting.
dietitian /ˌdaiˈtʃətən/ noun someone who specialises in the study of diet, especially someone in a hospital who supervises dietaries as part of the medical treatment of patients.
dietary fibre /ˌdaiˈətrɪəˈfɪbər/ noun fibrous matter in food, which cannot be digested

dietetic enzyme /ˌdaiˈɛtɪtɪk ˈɛnˌzaɪm/ noun an enzyme which encourages digestion

dietetic principles /ˌdaiˈɛtɪtɪk ˈprɪmspləʊzd/ noun rules concerning the body’s needs in food, vitamins or trace elements
digestive juice
digestive juice /daɪdstɪv dʒuːs/ noun 1. gastric juice, intestinal juice (usually plural)
digestive system /daɪdstɪv sɪstəm/ noun the set of organs such as the stomach, liver and pancreas which are associated with the digestion of food. Also called alimentary system
digestive tract /daɪdstɪv trækt/ noun same as alimentary canal
digestive tube /daɪdstɪv tjuːb/ adjective US same as alimentary canal
digit /ˈdɪdʒt/ noun 1. a finger or a toe 2. a number
digital /ˈdɪdʒt(ə)l/ adjective 1. referring to fingers or toes 2. representing data or physical quantities in numerical form
digitalin /ˈdɪdʒtɪlɪn/, digitalis /ˈdɪdʒtɪlɪs/ noun a drug derived from foxglove leaves, used in small doses to treat heart conditions
digitalise /ˈdɪdʒtɪlɪzaɪz/, digitalize verb to treat someone who has heart failure with digoxin
digital palpation /ˌdɪdʒtɪləlˈpeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun an examination of part of the body by feeling it with the fingers
digital vein /ˈdɪdʒtɪləvɛn/ noun a vein draining the fingers or toes
digitoxin /ˈdɪdʒtəʊkson/ noun an extract of foxglove leaves, used as a drug to stimulate the heart in cases of heart failure or irregular heartbeat
digoxin /ˈdɪdʒpɔksən/ noun an extract of foxglove leaves, which acts more rapidly than digitoxin when used as a heart stimulant
dihydrocodeine tartrate /ˌdaiˈhaidroʊˈkɒdɪnərətərət/ noun an analgesic used to treat severe pain
dilatation /ˌdaɪləˈteɪʃ(ə)n/, dilation /ˌdaɪˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the act of making a hollow space or a passage in the body bigger or wider 2. dilatation of the cervix during labour 2. expansion of the pupil of the eye as a reaction to bad light or drugs
dilation and curettage /ˌdaɪləˈteɪʃ(ə)n ən kjuəˈretədʒ/ noun a surgical operation to scrape the interior of the uterus to obtain a tissue sample or to remove products of miscarriage. Abbrev D & C
dilate /ˈdaɪlət, ˈdɪlət/ verb to become wider or larger, or make something become wider or larger 2. The veins in the left leg have become dilated. 2. The drug is used to dilate the pupil of the eye.
dilator /ˌdaɪləˈtər/ noun 1. an instrument used to widen the entrance to a cavity 2. a drug used to make part of the body expand
dilator pupillae muscle /ˌdaɪləˈpjuːpliː/ noun a muscle in the iris which pulls the iris back and so makes the pupil expand
diliazem hydrochloride /ˌdaɪliəˈzɛm hjuˈdrəklaʊərəd/ noun a calcium channel blocker used to treat hypertension
diluent /ˌdaɪˈluːnt/ noun a substance which is used to dilute a liquid, e.g. water
dilute /ˈdaɪlət/ adjective with water added. 1. verb to add water to a liquid to make it less concentrated 2. Dilute the disinfectant in four parts of water.
dilution /ˌdaɪˈluːʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the action of diluting 2. a liquid which has been diluted
dimethyldiuran /ˈdaɪmɛθiəˌhaidraʊn/ noun an antihistamine drug that relieves travel sickness
dimetra /ˈdaɪmətrɪə/ noun a condition in which a woman has a double uterus
dioptr /ˌdaɪəˈpɔtə/ noun a unit of measurement of the refraction of a lens (NOTE: The US spelling is dioptr.)
COMMENT: A one dioptr lens has a focal length of one metre; the greater the dioptr, the shorter the focal length.
dioxide /daiˈstɔksaɪd/ noun an extremely poisonous gas
DIP abbr distal interphalangeal joint
diphenoxylate /ˌdaɪfəˈnɒksəlaɪt/ noun a drug related to pethidine that is used to treat diarrhoea, sometimes mixed with a little atropine in commercial preparations
diphteria /ˈdaɪfθəriə/ noun a serious infectious disease of children, caused by the bacterium Corynebacterium diphtheriae, characterised by fever and the formation of a fibrous growth like a membrane in the throat which restricts breathing
COMMENT: Symptoms of diphtheria are a sore throat, followed by a slight fever, rapid pulse and swelling of glands in the neck. The 'membrane' which forms can close the air passages, and the disease is often fatal, either because the patient is asphyxiated or because the heart becomes fatally weakened. The disease is also highly infectious, and all contacts of the patient must be tested. The Schick test is used to test if a person is immune or susceptible to diphtheria. In countries where infants are immunised the disease is rare.
diphenoxylate /ˌdaɪfθəriəd/ adjective referring to a bacterium similar to the diphtheria bacterium
-oide /-aɪd/ adjective used in the names of calcium channel blockers
-dipl /-dɪpl/ prefix same as diplo-
diplacusis /ˌdaɪpləˈkjuːsɪs/ noun a disorder of the cochlea in which a person hears one sound as two sounds of different pitch
diplegia /ˌdaɪplɪˈlɪdʒə/ noun paralysis of a similar part on both sides of the body, e.g. paralysis of both arms. Compare hemiplegia
diplegic /ˌdaɪplɪˈlɪdʒɪk/ adjective referring to diplegia
disinfection /disɪnˈfɪʃən/ noun  the process of sending a patient away from hospital because the treatment has ended. The wound discharged a thin stream of pus, 2. to send a patient away from hospital because the treatment has ended. 

Also called discharge planning /ˈdɪsˌfɔːr ˈplænɪŋ/ noun the work of making a plan for when a patient leaves hospital to live at home. 

discharge rate /ˈdɪsˌfɔːr ˈrɛt/ noun the number of patients with a particular type of disorder who are sent home from hospitals in a particular area (shown as the number per 10,000 of population). 

discoloration /dɪsˈkʌlərəʃən/ noun a change in colour. 

discolour /dɪˈskʌlar/ verb to change the colour of something. His teeth were discoloured from smoking cigarettes. (NOTE: The US spelling is discolor.) 

discomfort /dɪsˈkʌmfərt/ noun a feeling of mild pain. You may experience some discomfort after the operation. 

discreet /dɪˈskriːt/ adjective separate, not joined together. 

discrete rash /dɪˈskrɪt ræʃ/ noun a rash which is formed of many separate spots, which do not join together into one large red patch. 

disease /dɪˈziːz/ noun a condition that stops the body from functioning in the usual way. 

He was discharged from hospital last week. The surgeon cut away the diseased tissue. The amputation of a limb at a joint, which does not involve dividing a bone. 

discoloration /dɪsˈkʌlərəʃən/ noun a chemical change in colour. 

He was discharged from hospital last week. The surgeon cut away the diseased tissue. 

The disease is applied to all physical and mental reactions which make a person ill. 

Diseases with distinct characteristics have individual names. For other terms relating to disease, see words beginning with patho-, patho-.) 

diseased /dɪˈziːzd/ adjective affected by a disease. The surgeon cut away the diseased tissue. 

disfigure /dɪsˈfɪɡər/ verb to change someone’s appearance so as to make it less pleasant to look at. His legs were disfigured by scars. 

dish /dɪʃ/ noun a shallow open container. 

Diplopia /dɪˈpləʊpiə/ noun a condition in which a person sees single objects as double. 

Also called double vision. 

displace /dɪsˈpleɪs/ verb to move something away from, or to the side of, another object. 

Diplopa /dɪˈpləʊpə/ noun a condition in which one sees single objects as double. 

Also called double vision. 

Diplosite /dɪˈpləʊsaɪt/ noun a layer of spongy bone tissue filled with red bone marrow, between the inner and outer layers of the skull. 

Dysplasia /dɪsˈpleɪzə/ noun a condition in which there are two copies of each chromosome, except the sex chromosome. 

In humans the diploid number of chromosomes is 46. 

Dilation /dɪləˈkeɪʃən/ noun an uncontrolled desire to drink alcohol. 

Director /dɪˈrektər/ noun an instrument used to limit the incision made with a surgical knife. 

The director of the operation joined together. 

Disability /dɪsˈbɪlətɪ/ noun a condition in which part of the body does not function in the usual way and makes some activities difficult or impossible. 

Learning disability ‘...disability – any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being’ (WHO). 

Disarticulation /dɪsˈɑːtɹɪkʃən/ noun the amputation of a limb at a joint, which does not involve dividing a bone. 

Disc /dɪsk/ noun a flat round structure. 

Intervertebral disc 

Discharge /dɪsˈʃɔːr/ noun /ˈdɪsˌʃɔːr/ 1. the secretion of liquid from an opening. 

2. something sent out of an opening. 

3. a fluid or solid discharged by the body. 

The secretion of liquid from an opening. 

The secretion of liquid out of an opening. 

The amputation of a limb at a joint, which does not involve dividing a bone. 

The secretion of liquid out of an opening.

This disorder which makes some activities difficult or impossible. 

The person has swallowed a poison. 

Teeth can be discoloured in fluorosis. If the skin on the lips is discoloured it may indicate that the person has swallowed a poison. 

Discomfort /dɪsˈkʌmfərt/ noun a feeling of mild pain. You may experience some discomfort after the operation. 

Discreet /dɪˈskriːt/ adjective separate, not joined together. 

Discrete rash /dɪˈskrɪt ræʃ/ noun a rash which is formed of many separate spots, which do not join together into one large red patch. 

Disease /dɪˈziːz/ noun a condition that stops the body from functioning in the usual way. 

An infectious disease. 

She is suffering from a very serious disease of the kidneys or from a serious kidney disease. 

He is a specialist in occupational diseases. (NOTE: The term disease is applied to all physical and mental reactions which make a person ill. Diseases with distinct characteristics have individual names. For other terms relating to disease, see words beginning with patho-, patho-.) 

Diseased /dɪˈziːzd/ adjective affected by a disease. 

The surgeon cut away the diseased tissue.

Disfigure /dɪsˈfɪɡər/ verb to change someone’s appearance so as to make it less pleasant to look at. 

Her legs were disfigured by scars.

Dish /dɪʃ/ noun a shallow open container.

Disinfect /dɪsɪnˈfekt/ verb to make the surface of something or somewhere free from microorganisms. 

She disinfected the skin with surgical spirit. 

All the patient’s clothes have to be disinfected.

Disinfectant /dɪsɪnˈfektnɪt/ noun a substance used to kill microorganisms on the surface of something.

Disinfection /dɪsɪnˈfekʃən/ noun the removal of microorganisms on the surface of something.

Diplopia /dɪˈpləʊpiə/ noun a condition in which one sees single objects as double. 

Also called double vision.
disinfect

COMMENT: The words disinfect, disinfester, and disinfestation are used for substances which destroy microorganisms on instruments, objects or the skin. Substances used to kill microorganisms inside infected people are antibiotics.

disinfect /dɪsɪnˈfɛkt/ verb to free a place, person or animal from insects or other pests

disinfection /dɪsɪnˈfekʃn/ noun the removal of insects or other pests from a place, person or animal

dislocate /dɪsˈləkeɪt/ verb to place a bone from its usual position at a joint, or to become displaced ○ He fell and dislocated his elbow, ○ The shoulder joint dislocates easily.

dislocation /dɪsˈloʊ kərʃuːn/ noun a condition in which a bone is dislocated from its usual position at a joint. Also called luxation

dismember /dɪsˈmembər/ verb to cut off or pull off someone’s arms or legs, often violently or in an accident

dismemberment /dɪsˈmen bər mənt/ noun the state of being dismembered

disorder /dɪsˈɔr dər/ noun a condition in which part of the body is not functioning correctly ○ The doctor specialises in disorders of the kidneys or in kidney disorders.

disordered /dɪsˈɔr dəd/ adjective not functioning correctly

disordered action of the heart /dɪsˈɔr dəd ˈæk ən ɔ v t̬ ɔ hæt/ noun a condition in which someone has palpitations, breathlessness and dizziness, caused by effort or worry. Also called concussion

disorderly /dɪsˈɔr də lɪ/ adjective not orderly

dispense /dɪsˈpens/ verb to supply medicine according to a prescription

dispensal /dɪsˈpensəl/ noun the fact of being widespread throughout the body

dispensary /dɪsˈpensərɪ/ noun a place where drugs are prepared or mixed and given out according to a doctor’s prescription, e.g. part of a chemist’s shop or a department in a hospital

dispenser /dɪsˈpensər/ noun someone who supplies medicine according to a prescription, especially in a hospital

dispensing /dɪsˈpensɪŋ/ noun the act of being moved out of the usual position ○ fracture of the radius together with displacement of the wrist

disposable /dɪsˈpəʊ zə bəl/ adjective designed to be thrown away after use ○ disposable syringes

disposition /dɪsˈpəz ʃuːn/ noun a person’s general character or tendency to act in a particular way

disproportion /dɪsˈprə ʃuːn/ noun a lack of proper relationships between two things

dissect /dɪsˈsekt/ verb to cut and separate tissues in a body to examine them

dissecting /dɪsˈsektɪŋ/ adjective used for substances

dissection /dɪsˈsektʃuːn/ noun the action of cutting and separating parts of a body or an organ as part of a surgical operation, an autopsy or a course of study

...renal dissection usually takes from 40-60 minutes, while liver and pancreas dissections take from one to three hours. Cardiac dissection takes about 20 minutes and lung dissection takes 60 to 90 minutes.’ [Nursing Times]

disseminated /dɪsɪˈmentrd/ adjective occurring in every part of an organ or in the whole body

disseminated intravascular coagulation /dɪsɪˈmentrd ɪntra vəskəl kəʊ ˌæŋˈjuːrɪs/ noun a disorder that causes extensive clot formation in the blood vessels, followed by severe bleeding. Abbr DIC

disseminated lupus erythematosus /dɪsɪˈmentrd lʊpus ˌɜrθɪməˈtɔsəs/ noun an inflammatory disease where a skin rash is associated with widespread changes in the central nervous system, the cardiovascular system and many organs. Abbr DLE

disseminated sclerosis /dɪsɪˈmentrd ˈsklərəsɪs/ noun same as multiple sclerosis

disseminate /dɪsɪˈmentit/ verb 1. to separate parts or functions 2. in psychiatry, to separate part of the conscious mind from the rest

dissociate /dɪsɪˈsəʊ ʃuːt/ verb 1. the separation of parts or functions 2. (in psychiatry) a condition in which part of the consciousness becomes separated from the rest and becomes independent


**dissociative disorder** noun a type of hysteria in which someone shows psychological changes such as a split personality or amnesia rather than physical ones

**dissolve** verb 1. to absorb or disperse something in liquid 2. The gut used in sutures slowly dissolves in the body fluids.

**distal** adjective further away from the centre of a body

**distal convoluted tubule** noun a part of the kidney filtering system before the collecting ducts

**Distalgesic** a trade name for the analgesic co-proxamol

**distal interphalangeal joint** noun a joint nearest the end of the finger or toe. Abbr DIP

**distally** adverb placed further away from the centre or point of attachment. Opposite proximally. See illustration in **ANA-TOMICAL TERMS** in Supplement

**distal phalanges** noun bones nearest the ends of the fingers and toes

**distended** adjective made larger by gas such as air, by liquid such as urine, or by a solid

**distended bladder** noun a bladder which is full of urine

**distension** noun the presence of extra eyelashes, sometimes growing on the meibomian glands

**distil** verb to separate the component parts of a liquid by boiling and collecting the condensed vapour

**distillation** noun the action of distilling a liquid

**distilled water** noun water which has had impurities by distillation

**distort** verb to twist something into an unusual shape

**distortion** noun the act of twisting part of the body out of its usual shape

**distraction** noun something that takes a person’s attention away from something else

**distress** noun unhappiness caused by pain or worry

**district** noun a type of hospital which serves the needs of the population of a specific district

**district nurse** noun a nurse who visits and treats people in their homes

**disturb** verb 1. to interrupt what someone is doing 2. Her sleep was disturbed by the other patients in the ward. 2. to upset or worry someone

**disturbed** adjective affected by a psychiatric disorder 3. severely disturbed children

**disulfiram** a drug used to treat alcoholism by causing severe nausea if alcohol is consumed with it

**distended bladder** noun an anti-inflammatory drug used to treat dermatitis and psoriasis

**diuresis** noun an increase in the production of urine

**diabetic** adjective causing the kidneys to produce more urine

**diuretic** noun

**diuresis** noun the production of urine

**distension** noun of distilling a liquid

**distension** noun of the portal vein, the veins in the abdomen is a sign of blocking the production of urine

**distension** noun of the colon

**distension** noun of the colon thickens and diverticula form, where the colon thickens and diverticula form in the wall of the colon, causing pain in the lower abdomen

**divergence** noun

**diverticulum** noun

**diverticulosis** noun inflammation of diverticula formed in the wall of the colon

**diverticulitis** noun

**diverticulosis** noun a disease of the large intestine, where the colon thickens and diverticulum form in the walls, causing pain in the large intestine

**diverticular disease** noun a condition in which one eye points directly at the object of interest but the other does not

**diverse** adjective

**disulfiram** noun

**divarication** noun

**divarication** noun

**divalculus** noun

**dividends** noun

**division** noun

**divilence** noun the action of cutting or splitting into parts

**divulgor** noun a surgical instrument used to expand a passage in the body
dizygotic /dɪˈzaɪdʒətɪk/ adjective developed from two separately fertilised eggs

dizygotic twins /dɪˈzaɪdʒətɪk ˈtwaɪnz/ twins who are not identical and not always of the same sex because they come from two different ova fertilised at the same time. Also called fraternal twins
dizziness /ˈdɪznɪs/ noun the feeling that everything is going round because the sense of balance has been affected
dizzy /ˈdɪzɪ/ adjective feeling that everything is going round because the sense of balance is affected
dobutamine /ˈdoʊbətəmɪn/ noun a drug used to stimulate the heart
donor /ˈdɒnər/ noun 1. a person who has trained in medicine and is qualified to examine people when they are ill to find out what is wrong with them and to prescribe a course of treatment 2. a title given to a qualified person who is registered with the General Medical Council (note: Doctor is shortened to Dr when written before a name)
dopamine is associated with Parkinson’s disease.

dopaminergic /ˌdəʊpəˈmɪnərɪk/ adjective referring to a neurone or receptor stimulated by dopamine.

Doppler transducer /ˈdɒplə træns, ˈdʒʊəsə/ noun a device to measure blood flow, commonly used to monitor fetal heart rate.

Doppler ultrasound /ˈdɒplə ˈʌltrəsɔʊnd/ noun the use of the Doppler effect in ultrasound to detect red blood cells.

Doppler ultrasound flowmeter /ˈdɒplə ˈʌltrəsɔʊnd ˈfləʊmɪtə/ noun a device which measures the flow of blood and detects steady or irregular flow, allowing abnormalities or blockages to be detected.

dormant /ˈdɔrmənt/ adjective inactive for a time. The virus lies dormant in the body for several years.

dorsa /ˈdɔrə/ plural of dorsum.

dorsal /ˈdɔrəs/ adjective 1. referring to the back. Opposite ventral 2. referring to the back of the body.

dorsal vertebrae /ˈdɔrəsəl ˈvɜːrtebrɪ/ plural noun the twelve vertebrae in the back between the cervical vertebrae and the lumbar vertebrae.

dorsi- /ˈdɔrəs/ prefix referring to the back.

dorsiflexion /ˈdɔrəsɪflɛksən/ noun flexion towards the back part of the body, e.g. raising the foot at the ankle. Compare plantar flexion.

dorso-/ˈdɔrəsəʊ/ prefix same as dorsi-

dorsoventral /ˈdɔrəsəʊvəntərəl/ adjective 1. referring to both the front and the back of the body 2. extending from the back of the body to the front.

dorsum /ˈdɔrəsm/ noun the back of any part of the body. (Note: The plural is dorsa.)

dosage /ˈdəʊʒɪdʒ/ noun a measured quantity of a drug calculated to be necessary for someone. 1. a low dosage Ø The doctor decided to increase the dosage of antibiotics. Ø The dosage for children is half that for adults.

dose /dəʊs/ noun 1. a measured quantity of a drug or radiation which is to be given to someone at one time Ø It is dangerous to exceed the prescribed dose. 2. a short period of experiencing a minor illness (informal) Ø A dose of flu. 3. an infection with a sexually transmitted disease (informal) Ø verb to provide someone with medication (informal) Ø She has been dosing herself with laxatives.

dosimetry /ˈdəʊsɪmətri/ noun the act of measuring the amount of X-rays or other radiation received.

dosimeter /ˈdəʊsɪmətər/ noun an instrument which measures the amount of X-rays or other radiation received.

double-blind randomised controlled trial /ˌdʌblˌblɪnd ˈrɛndərəməsaɪd ˈtrɪəl/ noun a trial used to test new treatments in which patients are randomly placed in either the treatment or the control group without either the patient or doctor knowing which group any particular patient is in.

double blind study /ˌdʌblˌblɪnd ˈstʌdi/ noun an investigation to test an intervention in which neither the patient nor the doctor knows if the patient is receiving active medication or a placebo.

double-jointed /ˈdʌbləˈdʒɔɪntid/ adjective able to bend joints to an unusual degree (informal).

double pneumonia /ˈdʌblə ˈnjuːməniə/ noun same as bilateral pneumonia.

double uterus /ˈdʌblə ˈjuːtəs/ noun a condition in which the uterus is divided into two sections by a membrane. Also called uterus didelphys. Ø dimetria.

double vision /ˈdʌblə ˈvɪʒən/ noun same as diplopia (informal).

douche /ˈdəʊʃ/ noun a liquid forced into the body to wash out a cavity, or a device used for washing out a cavity.

Douglas bag /ˈdəʊgliəs bæɡ/ noun a bag used for measuring the volume of air breathed out of the lungs.

Douglas’ pouch /ˈdəʊgliəs ˈpouʃ/ noun the rectoterminal peritoneal recess.

down below /dʌn brˈleə/ adverb used to refer politely to the genital area (informal).

Down’s syndrome /dəʊnz ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a condition due to the existence of an extra copy of chromosome 21, in which a baby is born with slanting eyes, a wide face, speech difficulties and usually some degree of learning difficulty [Described 1866. After John Langdon Down (1828–96), British physician at Normansfield Hospital, Teddington, UK.]

downstairs /dʌnˈstreɪs/ adverb used to refer politely to the genital area (informal).

down there /dʌn ˈðεər/ adverb used to refer politely to the genital area (informal).

doxepin /ˈdəʊksenpɪn/ noun a sedative and antidepressant.

doxycline /ˈdəʊksɪklɪn/ noun a widely used antibiotic derived from tetracycline.

doze /dəʊz/ verb to sleep lightly for a short time.

dozey /ˈdəʊzɪ/ adjective sleepy Ø These antihistamines can make you feel dozy.

DPT abbr diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus.

DPT vaccine /ˈdɪt viːˈkeɪs/ noun a combined vaccine or immunisation against the three diseases, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

Dr abbr doctor (Note: used when writing someone’s name: Dr Smith).
Dracunculus /drəˈkæŋkjuˈləs/ noun a parasitic worm which enters the body and rises to the skin, frequently leading to secondary arthritis, fibrosis and cellulitis

Dracontiasis /draʊkəntɪˈeɪʃəs, -ˌtɪ-/ noun a tropical disease caused by the guinea worm Dracunculus medinensis which enters the body from infected drinking water and forms blisters on the skin, eventually leading to secondary arthritis, fibrosis and cellulitis

draw /drɔ/ verb (informal) to make a hole, especially a surgical incision in which a person suddenly falls down, though he or she is not unconscious, caused by sudden weakness of the spine

draw off /ˈdrɔf/ verb (informal) to get less

draw plunger /ˈdrɔpləntə/ noun a tool which rotates very rapidly to make a hole, especially a surgical instrument used in dentistry to remove caries. A verb to make a hole with a drill. A small hole is drilled in the skull. The dentist drilled one of her molars.

Drinker respirator /ˈdrɪŋkər ˈresπərətə/ noun a machine which encloses the whole of the body except the head, and in which the air pressure is increased and decreased, so forcing the person to breathe in and out. Also called iron lung

drip /drɪp/ noun a system for introducing liquid slowly and continuously into the body, by a tube with a rubber bulb at one end, used to avert liquid in drops

drinker respirator /ˈdrɪŋkər ˈresπərətə/ noun a tube to remove liquid from the body or an operation to drain the sinuses. They drained the pus from the abscess.

drainage /ˈdrɛnɪdʒ/ noun the removal of liquid from the site of an operation or pus from an abscess by means of a tube or wick left in the body for a time

drape /dræp/ noun a thin material used to cover a wound to protect it

draw-sheet /ˈdrɔʃiːt/ noun a sheet under a person in bed, folded so that it can be pulled out as it becomes soiled

drop /drɒp/ noun a small quantity of liquid

dropsy /ˈdrɒpsi/ noun same as oedema

dropper /ˈdrɒpə/ noun same as a dropwise

droplet infection /ˈdrɒplɪt ɪnˈfekʃən/ noun an infection developed by inhaling droplets containing a virus, e.g. from a sneeze

droplet /ˈdrɒplət/ noun a very small quantity of liquid

dropper /ˈdrɒpə/ noun a small glass or plastic tube with a rubber bulb at one end, used to suck up and expel liquid in drops

dropper /ˈdrɒpər/ noun same as a dropwise

dropwise /ˈdraʊplət ˈʃiː/ noun a condition, caused by a muscular disorder, in which the ankle is not strong and the foot hangs limp

dropsy /ˈdrɒpsi/ noun same as oedema

drop off /ˈdrɔp fɔ/ verb (informal) 1. to fall asleep 2. to get less

dropper /ˈdrɒpə/ noun a small glass or plastic tube with a rubber bulb at one end, used to suck up and expel liquid in drops

dropper /ˈdrɒpər/ noun same as a dropwise

dropsy /ˈdrɒpsi/ noun same as oedema

drowner /ˈdraʊnər/ noun death as a result of inhaling liquid

drowsiness /ˈdraʊznɪs/ noun sleepiness

The medicine is likely to cause drowsiness.

drowsy /ˈdraʊzi/ adjective sleepy

The injection will make you feel drowsy.

drug /d्रɡ/ noun 1. a natural or synthetic chemical substance which is used in medicine and affects the way in which organs or tissues function. She was prescribed a course of pain-killing drugs. The drug is being monitored for possible side-effects. 2. a substance taken by choice which produces a strong effect
much alcohol called on taking a particular drug regularly. Also who regularly uses drugs for non-medical pur-
dry drowning
dry burn
dry

drug tolerance

drug addiction

drug allergy

drug dependence

drug abuse

drug addict

drug

drug-related

drug tolerance

drug
drunk

dry

dry eye syndrome

dry gangrene

dryness

dry out

dry socket

drug

DTC

Duchenne muscular dystrophy

Duchenne's muscular dystrophy

Ducray's bacillus

duct gland

ductless gland

duct

ductus

dull

dull

dull

dull

dull

dull

dull
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ring to the duodenum
duties of a night sister?
on duty
stomach to the jejunum. See illustration at DI-
d.v.t., DVT
duty rota
duty nurse
duty
arachnoid
dura, pachymeninx
er outer membrane of the three covering the
dura mater
dural
dural
dura
duodenoscope
duodenoscope
duodenal ulcer
duodenal ulcer
duodenal papillae
duodenal papillae
duodenal
duo-
duo-
duo-
noun
dumping syndrome
dumping syndrome
postgastrectomy syndrome
duo- [adj] duo/ prefix two
duodenal [adj] duodeni/ prefix referring to the duodenum
duodenal [adj] duodeni/ prefix referring to the duodenum
duodenal papilae [pl] papulic plural noun small projecting parts in the duode-
num where the bile duct and pancreatic duct open
duodenal ulcer [adj] ulcer in the duodenum
duodenoscope [noun] an instrument used to examine the inside of
the duodenum
duodenostomy [noun] permanent opening made between the duode-
num and the abdominal wall
duodenum [noun] the first part of the small intestine, going from the
stomach to the jejunum. See illustration at DI-
gestive system in Supplement

COMMENT: The duodenum is the shortest part of the small intestine, about 250 mm long. It

leads bile from the gall bladder and pancreatic juice from the pancreas and continues the di-
gestive processes started in the mouth and stomach.
duplex imaging [noun] a type of ultrasonic imaging where the speed of the flow of blood is measured
Duchy’s contracture [noun] a condition in which the palmar fascia becomes thicker, causing the fin-
gers, usually the middle and fourth fingers, to bend forwards [Described 1831. After Baron
Guillaume Duchy’s (1775–1838), French sur-

dura [noun] same as dura mater
dura mater [noun] adj ectal referring to the dura mater
dura mater [noun] the thick-
er outer membrane of the three covering the
brain. Also called dura, pachymeninx.

arachnoid
duty [noun] activities which a per-
son has to do as part of their job [NOTE: The plural is du-
ties.]

do be on duty [inf] to be working [NOTE: She’s
on duty from 2 p.m. till 10 p.m.]

do a duty of care [inf] the requirement to treat a patient in an ap-
propriate way, as part of the work of being a health professional
duty nurse [noun] a nurse who is
duty rota [noun] a list of duties which have to be done and the names of the people who will do them
d.v.t., DVT abbr deep-vein thrombosis
dumb [adj] not able to speak
dumping syndrome [noun] same as postgastrectomy syndrome

dynamic splint [noun] a splint which uses springs to help the person
move
dynamometer [noun] an instrument for measuring the force of muscular contraction

-Dynia [noun] suffix pain

dys/-[prefix] difficult or impaired
dysaesthesia [noun] the impairment of a sense, in particular the sense of touch 2. An unpleasant feeling of pain experi-
enced when the skin is touched lightly
dysarthria [noun] caused by damage to the central nerv-
ous system

dysbarism [noun] any disorder caused by differences between the atmos-
pheric pressure outside the body and the pres-
ure inside

dysbasia [noun] difficulty in walking, especially when caused by a lesion to a nerve

dyschezia [noun] difficulty in passing fæces

dysentery [noun] a condition in which the long bones are shorter than usual
dyschromatopsia [noun] any condition where someone cannot distinguis-
colour

dyscoria [noun] an unusually shaped pupil of the eye 2. An unusual reaction of the pupil

dyscrasia [noun] any unusual body condition [dated]
dysdiadochokinesia [noun] the inability to carry out rapid movements, caused by a disorder or lesion of the cerebellum

dysenteric [adjective] referring to dysentery

dysentery [noun] an infection and inflammation of the colon, causing bleeding and diarrhoea

COMMENT: Dysentery occurs mainly in tropical countries. The symptoms include diarrhoea, discharge of blood and pain in the intestines. There are two main types of dysentery: bacil-
ary dysentery, caused by the bacterium Shigella in contaminated food, and amoebic
dysentery or amoebiasis, caused by a para-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dyspepsia</td>
<td>/dɪs'peptɪs/ adjective referring to difficulty in swallowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysphagia</td>
<td>/dɪs'feɪdʒiə/ noun difficulty in swallowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysphasia</td>
<td>/dɪs'feɪtziə/ noun difficulty in speaking and putting words into the correct order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysphemia</td>
<td>/dɪs'tɪmɪə/ noun same as stammering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysphonia</td>
<td>/dɪs'təʊniə/ noun difficulty in speaking caused by impairment of the vocal cords, or by laryngitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysplasia</td>
<td>/dɪs'plezɪə/ noun an unusual development of tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysuria</td>
<td>/dɪs'juərɪə/ noun difficulty in passing urine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dyspeptic</td>
<td>/dɪs'peptɪk/ adjective referring to dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysfunctional</td>
<td>/dɪs'tæŋkʃən/ adjective 1. not working properly 2. unable to relate to other people emotionally or socially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysfunctional bleeding</td>
<td>/dɪs'tæŋkʃən/ jurtæran 'blidan/ noun bleeding in the uterus not caused by a menstrual period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dyslexia</td>
<td>/dɪs'leksɪə/ noun a disorder of speech, caused by an unusual development of the tongue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dyslexic</td>
<td>/dɪs'leksɪk/ adjective referring to dyslexia ♠ noun a person suffering from dyslexia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dyslipidaemia</td>
<td>/dɪs'lipɪdɪəmɪə/ noun an imbalance of lipids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysmaturity</td>
<td>/dɪs'mætrɪətɪ/ noun a condition affecting newborn babies, shown by wrinkled skin, long fingernails and toenails and relatively little body fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dysmenorrhoea</td>
<td>/dɪs'menərəʊriə/ noun pain experienced at menstruation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dystonia</td>
<td>/dɪs'tɔnіə/ noun disordered muscle tone, causing involuntary contractions which make the limbs deformed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dystrophy</td>
<td>/dɪs'troʊfi/ noun same as Fröhlich's syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dystrophy adiposogenitalis</td>
<td>/dɪs'troʊfi ədɪpəsə'genɪtəlɪs/ noun same as myotonic dystrophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dystrophy myotonica</td>
<td>/dɪs'troʊfi ˈmɪtənɪkə/ noun same as myotonic dystrophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dystrophy</td>
<td>/dɪs'troʊfi/ noun same as dystrophia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dystrophia</td>
<td>/dɪs'troʊfɪə/ noun dystrophia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dystrophy</td>
<td>/dɪs'troʊfɪə/ noun dystrophia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ear /ɪər/ noun an organ on the side of the head which is used for hearing (NOTE: For other terms referring to ears, see auricular and words beginning with ot-, oto-)

COMMENT: The outer ear is shaped in such a way that it collects sound and channels it to the eardrum. Behind the eardrum, the three ossicles in the middle ear vibrate with sound and transmit the vibrations to the cochlea in the inner ear. From the cochlea, the vibrations are passed by the auditory nerve to the brain.

Ear, Nose & Throat: /aʊs, nəʊz/ an ˈˈθroʊt/ noun the study of the ear, nose and throat. Abbr ENT. Also called otolaryngology

earache /ɪərəˈkeɪ/ noun pain in the ear. Also called otalgia

ear canal /ɪər kəˈnæl/ noun one of several passages in or connected to the ear, especially the external auditory meatus, the passage from the outer ear to the eardrum

eardrum /ɪˈdɔrdrʌm/ noun the membrane at the end of the external auditory meatus leading from the outer ear to the eardrum

eardrum, see words beginning with tympan-, tympano-

early /ˈɜːli/ adjective 1. happening at the beginning of a period of time or early diagnosis made at the onset of an illness or early treatment given almost as soon as the illness has started. 2. (of a condition or illness) in its first stage or during early pregnancy within the first months of pregnancy

early onset pre-eclampsia /ˈɜːli ˌprɪsɪəkˌɛmplsm/ noun pre-eclampsia which appears earlier than the 37th week of the pregnancy

ear ossicle /ɪər ˈosɪkl/ noun an auditory ossicle

ear wax /ɪər wæks/ noun same as cerumen

ease /iːz/ verb to make pain or worry less

○ She had an injection to ease the pain in her leg.

○ The surgeon tried to ease the patient’s fears about the results of the scan.

eating disorder /ˈiːtɪŋ dɪˈzaːr/ noun an illness that causes the usual pattern of eating to be disturbed, e.g. anorexia or bulimia

eating habits /ˈiːtɪŋ ˈhæbɪts/ plural noun the types and quantities of food regularly eaten by a person ○ The dietitian advised her to change her eating habits.

Ebola virus /ˈeˈbələ, ˈvɜːros/ noun a highly contagious virus found in West Africa. Patients who are affected with it vomit, have bloody diarrhoea and blood seeps through their skin.

eburnation /ˌɪbərˈneɪʃən/ noun the conversion of cartilage into a hard mass with a shiny surface like bone

ecbolic /ɪkˈbɒlɪk/ noun a substance which produces contraction of the uterus and induces childbirth or abortion. Adjective causing contraction of the uterus

echondroma /ˌɛkˌkɔndrəmə/ noun a benign tumour on the surface of cartilage or bone

echymosis /ˌɛkəˈməsɪs/ noun a dark area on the skin made by blood which has escaped into the tissues after a blow. Also called bruise, contusion

eccrine /ˈɛkkrən/ adjective referring to a gland, especially a sweat gland, which does not disintegrate and remains intact during secretion. Also called merocrine

eccyisis /ˌɛkˌsətɪˈzɪs/ noun same as ectopic pregnancy

ecdysis /ˌɛkdrɪsɪs/ noun same as desquamation

ECG abbr electrocardiogram

echinococcciasis /ˌɛkɪnəˈkɒsɪsɪs/ echinococcosis /ˌɛkɪnəˈkɒsɪsɪs/ noun a disorder caused by a tapeworm Echinococcus granulosus which forms hydatid cysts in the lungs, liver, kidneys or brain

Echinococcus granulosus /ˌɛkɪnəˈkɒskəsɪs ˌɡrænəˌkɔləˈnɔsɪs/ noun a type of tapeworm, usually found in animals, but sometimes transmitted to humans, causing hydatid cysts in the lungs, liver, kidneys or brain

echo- /ɪkəʊ/ prefix referring to sound
**echocardiogram** /ˌekəˈkɑrdɪəɡræm/ noun a record of heart movements made using ultrasound  
**echocardiography** /ˌekəˈkɑrdɪəɡræfi/ noun the use of ultrasound to examine the heart  
**echoencephalography** /ˌekəˈɛnˌsɛsɛfəˈlɔɡrəfi/ noun the use of ultrasound to examine the brain  
**echography** /ˌekəˈɡrəfi/ noun same as ultrasound  
**echokinesis** /ˌekəˈkɪnɛsɪs/ noun same as echocardiography  
**echopraxia** /ˌekəˈpræksiə/ noun the repetition of words spoken by another person  
**echovirus** /ˌekəˈvɜrəs/ noun one of a group of viruses which can be isolated from the intestine and which can cause serious illnesses such as aseptic meningitis, gastroenteritis and respiratory infection in small children. Compare *reovirus*  
**ectodermal** /ˈɛktədɜrməl/ adjective referring to the outer layer of the skin. Compare *mesodermal*  
**ectoderm** /ˈɛktədɜrm/ noun the outer layer of an early embryo. Also called *embryonic ectoderm*  
**ectodermal** /ˌɛktəˈdɜrməl/ adjective referring to the ectoderm  
**ectectomy** /ˌɛktəˈtɛmɪ/ suffix referring to the removal of a part by surgical operation  
**ectoparasite** /ˌɛktəˈpərəsɪt/ noun a parasite which lives on the skin. Compare *endoparasite*  
**ecstasy** /ˈɛkstəsi/ noun a powerful stimulant and hallucinatory illegal drug (informal)  
**ectopic** /ˌɛktəˈpɪk/ adjective  
**ectopic pregnancy** /ˌɛktəˈpɪk  pərˈɛgnəsɪ/ noun a pregnancy where the fetus develops outside the uterus, often in one of the Fallopian tubes. Also called *extrauterine pregnancy, extracorporeal pregnancy*  
**ectropion** /ˌɛktroʊˈpɪən/ noun the turning outwards of the lips. 
**ectropion** /ˌɛktroʊˈpɪən/ noun a non-contagious inflammation of the skin, with an itchy rash and blisters  
**eczema** /ˈeksəmə/ noun a non-contagious inflammation of the skin. Compare *eczematous*  
**eczematous** /ˈeksəˈmətəs/ adjective referring to eczema  
**eczematous dermatitis** /ˌeksəˈmətəs ˌdɑrəˈmɪtəts/ noun an itchy inflammation or irritation of the skin due to an allergic reaction to a substance which a person has touched or absorbed  
**Eco** /ˌɛkoʊ/ noun US  
**Edwards’ syndrome** /ˈɛdwaːdz ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a severe genetic disorder that results in malformations of the brain, kidney, heart, hands and feet. It is caused by an extra copy of chromosome 18 and those people who have it usually die within six months.  
**EEG** /ˈɛdʒiɡ/ abbr electroencephalogram  
**EFA** /ˈɛfə/ abbr essential fatty acid  
**effacement** /ɪˈfɛrsmənt/ noun the thinning of the cervix before it dilates in childbirth
effect 122

effect 1/ɪˈfekt/ noun a result of a drug, treatment, disease or action. The antiseptic cream has had no effect on the rash. ■ verb to make something happen (formal) □ They will have to effect a change in procedures. □ In some circumstances these drugs can effect surprising cures.
effective 1/ɪˈfektɪv/ adjective having an effect □ Embolectomy is an effective treatment for severe haemoptysis.
effective dose 1/ɪˈfektɪv dɔs/ noun a size of dose which will produce the effect required
effector 1/ɪˈfektor/ noun a nerve ending in muscles or glands which is activated to produce contraction or secretion
efferent 1/ɪˈfɛrənt/ adjective carrying something away from part of the body or from the centre. Opposite afferent
efferent duct 1/ɪˈfɛrənt dɔkt/ noun a duct which carries a secretion away from a gland
efferent nerve 1/ɪˈfɛrənt nɔv/ noun same as motor nerve
efferent vessel 1/ɪˈfɛrənt vəs(ə)l/ noun a vessel which drains lymph from a gland
effleurage 1/ɪˈfjuərəʒ/ noun a form of massage where the skin is stroked in one direction to increase blood flow
effort syndrome 1/ɪˈfɔrət sɪndrəʊm/ noun same as disordered action of the heart
effusion 1/ɪˈfjuʃən/ noun 1. a discharge of blood, fluid or pus into or out of an internal cavity 2. fluid, blood or pus which is discharged
egg 1/ɛg/ noun 1. a reproductive cell produced in the female body by an ovary, and which, if fertilised by the male sperm, becomes an embryo 2. an egg with a hard shell, laid by a hen or other bird, which is used for food
egg cell 1/ɛg ˈsel/ noun an immature ovum or female cell
ego 1/ɡəʊ/ noun (in psychology) the part of the mind which is consciously in contact with the outside world and is influenced by experiences of the world
Egyptian ophthalmia 1/ɪˈdʒɪpsjoʊniə/ noun the same as trachoma
EHO abbr Environmental Health Officer
EIA abbr exercise-induced asthma
eidetic imagery 1/ɪˈdɛtɪk ˈɪmɪdʒɪ/ noun the recall of extremely clear pictures in the mind
Eisenmenger syndrome 1/ɪzɪrnəmənɪ,ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun heart disease caused by a septal defect between the ventricles, with pulmonary hypertension [Described 1897. After Victor Eisenmenger (1864–1932), German physician.]
ejaculate 1/ɪˈdʒæktʃu, ləˈfʌlt/ verb to send out semen from the penis
ejaculation 1/ɪˈdʒæktʃu,leɪʃən/ noun the sending out of semen from the penis
ejaculatio praecox 1/ɪˈdʒæktʃu,leɪʃəʊ ˈprɛkkoks/ noun a situation where a man ejaculates too early during sexual intercourse
ejaculatory 1/ɪˈdʒæktʃuˌlætəri/ adjective referring to ejaculation
ejaculatory duct 1/ɪˈdʒæktʃuˌlætərɪ dɔkt/ noun one of two ducts leading from the seminal vesicles through the prostate gland to the urethra.
See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (MALE) in Supplement
ject 1/ɪˈdʒekkt/ verb to send out something with force □ Blood is ejected from the ventricle during systole.
ejection 1/ɪˈdʒekʃən/ noun the act of sending out something with force
EKG abbr US electrocardiogram
elastic 1/ɪˈlæstɪk/ adjective which can be stretched and compressed and return to its former shape
elastic bandage 1/ɪˈlæstɪk bandɪdʒ/ noun a stretchy bandage used to support a weak joint or for the treatment of a varicose vein
elastic cartilage 1/ɪˈlæstɪk kɑrˈteɪdʒ/ noun flexible cartilage, e.g. in the ear and epiglottis
elastic fibre 1/ɪˈlæstɪk fərˈbɛər/ noun fibre which can expand easily and is found in elastic cartilage, the skin and the walls of arteries and the lungs. Also called yellow fibre
elastic hose 1/ɪˈlæstɪk həʊz/ noun same as surgical hose
elasticity 1/ɪˈlæstɪsɪtɪ/ noun the ability to expand and be compressed and to return to the former shape
elastic tissue 1/ɪˈlæstɪk tjuˈzɪs/ noun connective tissue which contains elastic fibres, e.g. in the walls of arteries or of the alveoli in the lungs
elastin 1/ɪˈlæstɪn/ noun a protein which occurs in elastic fibres
elation 1/ɪˈleɪʃən/ noun the state of being happy, stimulated and excited
elbow 1/ˈɛlbəʊ/ noun a hinged joint where the upper arm bone (humerus) joins the forearm bones (radius and ulna)
elbow crutch 1/ˈɛlboʊ kruːtʃ/ noun a crutch which surrounds the arms at the elbows and has a handle to hold lower down the shaft
elderly 1/ˈɛldəli/ adjective older than 65 □ a home for elderly single women □ She looks after her two elderly parents. ■ noun □ the elderly people aged over 65
elective 1/ɪˈlektɪv/ adjective 1. referring to a chemical substance which tends to combine with one substance rather others 2. referring to surgery or treatment which someone can choose to have but is not urgently necessary to save their life
elective care /ɪˌlɛktɪv/ 'keə/ noun hospital care which is planned in advance, rather than a response to an emergency

Electra complex /ɪˌlekˈtraʊˌkɒmplɛks/ noun (in psychology) a condition in which a girl feels sexually attracted to her father and sees her mother as an obstacle

electric shock /ɪˌlekˈtrɪk/ 'ʃɒk/ noun a sudden passage of electricity into the body, causing a nervous spasm or, in severe cases, death

electric shock treatment /ɪˌlekˈtrɪk/ 'trætmənt/ noun same as electroconvulsive therapy (internal)

electro- /ˌlɛkˈtraʊ/ prefix referring to electricity

electrocardiogram /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌkɑrˈdiəɡrɑm/ noun a chart which records the electrical impulses in the heart muscle. Abbr ECG, EEG

electrocardiography /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌkɑrˈdiəɡrɑfɪ/ noun the process of recording the electrical impulses of the heart

electrocardiophraphy /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌkɑrˈdiəfəˈrɑfɪ/ noun the process of recording the electrical impulses of the heart

electrocardiograph /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌkɑrˈdiəɡrɑf/ /noun an apparatus for measuring and recording the electrical impulses of the muscles of the heart as it beats

Electrocardiography /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌkɑrˈdiəɡrɑfɪ/ noun the process of recording the electrical impulses of the heart

electroencephalograph /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌenˌsɛfəˈlɒɡ/ noun a recording apparatus which records the electrical impulses in the brain

electroencephalography /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌenˌsɛfəˈlɒɡɪ/ noun the process of recording the electrical impulses in the brain

electroencephalogram /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌenˌsɛfəˈlɑməˈɡrɑm/ noun a chart showing the electric currents in active muscles. Abbr EMG

electroencephalogram /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌenˌsɛfəˈlɑməˈɡrɑm/ noun a chart showing the electric currents in active muscles

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electroencephalography /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌenˌsɛfəˈlɑməˈɡrɑm/ noun a chart showing the electric currents in active muscles

Electric shock treatment /ɪˌlekˈtrɪk/ 'trætmənt/ noun the treatment of severe depression and some mental disorders by giving someone who has been anaesthetised small electric shocks in the brain to make him or her have convulsions. Abbr ECT. Also called electrotherapy

electrode /ˌlɛkˈtraʊd/ noun the conductor of an electrical apparatus which touches the body and carries an electric shock

electrodesiccation /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌdɛsɪˈkeɪʃn/ /noun same as fulguration

electroencephalogram /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌenˌsɛfəˈlɑməˈɡrɑm/ noun a chart which records the electrical impulses in the brain are recorded. Abbr EEG

electroencephalograph /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌenˌsɛfəˈlɑfəˈɡrɑf/ noun an apparatus which records the electrical impulses in the brain

electroencephalography /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌenˌsɛfəˈlɑfəˈɡrɑfɪ/ noun the process of recording the electrical impulses in the brain

electrolysis /ˌlɛkˈtrɪlɪsɪs/ /noun the destruction of tissue by unwanted hair with applying an electric current

electrolyte /ˌlɛkˈtrɪlɪt/ noun a chemical solution which can conduct electricity

electrolytic mixture /ˌlɛkˈtrɪlɪt/ 'mɪks/ noun a pint (0.56 litres) of boiled water with a teaspoonful of sugar and a generous pinch of table salt used for the prevention of diarrhoea

electrolytic /ˌlɛkˈtrɪlɪt/ adjective referring to electrolytes or to electrolysis

electromyogram /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌmɪəˈɡrɑm/ noun a chart showing the electric currents in active muscles

electromyography /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌmɪəˈɡrɑfɪ/ noun the study of electric currents in active muscles

electronic stethoscope /ˌlektroʊˈstɪθˌskɒp/ noun a stethoscope with an amplifier which makes sounds louder

Electronystagmography /ˈlɛkˌtraʊˌnɪstˌeɪɡˈmɔːgrɑfɪ/ noun measuring of nystagmus

electrooculogram /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌoʊˈkjʊləˌɡrɑm/ noun a record of the electric currents round the eye, induced by eye movements

electrooculography /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌoʊˈkjʊləˌɡrɑfɪ/ noun the process of recording electrical currents round the eye, induced by eye movements, especially for use in remote control

electrophoresis /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌfəˈrɪsɪs/ noun the analysis of a substance by the movement of charged particles towards an electrode in a solution

electroplexy /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌplekˈsɪ/ noun same as electroconvulsive therapy

electroretinogram /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌrɛtəˈnɒɡrɑm/ noun the printed result of electroretinography. Abbr ERG

electroretinography /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌrɛtəˈnɒɡrɑfɪ/ noun the process of recording electrical changes in the retina when stimulated by light

electroretinography /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌrɛtəˈnɒɡrɑfɪ/ noun the process of recording electrical changes in the retina when stimulated by light

electrothermy /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌθɜːrˈmi/ noun the treatment of a disorder such as some forms of paralysis by using low-frequency electric current to try to revive the muscles

electrotherapy /ˌlɛkˈtraʊˌθɜːrˈmi/ noun the treatment of a disorder such as some forms of paralysis by using low-frequency electric current to try to revive the muscles

element /ˈɛləmənt/ noun a basic simple chemical substance which cannot be broken down into simpler substances

elephantiasis /ɛlˈfɛntɪəˈsɪs/ noun a condition in which parts of the body swell and the skin becomes hardened, frequently caused by infestation with various species of the parasitic worm Filaria

elevate /ˈɛlvət/ verb to raise something or to lift something up. To control bleeding, apply pressure and elevate the part.

Elevation /ˌeləˈveʃn/ noun a raised part
elevation sling /ˌeləˈveɪʃən/ slang noun a
sling tied round the neck, used to hold an in-
jured hand or arm in a high position to control
bleeding
elevator /ˈelɪvətər/ noun 1. a muscle which
raises part of the body 2. a surgical instrument
used to lift part of a broken bone
eliminate /ɪˈmɪnɪteɪt/ verb to remove waste
matter from the body The excess salts are
eliminated through the kidneys.
elimination /ɪˌlɪmɪˈneɪʃən/ noun the re-
moval of waste matter from the body
elimination diet /ˌlɪmɪˈneɪʃən ˈdaɪət/ noun a
structured diet where different foods are
eliminated one at a time in order to see the
effect on symptoms, used in conditions such as
allergies and attention deficit hyperactivity
disorder
ELISA /ˈɛlɪzə/ noun a process in which an
enzyme binds to an antibody or antigen and
causes a colour change that shows the pre-

e
ea presence or amount of protein in a sample of bi-

alogical material. Full form enzyme-linked im-

munosorbent assay
elixir /ˈɛlɪksər/ noun a sweet liquid which
hides the unpleasant taste of a drug
elliptocytosis /ɪˌlɪptəˈsɪtɒsɪs/ noun a con-
dition in which unusual oval-shaped red
cells appear in the blood
emaciated /ɪˈmæʃətɪd/ adjective very thin
and extremely underweight
emaciation /ɪˈmæʃəʃən/ noun 1. the fact
of being extremely thin and underweight 2. the
loss of body tissue
emaculation /ɪˌmækʃəˈleɪʃən/ noun the
removal of spots from the skin
emasculatory /ɪˌmæskjuˈleɪtɒrɪ/ noun 1.
the removal of the penis 2. the loss of male
characteristics
embalm /ˈembəlm/ verb to preserve a dead
body by using special antiseptic chemicals to
prevent decay
embolectomy /ˌembəlɪˈektɒmɪ/ noun a sur-
gical operation to remove a blood clot
embol /ˌembəl/ plural of embolus
embolisation /ˌembəlɪˈzaɪʃn/ noun the
use of emboli inserted down a
catheter into a blood vessel to treat internal
bleeding
...once a bleeding site has been located, a
catheter is manipulated as near as possible to it, so
that embolisation can be carried out. Many different materi-
als are used as the embolus. [British Medical
Journal]
embolism /ˈembəlɪzəm/ noun the block-
ing of an artery by a mass of material, usually
a blood clot, preventing the flow of blood
embolus /ˌembələs/ noun 1. a mass of mate-
rial which blocks a blood vessel, e.g. a blood
clot, air bubble or fat globule 2. material insert-
ed into a blood vessel down a catheter to treat
internal bleeding (NOTE: The plural is emboli.)
embrocation /ˌembroʊˈkeʃən/ noun same as
liniment
embryo /ˈembroʊ/ noun an unborn baby dur-
ing the first eight weeks after conception
(NOTE: After eight weeks, the unborn baby is
called a fetus.)
embryological /ˌembroʊˈlɒdʒɪkəl/ adjective
referring to embryology
embryology /ˌembroʊˈlɒdʒɪ/ noun the study
of the early stages of the development of an embryo
embryonic /ˌembroʊˈnɪk/ adjective 1. refer-
ing to an embryo 2. in an early stage of develop-
ment
embryonic ectoderm /ˌembroʊˈnɪk ˈektədɜrn/ noun
embryonic membrane /ˌembroʊˈnɪk ˈmembroʊm/ noun one of the two layers around an
embryo providing protection and food sup-
ply, i.e. the amnion and the chorion
embryonic mesoderm /ˌembroʊˈnɪk ˈmesədɜrn/ noun
embryogenesis /ˌembroʊˈnjɪdʒənəs/ noun a situa-
tion where urgent immediate action has to be taken
emergency medical technician /ˌemərˈdʒənəs ˈmedɪʃən ˈtekər/ noun US a trained paramedic who gives care to victims at the scene of an accident or in an ambulance.
Abbr EMT
emergency medicine /ˌemərˈdʒənəs ˈmedɪʃən/ noun the treatment of patients whose condition is serious and requires urgent immediate action
emergency room /ˌemərˈdʒənəs ˈrʊm/ noun the part of a hospital where people who need urgent immediate treatment are dealt with
emergency ward /ˌemərˈdʒənəs ˈwɔrd/ noun the part of a hospital where people who need urgent immediate treatment are dealt with
emesis /ˈeməsɪs/ noun same as vomiting
emetic /ˈemətɪk/ noun a substance which
causes vomiting • adjective causing vomiting
EMG abbr electromyogram
eminence /ˈemɪnəns/ noun something which
protrudes from a surface, e.g. a lump on a bone or
swelling on the skin
emissary vein /ˈemɪsərɪ ˈveɪn/ noun a vein
through the skull which connects the venous
sinuses with the scalp veins
emission /ɪˈmɪʃn/ noun a discharge or re-
lease of fluid
emmenagogue /ˌemənəˈɡæg/ noun a drug
which will help increase menstrual flow
emmetropia /ˌeməˌtrəˈpiə/ noun the correct
focusing of light rays by the eye onto the retina
giving normal vision. Compare ametropia
emollient /ˈemələnt/ noun a substance
which soothes or smooths the skin, e.g. to pre-
vent the development of eczema • adjective
smoothening
emotion /iˈməʊʃə(n)/ noun a strong feeling
emotionality /iˈməʊʃələti/ noun, pl -ties a disorder due to worry, stress, grief or other strong emotion
emotional disorder /iˌməʊʃənl/ noun lacking in emotional development
empathy /ˈempæθi/ noun the ability to understand the problems and feelings of another person
empowerment /ɪmˈpaʊəmənt/ noun the act of giving someone authority and power to make decisions that will affect them
emergency /ɪˈmɜːdʒəntri/ noun, pl -ties (used before vowels) noun, pl -ties an urgent need or condition which requires immediate action
enanthema /ənˈænθəmə/ noun a rash on a mucous membrane, such as that of the mouth or vagina, produced by the action of toxic substances on small blood vessels
enanthrosis /ənˈænθrətis/ noun a ball and socket joint, e.g. the hip joint
encapsulated /ɪnˈkæpsjʊleɪtɪd/ adjective enclosed in a capsule or in a sheath of tissue
encephalin /ɪnˈkefəlɪn/ noun another spelling of enkephalin
encephaloid /ɪnˈkefəlɔɪd/ (adjective) referring to the brain tissue
encephaloma /ɪnˈkefələʊmə/ noun a tumour of the brain
encephalomalacia /ɪnˌkefələməˈleɪʃə/ noun softening of the brain
encephalomyelitis /ɪnˌkefələˈmeɪlɪtɪs/ noun a group of diseases which cause inflammation of the brain and the spinal cord
encephalomyelopathy /ɪnˌkefələˈmeɪləpəθi/ noun any condition where the brain and spinal cord are diseased
encephalon /ɪnˈkefəlɒn/ noun, pl -lae, en/pipe/vertstrokeinferiorsefə/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorləυmə (noun)
encephalography /ɪnˌkefələˈgrəfɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the ventricles and spaces of the brain taken after air has been injected into the cerebrospinal fluid by lumbar puncture
encephalosilis /ɪnˌkefələˈsɪlɪs/ noun a condition in which the brain produces through a congenital or traumatic gap in the skull bones
encephalocele /ɪnˌkefələˈsəʊlə/ noun (used before vowels) an X-ray photograph of the ventricles and spaces of the brain taken after air has been injected into the cerebrospinal fluid by lumbar puncture
encephalitis /ɪnˌkefələˈtaɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the brain
encephalitis lethargica /ɪnˌkefələˈtaɪtɪs ləˈθɑrɡɪkə/ noun same as lethargic encephalitis
encephalo- /ɪnˌkefələʊ-/ prefix referring to the brain
enforced labour /ɪnˈfɔːrd/ noun a condition in which a tumour formed of cartilage grows inside a bone
encopresis /ɪnˈkɔpriːsɪs/ noun faecal incontinence not associated with a physical condition or disease
encounter group /ɪnˈkɔntər/ noun a form of treatment of psychological disorders, where people meet and talk about their problems in a group
encysted

**encysted** /'en-sɪstɪd/ adjective enclosed in a capsule like a cyst

**end-** /'end/ prefix same as **endo-** (used before vowels)

**endanger** /'endərɪdʒ/ verb to put someone or something at risk ○ The operation may endanger the life of the patient.

**endarterectomy** /'endər-tɛktrəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the lining of a blocked artery. Also called **reore**

**endarteritis** /'endər-tɛrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the inner lining of an artery

**endarteritis obliterans** /'endər-tɛrɪtɪs əblɪtərəns/ a condition where inflammation in an artery is so severe that it blocks the artery

**end artery** /'end, aɪtərɪ/ noun the last section of an artery which does not divide into smaller arteries and does not join to other arteries

**endaural** /'endəʊ-rəl/ adjective inside the auditory canal

**endocervix** /'endəʊsɜrvɪks/ noun the portion of the lining of the uterus which is shed at each menstruation

**endocervicitis** /'endəʊsɜrvɪtɪs/ noun an inflammation of the lining of the uterus

**endocervical** /'endəʊsɜrvɪkl/ adjective inside a cartilage

**endocrine** /'endəʊkrɪn/ adjective relating to the endocrine glands or the hormones they secrete

**endocrine gland** /'endəʊkrɪn gland/ noun a gland without a duct which produces hormones which are introduced directly into the bloodstream, e.g. the pituitary gland, thyroid gland, the adrenal gland and the gonads. Also called **ductless gland**. Compare **exocrine gland**

**endocrine system** /'endəʊkrɪn sɪstəm/ noun a system of related ductless glands

**endocrinologist** /'endəʊkrɪn ələdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of endocrinology

**endocrinology** /'endəʊkrɪn ələdʒɪ/ noun the study of the endocrine system, its function and effects

**endoderm** /'endəʊdɜrm/ noun the inner of three layers surrounding an embryo. Also called **endodermal**

**COMMENT:** The endoderm gives rise to most of the epithelium of the respiratory system, the alimentary canal, some of the ductless glands the bladder and part of the urethra.

**endodermal** /'endəʊdɜrməl/ adjective referring to the endoderm. Also called **endodermal**

**endodontia** /'endəʊdəntjə/ noun treatment of chronic toothache by removing the roots of a tooth

**endogenous** /'en-dəʊdʒənəs/ adjective developing or being caused by something inside an organism. Compare **exogenous**

**endogenous depression** /'en-dəʊdʒənəs dɪprəʃən/ noun depression caused by no obvious external factor

**endogenous eczema** /'en-dəʊdʒənəs ɛk sɪmə/ noun eczema which is caused by no obvious external factor

**endolymph** /'endəʊlɪm/ noun a fluid inside the membranous labyrinth in the inner ear

**endolymphatic duct** /'endəʊlɪmˌfætɪk ˈdɑːkt/ noun a duct which carries the endolymph inside the membranous labyrinth

**endolysin** /'endəʊlɪsɪn/ noun a substance present in cells, which kills bacteria

**endometrial laser ablation** /'endəʊmɪtrɪəl ˈlɑːzər ˈæbləʃən/ noun a gynaecological surgical procedure using a laser to treat fibroids or other causes of thickening of the lining of the uterus

**endometriosis** /'endəʊmɪtrɪəsɪs/ noun a condition affecting women, in which tissue similar to the tissue of the uterus is found in other parts of the body

**endometritis** /'endəʊmɪtrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the lining of the uterus
endomyocarditis /ˌendəməʊˌkaːrdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the muscle and inner membrane of the heart
endomyosium /ˌendəməʊˈsɪəm/ noun connective tissue around and between muscle fibres
endoneurium /ˌendənəˈjʊriəm/ noun fibrous tissue between the individual fibres in a nerve
endoparasite /ˌendəpəˈræsət/ noun a parasite which lives inside its host, e.g. in the intestines. Compare ectoparasite
endophthalmitis /ˌendəfəθəlˈmaɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the interior of the eyeball
end organ /ˌend əˈɡɔrən/ noun a nerve ending with encapsulated nerve filaments
endorphin /ˌendəˈdɔrfɪn/ noun a peptide produced by the brain which acts as a natural painkiller. Also encephalin
endoscope /ˌendəˈskɒp/ noun an instrument used to examine the inside of the body, made of a thin tube which is passed into the body down a passage. The tube has a fibre optic light, and may have small surgical instruments attached.
endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography /ˌendəˈskɒpˌrɛtərəˈɡrɛdiəˌkɑnˌlɑɡˈjeɪpiˈpentəkreɪˈɡrɒf/ noun a method used to examine the pancreatic duct and bile duct for possible obstructions. Abbr ERCP
endoscopy /ˌendəˈskɒpi/ noun an examination of the inside of the body using an endoscope
endoskeleton /ˌendəˈskɛliən/ noun the inner structure of bones and cartilage in an animal
endosteam /ˌendəˈdɒstəm/ noun a membrane lining the bone marrow cavity inside a long bone
endothelial /ˌendəˈθɛliəl/ adjective referring to the endothelium
endotheloma /ˌendəˈθɛləʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour originating inside the endothelium
endothelium /ˌendəˈθɛliəm/ noun a membrane of special cells which lines the heart, the lymph vessels, the blood vessels and various body cavities. Compare epithelium, mesothelium
endothoxin /ˌendəˈθəksɪn/ noun a toxic substance released after the death of some bacterial cells
endotracheal /ˌendəˈtrækʃəl/ adjective same as intratracheal
endotracheal tube /ˌendəˈtrækʃəl ˈtjuːb/ noun a tube passed down the trachea, through either the nose or mouth, in anaesthesia or to help a person breathe
end plate /ˌend ˈplɛt/ noun the end of a motor nerve, where it joins muscle fibre
end stage renal disease /ˌend stɛːn ˈrɛniəl ˈdɪzəs/ noun the stage of kidney disease at which ureaemia occurs and dialysis needs to start. Abbr ESRD
enema /ˈendəmə/ noun a liquid substance put into the rectum to introduce a drug into the body, to wash out the colon before an operation or for diagnosis
enema bag /ˈendəmə bæg/ noun a bag containing the liquid for an enema, attached to a tube into the rectum
energy /ˈendərɪdʒi/ noun the force or strength to carry out activities ○ You need to eat certain types of food to give you energy.
enervation /ˌenəˈvərəʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. general nervous weakness 2. a surgical operation to remove a nerve
engorgement /ˌendəˈɡɔrəmənt/ noun the excessive filling of a vessel, usually with blood
enkephalin /ˌenkəˈfeɪlən/ noun US same as encephalin.
endophthalmitis /ˌendəfəθəlˈmaɪtɪs/ noun a condition in which the eyes are very deep in their sockets
enostosis /ˌenəˈstəsəs/ noun a harmless growth inside a bone, usually in the skull or in a long bone
enrolled /ˌenrəuld/ adjective registered on an official list
Enrolled Nurse /ˌenrəuld ˈnɜrəz/ noun 1 second-level nurse
enform /ˌɛnʃɪfɔʀm/ adjective shaped like a sword
ensiform cartilage /ˌɛnʃɪfɔrˈm kɑrˈtɪdʒ/ noun same as xiphoïd process
ENT abbr Ear, Nose & Throat
Entamoeba coli /ˌentəməˈbiːkoʊlə/ noun a harmless intestinal parasite
Entamoeba gingivalis /ˌentəməˈbiːɡɪnˈvaɪləs/ noun an amoeba that lives in the gums and tonsils, and causes gingivitis
Entamoeba histolytica /ˌentəməˈbiːhɪstəlɪˈtɪkə/ noun an intestinal amoeba which causes amoebic dysentery
ENT department /ˈɛnti ˈdɛptmənt/ noun a department of otorhinolaryngology
ENT doctor /ˈɛnti ˈdrəʊkə/ noun same as otorhinolaryngologist
enter- /ˈɛntər/ prefix same as entero- (used before vowel)
enteral /ˈentərəl/ adjective 1. referring to the intestine. Compare parenteral 2. referring to medication or food which is taken by mouth or through a nasogastric tube
enteral feeding /ˈɛntərəlfɪdɪŋ/ noun the feeding of a person by a nasogastric tube or by the infusion of liquid food directly into the intestine. Also called enteral nutrition 'Standard nasogastric tubes are usually sufficient for enteral feeding in critically ill patients' [British Journal of Nursing]

enteralgastrone /ˈɛntərəlɡɑːstrən/ noun same as colic enterally /ˈɛntərəlɪ/ adverb referring to a method of feeding a person by nasogastric tube or directly into the intestine 'All patients requiring nutrition are fed enterally, whether nasogastrically or directly into the small intestine' [British Journal of Nursing]

enteral nutrition /ˈɛntərəlnjuːˈnʌtrɪʃən/ noun same as enteral feeding

enterectomy /ˈɛntərəkətəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of part of the intestine

enteric /ˈɛntərɪk/ adjective referring to the intestine

enterico-coated /ˈɛntərɪkoʊtɛd/ adjective referring to a capsule with a coating which prevents it from being digested and releasing the drug until it reaches the intestine

enteric fever /ˈɛntərɪk fəvər/ noun US 1. any one of three fevers (typhoid, paratyphoid A and paratyphoid B) 2. any febrile disease of the intestines

enteritis /ˈɛntərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestine

entero- /ˈɛntərəʊ/ prefix referring to the intestine

Enterobacteria /ˈɛntərəbæktrɪəz/ noun a family of Gram-negative bacteria, including Salmonella, Shigella, Escherichia and Klebsiella

enterobiasis /ˈɛntərəbɪəsɪs/ noun a common children’s disease, caused by threadworms in the large intestine which cause itching round the anus. Also called oxyuriasis

Enterobius /ˈɛntərəbɪəs/ noun a small thin nematode worm, one species of which, Enterobius vermicularis, infests the large intestine and causes itching round the anus. Also called threadworm, pinworm

enterocele /ˈɛntərəˌsʊl/ enterocoele /ˈɛntərəˌkoʊl/ noun a hernia of the intestine

enterocentesis /ˈɛntərəˌsɛntəsɪs/ noun surgical puncturing of the intestines where a hollow needle is passed through the abdominal wall into the intestine to remove gas or fluid

enterococcus /ˈɛntərəˌkɒkəs/ noun a streptococcal bacterium that lives in the intestine (NOTE: The plural is enterococci.)

enterococci /ˈɛntərəˌkɒkəsaɪ/ another spelling of enterococci

enterocolitis /ˈɛntərəˌkɒlətɪs/ noun inflammation of the colon and small intestine

enterogastrone /ˈɛntərəˌɡɑːstrən/ noun a hormone released in the duodenum, which controls secretions of the stomach

enterogenous /ˈɛntərəˌdʒənəs/ adjective originating in the intestine

enterolith /ˈɛntərəˌləθ/ noun a stone in the intestine

enteron /ˈɛntərən/ noun the whole intestinal tract

enteropathy /ˈɛntərəˌpərəθ/ noun any disorder of the intestine. & gluten-induced enteropathy

enteropeptidase /ˈɛntərəˌpeptɪdəz/ noun an enzyme produced by glands in the small intestine

enteroptosis /ˈɛntərəˌpɔːtəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the intestine is lower than usual in the abdominal cavity

enterorrhaphy /ˈɛntərəˌrəfəri/ noun a surgical operation to stitch up a perforated intestine

enteroscope /ˈɛntərəskəʊp/ noun an instrument for inspecting the inside of the intestine

enterospasm /ˈɛntərəˌspæzəm/ noun an irregular painful contraction of the intestine

enterostomy /ˈɛntərəˌstəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening between the small intestine and the abdominal wall

enterotomy /ˈɛntərəˌtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical incision in the intestine

enterotoxin /ˈɛntərəˌtəʊkson/ noun a bacterial exotoxin which particularly affects the intestine

enterovirus /ˈɛntərəˌvɜːrəs/ noun a virus which prefers to live in the intestine. Entroviruses include poliomyelitis virus, Coxsackie viruses and the echoviruses

enterozoom /ˈɛntərəˌzuːm/ noun a parasitic which infects the intestine (NOTE: The plural is enterozoas.)

enteroderm /ˈɛntərəˌdɜːm/ noun same as endoderm

enterodermal /ˈɛntərəˌdɜːmərəl/ adjective same as endodermal

Entonox /ˈɛntənɒks/ noun a gas consisting of 50% oxygen and 50% nitrous oxide that is used as a panikiller during childbirth

entopic /ˌɛntɔpɪk/ adjective located or taking place in the usual position. Opposite ectopic

entropion /ˌɛntɔrpiən/ noun a turning of the edge of the eyelid towards the inside

enucleate /ɪˈnjuːklɪət/ verb to remove something completely

enucleation /ɪˈnjuːklɪəʃən/ noun 1. the surgical removal of all of a tumour 2. the surgical removal of the whole eyeball

enuresis /ɪnˈjuərɪsɪs/ noun the involuntary passing of urine

enuretic /ɪnˈjuːrətɪk/ adjective referring to enuresis, or causing enuresis

envenomation /ɪnˌvɛnəˈmeɪʃən/ noun the use of snake venom as part of a therapeutic treatment
environment /ɪnˌvɜːrənmənt/ noun the conditions and influences under which an organism lives
environmental /ɪnˌvɜːrənmənt(ə)/ adjective referring to the environment
Environmental Health Officer /ɪnˌvɜːrənmənt(ə)ˈhelɪə, ˈɒfɪsə/ noun an official of a local authority who examines the environment and tests for air pollution, bad sanitation, noise pollution and similar threats to public health. Abbreviation: EHO
environmental temperature /ɪnˌvɜːrənmənt(ə)ˈtɛmərtɪəl/ noun the temperature of the air outside the body
enzymatic /ˌɛnˈzɪmætɪk/ adjective referring to enzymes
enzyme /ˈɛnзəm/ noun a protein substance produced by living cells which aids a biochemical reaction in the body (NOTE: The names of enzymes mostly end with the suffix -ase.)
COMMENT: Many different enzymes exist in the body, working in the digestive system, in the metabolic processes and helping the synthesis of certain compounds.

enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay /ˌɛnзəmˌɪnjuˈməʊsərˌbənt ˈɑːsə/ full form of ELISA
eosin /ˈiːəsɪn/ noun cross-dressing, when a male wears female dress
eosinophilia /ˌiːəsɪnəˈfilɪə/ noun a red crystalline solid used as a biological staining dye
eosinopenia /ˌiːəsɪnəˈpiəniə/ noun a reduction in the number of eosinophils in the blood
eosinophil /ˌiːəsɪnəˈsfɪl/ noun a type of cell that can be stained with eosin
eosinophilia /ˌiːəsɪnəˈsfɪliə/ noun an excess of eosinophils in the blood
eparterial /ˈɛpərtɪərɪəl/ adjective situated over or on an artery
ependyma /ˈɛpendɪmə/ noun a thin membrane which lines the ventricles of the brain and the central canal of the spinal cord
ependymal /ˈɛpendɪməl/ adjective referring to the ependyma
ependymal cell /ˈɛpendɪməl/ noun one of the cells which form the ependyma
ependymoma /ˈɛpendɪməʊmə/ noun a tumour in the brain originating in the ependyma
epidemic /ˈɛpɪdɛmɪk/ noun an unusual amount of sweat
epi- /ˈɛpi/ prefix on or over
epiblepharon /ˈɛpiˌbɛləfərən/ noun an unusual fold of skin over the eyelid, which may press the eyelashes against the eyeball
epicanthus /ˈɛpiˌkænθəs/, epicantthic fold /ˌɛpiˌkænθɪk ˈfɔld/ noun a large fold of skin in the inner corner of the eye, common in babies and also found in adults of some groups such as the Chinese
epicardial /ˌɛpɪkɑrˈdɪəl/ adjective referring to the epicardium
epicardial pacemaker /ˌɛpɪkɑrˈdiəl ˈpækmeɪkə/ noun a pacemaker attached to the surface of the ventricle
epicardium /ˌɛpɪkɑrˈdɪəm/ noun the inner layer of the pericardium which lines the walls of the heart, outside the myocardium. See illustration at HEART in Supplement
epicondylic /ˌɛpɪkɑndɪˈlɪk/ noun same as tennis elbow
epidemiology /ˌɛpiˌdɛmɪələˈɒlədʒɪə/ a type of research that studies how diseases or their symptoms affect certain groups of people
epidemiologist /ˌɛpɪˌdɛmɪəˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a person who specialises in the study of diseases in groups of people
epidemic typhus /ˌɛpɪˌdɛmɪk ˈtɪfəs/ noun fever with headaches, mental disorder and a rash, caused by lice which come from other humans
epidemiological /ˌɛpɪˌdɛmɪə ˈlɒdʒɪk(ə)/ adjective concerning epidemiology
epidemiologist /ˌɛpɪˌdɛmɪəˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a person who specialises in the study of diseases in groups of people
epidemiology /ˌɛpɪˌdɛmɪələˈɒlədʒɪə/ the study of diseases in the community, in particular how they spread and how they can be controlled
epidermal /ˌɛpɪˌdɛrˈməl/ adjective referring to the epidermis
epidermis /ˌɛpɪˌdɛrˈmɪs/ noun the outer layer of the skin, including the dead skin on the surface. Also called cuticle
epidermoid cyst /ˌɛpɪˌdɛrˈmɔɪd ˈsɪst/ noun same as sebaceous cyst
epidermolysis /ˌɛpɪˌdɛrˈmɔləsɪs/ noun separation of the epidermis from the tissue underneath, usually forming a blister
epidermolysis bullosa /ˌepɪdɜːrəmˌɒləsɪs/ noun a group of disorders where blisters form on the skin
Epidermophyton /ˌepɪdɜːrəmˈɒfɪtən/ noun a fungus which grows on the skin and causes athlete’s foot, among other disorders
epidermophytosis /ˌepɪdɜːrəməʊˈfɒtɒsɪs/ noun a fungus infection of the skin, e.g., athlete’s foot
epididymal /ˌepɪdɪdɪməl/ adjective referring to the epididymis
epididymectomy /ˌepɪdɪdɪmɪktəmɪ/ noun the removal of the epididymis
epididymis /ˌepɪdɪdɪmɪs/ noun a long twisting thin tube at the back of the testis, which forms part of the efferent ducts of the testis, and in which spermatozoa are stored before ejaculation. See illustration at **urogenital system (male)** in Supplement
epididymitis /ˌepɪdɪdɪmɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the epididymis
epididymo-orchitis /ˌepɪdɪdɪməʊˈɔːrktɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the epididymis and the testes
epidural /ˌepɪdɪˈdʒʊərəl/ adjective on the outside of the dura mater. Also called extradural
epidural anaesthesia /ˌepɪdɪˈdʒʊərəl ˌænəˈæstheəsɪə/ noun a local anaesthesia in which an anaesthetic is injected into the space between the vertebral canal and the dura mater
epidural block /ˌepɪdɪˈdʒʊərəl ˈblɒk/ noun analgesia produced by injecting an analgesic solution into the space between the vertebral canal and the dura mater
epidural space /ˌepɪdɪˈdʒʊərəl ˈspɛs/ noun a space in the spinal cord between the vertebral canal and the dura mater
epigastric /ˌepɪˈɡæstrɪk/ adjective referring to the upper abdomen ○ The patient complained of pains in the epigastric area.
epigastrum /ˌepɪˈɡæstrəm/ noun the part of the upper abdomen between the ribcage and the navel. Also called the pit of the stomach
epigastrocele /ˌepɪˈɡæstrəʊsəl/ noun a hernia in the upper abdomen
epiglottis /ˌepɪˈɡlɒtɪs/ noun a flap of cartilage at the root of the tongue which moves to block the windpipe when food is swallowed, so that the food does not go down the trachea
epiglottitis /ˌepɪˈɡlɒtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation and swelling of the epiglottis
epilepsy /ˌepɪˈlɛpsi/ noun a disorder of the nervous system in which there are convulsions and loss of consciousness due to a disordered discharge of cerebral neurons
COMMENT: The commonest form of epilepsy is major epilepsy or ‘grand mal’, where a person loses consciousness and falls to the ground with convulsions. A less severe form is minor epilepsy or ‘petit mal’, where attacks last only a few seconds, and the person appears simply to be hesitating or thinking deeply.
epileptic /ˌepɪˈlɛptɪk/ adjective having epilepsy, or relating to epilepsy. ■ noun a person with epilepsy (note: the word ‘epileptic’ to describe a person is now avoided.)
epileptic fit /ˌepɪˈlɛptɪk ˈfɪt/ noun an attack of convulsions, and sometimes unconsciousness, due to epilepsy
epileptiform /ˌepɪˈlɛptɪfɔrm/ adjective being similar to epilepsy
epileptogenic /ˌepɪˈlɛptəʊˈdʒɛnɪk/ adjective causing epilepsy
epiolia /ˌepɪˈlɪə/ noun a hereditary disease of the brain associated with learning disabilities, epilepsy and tumours on the kidney and heart. Also called **tuberose sclerosis**
epimorphacia /ˌepɪˈmɔːrfəʃə/ noun occurring at very short intervals
epimorphoareation /ˌepɪˈmɔːrfoʊəreɪtʃən/ noun a condition in which the eye fills with tears either because the lacrimal duct is blocked or because excessive tears are being secreted
epiphageal /ˌepɪˈfɪzəl/ adjective referring to an epiphysis
epiphysial cartilage /ˌepɪˈfɪzɪəl ˈkɑːrtɪdʒ/ noun a type of cartilage in the bones of children and adolescents which expands and hardens as the bones grow to full size
epiphysial line /ˌepɪˈfɪzɪəl ˈlaɪn/ noun a plate of epiphyseal cartilage separating the epiphysis and the diaphysis of a long bone
epiphysis /ˌepɪˈfɪzɪs/ noun the area of growth in a bone which is separated from the main part of the bone by cartilage until bone growth stops. See illustration at **bone structure** in Supplement. Compare diaphysis, metaphysis
epiphysis cerebri /ˌepɪˈfɪzɪs ˈsɜːrəbrɪ/ noun the pineal gland. See illustration at **bone structure** in Supplement
epiphenomenon /ˌepɪˈfɛnəməˈnɒn/ noun something which is observed within the context of a larger phenomenon
epiplocele /ˌepɪˈpləʊsəl/ noun a hernia containing part of the omentum
epiploic /ˌepɪˈpləʊɪk/ adjective referring to the omentum
which occurs in separate attacks or separate but related incidents, e.g. asthma.

episclera /epˈsklɪərə/ noun the outer surface of the sclera in the eyeball

episcleritis /epˈsklɪrətɪts/ noun inflammation of the outer surface of the sclera in the eyeball

episi-ap-tizəvi, /epi-əp-tizəli/ noun a surgical cut of the perineum near the vagina to prevent tearing during childbirth

episode /epˈsəudə/ noun a separate occurrence of an illness

episcle /epˈsʌki/ adjective happening in separate but related incidents, e.g. asthma which occurs in separate attacks

episcleritis /epˈsɪklərətɪts/ noun inflammation of the outer surface of the sclera in the eyeball

Compare hypospadias

epispastic /epi-əp-stæstɪk/ noun same as vesicant

epistaxis /epi-əp-stæksɪs/ noun same as nosebleed

epithalamus /epiˈθɛləməs/ noun the part of the forebrain containing the pineal body

epithelial /epiˈθɛliəl/ adjective referring to the epithelium

epithelialisation /epiˈθɛliəlɪzaʃən/ noun a congenital condition where the urethra opens on the top of the penis and not at the end. Compare episiotomy

epithelial layer /epiˈθɛliəl ˈleɪər/ noun the epithelium

epithelial tissue /epiˈθɛliəl ˈtʃuːz/ noun epithelial cells arranged as a continuous sheet consisting of one or several layers

epithelioma /epiˈθɛliəmə/ noun a tumour arising from epithelial cells

epithelium /epiˈθɛliəm/ noun the layer or layers of cells covering an organ, including the skin and the lining of all hollow cavities except blood vessels, lymphatics and serous cavities.

Compare endothelium, mesothelium

COMMENT: Epithelium is classified according to the shape of the cells and the number of layers of cells which form it. The types of epithelium according to the number of layers are: simple epithelium (epithelium formed of a single layer of cells) and stratified epithelium (epithelium formed of several layers of cells). The main types of epithelial cells are: columnar epithelium (simple epithelium with long narrow cells, forming the lining of the intestines); ciliated epithelium (simple epithelium where the cells have cilia, forming the lining of air passages); cuboidal epithelium (with cube-shaped cells, forming the lining of glands and intestines) and squamous epithelium or pavement epithelium (with flat cells like scales, forming the lining of the pericardium, peritoneum and pleura).

epituberculosis /epiˈθjuːbəklərəsɪs/ noun swelling of the lymph node in the thorax, due to tuberculosis

eponym /epəˈnɪm/ noun a procedure, disease or part of the body which is named after a person

COMMENT: An eponym can refer to a disease or condition such as Dupuytren's contracture, or Guillain–Barré syndrome, a part of the body such as circle of Willis, an organism such as Leishmania, a surgical procedure such as Trendelenburg's operation or an appliance such as Kirschner wire.

Epsom salts /epˈsɒm ˈsɔːts/ noun same as magnesium sulphate

Epstein–Barr virus /epˈstæn ˈbɑːr ˈvɛərəs/ noun a virus which probably causes glandular fever. Also called EB virus (isolated and described 1964. After Michael Anthony Epstein (b. 1921), Bristol pathologist; Murray Lewinly Barr (1908–95). Canadian anatomist and cyologist, head of the Department of Anatomy at the University of Western Ontario, Canada.)

epulis /epuˈlɪs/ noun a small fibrous swelling on a gum

equil- /ɪˈkwɪl-/ adjective referring to balance

equino-varus /ɪˌkwɪnəʊˈvɑːrəs/ adjective referring to a congenital varus deformity of the lower limb

equilibrium /ɪˌkwɪlɪˈbrɪəm/ noun a state of balance

equino-varus /ɪˌkwɪnəʊˈvɑːrəs/ adjective referring to a congenital varus deformity of the lower limb

equip-endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography /eqˈwɪp-əndəskɒpɪk retroɡrəʊd kæləndʒiəpiˌpænkrəˈɛntrəʊgəθrəpi/ verb to remove something completely ○ international action to eradicate tuberculosis

eradicate /rəˈrædɪkət/ verb to remove something completely ○ international action to eradicate tuberculosis

eradication /rəˈrædɪkeɪʃən/ noun the act of removing something completely

Erb's palsy /ɛrbz ˈpælzi/ Erb's paralysis /ɛrbz ˈpærələsɪs/ noun a condition in which an arm is paralysed because of birth injuries to the brachial plexus. ○ Bell's palsy

ERCP abbr endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography

erect /ɪˈrɛkt/ adjective stiff and straight

erectile /ɪˈrɛktəl/ adjective able to become erect

erectile dysfunction /ɪˈrɛktəl dɪˈfʌŋkʃən/ noun a condition in which a man finds it difficult or impossible to have or maintain an erection during intercourse

erectile tissue /ɪˈrɛktəli ˈtʃuːz/ noun vascular tissue which can become erect and stiff when engorged with blood, e.g. the corpus cavernosum in the penis
erecture /ɪˈrɛktʃər/ noun a state where a body part such as the penis becomes swollen because of engorgement with blood
erector /ɪˈrɛktər/ noun a small muscle which raises a body part
erector spinae /ɪˈrɛktoʊ spɪnə/ noun a large muscle starting at the base of the spine, and dividing as it runs up the spine
erepsin /ɪˈrɛpsɪn/ noun a mixture of enzymes produced by the glands in the intestine, used in the production of amino acids
erepsinoid /ɪˌrɛpsɪnɔɪd/ noun a bacterial skin infection caused by touching infected fish or meat
erythema /ˌɛrɪθˈəmə/ noun redness on the skin, caused by hyperemia of the blood vessels near the surface
erythema ab igne /ˌɛrɪθˈəmə əb ɪˈɡnə/ noun a pattern of red lines on the skin caused by exposure to heat
erythema induratum /ˌɛrɪθˈəmə ɪnˈdʊrətəm/ noun a tubercular disease where ulcerating nodules appear on the legs of young women. Also called Bazin's disease
erythema multiforme /ˌɛrɪθˈəmə ˈmʌltɪfərm/ noun the sudden appearance of inflammatory red patches and sometimes blisters on the skin
erythema nodosum /ˌɛrɪθˈəmə ˈnəʊdəsəm/ noun an inflammatory disease where red swellings appear on the front of the legs
erythema pernio /ˌɛrɪθˈəmə ˈpɜːniəʊ/ noun same as chilblain
erythema serpens /ˌɛrɪθˈəmə ˈsɜːpəns/ noun a bacterial skin infection caused by touching infected fish or meat
erythematous /ˌɛrɪθˈrəʊmətəs/ adjective referring to erythema
erythrythina /ɪˈrɪθrɪθɪnə/ prefix same as erythro-
erythromycin /ˌɛrɪθrəˈmɪsən/ noun a drug used to speed up the delivery of the placenta in childbirth and to control postnatal bleeding
erogenic /ɪˈrɛgənɪk/ adjective producing sexual excitement
erogenous zone /ɪˈrɛnʤəzn/ noun a part of the body which, if stimulated, produces sexual arousal, e.g. the penis, clitoris or nipples
erosion /ɪˈrɔrəʃən/ noun the action of wearing away tissue or breaking down tissue
erotic /ɪˈrɔtɪk/ adjective relating to or arousing the feeling of sexual desire
ERPC abbr evacuation of retained products of conception
eructation /ɪˈrʊktəʃən/ noun same as belching
erupt /ɪˈrʊpt/ verb to break through the skin. The permanent incisors erupt before the premolars
eruption /ɪˈrʊpʃən/ noun 1. something which breaks through the skin, e.g. a rash or pimple 2. the appearance of a new tooth in a gum
ery- /ɛrə/ prefix same as erythro-
erypsipelas /ˌɛrɪpsɪpələs/ noun a contagious skin disease, where the skin on the face becomes hot, red and painful, caused by Streptococcus pyogenes
commonly found in faeces
as a symptom of chronic infections.

erythrocyte /er’tro-sit/ noun a mature red blood cell

...anemia may be due to insufficient erythrocyte production, in which case the corrected reticulocyte count will be low, or it may be due to hemorrhage or hemolysis, in which cases there should be reticulocyte response [Southern Medical Journal]

erythrocyte sedimentation rate /er’tro-sit’/ noun a test that measures how fast erythrocytes settle in a sample of blood plasma, used to confirm whether various blood conditions are present. Abbr ESR

erythrocytosis /er’tro-sit’o-sis/ noun an increase in the number of red blood cells in the blood

erythroderma /er’tro-d’ma/ noun a condition in which the skin becomes red and flakes off

erythroderma /er’tro-d’ma/ noun same as acrodermatitis

erythropoiesis /er’tro-poi’sis/ noun the formation of red blood cells in red bone marrow

erythropoiesis /er’tro-poi’sis/ noun the formation of lesions on the mucous membrane

erythroplasia /er’tro-pla’sis/ noun the formation of lesions on the mucous membrane

erythropoiesis /er’tro-poi’sis/ noun same as erythropoiesis

erythropoietin /er’tro-poi’tin/ noun a hormone which regulates the production of red blood cells

erythropoietin /er’tro-poi’tin/ noun a hormone which regulates the production of red blood cells

COMMENT: Erythropoietin can now be produced by genetic techniques and is being used to increase the production of red blood cells in anemia.

erythropoiesis /er’tro-poi’sis/ noun a condition in which someone sees things as if coloured red

Escherichia coli /es’er-i-khi-ə / noun a bacterium commonly found in faeces

Escherichia coli /es’er-i-khi-ə / noun a bacterium commonly found in faeces

Escherichia coli /es’er-i-khi-ə / noun a bacterium commonly found in faeces

escort nurse /es’kərt’ nūz/ noun a nurse who goes with patients to the operating theatre and back again to the ward

Esmarch’s bandage /es’markz ’band-dij/ noun a rubber band wrapped round a limb as a tourniquet before a surgical operation and left in place during the operation so as to keep the site free of blood [Described 1869. After Johann Friedrich August von Esmarch (1823–1908), Professor of Surgery at Kiel, Germany]

esophagus /e’sof-ag’əs/ noun US spelling of oesophagus

esotropia /e’sə-tro’pia/ noun a type of squint, where the eyes both look towards the nose. Also called convergent strabismus

essential /es’se-nəl/ adjective 1. extremely important

...it is essential to keep accurate records. 2. necessary for health or essential nutrients 3. without obvious cause

essential fatty acid /es’se-nəl ‘fat-ə/ noun an unsaturated fatty acid which is necessary for growth and health. Abbr EFA

COMMENT: The essential fatty acids are: linoleic acid, linolenic acid and arachidonic acid.

essential amino acid /es’se-nəl ‘am-nə-mə-nə/ noun an amino acid which is necessary for growth and health. Abbr EAA or EAS

essential element /es’se-nəl ‘el-mon’t/ noun a chemical element which is necessary for the body’s growth and function, e.g. carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen

essential oil /es’se-nəl ‘oil/ noun a concentrated oil

essential hypertension /es’se-nəl ‘ten-pə’rə-si∫/ noun high blood pressure without any obvious cause

essential oil /es’se-nəl ‘oil/ noun a medicinal or fragrant oil distilled from some part of a plant

essential tremor /es’se-nəl ‘trem’ə/ noun an involuntary slow trembling movement of the hands often seen in elderly people

essential uterine haemorrhage /es’se-nəl ‘hə-em’ə-rər/ noun heavy uterine bleeding for which there is no obvious cause

estrogen /es’trə-d÷n/ noun US same as oestrogen
ethambutol

ethambutol /iθəmbjuˈtɒl/ noun a drug that is part of the treatment for bacterial infections such as tuberculosis

ethanol /ˈeθanol/ noun a colourless liquid, present in alcoholic drinks such as whisky, gin and vodka, and also used in medicines and as a disinfectant. Also called ethyl alcohol

ethene /iθiːn/ noun same as ethylene

ethic /iθɪk/ noun an anaesthetic substance, now rarely used

ethical /iθɪkəl/ adjective 1. concerning ethics 2. referring to a drug available on prescription only

ethical committee /iθɪkəl ˈkɒmɪtɪ/ noun a group of specialists who monitor experiments involving human beings or who regulate the way in which members of the medical profession conduct themselves

euthen/loestradiol /euthəˌləʊeˈstrædɪəl/ noun an artificial hormone related to oestrogen that is effective in small doses. It forms part of hormone replacement therapy.

euthmoid /eθˈmɔɪd/ euthmoidal /eθˈmɔɪdəl/ adjective referring to the ethmoid bone or near to the ethmoid bone

euthmoidal sinuses /eθˈmɔɪdəl ˈsinəs/ plural noun air cells inside the ethmoid bone

euthmoid bone /eθˈmɔɪd bʌn/ noun a bone which forms the top of the nasal cavity and part of the orbits

euthmoidectomy /eθˈmɔɪdəktəmɪ/ noun an operation to remove the lining between the sinuses

euthmoiditis /eθˈmɔɪdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the ethmoid bone or of the ethmoidal sinuses

eutiotic /iθʊtɪk/ adjective relating to a culturally or racially distinctive group of people

ethyl alcohol /iθ′ælkəl/ noun same as ethanol

ethylene /iθˈɛtlən/ noun a gas used as an anaesthetic

ethylestrenol /eθiˈɛslətrənəl/ noun an anabolic steroid

etiology /iˈtiːlədʒi/ noun US same as etiolog

eu- /jjuː/ prefix good, well

eubacteria /jjuˈbæktrɪə/ noun true bacteria with rigid cell walls

eucalyptol /juˈkəlɪptəl/ noun a substance obtained from eucalyptus oil

eucalyptus /juˈkəlɪptəs/ noun a genus of tree growing mainly in Australia, from which a strongly smelling oil is distilled

eucalyptus oil /juˈkəlɪptəs ˈɔɪl/ noun an aromatic medicinal oil distilled from the leaves of various species of tree in the genus *Eucalyptus*

**COMMENT:** Eucalyptus oil is used in pharmaceutical products especially to relieve congestion in the respiratory passages.

eugeneics /jjuːˈdʒɛnɪks/ noun the study of how to improve the human race by genetic selection

eunch /ju:nək/ noun a castrated male

eupesia /jjuːˈpesiə/ noun good digestion

euphoria /jjuːˈfɔriə/ noun a feeling of extreme happiness

eutoplast /jjuːˈplɔstɪk/ adjective referring to tissue which heals well

Eustachian canal /jjuːˈstɛfɪən ˈkeɪn/ noun a passage through the porous bone forming the outside part of the Eustachian tube

**COMMENT:** The Eustachian tubes balance the air pressure on each side of the eardrum. When a person swallow or yawns, air is allowed into the Eustachian tubes and equalises the pressure with the normal atmospheric pressure outside the body. The tubes can be blocked by an infection, as in a cold, or by pressure differences, as inside an aircraft, and if they are blocked, the hearing is impaired.

ethanasia /iθˈθænəzɪə/ noun the painless killing of an incurably ill person or someone in a permanent coma in order to end their distress. Also called mercy killing (note: This practice is illegal in most countries.)

ethanise /iθˈθænəsɪz/ verb to kill an incurably ill person or someone in a permanent coma

euthyroid /jjuˈθaɪroʊd/ noun a condition where the thyroid is functioning normally

euthyroidism /jjuˈθaɪrɔɪdɪzəm/ noun, euthyroid state /jjuˈθaɪrɔɪd ˈsteɪt/ noun the fact of having a healthy thyroid gland

eutocia /jjuˈtɑːsɪə/ noun a standard birth

evacuant /iˈvækjuənt/ noun a medicine which makes a person have a bowel movement

evacuate /iˈvækjuət/ verb to discharge faeces from the bowel, or to have a bowel movement

evacuation /iˌvækjuəˈʃən/ noun the act of removing the contents of something, especially discharging faeces from the bowel

**COMMENT:** Ethanasia is the act of removing the contents of something, especially discharging faeces from the bowel. Ethanasia is not widely accepted in the medical community.

**Evacuation of retained products of conception** /iˌvækjuəˈʃən əv rɪˈtɛnt prɒdʌktɪz əv kanˈsepʃən/ noun a D & C operation performed after an abortion or miscarriage to ensure the uterus is left empty. Abbr ERPC
bowel

excise

1. noun an instrument used to empty a cavity such as the bladder or bowel

2. verb, 1. to examine and calculate the quantity or level noted.

evaluate /ɪˈvæljuət/ verb 1. to examine and calculate the quantity or level of something ○ The laboratory is still evaluating the results of the tests. 2. to examine someone and calculate the treatment required.

Tumour in the marrow of a long bone ○ The patient was re-examined regularly or when they felt they might be having an exacerbation. Exacerbation rates were calculated from the number of exacerbations during the study [Lancet].

examine /ɪɡˈzaːmɪn/ verb 1. an act of looking at someone or something carefully ○ From the examination of the X-ray photographs, it seems that the tumour has not spread. 2. the act of looking at someone to find out what is wrong with him or her ○ The surgeon carried out a medical examination before operating. 3. a written or oral test to see if a student is progressing satisfactorily (NOTE: In this sense, often abbreviated to exam.)

Evidence-based medicine /evidəns bɪˈzɛst/ adjective based on the results of well-designed trials of specific types of treatment for specific conditions ○ evidence-based practice

Evidence-based practice /evidəns bɪˈzɛst/ adjective referring to an examination or like an examination.

Evidence-based medicine /evidəns bɪˈzɛst/ noun medical practice where findings from research are used as the basis for decisions

Evacuator /ɪˈvækjuətər/ noun 1. a method of treating leukaemia or erythroblastosis in newborn babies, where almost all the blood is removed from the body and replaced with healthy blood

Excipient /ɪkˈspiənt/ noun a substance added to a drug so that it can be made into a pill

Exacerbate /ɪɡˈzɛsəˈbɛt/ verb to make a condition more severe ○ The cold damp weather will only exacerbate his chest condition.

Evaporation /ɪɡˈzaːrpoʊʃən/ noun 1. the act of looking at someone or something care-
excision /ɪkˈsɪʃən/ noun an operation by a surgeon to cut and remove part of the body such as a growth. Compare incision

excitation /ɪkˈsɪtəʃən/ noun the state of being mentally or physically aroused

excitatory /ɪkˈsɪtətɔrɪ/ adjective tending to excite

excite /ɪkˈsaɪt/ verb 1. to stimulate someone or something 2. to give an impulse to a nerve or muscle

excited /ɪkˈsaɪtɪd/ adjective 1. very lively and happy 2. aroused

excitement /ɪkˈsaɪtəmənt/ noun 1. the act of being excited 2. the second stage of anaesthesia

excoriation /ɪkˈskɔrɪəʃən/ noun a raw skin surface or mucous membrane after rubbing or burning

excrement /ɪkˈskrɪmənt/ noun same as faeces

excessence /ɪkˈskrɛsəns/ noun a growth on the skin

excreta /ɪkˈskrɛtə/ plural noun waste material from the body, especially faeces

excrete /ɪkˈsɛktri/ verb to pass waste matter out of the body, especially to discharge faeces

excreta /ɪkˈsɛktrətə/ plural noun waste material from the body, especially faeces, urine or sweat, out of the body

excruciating /ɪkˈskrʌʃətɪŋ/ adjective extremely painful ½ He had excruciating pains in his head.

exenteration /ɪkˈsentərəʃən/ noun the act of removing something, e.g. faeces, urine or sweat, out of the body

excretion /ɪkˈskrɛʃən/ noun the act of passing waste matter, e.g. faeces, urine or sweat, out of the body

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excretion /ɪkˈskrɛʃən/ noun the act of passing waste matter, e.g. faeces, urine or sweat, out of the body
of breathing out, or pushing air out of the lungs.

The process of breathing out is called expiration.

A person who has been taught how to manage his or her own medical care is called an expert patient.

The body in order to make a diagnosis, a person may have a sample of tissue removed for examination. This is called explantation.

A method of making someone’s heart start beating again by rhythmic pressure on the breaestbone is called external cardiac massage.

An artery which branches from the 137 external iliac artery is the 2. external iliac artery.

The removal of blood from the body is called exsanguination.

The act of forcing breath out of the body is called exsufflation.

An expert patient is someone under the influence of something.

The act of coughing up fluid or phlegm from the respiratory tract is called expectoration.

The process of learning from experience is called experiential learning.

The removal of blood from the body is called exsanguination.

A surgical operation to bring an internal organ to the outside surface of the body is called exteriorisation.

A method of making someone’s heart start beating again by rhythmic pressure on the breaestbone is called external cardiac massage.
concentrated essence of liver tract
stance, leaving only the essence
response through lack of reinforcement

2. vertstrokesuperiorfr/ashktʃə
sory nerve which is affected by stimuli from
surgery in the lungs for carbon dioxide from the blood
round the hip joint

extradural haemorrhage /ekstrə'djuərɔl 'hemˌɔrɪdʒ/ noun a serious condition where bleeding occurs between the dura mater and the skull.

extraembryonic /ekstrə'embriə'nɔn/ adjective referring to part of a fertilised ovum, such as the amnion, allantois and chorion which is not part of the embryo

extraembryonic membranes /ekstrə embriə'nɔn/ 'membrɛnz/ plural noun membranes which are not part of the embryo

extrapleural /ekstrə'pljuərəl adjective outside the pleural cavity

extrapyramidal /ekstrəp′riˌmədəl adjective outside the pyramidal tracts

extrapyramidal system /ekstrəp′riˌmədəl ˈsɪstəm/ noun a motor system which carries motor nerves outside the pyramidal system

extrapyramidal tracts /ekstrəp′riˌmədəl trækts/ plural noun same as extrapyramidal system

extrapyramidal system

extrapyramidal system

external /ekstrəməl adjective outside or stopping of something 2. the lessening or stopping of a conditioned behavioural response through lack of reinforcement

extrapipette /ekstrə'piːt/ verb to remove something by surgery

extirpation /ekstrə'pɛʃən/ noun the total removal of a structure, an organ or growth by surgery

extra- /ekstrə/ prefix outside

extracapsular /ekstrə'kæpsjʊəl adjective outside a capsule

extracapsular fracture /ekstrə'kæpsjʊəl ˈfrækʃən/ noun a fracture of the upper part of the femur, which does not involve the capsule round the hip joint

extracapsular fluid /ekstrə'kæpsjʊəl ˈflʌrid/ noun a fluid which surrounds cells

extract /noun /ekstrəkt/ verb /ik ˈstrækt/ to take out something 2. Adrenaline extracted from the animal’s adrenal glands is used in the treatment of asthma.

...all the staff are RGNs, partly because they do venesection, partly because they work in plasmapheresis units which extract plasma and return red blood cells to the donor [Nursing Times].

extraction /ik'strektʃən/ noun 1. the removal of part of the body, especially a tooth 2. in obstetrics, delivery, usually a breech presentation, which needs medical assistance

extradural /ekstrə'djuərəl adjective same as epidural

extradural haematoma /ekstrə'djuərəl hɪzˈmɑːtəmə/ noun a blood clot which forms in the head outside the dura mater, caused by a blow

extraneous /ekstrəˈneɪʃən/ noun 1. (in psychology) a condition in which a person is
inside out

a defence mechanism
of material such as fluid or cells into tissue as
moval of a tube after intubation

a condition or disease
posited on the surface of tissue as the result of
world
interested in people and things in the external

eyebath

eyebath

eye bank

eye bank

eyeball

eyeball

exudation

exudation

exudate

extubation

extubation

extroverted

extroverted

extrovert

extrovert

themselves

interested in people and things other than

grafts

of eyes given by donors can be kept for use in

eye ointment

an ointment in a special tube to be used in eye treat-

ment

eyebrow

an arch of skin with

a line of hair above the eye

eye drops

plural noun US
glasses or spectacles for correcting vision

eyelash

a small hair which
grows out from the edge of the eyelid

eyelid

a piece of skin which cov-
ers the eye. Also called blepharon, palpebra

eye socket

a canine tooth, one of
two pairs of pointed teeth next to the incisors

NOTE: The plural is eyeteeth.)
comes dislocated condition in which a joint in the vertebrae be-
nation to remove wrinkles on the face and
mask that fits over the nose and mouth and is
ined the patient's facial expression.
face and mouth which branches off the external carotid into the
ate source on a bone
condition in which a joint in the vertebrae be-
aming to related to, or appearing on, the face O The psychiatrist exam-
itied the patient's facial expression.
an artery which branches off the external carotid into the
bone noun one of the
fourteen bones which form the face
facial nerve noun the seventh crani-
faecal incontinence /fɛˈkɛl/ noun any inability to control the bowel movements

faecal /fɛˈkɛl/ adjective same as copro- 

faecal matter /fɛˈkɛl mɔrtər/ noun solid waste matter passed from the bowels through the anus. Also called stools, bowel movement (NOTE: For other terms referring to faeces, see words beginning with sterco-)

Fahrenheit /ˈfærəhənt/ noun same as temperature Fahrenheit scale /ˈfærəhənt skɛl/ a scale of temperatures where the freezing and boiling points of water are 32° and 212° under standard atmospheric pressure (NOTE: Used in the US, but less common in the UK. Usually written as an F after the degree sign: 32°F (say: ‘thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit’).)

COMMENT: To convert degrees Fahrenheit into degrees Celsius, subtract 32 and divide the remainder by 1.8.

fall (verb) to fall, to become weaker and less likely to recover

fallen arches /ˈfɔʊln ˈərks/ noun a condition in which the arches in the sole of the foot are not high

fall ill /ˈfɔl ɪl/ verb to get ill or to start to have an illness (NOTE: He fell ill while on holiday and had to be flown home.)

Fallopian tube /ˈfæləˌpiən tjuːb/ noun one of two tubes which connect the ovaries to the uterus. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (FEMALE) (NOTE: For other terms referring to Fallopian tubes, see words beginning with salpingo-.) (Described 1561. After Gabriele Fallopio (1523–63), Italian man of medicine. He was Professor of Surgery and Anatomy at Padua, where he was also Professor of Botany.)

COMMENT: Once a month, ova (unfertilised eggs) leave the ovaries and move down the Fallopian tubes to the uterus. At the point where the Fallopian tubes join the uterus an ovum may be fertilised by a sperm cell. Sometimes fertilisation and development of the embryo take place in the Fallopian tube itself. This is called an ectopic pregnancy, and can be life-threatening if not detected early.

Fallot's tetralogy /fɔˈlɔt ˈtɛtrəlɔdʒi/ noun same as tetralogy of Fallot (Described 1888. After Etienne-Louis Arthur Fallot (1850–1911), Professor of Hygiene and Legal Medicine at Marseilles, France.)

false /fɔls/ adjective not true or not real

false pains /fɔls ˈpɛnz/ plural noun pains which appear to be labour pains but are not

false pregnancy /fɔls ˈprɛŋɡərəni/ noun a condition in which a woman believes wrongly that she is pregnant and displays symptoms and signs of pregnancy

false rib /fɔls ˈrɪb/ noun one of the bottom five ribs on each side which are not directly attached to the breastbone

false teeth /fɔls ˈtɪəθ/ plural noun dentures, artificial teeth made of plastic, which fit in the mouth and take the place of teeth which have been extracted

false vocal cords /fɔls ˈvɑːk(ə)l, ˈkɔrdz/ plural noun same as vestibular folds

faux /fɔ, lɛksi, fɔ kəˈbri/ plural noun a fold of the dura mater between the two hemispheres of the cerebrum

family /ˈfæməl/ noun a group of people who are related to each other, especially mother, father and children

family doctor /ˈfæməl dɔkər/ noun a general practitioner

family planning /ˈfæməl ˈplænɪŋ/ noun the use of contraception to control the number of children in a family

family planning clinic /ˈfæməl ˈplænɪŋ ˈklaɪn/ noun a clinic which gives advice on contraception

family therapy /ˈfæməl ˈθɛrəpi/ noun a type of psychotherapy where members of the
famotidine

family of a person with a disorder meet a ther-
apist to discuss the condition and try to come
to terms with it

famotidine /fəˈmɒtɪdɪn/ noun a histamine
which reduces the secretion of gastric acid and
is used to treat ulcers

Fanconi syndrome /fænˈkɒni ˌsɪndrəʊm/ noun a kidney disorder where amino acids are
present in the urine [Described 1927. After Guı-
di Fanconi (b.1892), Professor of Paediatrics at
the University of Zurich, Switzerland.]

fantasise /ˈfæntəsʌɪz/, fantasize verb to im-
agine that things have happened

fantasy /ˈfæntəsɪ/ noun a series of imaginary
events which someone believes really took
place

FAP abbr familial adenomatous polyposis

farcy /ˈfɔːrsɪ/ noun a form of glanders which
affects the lymph nodes

farinaceous /fəˈrɪnəs/ adjective referring
to flour, or containing starch

farmer’s lung /ˈfɑːmərz ˈlʌŋ/ noun a type of
asthma caused by an allergy to rotting hay

FAS abbr fetal alcohol syndrome

fascia /ˈfæʃə/ noun fibrous tissue covering a
muscle or an organ [NOTE: The plural is fasci-
ea.]

fascia lata /ˈfæʃə lətə/ noun a wide sheet of
tissue covering the thigh muscles

fasciculation /ˈfæʃɪkjʊˈleɪʃən/ noun small
muscle movements which appear as trembling
skin

fasciculus /ˈfæʃɪkjuːləs/ noun a bundle of
nerve fibres [NOTE: The plural is fasciculi.]

fascitis /ˈfæʃɪtɪs/ noun an inflammation of
the connective tissue between muscles or
around organs

fascioliasis /ˈfæsɪkjəliəsɪs/ noun a disease
caused by parasitic liver flukes

Fasciolopsiasis /ˈfæsɪkjəlˌɒpsoʊsɪs/ noun a type
of liver fluke, often found in the Far East,
which is transmitted to humans through con-
taminated waterplants

fast /fɑːst/ noun a period of going without
food, e.g. to lose weight or for religious rea-
sions [verb to go without food О The patient
should fast from midnight of the night before
an operation.]

fastigium /ˈfæstɪdʒjʊm/ noun the highest
temperature during a bout of fever

fat /fæt/ adjective big and round in the body О
You ought to eat less – you’re getting too fat.
[NOTE: fattest О most fat О noun a. a white oily
substance in the body, which stores energy and
protects the body against cold О b. a type of food
which supplies protein and Vitamins A and D,
especially that part of meat which is white, and
solid substances like lard or butter produced
from animals and used for cooking, or liquid
substances like oil О If you don’t like the fat on
the meat, cut it off О Fry the eggs in some fat.

NOTE: Fat has no plural when it means the sub-
stance: the plural fats is used to mean different
types of fat. For other terms referring to fats, see
also lipid and words beginning with steato-]

comment: Fat is a necessary part of the diet
because of the vitamins and energy-giving
calories which it contains. Fat in the diet
comes from either animal fats or vegetable
fats. Animal fats such as butter, fat meat or
cream, are saturated fatty acids. It is believed
that the intake of unsaturated and polyunsatu-
rated fats, mainly vegetable fats and oils,
and fish oil, in the diet, rather than animal fats,
helps keep down the level of cholesterol in the
blood and so lessens the risk of atherosclero-
sis. A low-fat diet does not always help to re-
duce body weight.

fatal /ˈfætəl/ adjective causing or resulting in
death О He had a fatal accident О Cases of
bee stings are rarely fatal.

fatality /ˈfætəlɪtɪ/ noun a death as the result of
something other than natural causes О There
were three fatalities during the flooding.

fatally /ˈfætəli/ adverb in a way which caus-
es death О His heart was fatally weakened by
the lung disease.

father /ˈfæðər/ noun a biological or adoptive
male parent

fatigue /ˈfætɪj/ noun very great tiredness [verb
to tire someone out О He was fatigued by
the hard work.

fatigue fracture /ˈfætɪj frɛkˈteɪʃən/ noun О
stress fracture

fat-soluble /ˈfæt ˈsɒljəb/ adjective able to
dissolve in fat О Vitamin D is fat-soluble.

fatty /ˈfætɪ/ adjective containing fat

fatty acid /fætɪˈæsɪd/ noun an organic acid
belonging to a group that occurs naturally as
fats, oils and waxes. О essential fatty acid

fatty degeneration /ˈfætɪ dʒiˈnərəʃən/ noun same as adipose degeneration

fauces /ˈfɔːsɪz/ noun an opening between
the tonsils at the back of the throat, leading to
the pharynx.

favism /ˈfeɪvɪzɪzɪm/ noun a type of inherited
anaemia caused by an allergy to beans

favus /ˈfeɪvəs/ noun a highly contagious type
of ringworm caused by a fungus which attacks
the scalp

FDA abbr US Food and Drug Administration

feas /ˈfeɪs/ noun a state where a person is afraid of
something О fear of flying

febricula /ˈfɛbrɪkjʊlə/ noun a low fever

febrifuge /ˈfɛbrɪfjuːdʒ/ noun a drug which
prevents or lowers a fever, e.g. aspirin О ad-
jective preventing or lowering fever

febrile /ˈfɛbrɪl/ adjective referring to a fever,
or caused by a fever

febrile convulsion /ˈfɛbrɪl kənˈvʌlʃən/ noun a convulsion in a child, lasting a short
time, associated with a fever

febrile disease /ˈfɛbrɪl dɪsˈɛs/ noun a dis-
ease which is accompanied by fever
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bottle feeding</td>
<td>The act of feeding with a bottle, typically used for infants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intravenous feeding</td>
<td>Feeding through an IV line, used to deliver medication or nutrition directly into the bloodstream.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>glycemic control</td>
<td>Monitoring and adjusting blood sugar levels, particularly important for diabetics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feedback</td>
<td>Information or comments about something that has been done or the result of an action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feeding</td>
<td>The act of giving food to someone, whether by mouth or through an IV line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feeding cup</td>
<td>A special cup with a spout, used for feeding people who cannot feed themselves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feeling</td>
<td>A subjective experience of sensation, such as heat or itchiness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fermentation</td>
<td>A process where carbohydrates are broken down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female sex hormone</td>
<td>A hormone that plays a key role in the development of female characteristics in a male.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femoral</td>
<td>Pertaining to the femur, the long bone in the leg that connects the hip to the knee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femorals</td>
<td>Plural of femur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female condom</td>
<td>A rubber sheath inserted into the vagina before intercourse, covering the walls of the vagina and the cervix.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female condom test</td>
<td>A test for the presence of a female condom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femoral head</td>
<td>The head of the femur, the part of the bone that connects the hip to the thigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femoral artery</td>
<td>A continuation of the external iliac artery, which runs down the front of the thigh and crosses to the back of the thigh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femoral canal</td>
<td>The inner tube of the sheath surrounding the femoral artery and vein.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femoral neck</td>
<td>A narrow part between the head and the diaphysis of the femur.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femoral pulse</td>
<td>A pulse taken in the groin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femoral triangle</td>
<td>A slight hollow in the groin which contains the femoral vessels and nerve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femoral vein</td>
<td>A vein running up the upper leg, a continuation of the popliteal vein.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femoralis</td>
<td>A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug that is used to manage the pain of arthritis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>femur</td>
<td>The bone in the leg that connects the hip to the knee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fenestration</td>
<td>A small opening in the inner ear, such as the round window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fenestral</td>
<td>Of or pertaining to a small opening.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fenestra</td>
<td>A small opening in the ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fenestral ovalis</td>
<td>A small opening in the ovary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fenestral rotunda</td>
<td>A small opening in the endometrium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fenestrations</td>
<td>A surgical operation to relieve deafness by making a small opening in the inner ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fenoprofen</td>
<td>A non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drug that is used to manage the pain of arthritis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fentanyl</td>
<td>A narcotic drug that is a powerful painkiller.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Medical Terms**:

- **Christian von Fehling**: A German chemist who developed the Fehling's test.
- **Felty's syndrome**: A condition, associated with rheumatoid arthritis, in which the spleen is enlarged and the number of white blood cells increases.
- **Fenestra rotunda**: A small opening in the endometrium.
- **Femoral (noun)**: The femur, the long bone in the leg that connects the hip to the knee.
- **Femoral (adjective)**: Pertaining to the femur.
- **Femoral canal**: The inner tube of the sheath surrounding the femoral artery and vein.
- **Femoral head**: A narrow part between the head and the diaphysis of the femur.
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- **Fenestration**: A surgical operation to relieve deafness by making a small opening in the inner ear.
- **Fenestral**: Of or pertaining to a small opening.
- **Fenestral ovalis**: A small opening in the ovary.
- **Fenestral rotunda**: A small opening in the endometrium.

**Other Medical Terms**:

- **fertilisation**: The act of bringing male and female reproductive matter together. Also called fertilization.
- **feebler**: A medical term for someone who is very weak.
- **feeding**: The act of giving food to someone, whether by mouth or through an IV line.
- **feedback**: Information or comments about something that has been done or the result of an action.
- **feeling**: A subjective experience of sensation, such as heat or itchiness.
- **female condom**: A rubber sheath inserted into the vagina before intercourse, covering the walls of the vagina and the cervix.
- **female sex hormone**: A hormone that plays a key role in the development of female characteristics in a male.
- **feminisation**: A process where carbohydrates are broken down.
ferric

by enzymes from yeast and produce alcohol. Also called zymosis
ferric /'ferık/ adjective containing iron with a
valency of three
ferritin /'ferıtın/ noun a protein found in the
liver that binds reversibly to iron and stores it
for later use in making haemoglobin in red
blood cells
ferrous /'ferııs/ adjective containing iron with
a valency of two
ferrous sulphate ,/ferısı 'səlfıt/ noun a
white or pale green iron salt that is used in
the treatment of iron-deficient anaemia
ferrule /'ferıl/ noun a metal or rubber cap or
ring that strengthens and protects the lower
end of a crutch or walking stick ■ verb to fit a
ferrule onto a crutch or walking stick
fertile /'fətəl/ adjective able to produce chil-
dren. Opposite sterile
fertilisation /'fətəlɪzəʃɒn/ , fertilization
noun the joining of an ovum and a sperm to
form a zygote and so start the development
of an embryo
fertilise /'fətəlaɪz/, fertilize verb (of a sperm)
to join with an ovum
fertility /'fətərɪt/ noun the fact of being fer-
tile. Opposite sterile
fertility drug /'fətərɪti dɹɒg/ noun a drug
that stimulates ovulation, given to women un-
dergoing in vitro fertilisation
fertility rate /'fətərɪti rɛt/ noun the number of
births per year calculated per 1000 females
aged between 15 and 44
FESS abbr functional endoscopic sinus sur-
gery
fester /'festər/ verb (of an infected wound)
to become inflamed and produce pus ■ His legs
were covered with festering sores.
festation /'festətɪʃɒn/ noun a way of
walking in which a person takes short steps,
seen in people who have Parkinson’s disease
fetal /'fɛtəl/ adjective referring to a fetus
fetal alcohol syndrome ,/fɛtəl ælkoʊrhol
'sɜndrɒm/ noun damage caused to the fetus
by alcohol in the blood of the mother, which
affects the growth of the embryo, including its
facial and brain development. Abbrev FAS
fetal distress /'fɛtəl 'dɪstrɛs/ noun a con-
dition, e.g. a heart or respiratory problem, in
which a fetus may not survive if the condition
is not monitored and corrected
fetal dystocia ,/fɛtəl 'dɪstəkiə/ noun a
difficult childbirth caused by a malformation
or malpresentation of the fetus
fetal heart /'fɛtəl hɑrt/ noun the heart of the
fetus
fetalis /'fɛtəlɪs/ e erythroblastosis fetalis
fetal monitor ,/fɛtəl 'mɒnɪtər/ noun an
electronic device which monitors the fetus in
the uterus
fetal position /'fɛtəl pəzɪʃn/ noun a
position where a person lies curled up on his or
her side, like a fetus in the uterus
fetishism /'fɛtʃɪzəm/ , fetichism noun a
psychological disorder in which someone gets
sexual satisfaction from touching objects
fetishist ,/fɛtʃɪst/ , fetichist noun a person
who has fetichism
feto- /'fɛtəʊ-/ prefix fetus
fetoprotein /'fɛtəpɛrtrɪn/ noun α alpha-
fetoprotein
fetor /'fɛtər/ noun a bad smell
fetoscope /'fɛtɒskəʊp/ noun a stethoscope
used in fetoscopy
fetoscopy /'fɛtɒskəʊpi/ noun an examination
of a fetus inside the uterus, taking blood sam-
ples to diagnose blood disorders
fetus /'fɛtəs/ noun an unborn baby from two
months after conception until birth, before
which it is called an embryo
FEV abbr forced expiratory volume
fever /'fɪvər/ noun 1. a rise in body tempera-
ture ■ She is running a slight fever. ■ You must
stay in bed until the fever has gone down. 2. a
condition when the temperature of the body is
higher than usual ■ also called pyrexia
COMMENT: Average oral body temperature is
about 98.6°F or 37°C and rectal temperature
is about 99°F or 32°C. A fever often makes the
patient feel cold, and is accompanied by
pains in the joints. Most fevers are caused by
infections. Infections which result in fever in-
clude cat-scratch fever, dengue, malaria,
malaria, meningitis, psittacosis, Q fever, rheumatic fe-
ver, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, scarlet fe-
er, septicaemia, typhoid fever, typhus and
yellow fever
fever blisters /'fɪvə r bɪstəz/ noun same as fe-
ver sore
feverfew /'fɪvə fʃu/ noun a herb, formerly
used to reduce fevers, but now used to relieve
migraine
fervor /'fɜvər/ adjective with a fever ■
He felt feverish and took an aspirin. ■ She is
in bed with a feverish chill.
fever sore /'fɪvə r sɔr/ noun a cold sore or
bubbling sore, usually on the lips
fiber /'faɪbər/ noun US same as fibre
fibr- /'faɪbr-/ prefix referring to fibres, fibrous
(used before vowels)
fibrate /'faɪbrɪt/ suffix used in names of lip-
id-lowering drugs
fibre /'faɪbər/ noun 1. a structure in the body
shaped like a thread 2. same as dietary fibre
fibre optics /'faɪbər ˈɒptɪks/, fibreoptics
noun the use of thin fibres which conduct light
and images to examine internal organs
fibreoptoscope /'faɪbərɒskoʊp/ noun a device
made of bundles of optical fibres which is
passed into the body, used for examining inter-
nal organs
fibril /'faɪbrɪl/ noun a very small fibre
fibrillate /ˈfaɪbrɪleɪt/ verb to undergo rapid irregular uncontrolled contractions, or make the heart or muscles undergo this type of contraction

fibrillating /ˈfaɪbrɪleɪtɪŋ/ adjective with fluttering of a muscle. They applied a defibrillator to correct a fibrillating heartbeat.

fibrillation /ˈfaɪbrɪlɪʃən/ noun the fluttering of a muscle.

Cardiovascular effects may include atrial arrhythmias but at 30°C there is the possibility of spontaneous ventricular fibrillation [British Journal of Nursing]

fibrin /ˈfaɪbrɪn/ noun a protein produced by fibrinogen, which helps make blood coagulate

COMMENT: Removal of fibrin from a blood sample is called defibrination.

fibrin foam /ˈfaɪbrɪn ˈfɔːm/ noun a white material made artificially from fibrinogen, used to prevent bleeding

fibrinogen /ˈfaɪbrɪnəʊdʒən/ noun a substance in blood plasma which produces fibrin when activated by thrombin

fibrinolysin /ˈfaɪbrɪnˌɒləsɪn/ noun an enzyme which digests fibrin. Also called plasmin

fibrinolysis /ˈfaɪbrɪnˌɒləsɪs/ noun the removal of blood clots from the system by the action of fibrinolysin on fibrin. Also called thrombolysis

fibrinolytic /ˈfaɪbrɪnˌɒlətɪk/ adjective referring to fibrinolysis ○ fibrinolytic drugs Also called thrombolytic

fibro- /ˈfaɪbrəʊ-/ prefix referring to fibres

fibroadenoma /ˈfaɪbrəʊˌedənəʊmə/ noun a benign tumour formed of fibrous and glandular tissue

fibroblast /ˈfaɪbrəʊbɛlst/ noun a long flat cell found in connective tissue, which develops into collagen

fibrocartilage /ˈfaɪbrəʊˌkɑrətlɪdʒ/ noun cartilage and fibrous tissue combined

COMMENT: Fibrocartilage is found in the discs of the spine. It is elastic like cartilage and pliable like fibre.

fibrochondritis /ˈfaɪbrəʊkɔndrətɪs/ noun inflammation of the fibrocartilage

fibrocyte /ˈfaɪbrəʊˌsaɪt/ noun a cell which derives from a fibroblast and is found in connective tissue

fibrocytic disease /ˈfaɪbrəʊˌsaɪtɪk ˈdɪzəs/ noun the presence of fibrocytes; diseases of fibrocytes

fibrocyte /ˈfaɪbrəʊˌsaɪt/ noun a deformed growth of the elastic fibres, especially in the ventricles of the heart

fibroid /ˈfaɪbrəʊd/ adjective like fibre ■ noun same as fibroid tumour

fibroid degeneration /ˈfaɪbrəʊd ˈdʒenərəʃən/ noun the change of healthy tissue to fibrous tissue, e.g. as in cirrhosis of the liver

fibroid tumour /ˈfaɪbrəʊd ˈtjuːmər/ noun a benign tumour in the muscle fibres of the uterus. Also called uterine fibroid, fibromyoma

fibromyoma /ˈfaɪbrəʊˌmaɪəmə/ noun a small benign tumour formed in connective tissue

fibromuscular /ˈfaɪbrəʊˌmjuːskələr/ adjective referring to fibrous tissue and muscular tissue

fibromyalgia /ˈfaɪbrəʊˌmaɪəlˌdʒɪə/ noun a painful inflammation of the fibrous tissue which surrounds muscles and joints, especially the muscles of the back

fibrous /ˈfaɪbrəs/ adjective made of fibres, or like fibre

fibrous capsule /ˈfaɪbrəs ˈkæpsjʊl/ noun fibrous tissue surrounding a kidney. Also called renal capsule

fibrous joint /ˈfaɪbrəs ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint where fibrous tissue holds two bones together so that they cannot move, as in the bones of the skull

fibrous pericardium /ˈfaɪbrəs ˈpɜːrɪˌkɑrdɪəm/ noun the outer part of the pericardium which surrounds the heart, and is attached to the main blood vessels

fibrous tissue /ˈfaɪbrəs ˈtʃuːs/ noun strong white tissue which makes tendons and ligaments and also scar tissue

fibula /ˈfaɪbjuːla/ noun the thinner of the two bones in the lower leg between the knee and the ankle. Compare tibia (NOTE: The plural is fibulae.)

fibular /ˈfaɪbjuːlər/ adjective referring to the fibula

field /fɪld/ noun an area of interest ○ He specialises in the field of community medicine. ○ Don’t see that specialist with your breathing problems – his field is obstetrics.

field of vision /ˈfɪld əv ˈvɪʒən/ noun same as visual field

fight or flight reaction /ˈfaɪt ɔːr ˈflaɪt ri/ noun the theory that an organism which is faced with a threat reacts either by preparing to fight or to escape

fil /fɪl/ prefix referring to a thread

filament /ˈfɪləmənt/ noun a long thin structure like a thread
filamentous /'filəmentəs/ adjective like a thread
Filaria /fɪlərɪə/ noun a thin parasitic worm which is found especially in the lymph system, and is passed to humans by mosquitoes (note: the plural is Filariae.)
*COMMENT: Infestation with Filariae in the lymph system causes elephantiasis.
filariasis /ˌfɪləˈræsɪs/ noun a tropical disease caused by parasitic threadworms in the lymph system, transmitted by mosquito bites
filiform /ˌfɪlɪfɔrm/ adjective shaped like a thread
filiform papillae /ˌfɪlɪfɔrm ˈpæpɪli/ plural noun papillae on the tongue which are shaped like threads, and have no taste buds
filipuncture /ˌfɪlɪpʌŋktʃə/ noun the procedure of putting a wire into an aneurysm to cause blood clotting
fill /fɪl/ verb ☞ to fill a tooth to put metal into a hole in a tooth after it has been drilled
filling /ˈfɪlɪŋ/ noun 1. a surgical operation carried out by a dentist to fill a hole in a tooth with amalgam 2. amalgam, metallic mixture put into a hole in a tooth by a dentist
film /fɪlm/ noun a very thin layer of a substance covering a surface
filter /ˈfɪltər/ noun a piece of paper or cloth through which a liquid is passed to remove any solid substances in it 2 verb to pass a liquid through a membrane, piece of paper or cloth to remove solid substances 3 Impurities are filtered from the blood by the kidneys.
filtrate /ˈfɪltərɪt/ noun a substance which has passed through a filter
filtration /ˌfɪltərəˈʃ(ə)n/ noun the action of passing a liquid through a filter
filum /ˈfɪləm/ noun a structure which is shaped like a thread
filum terminale /ˌfɪləm ˈtɛrəmɪnəl/ noun the thin end section of the pia mater in the spinal cord
FIM abbr functional independence measure
fimbria /ˈfɪmbriə/ noun a fringe, especially the fringe of hair-like processes at the end of a Fallopian tube near the ovaries (note: the plural is fimbriae.)
final common pathway /ˌfainəl ˈkɒmən pæθwɔ/ noun linked neurons which take all impulses from the central nervous system to a muscle
fine /fain/ adjective 1. healthy 2. He was ill last week, but he's feeling fine now. 3. referring to something such as hair or thread which is very thin 4. There is a growth of fine hair on the back of her neck. 5. Fine sutures are used for delicate operations.
finger /ˈfɪŋɡər/ noun one of the five parts at the end of the hand, but usually not including the thumb (note: the names of the fingers are: little finger, third finger or ring finger, middle finger, forefinger or index finger.)
*COMMENT: Each finger is formed of three finger bones (the phalanges), but the thumb has only two.
fingernail /ˈfɪŋɡənɛıl/ noun a hard thin growth covering the end of a finger 2. damaged and dinged fingernails
finger-nose test /ˌfɪŋɡər ˈnɔz ertest/ noun a test of coordination, where the person is asked to close their eyes, stretch out their arm and then touch their nose with their index finger
fingerprint /ˌfɪŋɡərpɪrənt/ noun a mark left by a finger when something is touched. ☞ genetic
fingertip /ˌfɪŋɡərˈtɪp/ noun a cover for an infected finger, attached to the hand with strings
fireman's lift /ˈfaɪərmenz ˈlɪft/ noun a way of carrying an injured person by putting their body over one shoulder.
firm /fɜːm/ noun a group of doctors and consultants in a hospital, especially one to which a trainee doctor is attached during clinical studies (informal)
first aid /ˈfɜːst ˈeɪd/ noun help given by a non-medical person to someone who is suddenly ill or injured before full-scale medical treatment can be given 2. She gave him first aid in the street until the ambulance arrived.
first-aid kit /ˈfɜːst ˈeɪd ˌkɪt/ noun a box with bandages and dressings kept ready to be used in an emergency
first-aid post /ˈfɜːst ˈeɪd ˌpɔʊst, ˈfɜːst-aid ˌpɔʊst/ noun a place where injured people can be taken for immediate care
first-aid station /ˈfɜːst ˈeɪd ˌsteɪʃən/ noun 1. a relative with whom an individual shares 50% of their genes, e.g. a father, mother, sibling or child
first-ever stroke /ˈfɜːst ˌɛvr ˈstrʌk/ noun a stroke which someone has for the first time in his or her life
first intention /ˈfɜːst inˈtenʃən/ noun the healing of a clean wound where the tissue forms again rapidly and no prominent scar is left
first-level nurse /ˈfɜːst ˌlev(ə)l ˈnɜːs/ noun, first-level Registered Nurse /ˈfɜːst ˌlev(ə)l ˈredʒəd ˈnɜːs/ noun a nurse who has passed qualifying examinations, is registered as such with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and can
act in an independent decision-making role. Compare second-level nurse
fissile /ˈfɪsɪl/ adjective able to split or be split
fission /ˈfɪʃən/ noun the act of dividing into two or more parts
 fissure /ˈfɪʃər/ noun a crack or groove in the skin, tissue or an organ horizontal and oblique fissures grooves between the lobes of the lungs. See illustration at lungs in Supplement
fist /ˈfɪst/ noun a hand which is tightly closed fistula /ˈfɪstjələ/ noun a passage or opening which has been made unusually between two organs, often near the rectum or anus fistula in ano /ˈfɪstjəluː ɪn ˈænəʊ/ noun same as anal fistula fit /fɪt/ adjective strong and physically healthy ◆ She exercises every day to keep fit. ◆ The doctors decided the patient was not fit for surgery. (Note: filter – fitted) ◆ He isn’t fit enough to work be is still too ill to work. ◆ fissure a sudden attack of a disorder, especially convulsions and epilepsy ◆ She had a fit of coughing. ◆ He had an epileptic fit. ◆ The baby had a series of fits. ◆ verb 1. to attach an appliance correctly ◆ The surgeons fitted the artificial hand to the patient’s arm or fitted the patient with an artificial hand. 2. to provide a piece of equipment for someone to wear ◆ She was fitted with temporary support. 3. to have convulsions ◆ The patient has fitted twice. (Note: fitting – fitted. Note also: you fit someone with an appliance.)

fitness /ˈfɪtnəs/ noun the fact of being strong and healthy ◆ Being in the football team demands a high level of physical fitness. ◆ He had to pass a fitness test to join the police force.

fixed /ˈfɪksət/ adjective referring to a person who has too close an attachment to another person, often to a parent

fixation /ˈfɪkʃən/ noun a psychological disorder where a person does not develop beyond a particular stage

fixative /ˈfɪkstətɪv/ noun a chemical used in the preparation of samples on slides

fixator /ˈfɪkstətər/ noun a metal rod placed through a bone to keep a part of the body rigid

fixed oil /ˈfɪksət ˈɒɪl/ noun 1. an oil which is liquid at 20°C 2. liquid fats, especially those used as food

flab /ˈflæb/ noun soft fat flesh (informal) ◆ He’s doing exercises to try to fight the flab.

flabby /ˈflæbɪ/ adjective with soft flesh ◆ She had got a flabby from sitting at her desk all day.

flaccid /ˈflæksɪd/ adjective soft or flabby

flaccidity /ˈflæksɪdɪtɪ/ noun the state of being flaccid

flagellate /ˈflædʒəlat/ noun a type of parasitic protozoan which uses whip-like hairs to swim, e.g. Leishmania

flagellum /ˈflædʒələm/ noun a tiny growth on a microorganism, shaped like a whip (Note: The plural is flagella.)

Flagyl /ˈflædʒəl/ a trade name for metronidazole

flail /fleɪ/ verb to thrash around with uncontrolled or violent movements, particularly of the arms

flail chest /ˈfleɪl ʧɛst/ noun a condition in which the chest is not stable, because several ribs have been broken

flame /flɛm/ noun a flat piece attached to something, especially a piece of skin or tissue still attached to the body at one side and used in grafts

flare /flɛr/ noun reddened colouring of the skin at an infected spot or in urticaria

flashback /ˈfleɪʃbæk/ noun a repeated and very vivid memory of a traumatic event

flash burn /ˈflɛs bɜːrn/ noun a burn caused when a body part is briefly exposed to a source of intense heat

flat foot /ˈfleɪt ˈfʊt, ˈfleɪt ˈfʊt/ noun a condition in which the soles of the feet lie flat on the ground instead of being arched as usual.

Also called pes planus

flatline /ˈflætlɪn/ verb to fail to show on a monitor any of the electrical currents associated with heart or brain activity (Note: monitor readout on an EEG or ECG indicating total cessation of brain or cardiac activity, respectively

flatulence /ˈflætljʊlns/ noun gas or air which collects in the stomach or intestines causing discomfort. Comment: Flatulence is generally caused by indigestion, but can be made worse if the person swallows air (aerophagy).

flatulent /ˈflætljʊlənt/ adjective having flatulence, or caused by flatulence

flatus /ˈflɛtəs/ noun air and gas which collects in the gastrointestinal tract and is painful

flatworm /ˈflætwaːrn/ noun any of several types of parasitic worm with a flat body, e.g. a tapeworm. Compare roundworm

flea /flε/ noun a tiny insect which sucks blood and is a parasite on animals and humans

Comment: Fleas can transmit disease, most especially bubonic plague which is transmitted by infected rat fleas.

flecainide /ˈfleɪkəneɪd/ noun a drug that helps to correct an irregular heartbeat

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flecainide /ˈfleɪkəneɪd/ noun a drug that helps to correct an irregular heartbeat
flesh /flɛʃ/ noun tissue containing blood, forming the part of the body which is not skin, bone or organs

flesh wound /ˈflɛʃ wʊnd/ noun a wound which only affects the fleshy part of the body

flex /flɛks/ verb to bend something □ to flex a joint to use a muscle to make a joint bend

flocculation /flɔkˈʃuələˈkeɪʃən/ noun the act of forming flocs of particles in suspension or colloidal solutions

floccillation /flɔkˈʃuələˈkeɪʃən/ noun the action of forming flocs of particles in suspension or colloidal solutions

floppy baby syndrome /ˈflʌpi bəˈbi/ noun a condition in which infants have difficulty keeping their heads raised and their necks extended

flooding /ˈflʌdɪŋ/ noun the act of entering or flowing into a part of the body

flu /fljuː/ noun 1. a short form of influenza □ flu to show it is a short form of influenza

fluconazole /fljuˈkɒnəzəʊl/ noun a drug used to treat fungal infections such as candidiasis

fluoxetine /′fljuːtrɛksəʊt/ noun a drug used to increase serotonin in the brain and is used to treat anxiety and depression

fluoxetine hydrochloride /fluˈkɒnəzəʊl haɪˈdrəʊkloʊrɪd/ noun a drug used to increase serotonin in the brain and is used to treat anxiety and depression

flush /flʌʃ/ noun a red colour in the skin □ flush of red to wash a wound with liquid

flutter /′flʌtər/ verb 1. to wash a wound with liquid □ (of person) to turn red

fluid /ˈfljuːd/ noun 1. any gas, liquid or powder which flows

fluid balance /ˈfljuːd bæləns/ noun the maintenance of the balance of fluids in the body during dialysis or other treatment

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fluoxetine hydrochloride /fluˈkɒnəzəʊl haɪˈd
heart, which is not controlled by impulses from the sinoatrial node.

**flux** /flʌks/ noun an excessive production of liquid from the body

**focal** /'fɔsk(ə)l/ adjective referring to a focus

**focal distance** /'fɔsk(ə)l ˈdɪstrəns/ focal length /'fɔsk(ə)l ˈlɛŋθ/ noun the distance between the lens of the eye and the point behind the lens where light is focused

**focal epilepsy** /'fɔsk(ə)l ˈɛpɪliːpsɪ/ noun epilepsy arising from a localised area of the brain

**focal myopathy** /'fɔsk(ə)l ˈmeɪəpəθi/ noun destruction of muscle tissue caused by a substance injected in an intramuscular injection

**focus** /'fɔskəs/ noun 1. the point where light rays converge through a lens 2. the centre of an infection (NOTE: The plural is **foci**.) 3. verb 1. to adjust a lens until an image is clear and sharp 2. to see clearly ○ He has difficulty in focusing on the object.

**focus group** /'fɔskəs ɡrɔup/ noun a discussion group of lay people brought together under professional guidance to discuss issues such as care.

**foetal** /'fəʊət(ə)l/ adjective another spelling of *fetal* (NOTE: The spelling *foetal* is common in general use in British English, but the spelling *fetal* is the accepted international spelling for technical use.)

**foetor** /ˈfəʊtər/ noun another spelling of fetor

**foetoscopy** /'fəʊtəskəpɪ/ noun another spelling of fetoscopy

**foetus** /'fəʊtəs/ noun another spelling of fetus (NOTE: The spelling *foetus* is common in general use in British English, but the spelling *fetus* is the accepted international spelling for technical use.)

**fovir** /'fəʊvɜːr/ noun same as follicle

**fold** /fɔld/ noun a part of the body which is bent so that it lies on top of another part

**folic acid** /'fəʊlɪk ˈeɪsɪd/ noun a vitamin in the Vitamin B complex found in milk, liver, yeast and green vegetables such as spinach, which is essential for creating new blood cells, (COMMENT: Lack of folic acid can cause anaemia and neural tube disorders in the developing fetus. It can also be caused by alcoholism.

**folie à deux** /ˌfɔli ə ðy/ noun a rare condition where a psychological disorder is communicated between two people who live together

**follicle** /ˈfɔlɪkl/ noun a tiny hole or sac in the body

**COMMENT:** An ovarian follicle goes through several stages in its development. The first stage is called a primordial follicle, which then develops into a primary follicle and becomes a mature follicle by the sixth day of the period. This follicle secretes oestradiol until the ovum has developed to the point when it can break out, leaving the corpus luteum behind.

**follicle-stimulating hormone** /ˌfɔlɪkl(ə)l ˈstimjələt(ə)l ˈhəʊmjən/ noun a hormone produced by the pituitary gland which stimulates ova in the ovaries and sperm in the testes.

**focal** /'fɔsk(ə)l/ adjective referring to follicles

**foliculate** /ˈfəʊlkjələt/ adjective referring to follicles

**folicular tumour** /ˈfəʊlkjʊlar ˈtjuːmər/ noun a tumour in a follicle

**foliculin** /ˈfəʊlkjʊlɪn/ noun an oestrone, a type of oestrogen ○ She is undergoing folliculine treatment.

**foliculitis** /ˈfəʊlkjʊlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the hair follicles, especially where hair has been shaved

**follow** /ˈfɒləʊ, ˈfɒlʊ/, /ˈfɒləʊ/ 'ap/ verb to check on someone who has been examined before in order to assess the progress of a disease or the results of treatment

**follow-up** /ˈfɒləʊˌap/ noun a check on someone who has been examined before ○ ...length of follow-ups varied from three to 108 months. Thirteen patients were followed for less than one year, but the remainder were seen regularly for periods from one to nine years [New Zealand Medical Journal]

**fomentation** /ˌfəʊməntəˈteɪʃən/ noun same as poultice

**fomites** /ˌfəʊmɪtɪz/ plural noun objects touched by someone with a communicable disease which can then be the means of passing on the disease to others

**fontanelle** /ˈfɒntənɛl/ noun the soft cartilage between the bony sections of a baby’s skull

**fontanel** /ˈfɒntənɛl/ noun the soft cartilage between the bony sections of a baby’s skull

**COMMENT:** The fontanelles gradually harden over a period of months and by the age of 18 months the bones of the baby’s skull are usually solid.

**food allergen** /ˈfʊd əˈlɛdʒ(ə)n/ noun a substance in food which produces an allergy

**food allergy** /ˈfʊd əˈlɛdʒi/ noun an allergy to a specific food such as nuts, which causes a severe reaction that may lead to life-threatening anaphylactic shock

**food canal** /ˈfʊd kəˈnæl/ noun the passage from the mouth to the rectum through which food passes and is digested

**food intolerance** /ˈfʊd ɪnˈtɛrəlnəst/ noun an adverse reaction to some foods such as oranges, eggs, tomatoes and strawberries

**food poisoning** /ˈfʊd ˈpɔsɪnɪŋ/ noun an illness caused by eating food which is contaminated with bacteria

**foot** /fʊt/ noun the end part of the leg on which a person stands

**COMMENT:** The foot is formed of 26 bones: 14 phalanges in the toes, five metatarsals in the main part of the foot and seven tarsals in the heel.

**footpump** /ˈfʊtpʌmp/ noun a device to reduce the risk of post-operative deep-vein thrombosis by mechanical use of leg muscles.
foramen /fɔrəˈmɛn/ noun a natural opening through which veins or nerves pass (NOTE: The plural is foramina.)

foramen magnum /fɔrəˈmɛn ˈmeɡnʌm/ noun the hole at the bottom of the skull where the brain is joined to the spinal cord

foramen ovale /fɔrəˈmɛn ˈɔvəli/ noun an opening between the two parts of the heart in a fetus

COMMENT: The foramen ovale usually closes at birth, but if it stays open the blood from the veins can mix with the blood going to the arteries, causing cyanosis.

foramina /fɔrəˈmɛnə/ plural of foramen

forced expiratory volume (FEV) /fɔrˈsid ek ˈspɪrət(ə)rɪ vɒlju/ noun the maximum amount of air that can be expelled in a given time. Abbrev. FEV

force-feed /fɔːrs fɛd/ verb to make someone swallow food against their will, e.g. by using a tube to put it directly down their throat

forceps /fɔrsps/ noun a surgical instrument with handles like a pair of scissors, made in different sizes and with differently shaped ends, used for holding and pulling

forceps delivery /fɔrsps dɛlɪvəri/ noun childbirth where the doctor uses forceps to help the baby out of the mother’s uterus

fore- /fɔr/ prefix in front

forearm /fɔrɑrm/ noun the lower part of the arm from the elbow to the wrist

forehead /fɔrˈhed/ noun the part of the face above the eyes

foreign /fɔrˈɪn/ adjective 1. not belonging to your own country or foreign visitors or a foreign language 2. referring to something that is found where it does not naturally belong, especially something found in the human body that comes from a source outside the body or a foreign object or foreign matter

foreign body /fɔrˈɛn bɔdi/ noun a piece of material which is not part of the surrounding tissue and should not be there, e.g. sand in a cut, dust in the eye or a pin which has been swallowed.

forensically /fɔrənˈski/ adjective relating to the use of science in solving criminal investigations or settling legal cases

forensic medicine /fɔrənsɪk ˈmɛdɪəsɪm/ noun the branch of medical science concerned with finding solutions to crimes against people and which involves procedures such as conducting autopsies on murdered people or taking blood samples from clothes

foreskin /fɔrˈskɪn/ noun the skin covering the top of the penis, which can be removed by circumcision. Also called prepuce

forewaters /fɔrwɔɹtəz/ plural noun fluid which comes out of the vagina at the beginning of childbirth when the amnion bursts

formalin /fɔrˈmælin/ noun 1. a piece of paper with blank spaces which you have to write in (NOTE: You have to fill in a form when you are admitted to hospital. 3. a state or condition of being in good form) he’s in good form today he is very amusing, he is doing things well.

formaldehyde /fɔrˈmældɪhɑɪd/ noun a gas with an unpleasant smell that is a strong disinfectant. When dissolved in water to make formalin, it is also used to preserve medical specimens

formaldehyde /fɔrəˈmælin/ noun a solution of formaldehyde in water, used to preserve medical specimens

formation /fɔrməʃən/ noun the action of forming something. Drinking milk helps the formation of bones.

foramina /fɔrəˈmɛnə/ plural of foramen

foremilk /fɔrəmɪlk/ noun the relatively low-fat milk with a high sugar content that is produced by a woman at the beginning of a breast feed
fracture /fræktʃ(ə)r(ə)n/ (of bone) to break ○ The tibia fractured in two places. 2. to break a bone ○ He fractured his wrist.

fragility or brittleness /frægɪləti/ noun patterns of coloured light, seen as part of the aura before a migraine attack occurs

foscarnet /fɒsˈkærnət/ noun an antiviral drug administered by intravenous injection that is effective against herpesviruses that are resistant to acyclovir. It is especially used for people with AIDS.

fossa /fɒsə/ noun a shallow hollow in a bone or the skin

foster children /ˈfɒstər ˈkɪdəntʃɪən/ plural noun children brought up by people who are not their own parents

foster parent /ˈfɒstər ˈpeərənt/ noun a woman or man who brings up a child born to other parents

Fothergill’s operation /ˈfəʊðəɹɡɪlz əˈpəʊʃ(ə)n/ noun a surgical operation to correct prolapse of the uterus [After W. E. Fothergill (1865–1926), British gynaecologist.]

foundation hospital /ˈfəʊndəʃən ˈhɒsɪpɪt(ə)l/ noun in the UK, a proposed type of hospital that would be independent of its Local Health Authority in financial matters

fourchette /fwaʃe/ noun a fold of skin at the back of the vulva

fovea /fəʊvə/ fovea centralis /fəʊvə ˈsɛntrəlis/ noun a depression in the retina which is the point where the eye sees most clearly. See illustration at eye in Supplement

FP10 /ef pɪ: ˈteni/ noun in the UK, an NHS prescription from a GP

frequency /ˈfrekwənsi/ noun the particular size and shape of someone’s body 2. a solid support for something. ○ walking frame, Zimmer frame

framework /ˈfreməkwɔːk/ noun the main bones which make up the structure of part of the body

francyctin /fənˈsɑːsɪtɪn/ noun an antibiotic

fraternal twins /ˈfrætərənl ˈtwɪnz/ plural noun same as dizygotic twins

freckle /ˈfrendʒəl/ adjective with brown spots on the skin

freeze (from) /frɪz/ verb to anaesthetise part of the body (informal) ○ They froze my big toe to remove the nail.

freeze dry /ˌfrɪz ˈdriː/ verb to freeze something rapidly then dry it in a vacuum

freeze drying /ˈfrɪz ˈdrɛɪŋ/ noun a method of preserving food or tissue specimens by freezing rapidly and drying in a vacuum

Friel’s disease /ˈfriəlz ˈdiːzəs/ noun osteochondritis of the head of the second metatarsus [Described 1914. After Albert Henry Friel (1869–1940), US surgeon.]

Frei test /ˈfɾi ˌtest/ noun a test for the venereal disease lymphogranuloma inguinale [Described 1925. After Wilhelm Siegmund Frei (1885–1943), Professor of Dermatology at Berlin, Germany. He settled in New York, USA.]

fremitus /ˈfɾɛmɪtəs/ noun vibrations or trembling in part of someone’s body, felt by the doctor’s hand or heard through a stethoscope

French letter /ˈfrentʃ ˈleɪtər/ noun a small piece of cloth worn under the knickers of French military uniforms or of the British Grenadier Guards

frenectomy /ˈfɾɛnəktəmi/ noun an operation to remove a frenum

Frenkel’s exercises /ˈfɾɛnkləz ɛksəˈzɛrizz/ plural noun exercises for people who have locomotor ataxia, to teach coordination of the muscles and limbs

frenotomy /ˈfɾɛnətməti/ noun an operation to split a frenum

fremum /ˈfɾɪnəm/ frenalum /ˈfɾɪnəljʊm/ noun a fold of mucous membrane under the tongue or by the sides of the mouth

frequency /ˈfɾɪkwənsi/ noun 1. the number of times something takes place in a given time ○ the frequency of micturition 2. the rate of vibration in oscillations

fresh air /ˈfɾɛʃ ˈɛə/ open air ○ They came out of the hospital into the fresh air.

fresh frozen plasma /ˈfɾɛʃ ˈfræznəl zən/ noun plasma made from freshly donated blood, and kept frozen
fretful /fret(ə)l/ adjective referring to a baby that cries, cannot sleep or seems unhappy

Freudian /frood(ə)n/ adjective understand-able in terms of Freud’s theories, especially with regard to human sexuality n someone who is influenced by or follows Freud’s theories or methods of psychoanalysis

friable /frəˈblərəb/ adjective easily broken up into small pieces

friar’s balsam /ˈfriəzˈbɔlsəm/ noun a mixture of various plant oils, including benzoin and balsam, which can be inhaled as a vapour to relieve bronchitis or congestion

friction /frikʃən/ noun the rubbing together of two surfaces

friction fremitus /frikʃən fərˈmɪtəs/ noun a scratching sensation felt when the hand is placed on the chest of someone who has pericarditis

friction murmur /frikʃən ˈmɜrmər/ noun the sound of two serous membranes rubbing together, heard with a stethoscope in someone who has pericarditis or pleurisy

Friedländer’s bacillus /ˈfriːdləndərs bəˈsɪləs/ noun the bacterium Klebsiella pneumoniae which can cause pneumonia [Described 1882. After Carl Friedländer (1847–87), pathologist at the Friedrichshain Hospital, Berlin, Germany]

Friedman’s test /friˈdʌmnz/ test/ noun a test for pregnancy [After Maurice H. Friedman (b. 1903), US physician]

Friedreich’s ataxia /ˈfrɪdrɪks əˈteɪksə/ noun an inherited nervous disease which affects the spinal cord and is associated with club foot, an unsteady walk and speech difficulties. Also called dystrophia adipsogenitals [Described 1863. After Nicholas Friedreich (1825–82), Professor of Pathological Anatomy at Würzburg, later Professor of Pathology and Therapy at Heidelberg, Germany]

friable

frigidity /friˈdʒɪdɪti/ noun the fact of being unable to experience orgasm, sexual pleasure or sexual desire

fringe medicine /ˈfriŋkˌmed(ə)si/ noun types of medical practice which are not usually taught in medical schools, e.g. homeopathy or acupuncture (informal)

frog plaster /ˈfroʊg plaˈstər/ noun a plaster cast made to keep the legs in an open position after an operation to correct a dislocated hip

Fröhlich’s syndrome /ˈfrɔhlɪks ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a condition in which someone becomes obese and the genital system does not develop, caused by an adenoma of the pituitary gland [Described 1901. After Alfred Fröhlich (1871–1953), Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Vienna, Austria]

frontal /ˈfrɔnt(ə)l/ adjective referring to the forehead or to the front of the head. Opposite occipital

frontal bone /ˈfrɔnt(ə)l bʌʊn/ noun a bone forming the front of the upper part of the skull behind the forehead

frontal lobe /ˈfrɔnt(ə)l ləʊb/ noun the front lobe of each cerebral hemisphere

frontal lobotomy /ˈfrɔnt(ə)l loʊˈbɑtəmi/ noun formerly, a surgical operation on the brain to treat mental illness by removing part of the frontal lobe

frontal sinus /ˈfrɔnt(ə)l sənəs/ noun one of two sinuses in the front of the face above the eyes and near the nose

front passage /ˈfrɔnt ˈpɑsɪʤ/ (internal) 1. same as urethra. 2. same as vagina

frostbite /ˈfrɔstbaɪt/ noun an injury caused by very severe cold which freezes tissue

frostbitten /ˈfrɔstbɪtən/ adjective having frostbite

fructose /ˈfrɒksəstɪs/ noun fruit sugar found in honey and some fruit, which together with glucose forms sucrose

fructosuria /ˈfrʌktoʊˈsjuəriə/ noun the presence of fructose in the urine

frusenide /ˈfrʌsənimd/ noun same as furosemide

FSH abbr follicle-stimulating hormone

fugax /fjuˈɡɑks/ noun a complete pregnancy of forty weeks. She has had several pregnancies but none has reached full term

fulguration /ˈfʊlɡəreɪʃən/ noun the removal of a growth such as a wart by burning with an electric needle. Also called electrodesiccation

full term /ˈfʊlt ˈtɜːrm/ noun a complete pregnancy

fulminant /ˈfʊlmənənt/ adjective referring to a dangerous disease which develops very rapidly

...the major manifestations of pneumococcal infection in sickle cell disease are septicaemia, meningitis and pneumonia. The illness is frequently fulminant' (The Lancet)
done by an organ to a disorder or illness which does not have a function done by an organ to a disorder or illness which does not have a functional independence measure (FIM) or the particular work done by an organ. What is the function of the pancreas? The function of an ovary is to form ova. What is a verb to work in a particular way? The heart and lungs were functioning normally. His kidneys suddenly stopped functioning.

‘…insulin’s primary metabolic function is to transport glucose into muscle and fat cells, so that it can be used for energy.’ (Nursing '87)

‘…the AIDS virus attacks a person’s immune system and damages the ability to fight other disease. Without a functioning immune system to ward off other germs, the patient becomes vulnerable to becoming infected with other infections.’ (Journal of American Medical Association)

functional /ˈfʌŋkʃən/ adjective referring to a disorder or illness which does not have a physical cause and may have a psychological cause, as opposed to an organic disorder.

functional endoscopic sinus surgery /ˈfʌŋkʃən əndˈsəskəpik ˈsɛnsəs ˈsɪnas/ noun the removal of soft tissue in the sinuses using an endoscope. Abbrev FESS

functional enuresis /ˈfʌŋkʃənl ˈenjʊərɪs/ noun bedwetting which has a psychological cause.

functional independence measure /ˈfʌŋkʃənl ˈɪndɪˈpendənsi ˈmeʒr/ noun a measure of disability. Abbrev FIM

fundus /ˈfʌndəs/ noun 1. the bottom of a hollow organ such as the uterus. 2. the top section of the stomach, above the body of the stomach.

fungal /ˈfʌŋɡəl/ adjective relating to, or caused by, fungi or a fungal skin infection.

fungate /ˈfʌŋɡet/ verb (of some skin cancers) to increase rapidly at a late stage of tumour formation.

fungicide /ˈfʌŋɡsaɪd/ noun a substance used to kill fungi.

fungiform papillae /ˈfʌŋɡɪfɔrm ˈpæpɪlə/ noun rounded papillae on the tip and sides of the tongue, which have taste buds.

fungoid /ˈfʌŋɡɔɪd/ adjective like a fungus.

fungus /ˈfʌŋɡəs/ noun an organism such as yeast or mould, some of which cause disease. (Note: The plural is fungi. For other terms referring to fungi, see words beginning with myco-, myco-.)

Fusidic acid /ˈfjuːsɪdɪk ˈeɪsɪd/ noun an antibiotic used to prevent protein synthesis.

Fusiform /ˈfjuːsɪfɔrəm/ adjective referring to muscles which are shaped like a spindle, with a wider middle section which becomes narrower at each end.

Fusion /ˈfjuːʒən/ noun the act of joining, especially a surgical operation to relieve pain in the joint by joining the bones at the joint permanently so that they cannot move.

Fybogel /ˈfaɪbədʒəl/ a trade name for ispaghula.
g abbr gram
GABA /'gæbə/ abbr gamma aminobutyric acid
gag /gæg/ noun an instrument placed between the teeth to stop the mouth from closing. ■ verb to experience a reaction similar to that of vomiting. Every time the doctor tries to examine her throat, she gags. ○ He started gagging on the endotracheal tube.
gain /gɛn/ noun an act of adding or increasing something. The baby showed a gain in weight of 25g or showed a weight gain of 25g. ■ verb to obtain something, or to increase ○ to gain in weight or to gain weight
gait /gæt/ noun a way of walking
galacto- /'gælæktəʊ/ prefix same as galacto- (used before vowels)
galactagogue /'gælæktəʊdʒ/ noun a substance which stimulates the production of milk
galactagogue /'gælæktəʊdʒ/ noun a substance which stimulates the production of milk
galactagogue /'gælæktəʊdʒ/ noun a substance which stimulates the production of milk
galactocele /'gælæktəʊsəl/ noun a breast tumour which contains milk
galactorrhoea /'gælæktərəhə/ noun the excessive production of milk
galactosaemia /'gælæktəsəmɪə/ noun a congenital condition where the liver is incapable of converting galactose into glucose, with the result that a baby's development may be affected. (Note: The treatment is to remove galactose from the diet.)
galactose /'gælæktəʊs/ noun a sugar which forms part of milk, and is converted into glucose by the liver
galea /'gælɪə/ noun 1. any part of the body shaped like a helmet, especially the loose band of tissue in the scalp (Note: The plural is galeae.) 2. a type of bandage wrapped round the head
gall /gæl/ noun same as bile
gall bladder /'gæl ˈblɛdə/ noun a sac situated underneath the liver, in which bile produced by the liver is stored. See illustration at digestive system in Supplement
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gall bladder /'gæl ˈblɛdə/ noun a sac situated underneath the liver, in which bile produced by the liver is stored. See illustration at digestive system in Supplement
GIFT /gɪft/ noun a surgical operation where tissues from the thigh are used to hold a hernia in place. (Described 1921. After William Edward Gallie (1862–1959), Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto, Canada.)
gallipot /'gælipɔt/ noun a little container for ointment
gallium /'ɡæliəm/ noun a metallic element a radioisotope of which is used to detect tumours or other tissue disorders. (Note: The chemical symbol is Ga.)
gallop rhythm /'ɡæləp ˈrɪðəm/ noun the rhythm of heart sounds, three to each cycle, when someone is experiencing tachycardia
gallstone /'ɡælstɔn/ noun a small stone formed from insoluble deposits from bile in the gall bladder. ○ calculus
Ga/ noun a type of bandage wrapped round the head
galvanism /'ɡælvænzɪzm/ noun a technique using low voltage electricity
galvanocautery /'ɡælvænəkɔˈtɛrɪ/ noun the removal of diseased tissue using an electrically heated needle or loop of wire. Also called electrocautery
gamete /'ɡæmɪt/ noun a sex cell, either a spermatozoon or an ovum
gamete intrafallopian transfer /'ɡæmɪt intraˈfæləplən ˈtrænsfər/ noun a technique to combine eggs and sperm outside the body and then insert them into the Fallopian tubes. Abbreviation GIFT
gametocidal /'ɡæmɪtəsəʊdəl/ noun a drug which kills gametocytes
gametocyte /'ɡæmɪtəsəʊti/ noun a cell which is developing into a gamete
gametogenesis /'ɡæmɪtəˈdʒenəsɪs/ noun the process by which a gamete is formed
ganglionic /ˈgæŋglɪənɪk/ adjective referring to a ganglion.  

ganglionectomy /ˈgæŋgljəʊˌektrəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of a ganglion

ganglionic /ˈgæŋglɪənɪk/ adjective referring to a ganglion.  

gangrene /ˈgæŋgrɪn/ noun a condition in which tissues die and decay, as a result of bacterial action, because the blood supply has been lost through injury or disease of the artery.  

Gasserian ganglion /ˈgæsərɪən ˈgæŋglɪən/ noun same as trigeminal ganglion [After Johann Laurentius Gasser (1723–65), Professor of Anatomy in Vienna, Austria. He left no writings, and the ganglion was given his name by Anton Hirsch, one of his students, in his thesis of 1765.]

gastric juice /ˈgæstrɪk ˈdʒuːs/ noun the mixture of hydrochloric acid, pepsin, intrinsic factor and mucus secreted by the cells of the lin-
gastric lavage

ing membrane of the stomach to help the di-

gastric lavage /ˌgæstrɪk ˈlævɪdʒ/ noun a
avage of the stomach, usually to remove a poi-
senous substance which has been absorbed.

also called stomach washout

gastric ulcer /ˌgæstrɪk ˈʌlsər/ noun an ulcer
in the stomach. Abb GU

gastric vein /ˌgæstrɪk ˈvɪn/ noun a vein
which follows the gastric artery

gastrin /ˌgæstrɪn/ noun a hormone which is
released into the bloodstream from cells in the
lower end of the stomach, stimulated by the
presence of protein, and which in turn stimu-
lates the flow of acid from the upper part of the


gastrinoma /ˌgæstrɪnˈəʊmə/ noun a tumour
of the islet cells, leading to excessive gastric


gastritis /ˌgæstrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of
the stomach

gastro-/ /gæstrəu-/ prefix referring to the


gastrocele /ˌgæstrəʊˈsɛl/ noun a condition
in which part of the stomach wall becomes
weak and bulges out. Also called stomach


gastrocenmious /ˌgæstrəʊkˈɛnmiəs/ noun
a large calf muscle

gastrocolic /ˌgæstrəʊkˈɔlɪk/ adjective refer-
ing to the stomach and colon

gastrocolic reflex /ˌgæstrəʊkˈɔlɪk ˈrɪfleks/ noun
a sudden peristalsis of the colon pro-
duced when food is taken into an empty stom-


gastroduodenal /ˌgæstrəʊdʒuˈdən(ə)l/ adjective refer-
ing to the stomach and duodenum

gastroduodenal artery /ˌgæstrəʊdʒuˈdən(ə)l ˈəʊtəri/ noun an artery leading
from the gastric artery towards the pancreas

gastroduodenoscopy /ˌgæstrəʊdʒuˈdənəʊskəpi/ noun an examination of the stom-
ach and duodenum

gastroenteritis /ˌgæstrəʊntəˈrɪtɪs/ noun an inflamma-
tion of the membrane lining the inte-
testines and the stomach, caused by a viral in-
fecion and resulting in diarrhea and vomit-
ing

gastroenterologist /ˌgæstrəʊntəˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the dig-
estive system and its disorders

gastroenterology /ˌgæstrəʊntəˈrɒlədʒɪ/ noun the study of the digestive system and its

gastroenterostomy /ˌgæstrəʊntərəʊˈstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to join the small in-
testine directly to the stomach so as to bypass
a peptic ulcer

gastroepiploic /ˌgæstrəʊˈeplɪk/ adjective refer-
ing to the stomach and greater omen-
tum

gastroepiploic artery /ˌgæstrəʊˈeplɪk, ˈplɒlɪk/ noun an artery linking the gastroduo-
denal artery to the splenic artery


gastroenterology /ˌgæstrəʊntəˈrɒlədʒɪ/ noun the study of
the stomach and diseases of the stomach

gastro-oesophageal reflux /ˌgæstrəʊ ˌəʊsəˈfæɡəl ˈrɛfljuː/ noun automatic relaxation of the ileocecal
valve when food is present in the stomach

gastrointestinal /ˌgæstrəʊˈɪntəˈstɪnl(ə)l/ adjective refer-
ing to the stomach and intestine

gastrointestinal bleeding. Abb GI

gastrojejunostomy /ˌgæstrəʊdʒuˈdʒuˌnəʊstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to join
the jejunum to the stomach

gastrology /ˌgæstrəʊˈlədʒi/ noun a trade


gastroscopy /ˌgæstrəʊˈskəpi/ noun a surgical
operation to attach the stomach to the wall of


gastroplasty /ˌgæstrəʊˈplæstɪ/ noun surgery
to correct a deformed stomach

gastroscopy /ˌgæstrəʊˈstəʊpsɪ/ noun a condition
in which the stomach hangs down

gastroscopy /ˌgæstrəʊˈsɪrəsɪs/ noun an exam-
ination of the stomach using a gastroscope

gastroscopy /ˌgæstrəʊˈstəʊmpə/ noun a surgical
operation to create an opening into the stom-
ach from the wall of the abdomen, so that
food can be introduced without passing
through the mouth and throat

gastroscopy /ˌgæstrəʊˈstəʊmpə/ noun a surgical
operation to open up the stomach
gastroduodenal [gasˈtroˌdudəˈnal/ noun the second stage of the development of an embryo

gathering [ˈgætərɪŋ/ noun a swelling that is filled with pus

Gaucher's disease [ˈgauʃər dɪz/ noun an enzyme disease where fatty substances accumulate in the lymph glands, spleen and liver, causing anaemia, a swollen spleen and darkening of the skin. The disease can be fatal in children. [Described 1882. After Philippe Charles Gaucher (1854–1918), French physician and dermatologist.]
gauze [ˈɡɔːz/ noun a thin light material used to make dressings
gauze dressing [ˈɡɔːz ˈdrɛsɪŋ/ noun a dressing of thin light material
gavage [ˈɡævɪdʒ/ noun the forced feeding of someone who cannot eat or who refuses to eat
gay [get/ adjective relating to sexual activity among people of the same sex

GDC abbr General Dental Council

Gehrig's disease [ˈɡerɪŋz dɪz/ noun the alteration of a person's sex

gemellus superior muscle, gemellus inferior muscle

gelatinous [ˈdʒelətɪnəs/ adjective referring to gelatin or something with a texture like jelly
gelatin [ˈdʒelətɪn/ noun a protein found in collagen which is soluble in water, used to make capsules for medicines
gelatinous [ˈdʒelətɪnəs/ adjective referring to gelatin or something with a texture like jelly
gemellus [ˈdʒɛmələs/ noun either of the two muscles arising from the ischium. Also called gemellus superior muscle, gemellus inferior muscle
gender [ˈdʒɛndər/ noun the fact of being of the male or female sex
gender identity disorder [ˈdʒɛndər aɪˈdɛnɪtɪ dɪs/ noun a condition in which someone experiences strong discomfort with his or her birth gender
gender reassignment surgery [ˈdʒɛndər rɪˈzaɪnmənt ˈsʌdəˌmɛnt/ noun surgery to change someone's sex
gender reorientation [ˈdʒɛndər riˌɔrɪəˌnɛʃən/ noun the alteration of a person's sex through surgical and drug treatment
gene [dʒiːn/ noun a unit of DNA on a chromosome which governs the synthesis of a protein sequence and determines a particular characteristic

COMMENT: A gene may be dominant, in which case the characteristic it controls is always passed on to the child, or recessive, in which case the characteristic only appears if both parents have contributed the same form of the gene.
generic [ˈdʒɛnərɪk/ adjective 1. referring to medicine which does not have a special trade-
mark or brand name given to it by its manufacturer. 2. referring to a genus. The generic name of this type of bacterium is Staphylococcus.

genetics /dʒɛnɛtɪks/ noun the characteristics of the DNA of a cell which are passed on when the cell divides and so are inherited by a child from its parents.

gene therapy /dʒiːn tɛrəpi/ noun same as gene replacement therapy.

genetic /dʒɛnɪtɪk/ adjective referring to genes.

genetic code /dʒɛnɪtɪk kəʊd/ noun the combination of genetic material unique to an individual. Compare genotype.

genetic counselling /dʒɛnɪtɪk kənˈsəlɪŋ/ noun advice and support given to people if they or their children might be affected by inherited genetic disorders.

genetic disorder /dʒɛnɪtɪk dɪˈsɔːr/ noun a disorder or disease caused by a damaging gene variation that may be inherited.

genetic engineering /dʒɛnɪtɪk ɪnˈɜrɪniŋ/ noun same as genetic modification (informal)

genetic fingerprint /dʒɛnɪtɪk ˈfɪŋɡrɪnt/ noun the pattern of sequences of genetic material unique to an individual. Also called DNA fingerprint.

genetic fingerprinting /dʒɛnɪtɪk ˈfɪŋɡrɪntɪŋ/ noun a method of revealing an individual’s genetic profile, used in paternity queries and criminal investigations. Also called DNA fingerprinting.

geneticist /dʒɛnɪtɪst/ noun a person who specialises in the study of the way in which characteristics and diseases are inherited through the genes.

genetic modification, genetic manipulation /dʒɛnɪtɪk mədiˈfɪkeɪʃən, dʒɛnɪtɪk mədiˈfɪkeɪʃən/ noun the combination of genetic material from different sources to produce organisms with altered characteristics.

- prefix

genetics /dʒɛnɪtɪks/ noun the study of genes, and of the way characteristics and diseases are inherited through the genes.

genetic screening /dʒɛnɪtɪk ˈskrɪnɪŋ/ noun the process of testing large numbers of people to see if anyone has a particular genetic disorder.

genetic counselling /dʒɛnɪtɪk kənˈsəlɪŋ/ noun same as genetic counselling (informal).

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genetics /dʒɛnɪtɪks/ noun the study of genes, and of the way characteristics and diseases are inherited through the genes.

genetic screening /dʒɛnɪtɪk ˈskrɪnɪŋ/ noun the process of testing large numbers of people to see if anyone has a particular genetic disorder.

genetic counselling /dʒɛnɪtɪk kənˈsəlɪŋ/ noun same as genetic counselling (informal).

geneticist /dʒɛnɪtɪst/ noun a person who specialises in the study of the way in which characteristics and diseases are inherited through the genes.

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into a new organism
of old people to an embryo develops in the mother's womb. Also called gonocyte
adjective referring to an embryo
epi the outer layer of the ovary
one of two or three layers of cells in animal embryos which form the organs of the body
noun the study of the process of ageing and the diseases of old people
Gerstmann's syndrome , syndrom noun a condition in which someone no longer recognises his or her body image, cannot tell the difference between left and right, cannot recognise his or her different fingers and is unable to write
Gesell's developmental chart , chart showing the development of motor reactions and growth patterns in children
verb to carry a baby in the womb from conception to birth
noun the process of development of a baby from conception to birth in the mother's womb, same as gestation period
'...evaluation of fetal age and weight has proved to be of value in the clinical management of pregnancy, particularly in high-risk gestations' [Southern Medical Journal]
ldyg noun the age of a fetus, calculated from the mother's last period to the date of birth
ldat noun a form of diabetes mellitus which develops in a pregnant woman
noun the period, usually of 266 days, from conception to birth, during which the baby develops in the mother's womb. Also called pregnancy
noun an oral contraceptive
verb to move about. Since she had the accident she gets around using crutches.
verb to become healthy again after being ill. He was seriously ill, but seems to be getting better. (at an illness) to stop or become less severe. Her cold has got better.
verb to put your clothes on. This patient still needs help to get dressed.
verb to continue to do some work. I must get on with the blood tests.
verb to become better after an illness or a shock. He got over his cold. She never got over her mother's death.
noun the adjective becoming elderly. Her parents are getting on.
verb 1. to stand up. Try to get up from your chair slowly and walk across the room. 2. to get out of bed. What time did you get up this morning?
verb to become healthy again after being ill. We hope your mother will get well soon.
GFR abbr glomerular filtration rate
GH abbr growth hormone
Ghon's focus , focus a spot on the lung produced by the tuberculosis bacillus [Described 1912. After Anton Ghon (1866–1936), Professor of Pathological Anatomy at Prague, Czech Republic.]
GI abbr gastrointestinal
giant cell /, giant sel / noun a very large cell, e.g. an osteoclast or megakaryocyte
giant-cell arteritis , giant-cell arteritis / noun a disease of old people, which often affects the arteries in the scalp
noun a large flat white blister caused by an allergic reaction
verb to become healthy again after being ill. Ten affects the arteries in the scalp
noun a sharp angle in the curvature of the spine caused by the weakening of a vertebra as a result of tuberculosis of the backbone
noun same as gibbosity
noun a condition in which someone has difficulty in standing up and keeping their balance because of a feeling that everything is turning around. He began to experience attacks of giddiness.
adj. feeling that everything is turning round. She has had several giddy spells.
verb a procedure in which a surgeon removes eggs from a woman's ovary, mixes them with sperm and places them in one of her Fallopian tubes to help her conceive a child. Full form gamete intrafallopian transfer
gigantism /dʒɪgəntɪz/ noun a condition in which someone grows very tall, caused by excessive production of growth hormone by the pituitary gland
Gilbert's syndrome /ˈɡɪlbɔːts ˌsɪndrəʊm/ noun an inherited disorder where the liver does not deal with bilirubin correctly
Gilles de la Tourette syndrome /ʒɪləs də la tʊətɛt ˌsɪndrəʊm/ noun same as Tourette's syndrome
Gilliam's operation /ˈɡɪliəmz ɒpəˈreɪʃən/ noun a surgical operation to correct retroversum of the uterus [After David Tod Gilliam (1844–1923), physician, Columbus, Ohio, USA]
gingiv– /ˈdʒɪŋɡvɪdʒ/ prefix referring to the gums
gingivitis /ˈdʒɪŋɡvɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the gums as a result of bacterial infection
Ginseng /ˈdʒɪŋsɛŋ/ noun a plant root widely used as a tonic and a traditional Chinese herbal remedy
Gleed's syndrome /ɡliːdz ˌsɪndrəʊm/ noun a condition with symptoms of high fever and inflammation of the lymph nodes
Gleesong /ˈɡliːsɔŋ/ adjective relating to the gums
Gleevac /ˈɡliːvæk/ noun the surgical removal of excess gum tissue
Gland /ɡlænd/ noun an organ in the body containing cells that secrete substances such as hormones, sweat or saliva which act elsewhere
Glanders /ɡlændəz/ noun a bacterial disease of horses, which can be caught by humans, with symptoms of high fever and inflammation of the lymph nodes
Glandular /ɡlændjʊələr/ adjective referring to glands
Glandular fever /ɡlændjʊələr ˌfɜːvər/ noun same as infectious mononucleosis
Glandular lymph nodes /ɡlændjʊələr ˈlɪmф nəʊdz/ plural the lymph nodes
Glandular tissue /ɡlændjʊələr ˈtɪsk/ noun glial tissue in the brain or spinal cord
Glanz /ɡlæns/ noun a rounded part at the end of the penis or clitoris. See illustration at Genital System (Male) in Supplement
Glare /ɡlɛər/ noun 1. a long stare that expresses a negative emotion such as anger 2. an uncomfortably or dazzlingly bright light 3. scattered bright light when examining something with a microscope 4. verb 1. to stare angrily 2. to shine uncomfortably brightly 3. to be very obvious or conspicuous
Glasgow coma scale /ˈɡlæsɡəʊ ˈkeɪəʊmə /noun 1. a seven-point scale for evaluating someone's level of consciousness 2. a negative emotion such as anger 3. a thin discharge from the vagina, penis, a wound or an ulcer
Glenohumeral /ɡlɛnəˈhjuːmərəl/ adjective referring to both the glenoid cavity and the humerus
Glenohumeral joint /ˈɡlɛnəˈhjuːmərəl ˌdʒʊəniət/ noun the shoulder joint
Glenoid /ˈɡlɛnəɪd/ adjective shaped like a small shallow cup or socket
Gone /ɡəʊn/ noun 1. the place where something is stored 2. a drug used to treat Type II diabetes mellitus
Gone /ɡəʊn/ adjective referring to brain tissue
Gonad /ɡəʊnəd/ noun 1. a gland that produces sex hormones and sperm or ova 2. a sex organ, especially the ovaries or testes
Goniometry /ɡəʊˈnɒmətrɪ/ noun the measurement of angles and movements of the joints
Gonorrhoea /ɡəʊnəˈrəʊə/ noun an infectious disease caused by bacteria.
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goblet /ˈgəbәt/ noun a protein which combines with other substances to form compounds such as haemoglobin and myoglobin
globule /ˈɡlobjuːl/ noun a round drop, especially of fat
globulin /ˈɡlobjuːlɪn/ noun a protein, present in blood, belonging to a group that includes antibodies
globulinuria /ˈɡlobjuːlɪnjuːriə/ noun the presence of globulins in the urine
globus /ˈɡlobəs/ noun any ball-shaped part of the body
globus hystericus /ˈɡlobəs ˈhɪstərɪkəs/ noun a feeling of not being able to swallow, caused by worry or embarrassment
glosangiomia /ɡlɔːsənˈdʒiəmə/ noun a tumour of the skin at the ends of the fingers and toes
glomerular /ɡləʊməˈrjuːlər/ adjective referring to a glomerulus
glomerular capsule /ɡləʊməˈrjuːlər ˈkæpsjuːl/ noun same as Bowman’s capsule
glomerular filtration rate /ɡləʊməˈrjuːlər ˈfɪltərətiʃn rət/ noun the rate at which the kidneys filter blood and remove waste matter
glomerular tuft /ɡləʊməˈrjuːlər ˈtuːft/ noun a group of blood vessels in the kidney which filter the blood
glomerulitis /ɡləʊmərjuːˈlətɪs/ noun inflammation causing lesions of glomeruli in the kidney
glomerulonephritis /ɡləʊməˈrjuːlənəˈfriːtɪs/ noun same as Bright’s disease
glomerulus /ɡləʊməˈrjuːləs/ noun a group of blood vessels which filter waste matter from the blood in a kidney (note: The plural is glomeruli.)
glucose /ˈɡluːsəʊ/ noun same as sugar
glucose tolerance test /ˈɡluːsəʊ ˈtɔlərəns tɛst/ noun a test for diabetes mellitus, in which someone eats glucose and his or her urine and blood are tested at regular intervals. Also called GTT
glucagon /ˈɡluːkæɡəʊn/ noun a hormone secreted by the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas, which increases the level of blood sugar by stimulating the breakdown of glycogen
glucagonoma /ˈɡluːkæɡəʊnəʊmə/ noun a tumour of the cells of the pancreas that produces glucagon
glucocorticoid /ˈɡluːkəˌkɔrɪtɪkəʊd/ noun any corticosteroid which breaks down carbohydrates and fats for use by the body, produced by the adrenal cortex
glucconeogenesis /ˈɡluːkəˌniːəˈdʒenəˌsɪs/ noun the production of glucose in the liver from protein or fat reserves

glucosuria /ˈɡluːkəsjuːriə/ noun same as glycosuria
glucuronic acid /ˈɡluːkəˈruːnɪk əˈsɪd/ noun an acid formed by glucose that acts on bilirubin

glue ear /ɡljuː ˈɪə/ noun a condition in which fluid forms behind the eardrum and causes deafness. Also called secretory otitis media

glue-sniffing /ˈɡluː ˈsnɪfɪŋ/ noun solvent abuse

glutamic acid /ˈɡluːtəmɪk əˈsɪd/ noun an amino acid

glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase /ˈɡluːtəmɪk ˈɒksələʊˌæsɪtɪk ˈtrænsməˈneɪtɪs/ noun an enzyme used for test for viral hepatitis

glutamic pyruvic transaminase /ˈɡluːtəmɪk ˈpiːrʊvɪk ˈtrænsməˈneɪtɪs/ noun an enzyme produced in the liver and released into the blood if the liver is damaged

glutamine /ˈɡluːtəməˈnɪz/ noun an amino acid

glutethimide /ˈɡluːtəθɪmɪd/ noun an anticonvulsant used in epilepsy

glutathione /ˈɡluːtəθiən/ noun a tripeptide formed from glutamic acid and cysteine and used as a reducing agent in the body
gluteal artery

**gluteal artery** /ˈɡljuːtəl, ˈɡljuːtɔːl/ noun one of the two arteries supplying the buttocks, the inferior gluteal artery or the superior gluteal artery.

**gluteal muscle** /ˈɡljuːtəl, ˈɡljuːtɔːl/ masculine noun a muscle in the buttock.

**gluteal vein** /ˈɡljuːtəl, ˈɡljuːtɔːl/ noun one of two veins draining the buttocks, the inferior gluteal vein and the superior gluteal vein.

**gluten** /ˈɡljuːtən/ noun a protein found in some cereals, which makes the grains form a sticky paste when water is added.

**gluten enteropathy** same as gluten-induced enteropathy.

**gluten-free diet** /ˈɡljuːtən, ˈɡljuːtɔːn/ fric:ˈdaiət/ noun a diet containing only food containing no gluten.

**gluten-induced enteropathy** /ˈɡljuːtən, ˈɡljuːtɔːn/ n dʒuːtɪˈæpərəθi/ noun 1. An allergic disease mainly affecting children, in which the lining of the intestine is sensitive to gluten, preventing the small intestine from digesting fat 2. A condition in adults where the villi in the intestine become smaller and so reduce the surface which can absorb nutrients (NOTE: Symptoms include a swollen abdomen, pale di-

tions and also as a lubricant in items such as sticky paste when water is added.

**glycogen** /ˈɡlɪkəʊdʒən/ noun a chemical compound of a type which is formed from a simple sugar and another compound (NOTE: Many of the drugs produced from plants are glycosides.)

**glycosuria** /ˈɡlɪkəʊsjuəriə/ noun a high level of sugar in the urine, a symptom of diabetes mellitus.

**GMC** abbr General Medical Council.

**gnathic** /ˈnæθɪk/ adjective referring to the jaw.

**gnathoplasty** /ˈnæθəʊplæstɪ/ noun surgery on the jaw.

**gnawing** /ˈnɔːvɪŋ/ adjective referring to a physical or emotional feeling that is persistent and uncomfortable.

**goblet cell** /ˈɡəʊblət, ˈɡəʊblət/ cell noun a tube-shaped cell in the epithelium which secretes mucus.

**goitre** /ˈɡɔːtər/ noun an excessive enlargement of the thyroid gland, seen as a swelling round the neck, caused by a lack of iodine (NOTE: The US spelling is goiter.)

**goitrogen** /ˈɡɔɪtrədʒən/ noun a substance which causes goitre.

**gold** /ɡəʊld/ noun a soft yellow-coloured precious metal, used as a compound in various drugs, and sometimes as a filling for teeth (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Au.)

**golden eye ointment** /ˈɡəʊldən ˈɛaɪ ˈɒɪntmənt/ noun a yellow ointment, made of an oxide of mercury, used to treat inflammation of the eyelids.

**gold injection** /ˈɡɔɪld inˌdʒɛkʃən/ noun an injection of a solution containing gold, used to relieve rheumatoid arthritis.

**golfer's elbow** /ˈɡəʊflərz ˈɛlbəʊ/ noun inflammation of the tendons of the elbow.

**Golgi apparatus** /ˈɡəʊldɪ əˈpərəsəs/ noun a folded membranous structure inside the cell cytoplasm which stores and transports enzymes and hormones (Described 1898. After Camillo Golgi (1843–1926), Professor of Histology and later Rector of the University of Pavia, Italy. In 1906 he shared the Nobel Prize with Santiago Ramón y Cajal for work on the nervous system.)

**Golgi cell** /ˈɡɔʊldʒi ˈsɛl/ noun a type of nerve cell in the central nervous system, either with long axons (Golgi Type 1) or without axons (Golgi Type 2).

**gompheosis** /ˈɡɒmpəˌsiːs/ noun a joint which cannot move, like that between a tooth and the jaw.

**gonad** /ˈɡəʊnəd/ noun a sex gland which produces gametes and also sex hormones, e.g. a testicle in males or an ovary in females.
gonadotrophin /ˌgəʊnədəˈtrɒfɪn/ noun any of a group of hormones produced by the pituitary gland which stimulates the sex glands at puberty. • human chorionic gonadotrophin (NOTE: The US spelling is gonadotropin.)
gonagra /ˈɡɒnəɡrə/ noun a form of gout which occurs in the knees
goni- /ˈɡɒni-/ prefix same as goni- (used before a vowel)
goni- /ˈɡɒni-/ prefix referring to an angle
goniectomy /ˌɡɑːniəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to treat glaucoma by cutting Schlemm’s canal
gonococcal /ˌɡɑːnəˈkɒkəl/ adjective referring to gonococcus
gonococcus /ˌɡɑːnəˈkɒksəs/ noun a type of bacterium, Neisseria gonorrhoea, which causes gonorrhea (NOTE: The plural is gonococci.)
gonocyte /ˈɡɒnəsət/ noun same as germ cell
gonorrhoea /ˌɡɑːnəˈrɪə/ noun a sexually transmitted disease which produces painful inflammation of the mucous membrane and a watery discharge from the vagina or penis
gonorrhoeal /ˌɡɑːnəˈrɪəl/ adjective referring to gonorrhoea
Goodpasture’s syndrome /ˌɡʊdˈpɑːstʃərəs/ noun a rare lung disease in which someone coughs up blood, is anaemic, and may have kidney failure [Described 1919, After Ernest William Goodpasture (1866–1960), US pathologist.]
goose bumps /ˈɡʊs bʌmzp/ noun a reaction of the skin when someone is cold or frightened, the skin being raised into many little bumps by the action of the arrector pili muscles. Also called cutis anserina
Gordh needle /ˈɡɔrd ,ˈnɪrdəʊ/ noun a needle with a bag attached, so that several injections can be made one after the other
gorget /ˈɡɔrdʒt/ noun a surgical instrument used to remove stones from the bladder
gouge /ɡəʊdʒ/ noun a surgical instrument like a chisel, used to cut bone
goundou /ˈɡʊndəʊ/ noun a condition caused by yaws, in which growths form on either side of the nose

Graft (graft/ noun 1. the act of transplanting an organ or tissue to replace one which is not functioning or which is diseased • a skin graft 2. an organ or tissue which is transplanted • The corneal graft was successful. • The patient was given drugs to prevent the graft being rejected. • verb to take a healthy organ or tissue and transplant it in place of diseased or malfunctioning organ or tissue • The surgeons grafted a new section of bone at the side of the skull. • autograft, homograft
graft versus host disease /ˈɡrɑːf, ˈvɑːs ˌhəʊst d,ˈzɪst/ noun a condition which develops when cells from the grafted tissue react against the person’s own tissue, causing skin disorders. Abbreviation GVHD
grain /ɡreɪn/ noun 1. a very small piece of something hard such as salt • 2. a measure of weight equal to 0.0648 grams. Symbol gr
-gra (gram/ suffix a record in the form of a picture

Gram-negative bacterium /ˌgrem- ˈneɡətɪv bækˌtɪriəm/ noun a bacterium which takes up the red counterstain, after the alcohol has washed out the first violet dye
The blood due to bone marrow malfunction
bacterial infections
granulation tissue which forms at the site of
viewed under the microscope
cine in Copenhagen, Denmark. He discovered
trophil
granules
composed of cells filled with protein and fatty
granulopoiesis
noun
granulomatosis
granuloma inguinale
granuloma
granuloma
granuloma
/granuloma/ noun a mass of granulation tissue which forms at the site of bacterial infections (NOTE: The plural is granulomata or granulomas.)
granuloma inguinale /granju:laʊma/ ,ngwi’nel/ noun a sexually transmitted disease affecting the anus and genitals in which the skin becomes covered with ulcers, usually occurring in the tropics
granulomatosis /granju:laʊmatə'stəsɪs/ noun persistent inflammation leading to the formation of nodules
granulopoiesis /granju:laʊpoɪesɪs/ ,i'sɪsɪs/ noun the normal production of granulocytes in the bone marrow

**Grain-positive bacterium** 164

**Gram-positive bacterium** /ˈgræm ˈpɒzɪtɪv bækˈtɪrɪəm/ noun a bacterium which retains violet dye and appears blue-black when viewed under the microscope

**Gram’s stain** /ˈgræmz ˈstɛrn/ noun a method of staining bacteria so that they can be identified [Described 1884. After Hans Christian Joachim Gram (1853–1938), Professor of Medicine in Copenhagen, Denmark. He discovered the stain by accident as a student in Berlin, Germany.]

**Comment:** The tissue sample is first stained with a violet dye, treated with alcohol, and then counterstained with a red dye.

**grand mal** /ˈgrænd mɛl/ noun a type of epilepsy, in which someone becomes unconscious and falls down, while the muscles become stiff and twitch violently

**grand multiparity** / ˌgrænd ˌmʌltɪˈpærətɪti/ noun the fact of having given birth to more than four children

**granular** /ˈɡreɪnjuələr/ adjective made up of granules

**granular cast** /ˈɡreɪnjuələr kæst/ noun a cast composed of cells filled with protein and fatty granules

**granular leucocyte** /ˈɡreɪnjuələr ˌljuːsəʊsɪt/ noun same as granulocyte

**granulatation** /ˈɡreɪnjuələˈteɪʃən/ noun the formation of rough red tissue on the surface of a wound or site of infection, the first stage in the healing process

**granulation tissue** /ˈɡreɪnjuələˈteɪʃən ˈtʃaʊs/ noun soft tissue, consisting mainly of tiny blood vessels and fibres, which forms over a wound

**granule** /ˈɡreɪnjuəl/ noun a very small piece of something hard

**granuloctye** /ˈɡreɪnjuələʊsɪt/ noun a type of leucocyte or white blood cell which contains granules, e.g. a basophil, eosinophil or neutrophil

**granulocytopenia** /ˈɡreɪnjuələʊsɪtəˈpiəniə/ noun a usually fatal disease caused by the lowering of the number of granulocytes in the blood due to bone marrow malfunction

**granuloma** /ˈɡreɪnjuələʊmə/ noun a mass of granulation tissue which forms at the site of bacterial infections (NOTE: The plural is granulomata or granulomas.)

**granuloma inguinale** /ˈɡreɪnjuələʊmə ɪŋˈwɪnəle/ noun a sexually transmitted disease affecting the anus and genitals in which the skin becomes covered with ulcers, usually occurring in the tropics

**granulomatosis** /ˈɡreɪnjuələʊmətəˈtəsɪs/ noun persistent inflammation leading to the formation of nodules

**granulopoiesis** /ˈɡreɪnjuələʊpɔɪəsɪs/ noun the normal production of granulocytes in the bone marrow

**graph** /ˈɡræf/ noun a diagram which shows the relationship between quantities as a line

**graph-** /ˈɡræf-/ prefix writing

**-graph** /ˈɡræf-/ suffix a machine which records something as pictures

**-grapher** /ˈɡræfər/ suffix a technician who operates a machine which records

**-graphy** /ˈɡræfɪ/ suffix the technique of study through pictures

**grattage** /ˈɡrætəʒ/ noun a procedure that involves scraping the surface of an ulcer which is healing slowly to make it heal more rapidly

**gravel** /ˈɡrævl/ noun small stones which pass from the kidney to the urinary system, causing pain in the ureter

**Graves’ disease** /ˈɡræv(z) diˈziz/ noun same as exophthalmic goitre [Described 1835. After Robert James Graves (1796–1853), Irish physician at the Meath Hospital, Dublin, Ireland, where he was responsible for introducing clinical ward work for medical students.]

**gravid** /ˈɡrævɪd/ adjective pregnant

**gravidities multiparae** /ˈɡrævɪdɪtɪz ˈmʌltɪˈpærə/ plural noun women who have given birth to at least four live babies

**gravity** /ˈɡrævɪtɪ/ noun the importance or potential danger of a disease or situation

**Gravitz tumour** /ˈɡrævɪts ˈjuːmə/ noun a malignant tumour in kidney cells [Described 1883. After Paul Albert Gravitz (1850–1932), Professor of Pathology at Greifswald, Germany.]

**gray** /ˈɡreɪ/ noun an SI unit of measurement of absorbed radiation equal to 100 rads. Symbol Gy. 1 rad

**graze** /ɡreɪz/ noun a scrape on the skin surface, making some blood flow  ■ verb to scrape the skin surface accidentally

**great cerebral vein** /ɡreɪt ˈsɛrəbrəl vɛɪn/ noun a median vein draining the choroid plexuses of the lateral and third ventricles

**greater curvature** /ˈɡreɪtər kəˈvɜːrʒər/ noun a convex line of the stomach

**greater vestibular glands** /ˈɡreɪtər vɛsˈtɪbrəl ˈɡlændz/ noun same as Bartholin’s glands

**green monkey disease** /ˈɡriːn ˈmʌŋki diˈziz/ noun same as Marburg disease

**greenstick fracture** /ˈɡriːnstɪk ˈfræktrə/ noun a type of fracture occurring in children, where a long bone breaks, but is not completely broken

**grey commissure** /ˈɡreɪ ˈkɒmɪʃʊə/ noun same as gray commissure

**grey matter** /ˈɡreɪ ˈmeɪtər/ noun nerve tissue which is of a dark grey colour and forms part of the central nervous system

**Comment:** In the brain, grey matter encloses the white matter, but in the spinal cord, white matter encloses the grey matter.
grouped under the heading 'antibiotics'.

...a cancerous growth on the left breast.

...of patients were waiting in the surgery.

...of the middle ear, usually to allow fluid to drain
...passed from the external auditory meatus into
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...a form of rheumatic fever

...pains associated with adolescence, which can
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Guthrie test 166

incisions and dissolves slowly so does not need to be removed. Catgut

Guthrie test /'gɔθri tɛst/ noun a test used on babies to detect the presence of phenylketonuria [After R. Guthrie (b. 1916), US paediatrician.]

gutta /'gʌtə/ noun a drop of liquid, as used in treatment of the eyes (NOTE: The plural is guttae.)

gutter splint /'gʌtə splɪnt/ noun a shaped container in which a broken limb can rest without being completely surrounded

GVHD abbr graft versus host disease

gyn- /'gaiən/ prefix same as gynae- (used before a vowel)

gynaecological /'gaiənɪkəlɒdʒɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to the treatment of diseases of women

gynaecologist /'gaiənɪkəlɒdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the treatment of diseases of women

gynaecology /'gaiənɪkəlɒdʒi/ noun the study of female sex organs and the treatment of diseases of women in general

gynaecomastia /'gaiənɪkəmæstʃiə/ noun the unusual development of breasts in a male

gyne /'gaiəni/ same as gynaecology, gynaecological (informal) or a gyn appointment

gypsum /'dʒəpsəm/ noun calcium sulphate, used as plaster of Paris

gyrus /'dʒərəs/ noun a raised part of the cerebral cortex between the sulci
H2-receptor antagonist / ˌɛ∂t ˈreɪ tənˈɡæstɪk/ noun a drug that inhibits the production of stomach acid and so relieves indigestion and gastric ulcers

HA abbr health authority

habit /ˈheɪbɪt/ noun 1. an action which is an automatic response to a stimulus 2. a regular way of doing something O He got into the habit of swimming every day before breakfast. O She’s got out of the habit of taking any exercise. O from force of habit because you do it regularly O I wake up at 6 o’clock from force of habit.

habit-forming /ˈheɪbɪt ˈfɔːmɪŋ/ adjective making someone addicted

habit-forming drug /ˈheɪbɪt ˈfɔːmɪŋ draɡ/ noun a drug which is addictive

habitual /ˈheɪbɪtjuːl/ adjective done frequently or as a matter of habit

habitual abortion /ˈheɪbɪtjuːl əˈbɔːrʃən/ noun a condition in which a woman has abortions with successive pregnancies

habituation /ˈheɪbɪtjuːʃən/ noun the fact of being psychologically but not physically addicted to or dependent on a drug, alcohol or other substance

habitus /ˈheɪbɪtəs/ noun the general physical appearance of a person, including build and posture

hacking cough /ˈhækɪŋ ˈkɒf/ noun a continuous short dry cough

haem /ˈheɪm/ noun a molecule containing iron which binds proteins to form haemoproteins such as haemoglobin and myoglobin

haem- hint /ˈheɪm-/ prefix same as haemo- (used before vowels) (note: In US English, words beginning with the prefix haem- are spelled hem-)

haemagglutination /ˈheɪməˌɡlʌtəˈneɪʃən/ noun the clumping of red blood cells, often used to test for the presence of antibodies

haemangioma /ˈheɪmənˈdʒɪəmə/ noun a harmless tumour which forms in blood vessels and appears on the skin as a birthmark

haemarthrosis /ˌheɪmətˈɑːθrəʊsɪs/ noun pain and swelling caused by blood leaking into a joint

haematemesis /ˌheɪməˈtɛməsɪs/ noun a condition in which someone vomits blood, usually because of internal bleeding

haematomatous /ˈheɪməˌtəʊmətəs/ adjective referring to blood

haematin /ˈheɪmətɪn/ noun a substance which forms from haemoglobin when bleeding takes place

haematinic /ˈheɪməˌtənɪk/ noun a drug which increases haemoglobin in blood, used to treat anaemia, e.g. an iron compound

haematocrit /ˈheɪməˌtɒkrɪt/ noun 1. same as packed cell volume 2. an instrument for measuring haematocrit

haematocyst /ˈheɪməˌtɒsɪst/ noun a cyst which contains blood

haematogenous /ˌheɪməˌtəʊˈdʒeɪnəs/ adjective 1. producing blood 2. produced by blood

haematological /ˌheɪməˈtɒlədʒɪk(ə)/ adjective referring to haematology

haematologist /ˌheɪməˈtɒləˈdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in haematology

haematology /ˌheɪməˈtɒlədʒi/ noun the scientific study of blood, its formation and its diseases

haematoma /ˌheɪməˈtɒmə/ noun a mass of blood under the skin caused by a blow or by the effects of an operation

haematometra /ˌheɪməˈmɒtrə/ noun 1. excessive bleeding in the uterus 2. a swollen uterus, caused by haematocolpos

haematomyelia /ˌheɪməˌmɒməˈlɪəlɪə/ noun a condition in which blood leaks into the spinal cord

haematopoiesis /ˌheɪməˌpɒˈɒsɪsɪs/ noun same as haemopoiesis
haematoporphyrin

haematoporphyrin /haɪˈmætəˌpɔːrˌfərɪn/ noun a pigment produced from haemoglobin

haematosalpinx /hɪˈmætəˌsɔlˈpɪŋks/ noun an organ in the body that produces the blood in the sperm

haematospermia /hɪˈmætəˌspɜːrˈmɪə/ noun a condition in which blood is found in the sperm

haematozoa /hɪˈmætəˌzoʊə/ noun a parasite living in the blood (Note: The plural is haematozoa.)

haematuria /hɪˈmætəˌjʊərɪə/ noun the unusual presence of blood in the urine, as a result of injury or disease of the kidney or bladder

haem-- /hɪˈmæm/ prefix referring to blood

haemochromatosis /hɪˈmætəˌkrɒmətɒsɪs/ noun an inherited disease in which the body absorbs and stores too much iron, causing cirrhosis of the liver and giving the skin a dark colour. Also called bronze diabetes

haemococoncentration /hɪˈmæmˌkɒnˌsɛntrəs/ noun an increase in the percentage of red blood cells because the volume of plasma is reduced. Compare haemodilution

haemocyteblast /hɪˈmætəˌsɔtəʊˌblæst/ noun an embryonic blood cell in the bone marrow from which red and white blood cells and platelets develop

haemodilayser /hɪˌmæsəˈsɜːtəmətə/ verb to remove waste matter from the blood using a dialyser (kidney machine)

haemodialysate /hɪˌmæsəˈdæləˌlæz/ noun a glass jar in which a sample of blood is diluted and the blood cells counted

haemodialyse /hɪˌmæsəˈdæləˌlɪz/ verb to remove waste matter from the blood using a dialyser (kidney machine)

haemodialysis /hɪˌmæsəˈdæliˌsɪs/ noun a decrease in the percentage of red blood cells because the volume of plasma has increased. Compare haemococoncentration

haemoglobin /hɪˌmæmˌɡəˈblʊgən/ noun a red respiratory pigment formed of haem and globin in red blood cells which gives blood its red colour. It absorbs oxygen in the lungs and carries it in the blood to the tissues. Abbrev: Hb. Compare ox-haemoglobin, carboxyhaemoglobin

haemoglobinopathy /hɪˌmæmˌɡəˌləʊˈbəʊθi/ noun an inherited disease of a group which results from damaging variations in the production of haemoglobin, e.g. sickle-cell anaemia

haemoglobinuria /hɪˌmæmˌɡəˌləʊˈbəʊθiˌjʊərɪə/ noun a condition in which haemoglobin is found in the urine

haemogram /hɪˌmæmˌɡræm/ noun the printed result of a blood test

haemolysis /hɪˌmæləˌlɪsɪs/ noun the destruction of red blood cells

haemolytic /hɪˌmæmˌɒlɪtɪk/ adjective destroying red blood cells

haemolytic anaemia /hɪˌmæmˌɒlɪtɪk əˈnæmɪə/ noun a condition in which the destruction of red blood cells is about six times the usual rate, and the supply of new cells from the bone marrow cannot meet the demand

haemolytic disease of the newborn /hɪˌmæmˌɒlɪtɪk dɪˌzɜːz əv da ˈnjuːbəˈnuːn/ noun a condition in which the red blood cells of the fetus are destroyed because antibodies in the mother’s blood react against them

haemolytic jaundice /hɪˌmæmˌɒlɪtɪk ˈdʒɔːndɪs/ noun jaundice caused by haemolysis of the red blood cells. Also called prehepatic jaundice

haemolytic uraemic syndrome /hɪˌmæmˌɒlɪtɪk ˈjuːrəmɪk ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a condition in which haemolytic anaemia damages the kidneys

haemopericardium /hɪˌmæmˌpɜːˈkɑːrdiəm/ noun a condition in which blood is found in the pericardium

haemoperitoneum /hɪˌmæmˌpɜːˌtiˈnjuːm/ noun a condition in which blood is found in the peritoneal cavity

haemophilia /hɪˌmæmˈfɪliə/ noun a disorder linked to a recessive gene on the X-chromosome in which the blood clots much more slowly than usual, resulting in extensive bleeding from even minor injuries. The gene is passed by women to their male children and the disorder is seen almost exclusively in boys.

haemophilia A /hɪˌmæmˌfɪliə ˈeɪ/ noun the most common type of haemophilia, in which the inability to synthesise Factor VIII, a protein that promotes blood clotting, means that the blood clots very slowly. Also called Christmas disease

haemophilic /hɪˌmæmˌfɪlɪk/ adjective referring to haemophilia

haemophilus influenzae /hɪˌmæmˌfɪləs ˌɪnˈflənsiə/ noun a bacterium which lives in the blood to grow

Haemophilus influenzae /hɪˌmæmˌfɪləs ˌɪnˈflənsiə/ noun a bacterium which lives in
healthy throats, but which can cause pneumo-

Haemophilus influenzae type b /hɪəˈmfɪliəs ɪnˈfləʊrsiː/ noun a bacterium which causes meningitis. Abbreviation Hib.

haemophilus /hɪəˈmfɪləs/ noun a condition in which blood is found in the vitre-

haemopneumothorax /hɪəˈmɒpnjuːməθɔræks/ noun same as pneumothorax.

haemopoiesis /hɪəˈmɒpsəˌrɪsɪs/ noun the continual production of blood cells and blood platelets in the bone marrow. Also called blood formation.

haemopoietic /hɪəˈmɒpəˌrɛtɪk/ adjective referring to the formation of blood in the bone marrow.

haemoptysis /hɪəˈmɒptɪsɪs/ noun a condition in which someone coughs blood from the lungs, caused by a serious illness such as anaemia, pneumonia, tuberculosis or cancer.

haemorrhage /hɪəˈmɒrɪdʒ/ noun the loss of a large quantity of blood, especially from a burst blood vessel. He died of a brain haemorrhage. verb to bleed heavily. The injured man was haemorrhaging from the mouth.

haemorrhagic /hɪəˈmɔrədʒɪk/ adjective referring to heavy bleeding.

haemorrhagic disease of the newborn /hɪəˈmɔrədʒɪk ˈdɪzəvəd/ noun a disease of newly born babies, which makes them haemorrhage easily, caused by temporary lack of prothrombin.

haemorrhagic disorder /hɪəˈmɔrədʒɪk ˈdɪzəvəd/ noun a disorder in which haemorrhages occur, e.g. haemophilia.

haemorrhagic fever /hɪəˈmɔrədʒɪk ˈfɪvər/ noun a viral infection that results in profuse internal bleeding from the capillaries, e.g. dengue or Ebola.

haemorrhagic stroke /hɪəˈmɔrədʒɪk ˈstrɔʊk/ noun a stroke caused by a burst blood vessel.

haemorrhoidal /hɪəˈmɔrədʒɪd/ adjective referring to haemorrhoids.

haemorrhoidectomy /hɪəˈmɔrədʒɪd ˈekˌtɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of haemorrhoids.

haemorrhoids /hɪəˈmɔrədʒɪd/ plural noun swollen veins in the anorectal passage. Also called piles.

haemosalpinx /hɪəˈməʊsəˈlɪpnks/ noun the Fallopian tubes.

haemosiderosis /hɪəˈməʊsaɪdərəˈsɪsɪs/ noun a disorder in which iron forms large deposits in the tissue, causing haemorrhaging and destruction of red blood cells.

haemostasis /hɪəˈmɒstəsɪs/ noun the process of stopping bleeding or slowing the movement of blood. noun a device which stops bleeding, e.g. a clamp.

haemostatic /hɪəˈmɒstətɪk/ adjective stopping bleeding.

haemotherax /hɪəˈmɒθəræks/ noun a condition in which blood is found in the pleural cavity.

Hageman factor /ˈheɪgəmən fəˈktaʊər/ noun same as Factor XII.

HAI abbr Hospital Acquired Infection.

hair cell /ˈheə sɛl/ noun a receptor cell which converts fluid pressure changes into nerve impulses carried in the auditory nerve. (NOTE: For other terms referring to hair, see words beginning with pilo-, trich-, tricho-.)

hair follicle /ˈheə frəˈliːk/ noun the cells and tissue that surround the root of a hair.

hairline fracture /ˈheəlайн ˈfrækt/ noun a very slight crack in a bone caused by injury.

hair papilla /ˈheə pəˈpɪlə/ noun a part of the skin containing capillaries which feed blood to the hair.

hairy cell leukaemia /ˈheəri sel ˈljuːˌkeɪəmiə/ noun a form of leukaemia in which white blood cells have fine projections.

half-life /ˈhɑːflaɪf/ noun 1. a measurement of the period of time taken before the concentration of a drug has reached half of what it was when it was administered. 2. the time taken for half the atoms in a radioactive isotope to decay.

halitosis /ˈhælɪtəsɪs/ noun a condition in which a person has breath which smells unpleasant. Also called bad breath.

COMMENT: Halitosis can have several causes: caries in the teeth, infection of the gums, and indigestion are the most usual. The breath can also have an unpleasant smell during menstruation, or in association with certain diseases such as diabetes mellitus and uremia.

halluces /ˈhæləsɪz/ plural of halluc.

hallucinate /ˈhæluˈkɪnɪt/ verb to have hallucinations. The patient was hallucinating.

hallucination /ˈhæluˌlɪkʃən/ noun an experience of seeing an imaginary scene or hearing an imaginary sound as clearly as if it were really there.

hallucinatory /ˈhæluˌlɪkʃənərɪ/ adjective referring to a drug which causes hallucinations.

hallucinogen /ˈhæluˌluːsɪnəʊɡɑːn/ noun a drug which causes hallucinations, e.g. cannabis or LSD.

hallucinogenic /ˈhæluˌluːsɪnəˈdʒɪnɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which produces hallucinations.

hallowed /ˈhæləd/ noun the big toe. (NOTE: The plural is hallucs).

hallux valgus /ˈhæləks ˈvælɡwəs/ noun a condition of the foot, where the big toe turns towards the other toes and a bunion is formed.
haloperidol /ˌhæləˈpɜːrdəl/ noun a tranquiliser used in the treatment of schizophrenia, mania and psychoses
halo splint /ˈheloʊ ˈsplɛnt/ noun a device used to keep the head and neck still so that they can recover from injury or an operation
halothane /ˌhæləˈθeɪn/ noun a general anaesthetic that is given by inhalation
hamartoma /ˌhæməˈtɔːmə/ noun a benign tumour containing tissue from any organ
hamate /ˈhæmət/ noun [anatomy] the main part of the hand, and 8 carpals in the wrist. Also called hamish bone. See illustration at hand in Supplement
Hammer /ˈhæmər/ noun same as malleus
Hammer toe /ˈhæmər ˈtɔʊ/ noun a toe which has the middle joint permanently bent downwards
Hamstring /ˈhæmstrɪŋ/ noun one of a group of tendons behind the knee, which link the thigh muscles to the bones in the lower leg
Hamstring muscles /ˈhæmstrɪŋ ˈmʌslz/ plural noun a group of muscles at the back of the thigh, which flex the knee and extend the gluteus maximus
hand /hænd/ noun the part at the end of the arm, beyond the wrist, which is used for holding things  ○ He injured his hand with a saw. ■ verb to pass something to someone
handicap /ˈhændɪkæp/ noun a physical or mental condition which prevents someone from doing some everyday activities  ■ verb to prevent someone from doing an everyday activity (NOTE: The word ‘handicap’ is now usually avoided.)
handicapped /ˈhændɪkæpt/ adjective referring to a person who has a disability (NOTE: The word ‘handicapped’ is now usually avoided.)
Hansen’s bacillus /ˈhænsənz ˈbæsələs/ noun the bacterium which causes leprosy. Mycobacterium leprae [Discovered 1873. After Gerhard Henrik Armáuer Hansen (1841–1912), Norwegian physician.]
Hansen’s disease /ˈhænsən dɪz, ˈzɪs/ noun same as leprosy
haphazard /ˌhæpˈhæzərd/ adjective referring to a cell such as a gamete where each chromosome occurs only once. In humans the haploid number of chromosomes is 23.
haploid /ˌhæpləʊd/ adjective
harelip /ˈhərlɪp/ noun same as cleft lip
harm /hɑːm/ noun injury or damage as a result of something that you do  ○ Walking to work every day won’t do you any harm.  ○ there’s no harm in taking the tablets only for one week there will be no side effects from taking the tablets for a week. ■ verb to damage or hurt someone or something  ○ Walking to work every day won’t harm you.
harmful /ˈhɑːrfʊl/ adjective causing injury or damage  ○ Bright light can be harmful to your eyes.  ○ Sudden violent exercise can be harmful.
harmless /ˈhɑːrmliːs/ adjective causing no injury or damage  ○ These herbal remedies are quite harmless.
Harrison’s sulcus /ˈhɑːrɪsənz ˈsʌlkəs/, Harrison’s groove /ˈhɑːrɪsən ˈɡruːv/ noun a hollow on either side of the chest which develops in children who have difficulty in breathing, seen especially in cases of rickets
Harris’s operation /ˈhɑːrɪsiz ˈɒpərəʃən/ noun the surgical removal of the prostate gland [After S.H. Harris (1880–1936), Australian surgeon.]
Hartmann’s solution /ˈhɑːrtmənz ˈsʌltʃən/ noun a chemical solution used in drips to replace body fluids lost in dehydration, particularly as a result of infantile gastroenteritis [Described 1932. After Alexis Frank...
Hartmann disease /ˈhɑːtnəp ˈdeɪz/ noun an inherited condition affecting amino acid metabolism and producing thick skin and impaired mental development [After the name of the family in which this hereditary disease was first recorded]

harvest /ˈhɑːrvɪst/ verb to take something for use elsewhere, e.g. a piece of skin for a graft or eggs for IVF

Hashimoto’s disease /ˈhæʃmaʊtoʊz ˈdeɪz/ noun a type of goitre in middle-aged women, where the woman is sensitive to secretions from her own thyroid gland, and, in extreme cases, the face swells and the skin turns yellow [Described 1912. After Hakaru Hashimoto (1881–1934), Japanese surgeon.]

Hashish /ˈhæʃɪʃ/ noun cannabis

hastrum /ˈhæstrəm/ noun a sac on the outside of the colon [NOTE: The plural is hastrae.]

HAV abbr hepatitis A virus

Haversian canal /ˈhævərsən ˈkænəl/ noun a fine canal which runs vertically through the Haversian systems in compact bone, containing blood vessels and lymph ducts [Described 1689. After Clopton Havers (1657–1702), English surgeon.]

Haversian system /ˈhævərˌsən ˈsɪstəm/ noun a unit of compact bone built around a Haversian canal, made of a series of bony layers which form a cylinder. Also called osteon

hayfever /ˈheɪ,fɪvər/ noun inflammation in the nasal passage and eyes caused by an allergic reaction to plant pollen. Also allergic rhinitis

HAZ abbr health action zone

Hb abbr haemoglobin

HBV abbr hepatitis B virus

hCG abbr human chorionic gonadotrophin

HCHS abbr Health and Community Health Services

HDL abbr high density lipoprotein

head /head/ noun 1. the round top part of the body, which contains the eyes, nose, mouth, brain, etc. (NOTE: For other terms referring to the head, see words beginning with cephal-, cephalo-.) 2. a rounded top part of a bone which fits into a socket or head of humerus or head of femur

headache /ˈhɛdərk/ noun a pain in the head, caused by changes in pressure in the blood vessels feeding the brain which act on the nerves. Also called cephalalgia

COMMENT: Headaches can be caused by a blow to the head, by lack of sleep or food, by eye strain, sinus infections and many other causes. Mild headaches can be treated with an analgesic and rest. Severe headaches which recur may be caused by serious disorders in the head or nervous system.

heal cold /hed ˈkɔld/ noun a minor illness, with inflammation of the nasal passages, excess mucus in the nose and sneezing

head louse /ˈhed ˈlaʊs/ noun a small insect of the Pediculus genus, which lives on the scalp and sucks blood. Also called Pediculus capitis [NOTE: The plural is head lice.]

Heal test /ˈhiːl ˈtest/ noun a test in which tuberculin is injected into the skin to find out whether a person is immune to tuberculous.

Mantoux test

head /ˈhiːd/ verb 1. (of wound) to return to a healthy state. 2. After six weeks, her wound had still not healed. 3. A minor cut will heal faster if it is left without a bandage.

healing /ˈhiːlɪŋ/ noun the process of getting better. Also a substance which will accelerate the healing process

healing by first intention /ˈhiːlɪŋ ˈbaɪ ˈfɜːrst ɪnˈtenʃən/ noun the healing of a clean wound where the tissue reforms quickly

healing by second intention /ˈhiːlɪŋ ˈbaɪ ˈsɛkənd ɪnˈtenʃən/ noun the healing of an infected wound or ulcer, which takes place slowly and may leave a permanent scar

health /helθ/ noun the general condition of the mind or body. He’s in good health.

healthcare professional /hedkərˈprəʊfərəl/ noun a qualified person who works in an occupation related to health care, e.g. a nurse

Health and Community Health Services

Health and Safety at Work Act /ˈhelθ ənd ˈseɪfəti ət ˈwɜːk ˈeɪkt/ an Act in the UK, an Act of Parliament which lays down how the health of workers should be protected by the companies they work for

Health and Safety Executive /ˈhelθ ənd ˈseɪfəti əkˈswɛsətɪv/ an organisation responsible for overseeing the health and safety of workers

health authority /helθ ˈɔtərətɪ/ noun

Strategic Health Authority

healthcare /ˈhelθkeər/ noun the general treatment of people with medical disorders, especially the use of measures to stop a disease from occurring

healthcare assistant /ˈhelθkeər əˈsɪstənt/ noun someone who assists health professionals in looking after a sick or dependent person

healthcare delivery /ˈhelθkeər ˈdɛlɪvəri/ noun the provision of care and treatment by the health service

healthcare professional /ˈhelθkeər ˈprəʊfərəl/ noun
healthcare system

healthcare system /ˈhelθkeə sɪstəm/ noun any organised set of health services

health centre /ˈhelθ ˈsɛntə/ noun a public building in which a group of doctors practise health education /ˈhelθ ˈedʒuˈkeɪʃən/ noun the process of teaching people, both school children and adults, to do things to improve their health, e.g. to take more exercise

Health Education Authority /ˈhelθ ˈedʒuˈkeɪʃən ɔrˈθɔrəti/ noun a government health promotion agency in England designed to help people make aware of how they can improve their health. Abb HEA

health food /ˈhelθ ˈfud/ noun food that is regarded as good for health, especially containing ingredients such as cereals, dried fruit and nuts and without additives

health inequality /ˈhelθ ɪˈkwɪlɪtɪ/ noun the differences that exist in health across the social classes, with poorer people tending to experience poorer health

health information service /ˈhelθ ɪnfaˈmeɪʃən ˈsɜrvəs/ noun a nation-wide information service delivered via a free telephone helpline. Abb HIS

health insurance /ˈhelθ ɪnˈʃərəns/ noun insurance which pays the cost of treatment for illness

Health Ombudsman /ˈhelθ ˈəmˌbʌdzmən/ noun same as Health Service Commissioner

…the HA told the Health Ombudsman that nursing staff and students now received full training in the use of the nursing process. (Nursing Times)

health promotion /ˈhelθ prəˈməʊʃən/ noun the act of improving the health of a particular community or of the public generally, e.g. using health education, immunisation and screening

Health Protection Agency /ˈhelθ prəˈtekʃən əˈɡenʃi/ noun a national organisation for England and Wales, established in 2003, dedicated to the protection of people’s health, especially by reducing the impact of infectious diseases, chemicals, poisons and radiation. It brings together existing sources of expertise in public health, communicable diseases, emergency planning, infection control, poisons and radiation hazards

health service /ˈhelθ ˈsɜrvəs/ noun an organisation which is in charge of providing health care to a particular community

Health Service Commissioner /ˈhelθ ˈsɜrvəs kəˈmɪʃənər/ noun someone who is responsible for the provision of local health care, through the management of hospital, GP, and community health services

health service planning /ˈhelθ ˈsɜrvəs ˈplənɪŋ/ noun the process of deciding what the health care needs of a community are, with the help of statistics, and what resources can be provided for that community

health visitor /ˈhelθ ˈvɪzɪə/ noun a registered nurse with qualifications in midwifery or obstetrics and preventive medicine, who visits mothers and babies and sick people in their homes and advises on treatment

...in the UK, the main screen is carried out by health visitors at 6–10 months. (Lancet)

healthy /ˈhelθi/ adjective 1. in good physical condition 2. helping you to stay in good physical condition O People are healthier than they were fifty years ago. O This town is the healthiest place in England. O If you eat a healthy diet and take plenty of exercise there is no reason why you should fall ill. (NOTE: healthier = healthiest)

hear /hɪər/ verb to sense sounds with the ears O I can’t hear what you’re saying. (NOTE: hearing – heard)

hearing /ˈhɑrɪŋ/ noun the ability to hear, or the function performed by the ear of sensing sounds and sending sound impulses to the brain O His hearing is failing. (NOTE: For other terms referring to hearing, see words beginning with audi-, audio-)

hearing aid /ˈhɑrɪŋ ɛd/ noun a small electronic device fitted into or near the ear, to improve someone’s hearing by making the sounds louder

hearing-impaired /ˈhɑrɪŋ ɪmˈpiːd/ adjective having a degree of hearing loss

hearing loss /ˈhɑrɪŋ lɔs/ noun partial or complete loss of the ability to hear

heart /hɑːrt/ noun the main organ in the body, which maintains the circulation of the blood around the body by its pumping action O The doctor listened to his heart. O She has heart trouble. (NOTE: For other terms referring to the heart, see also words beginning with cardi-)

COMMENT: The heart is situated slightly to the left of the central part of the chest, between the lungs. It is divided into two parts by a vertical septum; each half is itself divided into an upper chamber (the atrium) and a lower chamber (the ventricle). The veins bring blood from the body into the right atrium; from there it passes into the right ventricle and is pumped into the pulmonary artery which takes it to the lungs. Oxygenated blood returns from the lungs to the left atrium, passes to the left ventricle and from there is pumped into the aorta for circulation round the arteries. The heart expands and contracts by the force of the heart muscle (the myocardium) under impulses from the sinoatrial node, and an average heart beats about 70 times a minute. The contracting beat as it pumps blood out (the systole) is followed by a weaker diastole, where the muscles relax to allow blood to flow back into the heart. In a heart attack, part of the myocardium is deprived of blood because of a clot in...
a coronary artery. This has an effect on the rhythm of the heartbeat and can be fatal. In heart block, impulses from the sinoatrial node fail to reach the ventricles properly.

heart attack /hɑrt ,æk/ noun a condition in which the heart has a reduced blood supply because one of the arteries becomes blocked by a blood clot, causing myocardial ischaemia and myocardial infarction (informal)

heartbeat /hɑrbi:bɑt/ noun the regular noise made by the heart as it pumps blood

heart block /hɑrt blɒk/ noun the slowing of the action of the heart because the impulses from the sinoatrial node to the ventricles are delayed or interrupted. There are either longer impulses (first degree block) or missing impulses (second degree block) or no impulses at all (complete heart block), in which case the ventricles continue to beat slowly and independently of the sinoatrial node.

heartburn /hɑrt'ba:rn/ noun indigestion which causes a burning feeling in the stomach and oesophagus, and a flow of acid saliva into the mouth (informal)

heart bypass /hɑrt 'baɪpɑs/, heart bypass operation /hɑrt 'baɪpɑs ɒpə/ noun same as coronary artery bypass graft

heart disease /hɑrt 'dɪzəs/ noun any disease of the heart in general

heart failure /hɑrt 'feiljʊə/ noun the failure of the heart to maintain the output of blood to meet the demands of the body. It may affect the left or right sides of the heart, or both sides. Congestive heart failure

heart-lung machine /hɑrt 'laŋ məʃən/ noun a machine used to pump blood round the body and maintain the supply of oxygen to the heart during heart surgery

heart-lung transplant /hɑrt 'laŋ ,træns plənzət/ noun an operation to transplant a new heart and lungs into someone

heart massage /hɑrt 'meɪsæʒ/ noun a treatment which involves pressing on the chest to make a heart which has stopped beating start working again

heart murmur /hɑrt 'mɜrəm/ noun an unusual sound made by turbulent blood flow, sometimes as a result of valve disease

heart rate /hɑrt ri:t/ noun the number of times the heart beats per minute

heart sounds /hɑrt sɑʊndz/ plural noun two different sounds made by the heart as it beats.

lubb-dupp

heart stoppage /hɑrt 'stɑpɪdʒ/ noun a situation where the heart has stopped beating

heart surgeon /hɑrt sərˈdʒʊn/ noun a surgeon who specialises in operations on the heart

heart surgery /hɑrt ˈsɜːdʒərɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remedy a condition of the heart

heart tamponade /hɑrt ˈtæmpəˌneɪd/ noun same as cardiac tamponade

173 Heimlich manoeuvre

heart transplant /hɑrt ,trænsplənt/ noun a surgical operation to transplant a heart into someone

heat cramp /hɪt ˈkræmp/ noun cramp produced by loss of salt from the body in very hot conditions

heat exhaustion /hɪt ɪɡˈzəstʃən/ noun collapse caused by physical exertion in hot conditions, involving loss of salt and body fluids

heat rash /hɪt rɑʃ/ noun same as miliaria

heat spots /hɪt spots/ plural noun little red spots which develop on the face in very hot weather

heatstroke /hɪtstrəʊk/ noun a condition in which someone becomes too hot and his or her body temperature rises abnormally, leading to headaches, stomach cramps and sometimes loss of consciousness

heat therapy /hɪt ˈθɛrəpi, heat treatment /hɪt ,trɪtəmənt/ noun same as thermotherapy

heaviness period /ˌheɪvɪˈnɛs/ noun a monthly period during which a woman loses an unusually large amount of blood. It is often painful and sometimes indicates possible health problems, such as fibroids or hypothyroidism.

hebephrenia /ˌhɪbɪfəˈrɪniə/ noun hebephrenic schizophrenia /ˌhɪbɪfɪˈrɛnɪk ˈskɪtsəˌfrɪnɪə/ noun a condition in which someone, usually an adolescent, has hallucinations, delusions and deterioration of personality, talks rapidly and generally acts in a strange manner

Heberden's node /ˌhiːbərˈdɛnz ˈnəʊd/ noun a small bony lump which develops on the end joints of fingers in osteoarthritis [-described 1802. After William Heberden (1767–1845), British physician, specialist in rheumatic diseases.]

hebetude /ˈhɛbətjuːd/ noun dullness of the senses during acute fever, which makes the person uninterested in his or her surroundings and unable to respond to stimuli

hectic /hiːtɪk/ adjective recurring regularly

hectic fever /ˌhektɪk ˈfiːvər/ noun an attack of fever which occurs each day in someone who has tuberculosis

heel /hɪl/ noun the back part of the foot

heel bone /ˈhɪl bəʊn/ noun the bone forming the heel, beneath the talus. Also called calcaneus

Hegar's sign /ˈheɡəz, ˈheɡəz/ noun a way of detecting pregnancy, by inserting the fingers into the uterus and pressing with the other hand on the pelvic cavity to feel if the neck of the uterus has become soft [After Alfred Hegar (1830–1914), Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Freiburg, Germany]

Heimlich manoeuvre /ˈhɛmlɪk ˈmænəvə ˈnuːvə/ noun an emergency treatment for choking, in which a strong upward push beneath
hemiarthroplasty /ˌhemiˌarθəroˈplæstɪ/ noun an operation to repair a joint which replaces one of its surfaces with an artificial substance, often metal
hemiatrophy /ˌhemiˈætroʊfɪ/ noun a condition in which half of the body or half of an organ or part is atrophied
hemiballismus /ˌhemiˈbælɪzɪm/ noun a sudden movement of the limbs on one side of the body, caused by a disease of the basal ganglia
hemiacromia /ˌhemiˈækroʊmɪə/ noun a head-ache in one side of the head, as in migraine
hemimelia /ˌhemiˈmiːlɪə/ noun a congenital condition in which someone has absent or extremely short arms or legs
hemiparesis /ˌhemiˈpɛrəsɪs/ noun slight paralysis of the muscles of one side of the body
hemiplegia /ˌhemiˈplɛdʒɪə/ noun severe paralysis affecting one side of the body due to damage of the central nervous system. Compare diplegia
hemiplegic /ˌhemiˈplɛdʒɪk/ adjective referring to paralysis of one side of the body
hemisphere /ˌhɛmɪˈsɛfər/ noun half of a sphere
hemo- /hɛməʊ-/ prefix US spelling of haemo-
HENDerson’s model /ˈhɛndə(r)z(ə)n/ noun a model of nurse–patient relationships based on 14 basic principles of nursing. The main idea is that ‘the nurse does for others what they would do for themselves if they had the strength, the will, and the knowledge…but that the nurse makes the patient independent of him or her as soon as possible’
Henle’s loop /ˌhenəlɪz ˈluːp/ noun same as loop of Henle [Described 1862. After Friedrich Gustav Jakob Henle (1809–85), Professor of Anatomy at Göttingen, Germany.]
Henoch-Schönlein purpura /ˌhɛnəkˌʃɔnˈlein pɜːrˈpəra/, Henoch’s purpura /ˈhɛnəksə ˈpɜːpəra/ noun a condition in which blood vessels become inflamed and bleed into the skin, causing a rash called purpura and also pain in the stomach and the joints, vomiting and diarrhoea. It often occurs after an upper respiratory infection, mostly in children aged two to 11. [Described 1832 by Schönlein and 1865 by Henoch. Eduard Heinrich Henoch (1820–1910), Professor of Paediatrics at Berlin, Germany; Johannes Lukas Schönlein (1793–1864), physician and pathologist at Würzburg, Zürich and Berlin.]
hepatitis /hepətətɪs/ noun same as hepatitis (informal)
hepatia /hepətiə/ noun an anticoagulant substance found in the liver and lungs, and also produced artificially for use in the treatment of thrombosis
hepat- /hepət-/ prefix same as hepato- (used before vowels)
hepatalgia /hepəˈtældʒə/ noun pain in the liver
hepatectomy /hepətekˈtəmə/ noun the surgical removal of part of the liver
hepatic /ˈhiːpətɪk/ adjective referring to the liver
hepatic artery /ˈhiːpətɪk ˈærtɪri/ noun an artery which takes the blood to the liver
hepatic cell /ˈhiːpətɪk ˈsɛl/ noun an epithelial cell of the liver acinus
hepatic duct /ˈhiːpətɪk ˈdʌkt/ noun a duct which links the liver to the bile duct leading to the duodenum
hepatic flexure /ˈhiːpətɪk ˈfleksər/ noun a bend in the colon, where the ascending and transverse colons join
hepaticostomy /ˈhiːpətɪkəstəmə/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening in the hepatic duct taking bile from the liver
hepatic portal system /ˈhiːpətɪk ˈpɔːrtəl ˈsɪstəm/ noun a group of veins linking to form the portal vein, which brings blood from the pancreas, spleen, gall bladder and the abdominal part of the alimentary canal to the liver
hepatic vein /ˈhiːpətɪk ˈveɪn/ noun a vein which takes blood from the liver to the inferior vena cava
hepatitis /ˈhepətɪtɪs/ ¦ porta hepatitis
hepatitis /ˈhepətɪtɪs/ ¦ hepatitis /ˈhepətɪtɪs/ ¦ hepatitis /ˈhepətɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the liver through disease or drugs
hepatitis A /ˈhepətɪtɪs ə/ noun a relatively mild form of viral hepatitis that is transmitted through contaminated food and water
hepatitis A virus /ˈhepətɪtɪs ə ˈvɜːrəs/ noun a virus which causes hepatitis A. Abbr HAV
hepatitis B /ˈhepətɪtɪs ˈbiː/ noun a severe form of viral hepatitis that is transmitted by contact with infected blood or other body fluids
hepatitis B virus /ˈhepətɪtɪs ˈbiː ˌvɜːrəs/ noun a virus which causes hepatitis B. Abbr HBV
hepatitis C /ˈhepətɪtɪs ˈsiː/ noun a form of viral hepatitis that is transmitted by contact with infected blood or other body fluids but is often without symptoms. (NOTE: It was formerly called non-A, non-B hepatitis.)
hepatitis C virus /ˈhepətɪtɪs ˈsiː vɜːrəs/ noun a virus which causes hepatitis C. Abbr HCV
hepatitis delta /ˈhepətɪtɪs ˈdɛltə/ noun same as delta hepatitis
hepato- /hepətəʊ-/ prefix referring to the liver
hepatoblastoma /hepətəˈbλæstəmə/ noun a malignant tumour in the liver, made up of epithelial-type cells often with areas of immature cartilage and embryonic bone
hepatocèle /ˌhepətəˈkoʊli/ noun a hernia of the liver through the diaphragm or the abdominal wall
hepatocellular /ˌhepətəˈkoʊliələ/ adjective referring to liver cells
hepatocellular jaundice /ˌhepətəˈkɔːlərəl ˈdʒəʊndɪs/ noun jaundice caused by injury to or disease of the liver cells
hepatocirrhosis /ˌhepətəˈkɜːrəhəsɪs/ noun same as cirrhosis
hepatoic ligament /ˌhepətəˈɒkəlɪmənt/ noun a ligament which links the gall bladder and the right bend of the colon
hepatocyte /ˌhepətəˈsɔːtɪk/ noun a liver cell which synthesises and stores substances, and produces bile
hepatogenous /ˌhepətəˈrəʊdʒənəs/ noun referring to or originating in the liver. C hepatogenous jaundice
hepatolenticular degeneration /ˌhepətəˈlɛntəŋjʊlər ˈdɛʤənərəʃən/ noun same as Wilson’s disease
hepatoma /ˌhepətəˈtəʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour of the liver formed of mature cells, especially found in people with cirrhosis
hepatomagaly /ˌhepətəˈmæɡələ/ noun a condition in which the liver becomes very large
hepatosplenomegaly /ˌhepətəˈsplənəməˈɡələ/ noun enlargement of both the liver and the spleen, as occurs in leukaemia or lymphoma
hepatotoxic /ˌhepətəˈtɒksɪk/ adjective destroying the liver cells
herald patch /ˈhɛrəld ˈpærʃ/ noun a small spot of a rash such as pityriasis rosea which appears some time before the main rash
herb /ˈhɜːrb/ noun a plant which can be used in preparing medicines
herbal /ˈhɜːrbəl/ adjective referring to plants which are used as medicines
herbalism /ˈhɜːbrəlɪzm/ noun ¦ herbal medicine
herbalist /ˈhɜːbrəlɪst/ noun a person who treats illnesses or disorders with substances extracted from plants
herbal medicine /ˈhɜːrbəl ˌmɛdɪsɪnm/ noun a system of medical treatment involving the use of substances extracted from plants
herbal remedy /ˈhɜːrbəl ˈrɛmədi/ noun a medicine made from plants, e.g. an infusion made from dried leaves or flowers in hot water
herd immunity

/1n/ noun the fact of a group of people being resistant to a specific disease, because many individuals in the group are immune to or immunised against the microorganism which causes it.

hereditary /hərəˈdɪtɪ/ adjective passed as from parents to children through the genes

hereditary spherocytosis /hərəˈdɪtɪs/ noun a state where an organ is placed in a different position from usual or is malformed or deformed.

herpangina /hərˈpæŋɡə/ noun an infectious disease of children, where the tonsils and back of the throat become inflamed and ulcerated, caused by a Coxsackie virus.

herpes /ˈhɜrpes/ noun inflammation of the skin or mucous membrane, caused by a virus, where small blisters are formed.

herpes simplex /ˈhɜrpes ˈsɪmplɛks/ noun 1. (Type 1) a virus that produces a painful blister, called a cold sore, usually on the lips. 2. (Type 2) a sexually transmitted disease which forms blisters in the genital region. Also called genital herpes.

herpesvirus /ˈhɜrpesvɜriz/ noun one of a group of viruses which cause herpes and chickenpox (herpesvirus Type I), and genital herpes (herpesvirus Type II).

herpes zoster /ˈhɜrpes ˈzoʊstər/ noun inflammation of a sensory nerve, characterised by pain along the nerve and causing a line of blisters to form on the skin, usually found mainly on the abdomen or back, or on the face. Also called shingles, zona.

herpetiformis /hərˈpetɪfɔrˌmɪs/ adjective referring to herpes.

heterogenic /hərˈtɛrədʒɪk/ adjective coming from a different source. (Note: Do not confuse with heterogeneous.)

heterogenous /hərˈtɛrəˈdʒnəs/ adjective having different characteristics or qualities.

heterochromia /hərˈtɛrəˌkroʊmə/ noun a condition in which the irises of the eyes are different colours.

heterochrome /hərˈtɛrəˌkrəʊm/ adjective referring to a her-

heterosexual /hərˈtɛrəˌsɛksjuəl/ adjective attracted to people of the opposite sex or relating to relations between males and females. noun a person who is sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex. Compare bisexual, homosexual.

heterosexual /ˈhɛrˌtɛrəˌsɛksjuəl/ noun a condition in which the two eyes see differently.

heterosexual /ˈhɛrˌtɛrəˌsɛksjuəl/ adjective attracted to people of the opposite sex or relating to relations between males and females. noun a person who is sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex. Compare bisexual, homosexual.

heterotopia /ˌhɛrˌtɛrəˈtɔpiə/ noun 1. a state where an organ is placed in a different position from usual or is malformed or deformed.

heterosis /ˈhɛrˌtɛrəˌsɪs/ noun sexual attraction towards persons of the opposite sex.
gus passes through the diaphragm muscle through which the oesophagus connects with the stomach. Bulges through the opening in the diaphragm, the oesophagus and stomach can be taken easily for analysis. Immersion of the heart so that drugs can be given and blood samples can be taken easily. She had an attack of hiccups

"Hickman catheter" is a plastic tube which is put into the large vein above the heart so that drugs can be given and blood samples can be taken easily. A drink of water, holding the breath and counting, breathing into a paper bag, are all recommended.

Hickman line is a syringe with a rubber bulb in the centre that allows flow in one direction only, used mainly to give enemas [After Alfred Hickman (1808–84), British surgeon].

Hiccups occur when the glottis which makes a characteristic sound is closed, breathing into a paper bag, are all recommended. A drink of water, holding the breath and counting, breathing into a paper bag, are all recommended.

The glottis which makes a characteristic sound is closed, breathing into a paper bag, are all recommended. A drink of water, holding the breath and counting, breathing into a paper bag, are all recommended.

Hiler is a hollow where blood vessels or nerve fibres enter an organ such as a heart. An injection is given under local anaesthesia.

Hills is a hollow where blood vessels or nerve fibres enter an organ such as a heart. An injection is given under local anaesthesia.

Hinge joint is a joint where two or more different versions of a specific gene. The development of tissue which is not normal to the part in which it is produced.

Heterotropia is a condition in which the part of an embryo that develops into the eye is joined to the upper leg. See illustration at pelvis in Supplement.
hippus /hippəs/ noun alternating rapid contraction and dilatation of the pupil of the eye.

hip replacement /ˈhɪp ɪˈpleɪsmənt/ noun a surgical operation to replace the whole ball and socket joint at the hip with an artificial one.

Hirschsprung's disease /ˈhɪərsprʌŋz dɪˈzɪs/ noun a congenital condition where parts of the lower colon lack nerve cells, making peristalsis impossible, so that food accumulates in the upper colon which becomes swollen. [Described 1888. After Harald Hirschsprung (1830–1916), Professor of Paediatrics in Copenhagen, Denmark.]

hirsute /ˈhɜːsjuːt/ adjective with a lot of hair.

hirsutism /ˈhɜːsjuːtəzɪzəm/ noun the condition of having excessive hair, especially a condition in which a woman grows hair on the body in the same way as a man.

hirudin /ˈhɪrʊdɪn/ noun an anticoagulant substance produced by leeches, which is injected into the bloodstream while the leech is feeding on a body.

HIS abbr Health Information Service.

hist- /ˈhɪst-/ same as histo- (NOTE: used before vowels).

histamine /ˈhɪstəmɪn/ noun a substance released in response to allergens from mast cells throughout the body. Histamines dilate blood vessels, constrict the cells of smooth muscles and cause an increase in acid secretions in the stomach.

histamine headache /ˈhɪstəmɪn, ˈhɛdɛrɪk/ noun Horton's syndrome.

histamine receptor /ˈhɪstəmɪn ˈrɪ,pektər/ noun a cell which is stimulated by histamine.

H1 receptors in blood vessels are involved in allergic reactions, H2 receptors in the stomach are involved in gastric acid secretion.

histamine test /ˈhɪstəmɪn test/ noun a test to determine the acidity of gastric juice.

histaminic /ˈhɪstəmɪnɪk/ adjective referring to histamines.

histaminic headache /ˈhɪstəmɪnɪk ˈhɛdɛrɪk/ noun Horton's syndrome.

histidine /ˈhɪstədɪn/ noun an amino acid from which histamine is derived.

histiocytoma /ˈhɪstɪəsətəʊmə/ noun a tumour containing histiocytes.

histiocytosis /ˈhɪstɪəsətəˈsɒsɪs/ noun a condition in which histiocytes are present in the blood.

histiocytosis X /ˈhɪstɪəsətəˈsɒsɪs ˈeks/ noun any form of histiocytosis where the cause is not known, e.g. Hand-Schüller-Christian disease.

histo- /ˈhɪstəʊ/ prefix relating to the body's tissue or histology.

histochemistry /ˈhɪstəʊˌkɛmɪstrɪ/ noun the study of the chemical constituents of cells and tissues and also their function and distribution, using a light or electron microscope to evaluate the stains.

histocompatibility /ˈhɪstəʊkɒmpətəˈbɪlɪtɪ/ noun compatibility between the antigens of tissues from two individuals, important in transplants.

histocompatible /ˈhɪstəʊkɒmpərət(ə)r/ adjective referring to tissues from two individuals which have compatible antigens.

histogenesis /ˈhɪstəʊdʒənəsɪs/ noun the formation and development of tissue from the embryological germ layer.

histogram /ˈhɪstəɡræm/ noun a way of displaying frequency values as columns whose height is proportional to the corresponding frequency. *A histogram showing numbers of patients with the condition in each age group.*

histology /ˈhɪstəlɒdʒɪ/ noun the study of the anatomy of tissue cells and minute cellular structure.

histolysis /ˈhɪstəlɒsɪs/ noun the disintegration of tissue.

hystolytica /ˈhɪstəlɪtɪkə/ Entamoeba histolytica.

histoplasmosis /ˌhɪstəˈplæzməʊsɪs/ noun a lung disease caused by infection with the fungus Histoplasma.

histophagia /ˈhɪstəˌfədʒiə/ noun the characteristic ingestion of a system of classifying tumours.

histological grade /ˈhɪstəˌlɒdʒɪk(ə)r/ noun 'greed' noun a system of classifying tumours according to how malignant they are.

histology /ˈhɪstəlɒdʒɪ/ noun.

histological grade /ˈhɪstəˌlɒdʒɪk(ə)r/ noun referring to histology.

histological grade /ˈhɪstəˌlɒdʒɪk(ə)r/ noun a way of classifying tumours.

histo- /ˈhɪstəʊ/ prefix relating to the body's tissue.

hysterectomy /ˈhɪsterəktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the womb.

hysterogram /ˈhɪsterəɡræm/ noun a method of imaging the womb and its surroundings using a light or electron microscope to evaluate the tissues.

HIV abbr human immunodeficiency virus. *‘HIV-associated dementia is characterized by psychomotor slowing and inattention’* [British Journal of Nursing]

histotoxic /ˈhɪstəʊˌtɒksɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which is poisonous to tissue.

hives /ˈhایvz/ noun same as urticaria (NOTE: Takes a singular verb.)
HIV-negative /ˌɛtʃ əv ˈviː ˈnegətɪv/ adjective referring to someone who has been tested and shown not to have HIV
HIV-positive /ˌɛtʃ əv ˈviː ˈpɜːzətɪv/ adjective referring to someone who has been tested and shown to have HIV
HLA /hɛlˈeɪə/ abbr human leucocyte antigen
HLA system /ˌɛl ˈeɪ sɪstəm/ noun a system of HLA antigens on the surface of cells which need to be histocompatible to allow transplants to take place
COMMENT: HLA-A is the most important of the antigens responsible for rejection of transplants.
HMO /ˌhɪməʊ/ abbr US Health Maintenance Organization
hoarse /ˈhɔːrəs/ adjective referring to a voice which is harsh and rough
hoarseness /ˈhɔːrəsəs/ noun a harsh and rough sound of the voice, often caused by laryngitis
hobnail liver /ˈhɑbənl ˈlɪvər/ noun same as atrophic cirrhosis
Hodgkin’s disease /ˈhɒdɡkɪnz ˈdiːzdʒiːz/ noun a malignant disease in which the lymph glands are enlarged and there is an increase in the lymphoid tissues in the liver, spleen and bone marrow. It is frequently fatal if not treated early. [Described 1832. After John Hodgkin (1798–1866), British physician.]
hoist /ˈhɔɪst/ noun a device with pulleys and wires for raising a bed or a patient
hole in the heart /hoʊl in ˈhɑrt/ noun same as septal defect (informal)
Holger-Nielsen method /ˈholɡər ˌnɪlson ˌmeθəd/ noun a formerly used method of giving artificial respiration by pressing a patient’s back and raising their arms backwards
holism /ˈhɒlɪzəm/ noun the theory that all of a person’s physical, mental and social conditions should be considered in the treatment of his or her illness
holistic /ˈhɒlɪstɪk/ adjective referring to a method of treatment involving all of someone’s mental and family circumstances rather than just dealing with the condition from which he or she is suffering
holistic care /ˈhɒlɪstɪk ˈkeər/ noun the care and treatment of a whole person rather than just of his or her medical symptoms
holo- /ˈhɒləʊ/ prefix entire, complete
holocrine /ˈhɒləkrən/ adjective referring to a gland where the secretions are made up of disintegrated cells of the gland itself
Homans’ sign /ˈhɒmænz ˈsain/ noun pain in the calf when the foot is bent back, a sign of deep-vein thrombosis [Described 1941. After John Homans (1877–1954), Professor of Clinical Surgery at Harvard, USA.]
homeo- /ˈhəʊməʊ/ prefix like or similar
hookworm /hʊkwɔːm/ noun a parasitic worm
hookworm disease /hʊkwɔːm ˈdɪzəz/ noun anacylostomiasis
hordeolum /hɔːdrəˈləʊm/ noun an infection of the gland at the base of an eyelash. Also called sty
horizontal /ˈhɔːrɪzənt(ə)l/ adjective lying flat or at a right angle to the vertical
horizontal fissure /ˈhɔːrɪzənt(ə)l ˈfɪʃər/ noun ANAT a horizontal groove between the superior and middle lobes of a lung. See illustration at LUNGS in Supplement
horizontal plane /ˈhɔːrɪzənt(ə)l ˈplɛn/ adjective same as transverse plane. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement
hormonal /ˈhɔːrəmənəl/ adjective referring to hormones
hormone /ˈhɔːrmən/ noun a substance which is produced by one part of the body, especially the endocrine glands and is carried to another part of the body by the bloodstream where it has particular effects or functions
hormone replacement therapy /ˈhɔːrmən rɪˈplɛrsmənt/ (kerapi, hormone therapy / ˈhɔːrmən ˈterəpli/ noun 1. treatment for someone whose endocrine glands have been removed. 2. treatment to relieve the symptoms of the menopause by supplying oestrogen and reducing the risk of osteoporosis. Abbreviation: HRT
horn /hɔːrn/ noun 1. (in humans) tissue which grows out of an organ. 2. (in humans) one of the H-shaped limbs of grey matter seen in a cross-section of the spinal cord. 3. (in humans) an extension of the pulp chamber of a tooth towards the cusps.
Horner's syndrome /ˈhɔːrnər ˈsɜːndraʊm/ noun a condition caused by paralysis of the sympathetic nerve in one side of the neck, making the eyelids hang down and the pupils contract. [Described 1869. After Johann Friedrich Horner (1831–86), Professor of Ophthalmology in Zürich, Switzerland.]
horny /ˈhɔːnɪ/ adjective referring to skin which is very hard (worn). For terms referring to horny tissue, see words beginning with kerat-, kerato-

horseshoe kidney /ˈhɔːrʃʃu:/ noun a kidneys in which the body of the kidney is abnormal, and the ends of the kidney join together.

Horton's syndrome /ˈhɔːtnəz ˈsɜːndraʊm/ noun a severe headache, often with constant pain around one eye, which starts usually within a few hours of going to sleep. It is caused by the release of histamine in the body. [After Bayard Taylor Horton (b. 1895), US physician]
hose /həʊz/ noun 1. a long rubber or plastic tube. 2. a support hose

hospice /ˈhɒspɪs/ noun a hospital which offers palliative care for terminally ill people
hospital /ˈhɒspɪtl/ noun a place where sick or injured people are looked after. hospital bed 1. a special type of bed used in hospitals, usually adjustable in many ways for the comfort of the patient. 2. a place in a hospital which can be occupied by a patient. 3. There will be no reduction in the number of hospital beds.
hospital-acquired infection /ˈhɒspɪtlˈəʊkədrəd ɪnˈfekʃən/ noun a disease caught during a stay in hospital.
Hospital Activity Analysis /ˈhɒspɪtl əˈkɪtvəti əˈnɛlsəs/ noun a regular detailed report on patients in hospitals, including information about treatment, length of stay and outcome.
hospital care /ˈhɒspɪtl ˈkeə/ noun treatment in a hospital.
hospital chaplain /ˈhɒspɪtl ˈtʃepli/ noun a religious minister attached to a hospital, who visits and comforts patients and their families and gives them the sacraments if necessary.
hospital corner /ˈhɒspɪtl ˈkɔrnər/ noun a corner of a bed that keeps it tight
hospital doctor /ˈhɒspɪtl ˈdɔktər/ noun a doctor who works only in a hospital and does not receive people in his or her own surgery
hospital gangrene /ˈhɒspɪtl ˈɡændrɪn/ noun gangrene caused by insanitary hospital conditions
hospital infection /ˈhɒspɪtl ɪnˈfekʃən/ noun an infection which someone gets during a hospital visit, or one which develops among hospital staff.
Comment: Hospital infection is an increasingly common problem due to growing antimicrobial resistance and inappropriate antibiotic use. Strains of bacteria such as MRSA have evolved which seem to be more easily transmitted between patients and are difficult to treat.
hospitalisation /ˈhɒspɪtləˈzeɪʃən/ noun the act of sending someone to hospital. The doctor recommended immediate hospitalisation.
hospitalise /ˈhɒspɪtlɪz/ verb to send someone to hospital. He is so ill that he has had to be hospitalised.
hospital orderly /ˈhɒspɪtl ˈɔrdəli/ noun a person who does heavy work in a hospital, such as wheeling patients into the operating theatre or moving equipment about.
hospital trust /ˈhɒspɪtl ˈtrʌst/ noun same as self-governing hospital
host /hɔːst/ noun a person or animal on which a parasite lives
hot /hot/ adjective very warm or having a high temperature
hot flush /hot 'flʌs/ noun a condition in menopausal women, in which the woman becomes hot and sweats, and which is often accompanied by redness of the skin
hotpack /'hɒtpæk/ noun a cloth bag or a pad filled with gel or grains which can be heated and applied to the skin to relieve pain or stiffness
hot wax treatment /'hɒt 'wæks,tretmənt/ noun a treatment for arthritis in which the joints are painted with hot liquid wax
hourglass contraction /'auəɡlɑːs 'kɔn,tɑːkʃən/ noun a condition in which the wall of the stomach is pulled in so that it is divided into two cavities, cardiac and pyloric
hourly /ˈauərli/ adjective, adverb happening every hour
hourglass stomach /'auəɡlɑːs stʌmək/ noun a condition in which the stomach is constricted in the centre, such as the stomach is constricted in the centre
hourglass contraction /'auəɡlɑːs 'kɔn,tɑːkʃən/ noun a condition in which the wall of the stomach is pulled in so that it is divided into two cavities, cardiac and pyloric
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house mite /'hous matiː, 'hous dast miː/ noun a tiny insect living mainly in bedding and soft furnishings, that can cause an allergic reaction
house officer /'hous, 'ɒfɜːs/ noun a doctor who works in a hospital as a house surgeon or house physician during the final year of training before registration by the General Medical Council (NOTE: The US term is intern.)
HPRT noun an enzyme that is lacking in children, usually boys, who have Lesch-Nyhan disease. Full form hypoxanthine phosphoribosyl transferase. Also called HPRT1 (hypoxanthine guanine phosphoribosyl transferase)
HPV abbr human papillomavirus
HPV abbr hormone replacement therapy
Huhner's test /'huːnərz,tɛst/ noun a test carried out several hours after sexual intercourse to determine the number and motility of spermatozoa [After Max Huhner (1873–1947), US urologist)
human /'hjuːmən/ adjective referring to any man, woman or child noun a person ○ Most animals are afraid of humans
human anatomy /'hjuːmən ə'nætəmɪ/ noun the structure, shape and functions of the human body
human being /'hjuːmən 'biːɪŋ/ noun a person
human chorionic gonadotrophin /'hjuːmən kɔrɪən,ɡəʊnədəʊtrəʊfɪn/ noun a hormone produced by the placenta, which suppresses the mother's usual menstrual cycle during pregnancy. It is found in the urine during pregnancy, and can be given by injection to encourage ovulation and help a woman to become pregnant. Abbr hCG human crutch /'hjuːmən 'kraʃ/ noun a method of helping an injured person to walk, where they rest one arm over the shoulders of the person helping
human immunodeficiency virus /'hjuːmən ɪmjuːnɪˌdɪfərənsi vɜːs/ noun a virus which causes AIDS. Abbr HIV human leucocyte antigen /'hjuːmən 'liːsəʊs,tɛktənɪ 'æntɪgən/ noun any of the system of antigens on the surface of cells which need to be histocompatible to allow transplants to take place. Abbr HLA & HLA system
human nature /'hjuːmən 'nɛrtʃə/ noun the general behavioural characteristics of human beings
human papillomavirus /'hjuːmən pæpɪ ləʊməvɜːrəs/ noun a virus that causes genital warts in humans. Abbr HPV
humectant /ˈhjuːmɛktənt/ adjective able to absorb or retain moisture noun a substance that can absorb or retain moisture, e.g. a skin lotion
humeroulunar joint /'hjuːməroˌlʌnər dʒɔɪnt/ noun part of the elbow joint, where the trochlea of the humerus and the trochlear notch of the ulna move next to each other
humerus /ˈhjuːmərəs/ noun the top bone in the arm, running from the shoulder to the elbow (NOTE: The plural is humeri)
humid /ˈhjuːmɪd/ adjective damp, containing moisture vapour
humoral /ˈhjuːmɔrəl/ adjective relating to human body fluids, in particular blood serum
humour /ˈhjuːmər, ˈhjuːmər/ noun a fluid in the body
hunchback /ˈhʌntbæk/ noun a kyphosis
hunger /ˈhʌŋɡər/ noun a need to eat
hunger pains /ˈhʌŋɡər pens/ plural noun pains in the abdomen when a person feels hungry, sometimes a sign of a duodenal ulcer
Hunter's syndrome /ˈhʌntər, ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun an inherited disorder caused by an enzyme deficiency, which leads to learning difficulties
Huntington's chorea /ˈhʌntɪŋtən, ˈkəriə/ noun a progressive hereditary disease which affects adults, where the outer layer of the brain degenerates and the person makes involuntary jerky movements and develops progressive dementia [Described 1872. After George Sumner Huntington (1850–1916), US physician.)
Hurler's syndrome /ˈhɜːrlər, ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun same as gargoylism [Described 1920. After Gertrud Hurler, German paediatrician]
hurt/ˈhɜːt/ noun 1. emotional pain 2. a painful area (used by children) ○ She has a hurt on her knee. ○ She's hurt his hand. 2. to cause someone pain ○ His arm is

181 hurt
husky

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hurting so much he can’t write. O She fell down and hurt herself. (NOTE: hurting – hurt)
■ adjective 1. feeling physical pain O He was slightly hurt in the car crash. O Two players got hurt in the football game. 2. feeling emotional pain O Her parents’ divorce hurt her deeply.
husky /ˈhʌski/ adjective slightly hoarse

Hydchinson’s tooth /ˈhaɪdrɪznəs/ tooth/ noun a narrow upper incisor tooth, with notches along the cutting edge, a symptom of congenital syphilis but also occurring naturally (NOTE: The plural is Hutchinson’s teeth.) [After Sir Jonathan Hutchinson (1828–1913), British surgeon]
hyal- /ˈhaɪəl/ prefix like glass (used before vowels)

hyalin /ˈhaɪəlɪn/ noun a transparent substance produced from collagen and deposited around blood vessels and scars when some tissues degenerate
hyaline /ˈhaɪəlɪn/ adjective nearly transparent like glass
hyaline cartilage /ˈhaɪəlɪn ˈkɑrɪtlɪdʒ/ noun a type of cartilage found in the nose, larynx, and joints. It forms most of the skeleton of the fetus. See illustration at CARTILAGINOUS JOINT in Supplement
hyaline membrane disease /ˈhaɪəlɪn ˈmɛmbriən diˌzɪt/ noun same as respiratory distress syndrome
hyalitis /ˈhaɪəlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the vitreous humour or the hyaloid membrane in the eye. Also called vitritis
hyaloid membrane /ˈhaɪələɪd ˈmembreɪn/ noun a transparent membrane round the vitreous humour in the eye
hyaluronic acid /ˈhaɪələrɒnɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun a substance which binds connective tissue and is found in the eyes
hyaluronidase /ˌhaɪələrəʊnaɪdəs/ noun an enzyme that destroys hyaluronic acid
hybrid /ˈhaɪbrɪd/ noun an organism that is a result of a cross between individuals that are not genetically the same as each other
HYCOSY abbr hydralazine-pseudoephedrine combination
hydatid /ˈhaɪdətɪd/ noun any cyst-like structure
hydatid cyst /ˈhaɪdətɪd ˈsɪst/ noun the larval form of the tapeworms of the genus Echinococcus
hydatid disease /ˈhaɪdətɪd diˌzɪt/ noun an infection, usually in the lungs or liver, caused by expanding hydatid cysts that destroy the tissues of the infected organ
hydatid mole /ˈhaɪdətɪd ˈməʊl/ noun an abnormal pregnancy from a pathologic ovum, resulting in a mass of cysts shaped like a bunch of grapes
hydr.- /ˈhaɪdr-/ prefix same as hydro- (used before vowels)
hydrxmlia /ˌhaɪ drɪzmɪə/ noun an excess of water in the blood
hydroagogue /ˌhaɪdəræˈgɔɡ/ noun a laxative or substance which produces watery faeces
hydroalazine /ˌhaɪdrələˈziːn/ noun a drug that lowers blood pressure. People usually receive it in combination with other drugs that increase the output of urine.
hydranth /ˌhaɪdrənθ/ noun swelling caused by excess synovial liquid at a joint.
hydrate /ˈhaɪdrət/ verb to give water to someone so as to re-establish or maintain fluid balance O noun a chemical compound containing water molecules that can usually be driven off by heat without altering the compound’s structure
hydro- /ˌhaɪdəroʊ- prefix referring to water
hydroa /ˈhaɪdərə/ noun an excessive quantity of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain
hydranth /ˌhaɪdəræˈgɔɡ/ noun an excessive amount of amniotic fluid surrounding the fetus
hydrarthrosis /ˌhaɪdərəˈθɔːrəsɪs/ noun swelling caused by excess synovial liquid at a joint.
hydrated /ˈhaɪdətɪd/ past participle of hydrate
hydrated /ˈhaɪdətɪd/ past participle of hydrate
hydrangea /haɪdrænˈɡiːə/ noun
hydrargyra /ˈhaɪdrərəˈɡɜːrɑː/ noun the breaking down of a chemical compound when it reacts with water to produce two or more different compounds, as in the conversion of starch to glucose
hydrocalycosis /ˌhaɪdərəˈkælɪkɒsɪs/ noun
hydrocolpos /ˌhaɪdərəkəlɒpɒs/ noun a waterproof gel dressing that seals a wound, retaining moisture and preventing access to germs and dirt
hydrocortisone /ˌhaɪdərəˈkɔrɪtnˌsən/ noun a steroid hormone secreted by the adrenal cortex
hydrocele /ˌhaɪdərəˈsɛl/ noun an unu-
hydrochloric acid /ˈhaɪdərəkˌlarətɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun an acid found in the gastric juices which helps to break apart the food
hydrocruoridocyst /ˌhaɪdərəˌkɜrrəˌkadɪəˈkaɪst/ noun a cyst in the vagina containing clear fluid
hydrocuminate /ˌhaɪdərəˌkaɪmənət/ noun a drug that reduces swelling or pain
hydrocyanic acid /ˌhaɪdərəˌsɪniəˈsɪd/ noun an acid which forms cyanide. Abbrev HCN
hydrogen /ˌhaɪdərəˈgɛn/ noun a chemical element, a gas which combines with oxygen to form water, and with other elements to form acids, and is present in all animal tissue (NOTE: The chemical symbol is H.)
hydrogen peroxide /ˌhaɪdərəˈgɛn pəˈroʊk sərd/ noun a solution used as a disinfectant
hydrolysis /ˌhaɪdərəˈlaɪsɪs/ noun the breaking down of a chemical compound when it reacts with water to produce two or more different compounds, as in the conversion of starch to glucose
hydroma \haɪˈdɹɔːmə/ noun same as hygroma
hydrometer \haɪˈdɹɔmətər/ noun an instrument which measures the density of a liquid
hydromelia \haɪˈdɹɔmɪliə/ noun a condition in which fluid swells the central canal of the spinal cord
hydronephrosis \haɪˈdɹənɪfɹəʊsɪs/ noun swelling of the pelvis of a kidney caused by accumulation of water due to infection or a kidney stone blocking the ureter
hydropathy \haɪˈdɹəpæθi/ noun the treatment of injuries or disease by bathing in water or drinking mineral waters
hydropericarditis \haɪˈdɹɔrəpɪkərərdɪtɪs, -kərɪdɑɪtɪs/ hydropericardium \haɪˈdɹɔrəpɪkərərdɪəm/ noun an accumulation of liquid round the heart
hydroperitoneum \haɪˈdɹɔrəpɪrətənɪˈdɹoʊm/ noun a build-up of fluid in the peritoneal cavity (NOTE: The plural is hydroperitoneums or hydroperitonae.)
hydrophobia \haɪˈdɹɔrəfəʊbiə/ noun same as rabies
COMMENT: Hydrophobia affects the mental balance, and the symptoms include difficulty in breathing or swallowing and a horror of water.
hydropneumoperitoneum \haɪˈdɹɔrəpuːniˈmjuːpərətənɪˈdɹoʊm/ noun a condition in which watery fluid and gas collect in the peritoneal cavity
hydro pneumothorax \haɪˈdɹɔrəpuːniˈmuːθɔræks/ noun a condition in which watery fluid and gas collect in the pleural cavity (NOTE: The plural is hydro pneumothoraces or hydro pneumothoraces.)
hydrops \haɪˈdɹɔpz/ noun same as oedema (NOTE: The plural is hydropses.)
hydrotorhoea \haɪˈdɹɔtrəʊˌhəʊə/ noun a discharge of watery fluid (NOTE: The US spelling is hydronymia.)
hydrosalpinx \haɪˈdɹɔrəsəlˈpɪŋks/ noun an occasion when watery fluid collects in one or both of the Fallopian tubes, causing swelling (NOTE: The plural is hydrosalpinges.)
hydrotherapy \haɪˈdɹɔtrəˈθɛrəpi/ noun a type of physiotherapy involving treatment in water, where people are put in hot baths or are encouraged to swim
hydrothorax \haɪˈdɹɔtrəθɔræks/ noun the collection of liquid in the pleural cavity
hymenectomy \haɪˈmjuːnəkˈtɛmɪ; -kəˈtɛmɪ/ noun the procedures and principles designed to keep things clean and to keep conditions healthy © Nurses have to maintain a strict personal hygiene. 2. the science of health
hygienic \haɪˈdʒɪnɪk/ adjective 1. clean ○ Don’t touch the food with dirty hands – it isn’t hygienic; 2. producing healthy conditions
hygienist \haɪˈdʒɪnɪst/ noun a person who specialises in hygiene and its application
hypert pyralgia \haɪˈpɜːtrɪˈpɒlədʒɪə/ noun an amino acid present in some proteins, especially in collagen
hygiene \haɪˈdʒɪn/ noun 1. the procedures and principles designed to keep things clean and to keep conditions healthy © Nurses have to maintain a strict personal hygiene. 2. the science of health
hyperactivity \haɪˈpɜːtrɪˈæktɪvəti/ noun a kind of cyst which contains a thin fluid
hymen \haɪˈmjuːn/ noun a membrane which partially covers the vaginal passage in a female who has never had sexual intercourse
hymenectomy \haɪˈmjuːnəkˈtɛmɪ; -kəˈtɛmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the hymen, or an operation to increase the size of the opening of the hymen 2. the surgical removal of any membrane
hymenotomy \haɪˈmjuːnətəˈməʊti/ noun an incision of the hymen during surgery
hyperacousia \haɪˈpɜːtrɪˈkəʊʃəsiə/ noun a condition in which the auditory sensitivity is greater than normal or unusually active
hypersalicyclic \haɪˈpɜːtrəˈsælɪksɪlɪk/ adjective relating to the hydroid bone
hygroma \haɪˈɡrəʊmə/ noun a condition in which fluid swells the central canal of the spinal cord
hydronephrosis \haɪˈdɹənɪfɹəʊsɪs/ noun swelling of the pelvis of a kidney caused by accumulation of water due to infection or a kidney stone blocking the ureter
hydroid \haɪˈdɹɔɪd/ noun same as hyoglossus
hymen \haɪˈmjuːn/ noun a condition in which the auditory sensitivity is greater than normal or unusually active
hypalgesia \haɪˈpælˈdʒɛsiə/ noun a condition in which the auditory sensitivity is greater than normal or unusually active
hypalgenes \haɪˈpælˈdʒɛnz/ noun a muscle which is attached to the hyoid bone and depresses the tongue
hypoacoustic \haɪˈpɜːtəˈækˈsɪstɪk/ adjective relating to the hyoid bone
hypoacousia \haɪˈpɜːtrɪˈkəʊʃəsiə/ noun a condition in which the auditory sensitivity is greater than normal or unusually active
hypoaesthesia \haɪˈpɜːtrɪˈəʊsəθiəsiə/ noun an insufficiency of blood in the body
hypoglossal \haɪˈpɜːtrɪˈɡləsəl/ adjective low sensitivity to pain
hypoglossia \haɪˈpɜːtrɪˈɡləsɪə/ noun a muscle used as a sedative, in particular for treatment of motion sickness
hypoactive \haɪˈpɜːtrɪvəktɪv/ adjective very or unusually active
hypoactivity \haɪˈpɜːtrɪˈæktrɪvɪti/ noun a condition in which something or someone, e.g. a gland or a child, is too active
hydrops \haɪˈdɹɔpz/ noun same as hydromelias
hyperacoustic \haɪˈpɜːtrɪˈkəʊʃəstɪsɪs/ noun a condition in which someone is very sensitive to sound
hyperadrenalinism noun a disorder in which too many adrenal hormones are produced, e. g. because of pituitary gland malfunction, a tumour of the adrenal gland or high doses of steroids
hyperaemia /ˌhaʊpəˈɛmɪə/ noun excessive blood in any part of the body
hyperaesthesia /ˌhaʊpərˈɛsθiə/ noun an extremely high sensitivity in the skin
hyperalimentation /ˌhaʊpərˌaɪlməntən/ noun feeding of large amounts of nutrients by mouth or intravenously to someone with serious nutritional deficiency
hyperandrognenism /ˌhaʊpərˌænˈdrəʊdʒɪnɪzəm/ noun a condition in which a woman produces too many androgens, associated with many problems such as hirsutism, acne, infertility and polycystic ovarian disease
hyperbaric /ˌhaʊpərˈbɛərɪk/ adjective referring to a treatment in which someone is given oxygen at high pressure, used to treat carbon monoxide poisoning
hypercalcemia /ˌhaʊpərˈkælkɪəmɪə/ noun an excess of calcium in the blood
hypercalcinuria /ˌhaʊpərˈkælkɪnjʊərɪə/ noun a condition in which an unusually high amount of calcium occurs in the urine
hypercapnia /ˌhaʊpərˈkæpnɪə/ noun an unusually high concentration of carbon dioxide in the bloodstream
hypercatabolism /ˌhaʊpərˈkætəbəlɪzəm/ noun a condition in which the body breaks down its own tissues or a particular substance too much. It causes weight loss and wasting.
hyperchlorhydria /ˌhaʊpərˈklaʊərhaɪˈdrɪə/ noun an excess of hydrochloric acid in the stomach
hyperdactylism /ˌhaʊpərˈdektəlɪzəm/ noun the condition of having more than the usual number of fingers or toes. Also called polydactylism
hyperemesis /ˌhaʊpərˈɛmɪsɪs/ noun excessive vomiting (NOTE: The plural is hyperemesis.)
hyperemesis gravidarum /ˌhaʊpərˈɛmɪsɪs ˈɡrævɪdərəm/ noun uncontrollable vomiting in pregnancy
hyperextension /ˌhaʊpərˈɛkstrənˈʃən/ noun the act of stretching an arm or leg beyond its usual limits of movement
hyperflexion /ˌhaʊpərˈfleksˈʃən/ noun the act of flexing a joint beyond the usual limit or a hyperflexion injury
hyperfunction /ˌhaʊpərˈfʌŋkʃən/ noun excessive activity of a gland or other organ of the body
hypergalactia /ˌhaʊpərˈɡælæktɪə, ˈhaʊpərˈgælæktɪəs/ noun a condition in which too much milk is secreted
hyperglycaemia /ˌhaʊpərˈɡlɛɪkəˈmeɪə/ noun an excess of glucose in the blood
hyperhidrosis /ˌhaʊpərˈhaɪdrəʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which too much sweat is produced
hyperinsulinism /ˌhaʊpərˈɪnsjʊlɪnɪzəm/ noun the reaction of a diabetic to an excessive dose of insulin or to hypoglycaemia
hyperkalaemia /ˌhaʊpərˈkleɪəmɪə/ noun a condition in which too much potassium occurs in the blood, which can result in cardiac arrest. Various possible causes include kidney failure and chemotherapy.
hyperkeratosis /ˌhaʊpərˈkɛrətəʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which there is unusually great thickness of the skin
hyperkinesia /ˌhaʊpərˈkiːnəsɪə/ noun a condition in which there is unusually great strength or movement
hyperkinetic syndrome /ˌhaʊpərˈkiːnətɪk ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a condition in which someone experiences fatigue, shortness of breath, pain under the heart and palpitation
hyperlipidaemia /ˌhaʊpərˈlɪpɪdəˈmeɪə/ noun the pathological increase of the amount of lipids, or fat, in the blood
hypermenorrhoea /ˌhaʊpərˈmɛnəˈrəʊjə/ noun menstruation in which the flow is excessive
hypermetropia /ˌhaʊpərˌmɛtrəˈpiə/ noun a serious condition occurring most often in babies or elderly people, in which too much sodium is present in the blood as a result of loss of water and electrolytes through diarrhoea, excessive sweating, not drinking enough or excessive salt intake
hypernephroma /ˌhaʊpərˈnɛfərəʊmə/ noun same as Grawitz tumour
hyperopia /ˌhaʊpərˈɔpəriə/ noun same as hypermetropia
hyperostosis /ˌhaʊpərˈɒstəsɪs/ noun excessive overgrowth on the outside surface of a bone, especially the frontal bone
hyperparathyroidism /ˌhaʊpərˌpærəˈθɛrəɪdɪzəm/ noun an unusually high concentration of parathyroid hormone in the body. It causes various medical problems including damage to the kidneys.
hyperphagia /ˌhaʊpərˈfædʒiə/ noun long-term compulsive overeating
hyperpiesia /ˌhaʊpərˈpɪrɪsɪə/ noun same as hyperpnea.
secreted
/vertstrokeinferiorretn/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorɒpəθi
/vertstrokesuperiorhedek

temperature of above 41.1°C

a rapid heartbeat, sweating and trembling. It
thyroid hormones into the blood, giving rise to

tension
phylactic shock shows hypersensitivity to an
indicates that the blood pressure is excessively
caused by local bleeding and a restricted blood
hyperthermia
/hypertz/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorhp/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorθ/epsilonreversed/lengthmarkmiə
/hypertrophic rhinitis
/hyperto/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorhpnəυ/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorθerəpi
/hypervitaminosis
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/hyperventilation
hypnotist  /ˈhɪpnətɪst/ noun a person who
hypnotises other people. The hypnotist
passed his hand in front of her eyes and she
went immediately to sleep.

hypodermic syringe  /ˌhaʊpəˈdɜːmɪk sɪ
ˈrɪndʒ/ noun a syringe fitted with a hypoder-
mic needle for injecting liquid under the skin.

hypoallergenic  /ˌhɪpəˈælərɡəˈnɛk/ adjec-
tive not likely to cause an allergic reaction.

hypoacidity  /ˈhɪpəˈæsdəti/ noun an unusual-
ly low acidity, especially in the stomach.

hypochromic  /ˈhɪpəˌkromɪk/ noun (informal)
one of two hypochondriac regions in the
hypochondria.

hypochlorhydria  /ˈhɪpəˈklɔːrɪdriə/ noun a
condition in which there is not enough hydro-
chloric acid in the stomach.

hypoacidity  /ˈhɪpəˈæsdəti/ noun a condition
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oxide in the blood.

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hypochondria.
hypophyseal /hæpɔˈfɪzəl/ adjective referring to the pituitary gland
hypophyseal stalk /hæpɔfɪzəl ‘stɔːk/ noun a funnel-shaped stem which attaches the pituitary gland to the hypothalamus
hypophysectomy /haɪˈpɒfɪskətəmi/ noun the surgical removal of the pituitary gland
hypophysitis /ˈhæpiːsɪtɪs/ noun a condition in which the blood pressure is too low
hypopituitarism /ˌhaɪˈpɒpitjuːtərɪzəm/ noun a condition in which the pituitary gland is underactive
hypoplastic left heart /ˈhæpɔˈpleɪstɪk left /ˈhæpt/ noun a serious heart disorder in which the left side of the heart does not develop properly, leading to death within six weeks of birth unless surgery is performed
hypopnoea /ˌhæpɒˈnoʊɪə/ noun unusually shallow and slow breathing
hypoproteinemia /ˌhaɪˈpɒprəʊˈtɪnɪmɪə/ noun a condition in which there is not enough protein in the blood
hypoprothrombinaemia /ˌhaɪˈpɒθroʊθrəˈmɪəniə/ noun a condition in which there is not enough prothrombin in the blood, so that the person bleeds and bruises easily
hypopyon /ˌhæpɒˈpɒθən/ noun an accumulation of pus in the aqueous humour in the front chamber of the eye
hyposensitise /ˌhæpɒsənˈsɪtaɪz/ verb to reduce someone’s sensitivity to something, e.g. in the treatment of allergies
hyposensitivity /ˌhæpɒsənˈsɪtvɪ/ adjective being less sensitive than usual
hyposensitivty /ˌhæpɒˌsɛnsˈtɪv/ noun an unusually low sensitivity to stimuli such as allergens
hypospadias /ˌhæpəˈspædɪəs/ noun a congenital condition of the wall of the male urethra or the vagina, so that the opening occurs on the under side of the penis or in the vagina. Compare epispadias
hypostasis /ˌhæpɔstəˈtɪs/ noun a condition in which fluid accumulates in part of the body because of poor circulation
hypostatic /ˌhæpɔstəˈtɪk/ adjective referring to hypostasis
hypostatic eczema /ˌhæpɔstætɪk ˈɛksəmə/ noun same as varicose eczema
hypostatic pneumonia /ˌhæpɔstætɪk ˈnjuːmənɪə/ noun pneumonia caused by fluid accumulating in the lungs of a bedridden person with a weak heart
hyposthenia /ˌhæpɔsˈθɛnɪə/ noun a condition of unusual bodily weakness
hypotension /ˌhæpɔtəˈʃən/ noun a condition in which the pressure of the blood is unusually low. Also called low blood pressure. Compare hypertension
hypotensive /ˌhæpɔtəˈsɛnsɪv/ adjective having low blood pressure
hypothalamic /ˌhaɪˈpɒθəlæmɪk/ adjective referring to the hypothalamus
hypothalamic hormone /ˌhaɪˈpɒθəlæmɪk ˈhɔrəʊmən/ noun same as releasing hormone
hypothalamus /ˌhaɪˈpɒθəlæməs/ noun the part of the brain above the pituitary gland, which controls the production of hormones by the pituitary gland and regulates important bodily functions such as hunger, thirst and sleep. See illustration at brain in Supplement
hypothalamicus or hypothalm
hypothear /ˌhaɪˈpɒθɪnə/ adjective referring to the soft fat part of the palm beneath the little finger
hypothear eminence /ˌhaɪˈpɒθɪnər ˈɛmɪnəns/ noun a lump on the palm beneath the little finger. Compare thenar
hypothetcal /ˌhaɪˈpɒθɪtɪkəl/ adjective referring to hypotermia
hypothermia /ˌhaɪˈpɒθɪrəmiə/ noun a reduction in body temperature below normal, for medical purposes taken to be below 35°C. … inadvertent hypothermia can readily occur in patients undergoing surgery when there is reduced heat production and a greater potential for heat loss to the environment [British Journal of Nursing]
hypothecm /ˌhaɪˈpɒθɪtɪk/ adjective suffering from hypothy aermia. Examination revealed that she was hypothermic, with a rectal temperature of only 29.4°C.
hypothermic perfusion /ˌhaɪˈpɒθɪtrɪmɪk pərˈfjuːzən/ noun a method of preserving a donor organ by introducing a preserving solution and storing the organ at a low temperature
hypoth-thesis /ˌhaɪˈpɒθɪtɪsɪs/ noun a suggested explanation for an observation or experimental result, which is then refined or disproved by further investigation
hypothyroidism /ˌhaɪˈpɒθətrɔɪdɪzəm/ noun underactivity of the thyroid gland
hypotonia /ˌhaɪˈpɒtəniə/ noun reduced tone of the skeletal muscles
hypotonic /ˌhaɪˈpɒtəˈtɒnɪk/ adjective 1. showing hypotonia 2. referring to a solution with a lower osmotic pressure than plasma
hypotrichosis /ˌhaɪˈpɒtrɪkəˈsɪsɪs/ noun a condition in which less hair develops than usual. Compare alopecia (Note: The plural is hypotrichoses)
hypotropia /ˌhaɪˈpɒtrəpəˈriə/ noun a form of squint where one eye looks downwards
hypoventilation /ˌhaɪˈpɒvəntɪləˈʃən/ noun very slow breathing
hypovitaminosis

hypovitaminosis /ˌhaʊpəˌvɪtəmˈnəʊsɪs/ noun a lack of vitamins

hypoxaemia /ˌhaʊpɒksˈeɪmɪə/ noun an inadequate supply of oxygen in the arterial blood

hypoxanthine phosphoribosyl transferase /ˌhaʊpɒksəˈθæntɪn ˌfæsθɔrɪˈbɒsɪl ˈtɜːfrərəs/ noun full form of HPRT

hypoxia /ˌhaʊpɒksɪə/ noun 1. an inadequate supply of oxygen to tissue as a result of a lack of oxygen in the arterial blood 2. same as hypoxaemia

hyster- /ˈhɪstr-/ prefix same as hyster- (used before vowels)

hysteralgia /ˌhɪstrəˈlædʒiə/ noun pain in the uterus

hysterectomy /ˌhɪstrəˈtekmi/ noun the surgical removal of the uterus, often either to treat cancer or because of the presence of fibroids

hysteria /ˈhɪstrɪəriə/ noun a term formerly used in psychiatry, but now informally used for a condition in which the person appears unstable, and may scream and wave their arms about, but also is repressed, and may be slow to react to outside stimuli (dated)

hysterical /ˈhɪstrɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to a reaction showing hysteria (informal)

hysterically /ˈhɪstrɪkli/ adverb in a hysterical way (informal)

hysterical personality /ˈhɪstrɪk(ə)l ˌpɜːsəˈnələtɪ/ noun the mental condition of a person who is unstable, lacks usual feelings and is dependent on others (dated)

hysterics /ˈhɪstrɪks/ noun an attack of hysteria (dated)

hysterus /ˈhɪstrɪkəs/ • globus hystericus

hystero- /ˈhɪstrəʊ-/ prefix referring to the uterus

hysterocele /ˈhɪstrəʊsɛkl/ noun same as uterocele

hystero-oophorectomy /ˌhɪstrəˈoʊfərəˈtekmi/ noun the surgical removal of the uterus, the uterine tubes and the ovaries

hysteroptosis /ˌhɪstrəˈpɒtəsɪs/ noun prolapse of the uterus

hysterosalpingo-contrast sonography /ˌhɪstrəˈsɔlˈpɪŋɡəˌkɒntrəˈskɒnəˈɡrəfi/ noun examination of the uterus and Fallopian tubes by ultrasound. Also called HYCOSY

hysterosalpingography /ˌhɪstrəˈsɔlˈpɪŋɡəˌɡrəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the uterus and Fallopian tubes following injection of radio-opaque material. Also called uterosalpingography

hysterosalpingostomy /ˌhɪstrəˈsɔlˈpɪŋɡəˌstəmə/ noun an operation to remake an opening between the uterine tube and the uterus, to help with infertility problems

hysteroscope /ˌhɪstrəˈskɒp/ noun a tube for inspecting the inside of the uterus

hysteroscopy /ˌhɪstrəˈskəpi/ noun an examination of the uterine cavity using a hysteroscope or fibrescope

hysterotomy /ˌhɪstrəˈrɒtmə/ noun a surgical incision into the uterus, as in caesarean section or for some types of abortion

hysterorachelloorrhaphy /ˌhɪstrəˈrækəˌrɔrəˈfæri/ noun an operation to repair a tear in the cervix
The image contains a page from a medical reference book, listing terms and their definitions. Here is a transcription of the text:

**-asis** /-əsəs/ suffix disease caused by something

**iatro-** /aɪˈtrod-/ prefix relating to medicine or doctors

**iatrogenesis** /eɪˈtreɪdʒəˈnɛsɪs/ noun any condition caused by the actions of doctors or other healthcare professionals

**iatrogenic** /eɪˈtreɪdʒɪk/ adjective referring to a condition which is caused by a doctor's treatment for another disease or condition

**icterus gravis neonatorum** /ɪkˈtərəs ˈɡrɑvɪs nɪˈneɪtərərəm/ noun jaundice associated with erythroblastosis fetalis

**ictus** /ɪkˈtəs/ noun a stroke or fit

**ICU** abbr intensive care unit

**id** /ɪd/ noun (in Freudian psychology) the basic unconscious drives which exist in hidden forms in a person

**identification** /aɪˈdɛtərɪəʃən/ noun the act or process of imagining or forming thoughts and ideas

**identical twins** /aɪˈdentɪkl twɪnz/ plural noun twins who are exactly the same in appearance because they developed from the same ovum. Also called monozygotic twins, uniovular twins

**identity bracelet** /aɪˈdɛtərɪətɪ breməlt/ noun a label attached to the wrist of a newborn baby or patient in hospital, so that he or she can be identified

**ideo-** /aɪˈdɪəʊ-/ prefix involving ideas

**idiopathic epilepsy** /aɪˈdɪəpəˈθiːkl epiˈleiʒi/ noun epilepsy not caused by a brain disorder, beginning during childhood or adolescence

**idiopathy** /aɪˈdɪəpəθi/ noun a condition which develops without any known cause

**idiopathic savant** /aɪˈdɪəpəθi ˈsævənt/ noun a person with learning difficulties who also possesses a single particular mental ability, such as the ability to play music by ear, to draw remembered objects or to do mental calculations, which is very highly developed
idioventricular

idioventricular /ˌidaʊvərˈtriːk.jʊlə/ adjective referring to the ventricles of the heart.

idioventricular rhythm /ˌidaʊvərˈtriːk.jʊlə ˈrɪnθ/ noun a slow natural rhythm in the ventricles of the heart, but not in the atria.

IDK abbr internal derangement of the knee.

ig abbr immunoglobulin.

Ig A antiendomysial antibody /ˌaɪdʒi əntɪdəmɪːəl/ noun a serological screening test for coeliac disease.

IHD abbr ischaemic heart disease.

IL-1 abbr interleukin-1.

IL-2 abbr interleukin-2.

ile-/iːlə/ prefix same asileo- (used before vowels).

ilea /ˈiːlə/ plural of ileum.

ileac /ˈiːlək/ adjective relating to an ileum, 2. relating to the ileum.

ileal /ˈiːləl/ adjective referring to the ileum.

ileal bladder /ˈiːləl ˈblaɪdər/ ileal conduit /ˈiːləl ˈkɒndjʊdənt/ noun an artificial tube formed when the ureters are linked to part of the ileum, and that part is linked to an opening in the abdominal wall.

ileal pouch /ˈiːləl ˈpauʃ/ noun a part of the small intestine which is made into a new rectum in a surgical operation, freeing someone from the need for an ileostomy after their colon is removed.

ileectomy /ɨləˈektəmi/ noun the surgical removal of all or part of the ileum.

ileitis /ɨləˈɪtəs/ noun inflammation of the ileum.

ileo- /ɪlɪəʊ-/ prefix relating to the ileum.

ileoacaecal /ˌɪlɪəʊˈsɪkəl/ adjective referring to the ileum and the caecum.

ileoacaecal orifice /ˌɪlɪəʊsɪkəl ˈɒrɪfɪs/ noun an opening where the small intestine joins the large intestine.

ileoacaecal valve /ˌɪlɪəʊsɪkəl ˈvɛlv/ noun a valve at the end of the ileum, which allows food to pass from the ileum into the caecum.

ileoacaecostaplasty /ˌɪlɪəʊˌsɪkəʊsˈstæpələstɪ/ noun an operation to reconstruct the bladder using a piece of the combined ileum and caecum.

ileocele /ˌɪlɪəʊˈkɛlɪk/ adjective referring to both the ileum and the colon.

ileoceleitis /ˌɪlɪəʊˌsɪkələˌɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of both the ileum and the colon.

ileocecostomy /ˌɪlɪəʊˌsɪkəˌkɒstəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to create a link between the ileum and the colon.

ileocectomy /ˌɪlɪəʊˌsɪkəˌtəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to create a link between the ileum and the rectum.

ileocecal ostomy /ˌɪlɪəʊˌsɪkələˈɒstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to create a link between the ileum and the sigmoid colon.

ileoectomy /ˌɪlɪəʊˌsɪkəˌtəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening between the ileum and the abdominal wall to act as an artificial opening for excretion of faeces.

ileolectomy bag /ˌɪlɪəʊˌsɪkəˌbæg/ noun a bag attached to the opening made by an ileostomy, to collect faeces as they are passed out of the body.

ileum /ˌɪlɪəm/ noun the lower part of the small intestine, between the jejunum and the caecum. Compare ilium. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement. (Note: The plural is ilea.)

Comment: The ileum is the longest section of the small intestine, being about 2.5 metres long.

ileus /ˈiːləs/ noun obstruction of the intestine, usually distension caused by loss of muscular action in the bowel. A paralytic ileus.

ilia /ˈiːliə/ plural of ilium.

iliac /ˈiːliək/ adjective referring to the ilium.

iliac crest /ˈiːliək ˈkrest/ noun a curved top edge of the ilium. See illustration at PELVIS in Supplement.

iliac fossa /ˈiːliək ˈfɒsə/ noun a depression on the inner side of the hip bone.

iliac region /ˈiːliək ˈrɪdʒɪn/ noun one of two regions of the lower abdomen, on either side of the hypogastrum.

iliac spine /ˈiːliək ˈspɛn/ noun a projection at the posterior end of the iliac crest.

iliacus /ˈiːliəkəs/ noun a muscle in the groin which flexes the thigh.

ilio- /ɪlɪəʊ-/ prefix relating to the ilium.

iliooccygeal /ˌɪlɪəʊˌɒkˈsɪdʒiəl/ adjective referring to both the ilium and the coccyx.

iliopectineal /ˌɪlɪəʊˌpɛktɪənəl/ adjective referring to the ilium and the pubis.

iliopectineal eminence /ˌɪlɪəʊˌpɛktɪənəl ˈɛmɪnəns/ noun a raised area on the inner surface of the iliac bone.

iliopectinos (iliopectineos) /ˌɪlɪəʊˌpɛktɪnəʊs/ noun a muscle formed from the iliacus and psoas muscles.

iliopubic /ˌɪlɪəʊˌpjuːbɪk/ adjective same as iliopectineal.

iliopubic eminence /ˌɪlɪəʊˌpjuːbɪkənənʃ/ noun same as iliopectineal eminence.

iliotibial tract /ˌɪlɪəʊˌtɪbɪəl ˈtrækt/ noun a thick fascia which runs from the ilium to the tibia.

ilium /ˈiːliəm/ noun the top part of each of the hip bones, which form the pelvis. Compare ilium. See illustration at PELVIS in Supplement. (Note: The plural is ilia.)
ill i'll adjective not well ○ If you feel very ill you ought to see a doctor.

illegal abortion ˌɪ.lɪ.ɡələbˈər.ə.tʃə noun same as criminal abortion

ill health ˌɪ.ləlˈhelθ noun the fact of not being well ○ He has been in ill health for some time. ○ She has a history of ill health. ○ He had to retire early for reasons of ill health.

illness ˌɪ.ləns noun 1. a state of not being well ○ Most of the children stayed away from school because of illness. 2. a type of disease ○ Scarlet fever is no longer considered to be a very serious illness. ○ He is in hospital with an infectious tropical illness.

immersion foot ˌɪ.mɪ.nərn(ə)m ˌfʊt noun a foot which cannot be moved

immaturity ˌɪ.mɪˈme.tər.i noun not mature, lacking insight and emotional stability

immature ˌɪ.mɪˈmə.tər adjective not mature, lacking insight and emotional stability

immature cell ˌɪ.mɪˈmə.tər ˌsel noun a cell which is still developing

immaturity ˌɪ.mɪˈmə.tər.i noun behaviour which is lacking in maturity

immersion foot ˌɪ.mɪˈmər.ʃən ˌfʊt noun same as fresh foot

immiscible ˌɪ.mɪˈsɪs.ə.bl adjective (of liquids) not able to be mixed

immobile ˌɪ.mɪˈbələ adjective not moving, which cannot move

immobilisation ˌɪ.mɪˈbəl.i.zə.ʃən noun [C] the act of preventing somebody or something from being able to move

immobilise ˌɪ.mɪˈbəl.i.zə noun [C] immobilise verb 1. to keep someone from moving 2. to attach a splint to a joint or fractured limb to prevent the bones from moving

immovable ˌɪ.mɪˈməʊv.ə.bl adjective referring to a joint which cannot be moved

immune ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːn adjective protected against an infection or allergic disease ○ She seems to be immune to colds. ○ The injection should make you immune to yellow fever.

immune deficiency ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːn dɪˈfɪʃ.ə.lə noun a lack of immunity to a disease. ○ AIDS

immune reaction ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːn rəˈɛkʃən noun immune response following exposure to an infectious or allergic disease ○ AIDS

immune system ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːn ˌsɪstəm noun a complex network of cells and cell products, which protects the body from disease. It includes the thymus, spleen, lymph nodes, white blood cells and antibodies.

immunocompromised ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːnəˌkəmˈprə.mɪd adjective referring to someone who is not able to offer resistance to infection or an infection, either by injecting an antiserum, passive immunisation or by inoculation

immunisation ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːnəˌzaʃən noun [U] the process of making a person immune to an infection, either by injecting an antiserum, passive immunisation or by inoculation

immunise ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːnəs verb to give someone immunity from an infection. ○ immunise (NOTE: You immunise someone against a disease.)

immunise ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːnəs verb to give someone immunity from an infection. ○ vaccinate (NOTE: You immunise someone against a disease.)

immuno- /ˈɪm.juːnəʊ/ prefix immune, immunity

immunoassay ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːnəˌseɪ noun a test for the presence and strength of antibodies

immunocompetence ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːnəˌkəmpəˈtɛns noun the ability to develop an immune response following exposure to an antigen

immunocompromised ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːnəˌkəmˈprə.mɪd adjective not able to offer resistance to infection

immunisation ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːnəˌzaʃən noun [C] the act of preventing somebody or something from being able to move

immunise ˌɪ.mɪˈmjuːnəs verb to give someone immunity from an infection. ○ vaccinate (NOTE: You immunise someone against a disease.)
immunodeficiency /ˌɪmjuːnəˈdɛfɪʃəri/ noun a lack of immunity to a disease
immunodeficiency virus /ˌɪmjuːnəˈdefɪʃərɪ ˈvɜːs/ noun a retrovirus which attacks the immune system
immunodeficient /ˌɪmjuːnədɪˈfɪʃnt/ adjective lacking immunity to a disease ○ This form of meningitis occurs in persons who are immunodeficient.
immunoelectrophoresis /ˌɪmjuːnəʊˌɛkˈtroʊfərəsɪs/ noun a method of identifying antigens in a laboratory, using electrophoresis
immunogenic /ˌɪmjuːnəˈdʒənɪk/ adjective producing an immune response
immunogenicity /ˌɪmjuːnədʒəˈnɪtɪ/ noun the property which makes a substance able to produce an immune response in an organism
immunoglobulin /ˌɪmjuːnəˈɡləʊbɪljʊln/ noun an antibody, a protein produced in blood plasma as protection against infection, the commonest being gamma globulin. Abbr Ig (NOTE: The five main classes are called: immunoglobulin G, A, D, E and M or IgG, IgA, IgD, IgE and IgM.)
immunological /ˌɪmjuːnəˈlɒdʒɪkl/ adjective referring to immunology
immunological staining /ˌɪmjuːnəˌlɒdʒɪkl ˈsteɪnɪŋ/ noun the process of checking if cancer is likely to return after someone has been declared free of the disease, by staining cells
immunological tolerance /ˌɪmjuːnəˌlɒdʒɪkl ˈtɔlərəns/ noun tolerance of the lymphoid tissues to an antigen
immunologist /ˌɪmjuːnəˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a specialist in immunology
immunology /ˌɪmjuːnəˈlɒdʒi/ noun the study of immunity and immunisation
immunosuppressant /ˌɪmjuːnəˈsəsprent/ noun a drug used to act against the response of the immune system to reject a transplanted organ
immunosuppression /ˌɪmjuːnəˈsəpsprəʃn/ noun the suppression of the body’s natural immune system so that it will not reject a transplanted organ
immunosuppressive /ˌɪmjuːnəˈsəpstrəsv/ adjective counteracting the immune system
immunotherapy /ˌɪmjuːnəˈθerəpi/ noun 1. adoptive immunotherapy
immunotransfusion /ˌɪmjuːnəˌtrænsfərən/ noun a transfusion of blood, serum or plasma containing immune bodies
Imodium /ˈɪməʊdiəm/ a trade name for loperamide hydrochloride
impacted /ˈɪmpəktɪd/ adjective tightly pressed or firmly lodged against something
impacted faeces /ˈɪmpəktɪd fəˈsiːz/ plural noun extremely hard dry faeces which cannot pass through the anus and have to be surgically removed
impacted fracture /ˌɪmpəktɪd ˈfræktʃər/ noun a fracture where the broken parts of the bones are pushed into each other
impacted tooth /ˌɪmpəktɪd ˈtuːθ/ noun a tooth which is held against another tooth and so cannot grow normally
impacted ureteric calculus /ˌɪmpəktɪd ˈjʊərɪtrɪk ˈkælkjʊləs/ noun a small hard mass of mineral salts which is lodged in a ureter
impaction /ɪmpəˈkeɪʃn/ noun a condition in which two things are impacted
impair /ɪmˈpɛə/ verb to harm a sense or function so that it does not work properly
impaired hearing /ɪmpəred ˈhɪərɪŋ/ noun hearing which is not clear and sharp
impaired vision /ɪmpəred ˈvɪʒən/ noun eyesight which is not fully clear
impairment /ɪmpərˈmɛnt/ noun a condition in which a sense or function is harmed so that it does not work properly ○ His hearing impairment does not affect his work. ○ The impairment was progressive, but she did not notice that her eyesight was getting worse.
... impairment – any loss or abnormality of psychological, physical or anatomical structure or function’ [WHO]
impalpable /ɪmˈpælpaˈbəl/ adjective not able to be felt when touched
impediment /ɪmpəˈdɛmənt/ noun an obstruction
imporferate /ɪmˈpɔfərət/ adjective without an opening
imporferate anus /ɪmˈpɔfərət ˈænəs/ noun same as proctoanal
imporferate hymen /imˈpɔfərət ˈhæmən/ noun a membrane in the vagina which is missing for the opening for the menstrual flow
impermeable /ɪmˈpɜːməb(ə)l/ adjective not allowing liquids or gases to pass through
impetigo /ɪmpəˈtiɡəʊ/ noun an irritating and very contagious skin disease caused by staphylococci, which spreads rapidly and is easily passed from one child to another, but can be treated with antibiotics
implant /nɒptənt/ 1. something grafted or inserted into a person, e.g. tissue, a drug, inert material or a device such as a pacemaker ○ verb /ɪmˈplænt/ 1. to fix into something ○ The ovum implants in the wall of the uterus. 2. to graft or insert tissue, a drug, inert material or a device ○ The site was implanted with the biomaterial.
implantation /ɪmplæntˈeɪʃən/ noun 1. the act of grafting or inserting tissue, a drug, inert material or a device into a person, or the introduction of one tissue into another surgically ○ same as nidation
implant material /ˈimplænt maːtrl/ noun a substance grafted or inserted into a person
implant site /ˈimplænt siːt/ noun a place in or on the body where the implant is positioned
impotence /ɪmˈpəʊtnəs/ noun the inability in a male to have an erection or to ejaculate, and so have sexual intercourse
impregnate /ɪmprepˈneɪt/ verb 1. to make a female pregnant 2. to soak a cloth with a liquid ○ a cloth impregnated with antiseptic
impregnation /ɪmprepˈneɪʃən/ noun the action of impregnating
impression /ɪmˈpreʃən/ noun 1. a mould of a person’s jaw made by a dentist before making a denture 2. a depression on an organ or structure into which another organ or structure fits ○ cardiac impression 1. concave area near the centre of the upper surface of the liver under the heart 2. depression on the mediastinal part of the lungs where they touch the pericardium
improve /ɪmˈpruːv/ verb to get better, or make something better ○ She was very ill, but she is improving now.
improvement /ɪmˈpruːvmənt/ noun the act of getting better ○ The patient’s condition has shown a slight improvement. ○ Doctors have not detected any improvement in her asthma.
impulse /ɪmplʌs/ noun 1. a message transmitted by a nerve 2. a sudden feeling of wanting to act in a specific way
impure (ɪmˈpjʊər) adjective not pure
impurity /ɪmpjuərɪti/ noun a substance which is not pure or clean ○ The kidneys filter impurities out of the blood.
in- /ɪn/ prefix 1. in, into, towards 2. not
inaccessible /ɪnˈæksesəbl/ adjective 1. physically difficult or impossible to reach 2. very technical and difficult to understand
inactive (ɪnˈæktɪv) adjective 1. not being active, not moving ○ Patients must not be allowed to become inactive. 2. not working ○ The serum makes the poison inactive.
inactivity (ɪnˈæktɪvɪtɪ) noun a lack of activity
inanition /ɪnˈænɪʃən/ noun a state of exhaustion caused by starvation
inarticulate (ɪnˈærɪskəl/ adjective 1. without joints or segments, as in the bones of the skull 2. unable to speak fluently or intelligibly 3. not understandable as speech or language
in articulo mortis /ɪn əˌtɪkjuːˈmɔːtɪs/ adverb a Latin phrase meaning ‘at the onset of death’
inborn /ˈɪnborrn/ adjective congenital, which is in the body from birth ○ A body has an inborn tendency to reject transplanted organs.
inbreeding /ɪnˈbrɪdɪŋ/ noun a situation where closely related males and females, or those with very similar genetic make-up, have children together, so allowing congenital conditions to be passed on
incompatible /ɪnˈkæmpərənt/ adjective not able to act or work ○ He was incapacitated for three weeks by his accident.
incurable /ɪnˈkʌrəbl/ adjective referring to a herma which cannot be corrected by physical manipulation
incest /ɪnˈsɛst/ noun an act of sexual intercourse or other sexual activity with so close a relative, that it is illegal or culturally not allowed
incidence /ɪnˈsidəns/ noun the number of times something happens in a specific population over a period of time ○ the incidence of drug-related deaths ○ Men have a higher incidence of stroke than women.
incidence rate /ɪnˈsidəns rɛt/ noun the number of new cases of a disease during a given period, per thousand of population
incipient /ɪnˈsɪpiənt/ adjective just beginning or in its early stages ○ He has an incipient appendicitis. ○ The tests detected incipient diabetes mellitus.
incise /ɪnˈsaɪz/ verb to cut into something
incised wound /ɪnˈsaɪzd wʊnd/ noun a wound with clean edges, caused by a sharp knife or razor
incision /ɪnˈsaɪʃən/ noun a cut in a person’s body made by a surgeon using a scalpel, or any cut made with a sharp knife or razor ○ The first incision is made two millimetres below the second rib. Compare excision
incisional /ɪnˈsaɪʃənəl/ adjective referring to an incision
incisional hernia /ɪnˈsaɪʃənəl hərˈniə/ noun a hernia which breaks through the abdominal wall at a place where a surgical incision was made during an operation
incisor /ɪnˌsaɪzər, ɪnˈsaɪzər/ noun one of the front teeth, of which there are four each in the upper and lower jaws, which are used to cut off pieces of food. See illustration at TEETH in Supplement
inclusion /ɪnˈklʌʒən/ noun something enclosed inside something else
inclusion bodies /ɪnˈklʌʒən bolədz/ plural noun very small particles found in cells infected by a virus
inclusive /ɪnˈklʌsɪv/ adjective (of health services) provided whether or not someone has a disability or special needs
incoherent /ɪnˈkɔhrənt/ adjective not able to speak in a way which makes sense
incompatibility /ɪnˈkæmpətərələti/ noun the fact of being incompatible ○ the incompatibility of the donor’s blood with that of the patient
incompatible

incompatible /ɪn'kɒmplət/ adjective 1. referring to something which does not go together with something else 2. referring to drugs which must not be used together because they undergo chemical change and the therapeutic effect is lost or changed to something undesirable 3. referring to tissue which is genetically different from other tissue, making it impossible to transplant into that tissue

incompatible blood /ɪn'kɒmplətəbl/ blood from a donor that does not match the blood of the person receiving the transfusion

incompetence /ɪn'kɒmpɛns/ noun the inability to do a particular act, especially a lack of knowledge or skill which makes a person unable to do particular job

incompetent cervix /ɪn'kɒmpɛnt ˈsɜːvɪks/ noun a dysfunctional cervix of the uterus which is often the cause of spontaneous abortions and premature births and can be remedied by parse-string stitching

incomplete abortion /ɪn'kɒmplət əˈbɔrʃən/ an abortion where part of the contents of the uterus is not expelled

incomplete fracture /ɪn'kɒmplət ˈfʌktʃər/ noun a fracture that does not go all the way through a bone

incontinence /ɪn'kɒntɪnəns/ noun the inability to control the discharge of urine or faeces (NOTE: Single incontinence is the inability to control the bladder. Double incontinence is the inability to control both the bladder and the bowels.)

incontinence pad /ɪn'kɒntɪnəns ˈpæd/ a pad of material to absorb urine

incontinent /ɪn'kɒntɪnənt/ adjective unable to control the discharge of urine or faeces incoordination /ɪn'kɔːrdɪneɪʃən/ noun a situation in which the muscles in various parts of the body do not act together, making it impossible to carry out some actions

incubation /ɪn'kjuːbeɪʃən/ noun 1. the development of an infection inside the body before the symptoms of the disease appear 2. the keeping of an ill or premature baby in a controlled environment in an incubator 3. the process of culturing cells or microorganisms under controlled conditions

incubation period /ɪn'kjuːbeɪʃən ˈpɜːriəd/ noun the time during which a virus or bacterium develops in the body after contamination or infection, before the appearance of the symptoms of the disease. Also called stadiun invasion

incubator /ɪn'kjuːbətər/ noun 1. an apparatus for growing bacterial cultures 2. an enclosed container in which a premature baby can be kept, within which conditions such as temperature and oxygen levels can be controlled

incudes /ɪn'kjʊdəlz/ plural of incus

incus /ɪŋkəs/ noun one of the three ossicles in the middle ear, shaped like an anvil. See illustration at EAR in Supplement

independent /ɪn'dɪpent/ adjective not controlled by someone or something else

independent nursing function /ɪn'dɪpendənt ˈnɜːnsɪŋ ˈfʌŋkʃən/ noun any part of the nurse’s job for which the nurse takes full responsibility

Inderal /ɪn'dɛrəl/ a trade name for propranolol

index finger /ˈɪndɪks ˈfɪŋər/ noun the first finger next to the thumb

indicant /ˌɪndɪkənt/ noun potassium salt

indication /ɪndɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun a situation or sign which suggests that a specific treatment should be given or that a condition has a particular cause. Sulpha drugs have been replaced by antibiotics in many indications.

indirect contact /ɪn'dɛərəkt ˈkɒntɛkt/ noun the fact of catching a disease by inhaling germs or by being in contact with a vector

indisposed /ɪnˈdɪspəzd/ adjective slightly ill. My mother is indisposed and cannot see any visitors.

indisposition /ɪnˈdɪspəzən/ noun a slight illness

individualise /ˌɪndɪˈvɜːdʒuəˌlai/ verb to provide something that matches the needs of a specific person or situation

individualised care

individualised nursing care /ˌɪndɪˌvɜːdʒuəˌlaiˈnɜːnsɪŋ ˈkeər/ noun care which is designed to provide exactly what one particular patient needs. The home’s staff are specially trained to provide individualised nursing care.

Indocid /ɪnˈdɔkɪd/ a trade name for domethacin

indolent /ɪnˈdɔlənt/ adjective 1. causing little pain 2. referring to an ulcer which develops slowly and does not heal.
indomethacin /ˌɪndəʊˈmeθəsɪn/ noun a drug that reduces pain, fever and inflammation, especially that caused by arthritis

indrawing /ɪnˈdraɪŋ/ noun the act of pulling towards the inside

indrawn /ɪnˈdraʊn/ adjective pulled inside

induce /ɪndjuːs/ verb to make something happen or to induce labour to make a woman go into labour

induced abortion /ɪnˈdjuːst/ noun an abortion which is deliberately caused by drugs or by surgery

induction /ɪnˈdʌkʃən/ noun 1. the process of starting or speeding up the birth of a baby 2. the stimulation of an enzyme’s production when the substance on which it acts increases in concentration 3. a process by which one part of an embryo influences another part’s development 4. information and support given to new employees in an organisation

induction of labour /ɪnˈdʌkʃən əv 'lərbə/ noun the act of starting childbirth artificially

induration /ɪnˈdjuərəʃən/ noun the hardening of tissue or of an artery because of pathological change

induratum /ɪnˈdjuərətəm/ noun erythema

industrial disease /ɪnˈdʌstrɪəl ˈdɪzəz/ noun a disease which is caused by the type of work done by a worker or by the conditions in which he or she works, e.g. by dust produced or chemicals used in the factory

indwelling catheter /ɪnˈdwelɪŋ 'keðətə/ noun a catheter left in place for a period of time after its introduction

infection /ɪnˈfekʃən/ noun a state where a person is drunk, especially habitually drunk

inert /ɪnˈɜːrt/ adjective 1. (of person) not moving 2. (of chemical, etc.) not active or not producing a chemical reaction

inertia /ɪnˈɜːriə/ noun a lack of activity in the body or mind

in extremis /ɪn ɪkˈstræmɪs/ adverb at the moment of death

infant /ˈɪnfænt/ noun a child under two years of age

infanticide /ɪnfæntɪsaɪd/ noun 1. the act of killing an infant 2. a person who kills an infant

infantile /ɪnfəntɪl/ adjective 1. referring to small children 2. referring to a disease which affects children

infantile convulsions /ɪnfəntɪl kənˈvʌlkʃənz/, infantile spasms /ɪnfəntɪl ˈspæzmz/ plural noun convulsions or minor epileptic attacks in children

infantile paralysis /ɪnfəntɪl pəˈræləsɪs/ noun a former name for poliomyelitis

infantilism /ɪnfəntɪlɪz(ə)m/ noun a condition in which a person keeps some characteristics of an infant when he or she becomes an adult

infant mortality rate /ɪnˈfænt məˈtɒlətri ret/ noun the number of infants who die per thousand births

infant respiratory distress syndrome /ɪnˈfænt rɪˈspɑːrətiər dɪˈstrɛs, ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a condition of newborn babies in which the lungs do not function properly. Abbreviation IRDS

infarct /ɪnˈfɑrkt/ noun an area of tissue which is killed when the blood supply is cut off by the blockage of an artery

infarction /ɪnˈfɑrkʃən/ noun a condition in which tissue is killed by the cutting off of the blood supply

infantile paralysis accounts for about 80% of first-ever strokes. [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]

infect /ɪnˈfekt/ verb to contaminate someone or something with microorganisms that cause disease or toxins ○ The disease infected her. ○ The whole arm soon became infected.

infected wound /ɪnˈfektɪd ˈwʊnd/ noun a wound into which bacteria have entered

infection /ɪnˈfekʃən/ noun 1. the entry or introduction into the body of microorganisms, which then multiply ○ As a carrier he was spreading infection to other people in the office. 2. an illness which is caused by the entry of microbes into the body ○ She is susceptible to minor infections.

infectious /ɪnˈfekʃəs/ adjective referring to a disease which is caused by microorganisms and can be transmitted to other persons by direct means ○ This strain of flu is highly infectious. ○ Her measles is at the infectious stage.

infectious disease /ɪnˈfektʃəs ˈdɪzəs/ noun a disease caused by microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses or fungi. ○ communicable disease, contagious disease

infectious hepatitis /ɪnˈfektʃəs ˈhepətɪtɪs/ noun hepatitis A, transmitted by a carrier through food or drink. Also called infectious hepatitis

infectious mononucleosis /ɪnˈfektʃəs məˈnənuksɪəs/ noun an infectious disease where the body has an excessive number of white blood cells. Also called glandular fever

infectious parotitis /ɪnˈfektʃəs pəˈrɔtɪtɪs/ noun the same as mumps

infectious virus hepatitis /ɪnˈfektʃəs ˈvɜːrəs ˈhepətɪtɪs/ noun hepatitis transmitted by a carrier through food or drink

infective /ɪnˈfektɪv/ adjective referring to a disease caused by a microorganism, which can be caught from another person but which may not always be directly transmitted

infective enteritis /ɪnˈfektɪv ˈɛntərɪtɪs/ noun enteritis caused by bacteria

infective hepatitis /ɪnˈfektɪv ˈhepətɪtɪs/ noun same as infectious hepatitis
infectivity /ɪnˈfɛktɪvɪti/ noun the fact of being infective © The patient’s infectivity can last about a week.
inferior /ɪnˈfɪriər/ adjective referring to a lower part of the body. Opposite superior
inferior aspect /ɪnˈfɛktɪv/ ‘aspect/ noun a view of the body from below
inferiority /ɪnˈfɪriərɪti/ noun the fact of being lower in value or quality, substandard. Opposite superiority
inferiority complex /ɪnˈfɛktɪrɪtɪ kɒmplɛks/ noun a mental disorder arising from a combination of wanting to be noticed and fear of humiliation. The resulting behaviour may either be aggression or withdrawal from the external world.
inferior mesenteric artery /ɪnˈfɛktɪrɪ mɪˈsentərɪk aɪrə/ noun one of the arteries which supply the transverse colon and rectum
inferior vena cava /ɪnˈfɛktɪrɪ vɪnəˈkɑ:vɑ:/ noun the main vein carrying blood from the lower part of the body to the heart. See illustration at heart in Supplement, kidney in Supplement
infertile /ɪnˈfɜːrtɪl/ adjective not fertile, not able to reproduce
infertility /ɪnˈfɜːrtɪtɪ/ noun the fact of not being fertile, not able to reproduce
infect /ɪnˈfɛkt/ verb (of parasites) to be present somewhere in large numbers © The child’s hair was infested with lice.
infection /ɪnˈfɛkʃən/ noun the fact of having large numbers of parasites, or an invasion of the body by parasites © The condition is caused by infection of the hair with lice.
infilitrate /ɪnˈfɪlɪtret/ verb (of liquid or waste) to pass from one part of the body to another through a wall or membrane and be deposited in the other part © a substance which has infiltrated a part of the body.
...the chest roentgenogram often discloses interstitial pulmonary infiltrates, but may occasionally be normal [Southern Medical Journal]
infiltation /ɪnˈfɪltreɪʃən/ noun 1. the process where a liquid passes through the walls of one part of the body into another part 2. a condition in which waste is brought to and deposited around cells
...the lacrimal and salivary glands become infiltrated with lymphocytes and plasma cells. The infiltration reduces lacrimal and salivary secretions which in turn leads to dry eyes and dry mouth! [American Journal of Nursing]
infirm /ɪnˈfɜːrm/ adjective old and weak
infirmary /ɪnˈfɜːməri/ noun 1. a room in a school or workplace where people can go if they are ill 2. a former name for a hospital (note: infirmary is still used in the names of some hospitals: the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.)
infirmity /ɪnˈfɜːmɪtɪ/ noun a lack of strength and energy because of illness or age (formal)
inflame /ɪnˈfleɪm/ verb to make an organ or a tissue react to an infection, an irritation or a blow by becoming sore, red and swollen
inflamed /ɪnˈfleɪmd/ adjective sore, red and swollen © The skin has become inflamed around the sore.
inflammation /ɪnˈflɛmətʃən/ noun the fact of having become sore, red and swollen as a reaction to an infection, an irritation or a blow © She has an inflammation of the bladder or a bladder inflammation. © The body’s reaction to infection took the form of an inflammation of the eyelid.
inflammatory /ɪnˈfleɪmətri/ adjective causing an organ or a tissue to become sore, red and swollen
inflammatory bowel disease /ɪnˈfleɪmətri bɪˈdɔːl dʒəˈzdʒər n/ any condition, e.g. Crohn’s disease, colitis or ileitis, in which the bowel becomes inflamed
inflammatory response /ɪnˈfleɪmətri rɪˈspɔns/, inflammatory reaction /ɪnˈfleɪmətri rɪˈrekʃən/ noun any condition where an organ or a tissue reacts to an external stimulus by becoming inflamed © She showed an inflammatory response to the ointment.
inflated /ɪnˈfleɪtɪd/ adjective having the fact of blow by becoming sore, red and swollen
influenza /ɪnˈfljuːənzə/ noun an infectious disease of the upper respiratory tract with fever and muscular aches, which is transmitted by a virus and can occur in epidemics. Also called flu

Comment: The influenza virus is spread by droplets of moisture in the air, so the disease can be spread by coughing or sneezing. Influenza can be quite mild, but virulent strains occur from time to time, such as Spanish influenza or Hong Kong flu, and can weaken the person so much that he or she becomes susceptible to pneumonia and other more serious infections.
informed patient /ɪnˈfɔːmd ˈpeɪʃən/ noun a patient who has admitted himself or herself to a hospital, without being referred by a doctor
informed consent /ɪnˈfɔːmd kənˈsent/ noun an agreement to allow a procedure to be carried out, given by a patient, or the guardian
of a patient, who has been provided with all the means

**infra** /ˈɪnfrə/ prefix below

**infraacetabular** /ˌɪnfrəˈæktəbələr/ adjective lying below the ribs

**infraorbital nerve** /ˌɪnfrəˈɔrbətl/ noun a continuation of the maxillary nerve below the orbit of the eye

**infraorbital ven/ˌɪnfrəˈɔrbaɪtəl/ ven/ noun a vessel draining the face through the infraorbital canal to the pterygoid plexus

**infrared** /ˈɪnfrəred/ adjective relating to infrared radiation

**infrared radiation** /ˌɪnfrəˈred ˈreɪʃən/ noun same as infrared rays

**infrared rays** /ˌɪnfrəˈrez/ plural noun long invisible rays, below the visible red end of the colour spectrum, used to produce heat in body tissues in the treatment of traumatic and inflammatory conditions.

**infundibulum** /ˈɪnfʌndɪbələm/ noun any part of the body shaped like a funnel, especially the stem which attaches the pituitary gland to the hypothalamus

**infuse** /ɪnˈfjuːz/ verb to introduce a solution such as saline, sucrose or glucose using a drip into a vein, body cavity or the intestinal tract in order to treat or feed someone

**infusion** /ɪnˈfjuːʃən/ noun 1. a drink made by pouring boiling water on a dry substance such as herb tea or a powdered drug 2. the process of putting of liquid into someone’s body, using a drip

**ingesta** /ɪnˈdʒɛstə/ plural noun food or liquid that enters the body via the mouth

**ingestion** /ɪnˈdʒɛsten/ noun 1. the act of taking in food, drink or medicine by the mouth 2. the process by which a foreign body such as a bacillus is surrounded by a cell

**ingredient** /ɪnˈɡrɛdɪənt/ noun a substance which is used with others to make something

**ingrowing toenail** /ˌɪŋɡrəʊɪŋ ˈtʊəneɪl/ ingrowing nail /ˌɪŋɡrəʊɪŋ ˈnɛil/, ingrown toenail /ˌɪŋɡrəʊɪŋ ˈtʊəneɪl/ noun a toenail which is growing into the skin at the side of the nail, causing pain and swelling. The toenail cuts into the tissue on either side of it, creating inflammation and sometimes sepseis and ulceration.

**inguinal** /ɪnˈɡwɪnl/ adjective referring to the groin

**inguinal canal** /ˌɪnɡwɪnl/ noun a passage in the lower abdominal wall, carrying the spermatic cord in the male and the round ligament of the uterus in the female

**inguinale** /ˌɪŋɡwɪnləl/ noun a granuloma inguinale

**inguinal hernia** /ˌɪŋɡwɪnl/ ˈhɜrniə/ noun a hernia where the intestine bulges through the muscles in the groin

**inguinal ligament** /ˌɪŋɡwɪnl/ ligament/ noun a ligament in the groin, running from the spine to the pubis. Also called Poupart’s ligament

**inguinal region** /ˌɪŋɡwɪnl/ ˈrɪgnəln/ noun the part of the body where the lower abdomen joins the top of the thigh. Also groin

**inhale** /ɪnˈheil/ noun 1. to breathe in, or breathe something in ○ She inhaled some toxic gas fumes and was rushed to hospital. 2. to breathe in a medicinal substance as part of a treatment. Opposite **exhale**

**inhaler** /ɪnˈheɪlə/ noun a small device for administering medicinal substances into the mouth or nose so that they can be breathed in

**inherent** /ɪnˈhɛrənt/ adjective referring to a thing which is part of the essential character of a person or a permanent characteristic of an organism

**inherit** /ɪnˈhɛrɪt/ verb to receive genetically controlled characteristics from a parent ○ She inherited her father’s red hair ○ Haemophilia is a condition which is inherited through the mother’s genes.

**inheritance** /ɪnˈhɛrɪtəns/ noun 1. the process by which genetically controlled characteristics pass from parents to offspring ○ the inheritance of chronic inflammatory bowel disease 2. all of the qualities and characteristics which are passed down from parents ○ an unfortunate part of our genetic inheritance

**inherited** /ɪnˈhɛrɪtɪd/ adjective passed on from a parent through the genes ○ an inherited disorder of the lungs

**inhibit** /ɪnˈhɪbɪt/ verb to prevent an action happening, or stop a functional process ○ Aspirin inhibits the clotting of blood. ○ to have an inhibiting effect on something to block something, to stop something happening

**inhibition** /ɪnˈhɪbɪʃən/ noun 1. the action of blocking or preventing something happening, especially of preventing a muscle or organ from functioning properly 2. (in psychology) the suppression of a thought which is associated with a sense of guilt 3. (in psychology) the blocking of a spontaneous action by some mental influence

**inhibitor** /ɪnˈhɪbɪtər/ noun a substance which inhibits

**inhibitory nerve** /ɪnˈhɪbɪtəri/ noun a nerve which stops a function taking place ○ The vagus nerve is an inhibitory nerve which slows down the action of the heart.
hollow needle inserted into the tissues
nerves and sensory nerves supply to an organ, including both motor
jury scoring system
/verirstamen
growth which is benign, not malignant
organ or other part of the body to act
is inside
and right subclavian arteries
innominate bone /innomnət /noun same as hip bone
innominate vein /innomnət /noun same as brachiocephalic vein
inoculant /inəkjənt /noun same as inoculum
inoculate /inəkjəlet /verb to introduce vaccine into a person’s body in order to make
the body create its own antibodies, so making
the person immune to the disease /The baby
was inoculated against diphtheria. (NOTE: You
inoculate someone with or against a disease.)
inoculation /inəkjələn /noun the action
of inoculating someone /Has the baby
had a diphtheria inoculation?
inoculum /inəkjələm /noun a substance
used for inoculation, e.g. a vaccine (NOTE: The
plural is inocula.)
inoperable /inəpərəbl /adj adjective referring
to a condition which cannot be operated
on /The surgeon decided that the cancer was
inoperable.
inorganic /inəˈɡərnɪk /adj adjective referring
to a substance which is not made from animal or
vegetable sources
inorganic acid /inəˈɡərnɪk /noun an acid
which comes from minerals, used in dis-
lute form to help digestion
inotropie /inəˈtɾɒpɪk /adj adjective affecting
the way muscles contract, especially those of
the heart
inpatient /inˈpærənt /noun someone who
stays overnight or for some time in a hospital
for treatment or observation. Compare outpa-
tient
inquest /ˈɪnkwɛst /noun an inquiry by a cor-
oner into the cause of a death
COMMENT: An inquest has to take place where
death is violent or not expected, where death
could be murder or where a prisoner dies and
when police are involved.
insane /ɪnˈsiːn /adj adjective mentally unwell
(dated, informal)
insanitary /ɪnˈsænət /adj adjective not hygi-
enic /Cholera spread rapidly because of the
insanitary conditions in the town.
insect /ˈɪnsekkt /noun a small animal with six
legs and a body in three parts
insect bite /ˈɪnsekkt /noun a sting caused
by an insect which punctures the skin to suck
blood, and in so doing introduces irritants
 Comment: Most insect bites are simply irritat-
ing. Others can be more serious, as insects
can carry the organisms which produce ty-
phus, sleeping sickness, malaria, filariasis
and many other diseases.
insecticide /ˈɪnˌsɛktɪsɪd /noun a substance
which kills insects
insemination /ˈɪnˌsɛməˈnɛʃən /noun the
introduction of sperm into the vagina
insensible /ˈɪnˌsɛnsəbl /adj adjective 1. lack-
ing feeling or consciousness 2, not aware of or
responding to a stimulus. too slight to be perceived by the senses.

**insert**

/ɪnˈsɜːt/  verb to put something into or on something.

**insertion**

/ɪnˈsɜːʃən/  noun 1. the point of attachment of a muscle to a bone, the point where an organ is attached to its support, a change in the structure of a chromosome, where a segment of the chromosome is introduced into another member of the complement.

**insides**

/ɪnˈsaɪdz/ plural noun internal organs, especially the stomach and intestines (interior).

He says he has a pain in his insides.

**insidious**

/ɪnˈsɪdiəs/ adjective causing harm without showing any obvious signs.

He says he has a pain in his insides.

**insidious disease**

/ɪnˈsɪdiəs dɪˈzɪz/  noun a disease which causes damage before being detected.

**insight**

/ˌɪnsaɪt/  noun the ability of a person to realise that he or she is ill or has particular problems or characteristics.

He says he has a pain in his insides.

**insoluble**

/ɪnˈsəljəbl/ adjective not able to be dissolved in liquid.

**insoluble fibre**

/ɪnˌsəljəb(ə)l/  noun the fibre in bread and cereals, which is not digested but which swells inside the intestine.

**insomnia**

/ɪnˈsəmnіə/  noun the inability to sleep.

What does the doctor give you for your insomnia?

Also called sleeplessness.

**insomniac**

/ɪnˈsəmnіək/  noun a person who has insomnia.

**inspiration**

/ˌɪnpɜrəˈreɪʃən/  noun the act of taking air into the lungs. Opposite expiration.

**inspiratory**

/ɪnˈspɜrət(ə)ri/  adjective referring to breathing in.

**inspire**

/ɪnˈspɜːr/  verb to inhale air or a gas into the lungs.

**inspissated**

/ɪnˌspɪsətɪd/  adjective referring to a liquid which is thickened by removing water from it.

**inspissation**

/ˌɪnspɪsɪˈʃən/  noun the act of removing water from a solution to make it thicker.

**instep**

/ˌɪnstɛp/  noun an arched top part of the foot.

**instill**

/ɪnˈstɪl/  verb to put a liquid in something drop by drop. Instill four drops in each nostril twice a day.

**instillation**

/ˌɪnstɪˈleɪʃən/  noun 1. the process of putting a liquid in drop by drop. 2. a liquid put in drop by drop.

**instinct**

/ɪnˈstɪŋkt/  noun a tendency or ability which the body has from birth and does not need to learn. The body has a natural instinct to protect itself from danger.

**instinctive**

/ɪnˈstɪŋktɪv/  adjective automatic or unconscious rather than planned.

**institution**

/ˌɪnstrəˈʃən/  noun 1. a place where people are cared for, e.g. a hospital or clinic, especially a psychiatric hospital or children’s home.

**institutionalisation**

/ˌɪnstrəˈʃənalɪzaʃən/  noun 1. a condition in which someone has become so adapted to life in an institution that it is impossible for him or her to live outside it.

**institutionalise**

/ˌɪnstrəˈʃənalai/  verb to put someone into an institution.

**instructions**

/ˌɪnstrəˈʃənz/ plural noun spoken or written information which explains how something is used or how to do something.

She gave the taxi driver instructions on how to get to the hospital.

**instrument**

/ɪnˈstrəʊmənt/ noun a piece of equipment or a tool.

The doctor had a box of surgical instruments.

**instrumental**

/ˌɪnstrəˈməntl/  adjective helping to do something.

She was instrumental in developing the new technique.

**instrumental delivery**

/ˌɪnstrəˈmənt(ə)l dɪˈlɪvərɪ/  noun childbirth where the doctor uses forceps to help the baby out of the mother’s uterus.

**insufficiency**

/ˌɪnsəˈfɪʃəs/  noun 1. the fact of not being strong or large enough to perform usual functions. 2. The patient is suffering from a renal insufficiency.

**insufflate**

/ˌɪnsəflɪt/  verb to blow gas, vapour or powder into the lungs or another body cavity as a treatment.

**insufflation**

/ˌɪnsəflɪˈkeɪʃən/  noun the act of blowing gas, vapour or powder into the lungs or another body cavity as a treatment.

**insula**

/ɪnˈsaʊlə/  noun part of the cerebral cortex which is covered by the folds of the sulcus.

**insulin**

/ɪnˈsjuːlən/  noun a hormone produced by the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas.

Insulin enters the way in which the body converts sugar into energy and regulates the level of sugar in the blood. A lack of insulin caused by diabetes mellitus makes the level of glucose in the blood rise. Insulin injections are regularly used to treat diabetes mellitus, but care has to be taken not to exceed the dose as this will cause hyperinsulinaemia and hypoglycaemia.
insulinase /ˈɪnsjʊlɪnəz/ noun an enzyme which breaks down insulin

insulin dependence /ˌɪnˈsjuːlɪn diˈpendəns/ noun the fact of being dependent on insulin injections

insulin-dependent diabetes /ˌɪnˈsjuːlɪn dɪˈpendənt dɪˈæbətɪz/ noun same as Type I diabetes

insulinoma /ˌɪnˈsjuːlɪnˈəʊmə/ noun a tumour in the islets of Langerhans

insulin-resistant /ˌɪnˈsjuːlɪn rɪˈzɪst(ə)nt/ adjective referring to a condition in which the muscle and other tissue cells respond inadequately to insulin, as in Type II diabetes

insulin shock /ˌɪnˈsjuːlɪn ʃək/ noun a serious drop in blood sugar, caused by too much insulin accompanied by sweating, dizziness, trembling and eventually coma

insuloma /ˌɪnˈsjuːləʊmə/ noun same as insulinoma

insult /ˈɪnsjʊlt/ noun 1. a physical injury or trauma 2. something that causes a physical injury or trauma

intact /ˈɪntrəkt/ adjective having all body parts present and undamaged

intake /ˈɪnteɪk/ noun 1. the amount of a substance taken in 2. high intake of alcohol 3. She was advised to reduce her intake of sugar. 4. the process of taking in

intal /ˈɪntəl/ a trade name for a preparation of cromolyn sodium

integrative /ˌɪntɪˈgrɪtɪv/ adjective 1. integrating the combination of mainstream therapies and those complementary or alternative therapies for which there is scientific evidence of efficacy and safety

integument /ˈɪntəˈɡjuːmənt/ noun a covering layer, e.g. the skin

intelligence /ˈɪntelɪdʒəns/ noun the ability to learn and understand quickly

intelligence quotient /ˈɪntelɪdʒənts ˌkwɪəntənt/ noun the ratio of the mental age, as given by an intelligence test, to the chronological age of the person. Abbrev IQ

intense /ˈɪntəns/ adjective referring to a very strong pain 1. She is suffering from intense post herpetic neuralgia.

intensity /ˈɪnteɪnəs/ noun the strength of e.g. pain

intensive care /ˈɪntentsɪv ˈkɛə/ noun 1. the continual supervision and treatment of an extremely ill person in a special section of a hospital 2. The patient was put in intensive care. 3. Residential care 2. same as intensive care unit

intensive care unit /ˈɪntentsɪv ˈkɛə jʊnt/ noun a section of a hospital equipped with life-saving and life-support equipment in which seriously ill people who need constant medical attention are cared for. Abbrev ICU

intention /ˈɪnˈtenʃən/ noun 1. a plan to do something

intention tremor /ˈɪnˈtenʃən ˈtrɛmər/ noun a trembling of the hands seen when people suffering from particular brain diseases make voluntary movements to try to touch something

interaction /ɪntrəˈækʃən/ noun an effect which two or more substances such as drugs have on each other

interatrial septum /ɪntrəˈɛəriəl ˌsepətəm/ noun a membrane between the right and left atria in the heart

intercalated /ɪntrəˈkælətəd/ adjective inserted between other tissues

intercalated disc /ɪntrəˈkælətəd ˈdɪsk/ noun closely applied cell membranes at the end of adjacent cells in cardiac muscle, seen as transverse lines

intercellular /ɪntrəˈsɛlərəl/ adjective between the cells in tissue

intercostal /ɪntrəˈkɒstəl/ adjective between the ribs 1. same as intercostal muscle

intercostal muscle /ɪntrəˈkɒstəl ˈmʌskəl/ noun one of the muscles between the ribs

intercostal muscle: external, internal and innermost or intercostalis intimus

intercourse /ɪntrəˈkɔːs/ noun same as sexual intercourse

intercurrent disease /ɪntrəˈkərənt diˈzɪs/ noun a disease or infection which affects someone who has another disease

interdigital /ɪntrəˈdɪɡəltəl/ adjective referring to the space between the fingers or toes

interdisciplinary /ɪntrəˌdɪsəˈplɪnərɪ/ adjective combining two or more different areas of medical or scientific study

interferon /ɪntrəˈfɛrən/ noun a protein produced by cells, usually in response to a virus, and which then reduces the spread of viruses

COMMENT: Although it is now possible to synthesise interferon outside the body, large-scale production is extremely expensive and the substance has not proved as successful as combating viruses as had been hoped, though it is used in multiple sclerosis with some success.

interior /ɪntrəˈtɪər/ noun a part which is inside

interleukin /ˌɪntrəˈluːkɪn/ noun a protein produced by the body’s immune system

interleukin-1 /ˌɪntrəˈluːkɪn ˈwʌn/ noun a protein which causes high temperature. Abbrev IL-1
interleukin-2 /ˌɪntəluːkɪn/ 'tuː/ noun a protein which stimulates T-cell production, used in the treatment of cancer. Abbr IL-2
interlobar /ˌɪntəˈlɒbər/ adjective between lobes
interlobar artery /ˌɪntəˈlɒbər ˈɔːtərɪ/ noun an artery running towards the cortex on each side of a renal pyramid
interlobular /ˌɪntəˈlɒbulər/ adjective between lobules
interlobular artery /ˌɪntəˈlɒbljuːər ˈɔːtərɪ/ noun one of the arteries running to the glomeruli of the kidneys
intermediate care /ˌɪntəˈmɪdɪət/ 'keər/ noun care following surgery or illness that can be delivered in special units attached to a hospital or in the person’s home by a special multidisciplinary team
intermedius /ˌɪntəˈmɪdiəs/ /ˈvʌstəs/ intermed
intermenstrual /ˌɪntəˈmɛnstrʊəl/ adjective between the menstrual periods
intermittent /ˌɪntəˈmɪtənt/ 'ɪntɪmənt/ adjective occurring at intervals
intermittent claudication /ˌɪntəˈmɪtənt kləˈkjʊdəˈkeɪʃən/ noun a condition of the arteries causing severe pain in the legs which makes the person limp after having walked a short distance (NOM: The symptoms increase with walking, stop after a short rest and recur when the person walks again.)
intermittent fever /ˌɪntəˈmɪtənt ˈfɪvər/ noun fever which rises and falls regularly, as in malaria
intermittent self-catheterisation /ˌɪntəˈmɪtənt self ˈkeəsəˈteθəˌrɪzəʃən/ noun a procedure in which someone puts a catheter through the urethra into their own bladder from time to time to empty out the urine. Abbr ISC
internal /ɪntəˈmɪnəl/ noun US a medical graduate who is working in a hospital before being licenced to practise medicine. /ə/ house officer
internal /ɪntəˈmɪnəl/ s otis interna
internal /ɪntəˈmɪnəl/ adjective inside the body or a body part. Opposite external the drug is for internal use only it should not be used on the outside of the body
internal auditory meatus /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ɔˈdiərɪəˈmiːtəs/ noun a channel which takes the auditory nerve through the temporal bone
internal bleeding /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈbliːdɪŋ/ noun loss of blood inside the body, e.g. from a wound in the intestine
internal capsule /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈkæpsjʊl/ noun a bundle of fibres linking the cerebral cortex and other parts of the brain
internal cardiac massage /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈkærdɪk ˈmæsɪdʒ/ noun a method of making the heart start beating again by pressing on the heart itself
internal carotid /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈkærətɪd/ noun an artery in the neck, behind the external carotid, which gives off the ophthalmic artery and ends by dividing into the anterior and middle cerebral arteries
internal derangement of the knee /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈdɛriːrəˈɡɛnmt av ə ˈniː/ noun a condition in which the knee cannot function properly because of a torn meniscus. Abbr IDK
internal ear /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈɛə/ noun the part of the ear inside the head, the eardrum, containing the semicircular canals, the vestibule and the cochlea
internal haemorrhage /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈheɪmərərɪdʒ/ noun a haemorrhage which takes place inside the body
internal haemorrhoids /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈheɪmərəhɔːdɪz/ plural noun swollen veins inside the anus
internal iliac artery /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈɪliək ˈɔːtərɪ/ noun an artery which branches from the aorta in the abdomen and leads to the pelvis
internal injury /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈɪnjəri/ noun damage to one of the internal organs
internal jugular /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈdʒʊɡjʊlər/ noun the largest jugular vein in the neck, leading to the brachiocephalic veins
internally /ɪntəˈmɪnəlɪ/ adverb inside the body /ə/ He was bleeding internally.
internal medicine /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈmɛdɪsɪn/ noun US the treatment of diseases of the internal organs by specialists
internal nares /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈnɛrəz/ plural noun the two openings shaped like funnels leading from the nasal cavity to the pharynx. Also called posterior nares
internal oblique /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈəʊblɪk/ noun the middle layer of muscle covering the abdomen, beneath the external oblique
internal organ /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈɔrgan/ noun an organ situated inside the body
internal respiration /ɪntəˈmɪnəl ˈrɛspəˈreɪʃən/ noun the part of respiration concerned with the passage of oxygen from the blood to the tissues, and the passage of carbon dioxide from the tissues to the blood
International Committee of the Red Cross /ˌɪntəˈnʃənl ˈkɒmiʃən əv ˈrɛd ˈkrɒs/ noun an international organisation which provides mainly emergency medical help, but also relief to victims of earthquakes, floods and other disasters, or to prisoners of war. Abbr ICRC
International Council of Nurses /ˌɪntəˈnʃənl ˈkʌnsəl əv ˈnɜːrəz/ noun an organisation founded in 1899 which now represents nurses in more than 120 countries. Its aims are to bring nurses together, to ad-
intersex

international unit

interruptus

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internal

interstitial

intensification

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anal canal that digests and absorbs food.

digestive system between the stomach and the

which induces a state of intoxication or poi-

tensive system

one incapable of controlling his or her actions,

referring to the intestines, see words beginning

the skull

side a cerebral hemisphere

intracranial pressure

intracerebral haematoma

intracellular

intra-articular

intra-abdominal

intraocular pressure

intestinal juice

intestinal glands

intestinal infection

intestinal obstruction

intestinal villi

intestinal wall

intestinal obstruction

intestinal glands

intestinal flora

intestinal infection

intestinal juice

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intravenous /ɪntrəˈvɛnəs/ adjective inside the blood vessels
intravenous /ɪntrəˈvɛnəs/ adjective into a vein.
intravenous drip /ɪntrəˈvɛnəs /drɪp/ noun a thin tube that is inserted into a vein and is used to very gradually give a person fluids, either for rehydration, feeding or medication purposes.
intravenous feeding /ɪntrəˈvɛnəs /ˈfiːdɪŋ/ noun the procedure of giving someone liquid food by means of a tube inserted into a vein.
intravenous injection /ɪntrəˈvɛnəs /ɪnˈdʒɛkʃən/ noun an injection of liquid into a vein, e.g. for the fast release of a drug.
intravenously /ɪntrəˈvɛnəs /lɪˈvɛnəsɪl/ adverb into a vein or a fluid given intravenously.
intravenous pyelogram /ɪntrəˈvɛnəs /juˈrəɡrəm/ noun an X-ray photograph of the kidneys using pyelography.
intravenous pyelography /ɪntrəˈvɛnəs /pɪˈeɪləɡrəfi, ɪntrəˈvɛnəs /uˈroʊɡrəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the urinary tract after opaque liquid has been injected intravenously into the body and taken by the blood into the kidneys.
intraventricular /ɪntrəˌvɛntrɪkʃəl/ adjective inside or placed into a ventricle in the heart or the brain.
intra vitam /ɪntrə ˈvɜːtəm/ adverb during life.
intrinsic /ɪntrəˈsɪnɪk/ adjective belonging to the essential nature of an organism, or entirely within an organ or part.
intrinsic factor /ɪntrəˈsɪnɪk ˈfæktər/ noun a protein produced in the gastric glands which reacts with the extrinsic factor, and which, if lacking, causes pernicious anaemia.
intrinsic ligament /ɪntrəˈsɪnɪk ˈlɪgəmənt/ noun a ligament which forms part of the capsule surrounding a joint.
intrinsic muscle /ɪntrəˈsɪnɪk ˈmæs(ə)r/ noun a muscle lying completely inside the part or segment, especially of a limb, which it moves.
intra- /ɪntrə/ prefix inward.
introduce /ɪntrəˈdjuːs/ verb 1. to put something into something. ○ He used a syringe to introduce a medicinal substance into the body.
introduction /ɪntrəˈdʌkʃən/ noun 1. the act of putting something inside something. ○ the introduction of semen into the woman’s uterus ○ the introduction of an endotracheal tube into the patient’s mouth 2. the act of starting a new process.
intraluminal /ɪntrəˈlʌmɪnl/ adjective inside the lumen of a hollow organ or canal.
intraluminal /ɪntrəˈlʌmɪnl/ adjective a condition in which a person is excessively interested in himself or herself and his or her own mental state. Compare extroversion.
introvert /ɪntrəˈvɜːrnt/ noun a person who thinks only about himself or herself and his or her own mental state. Compare extrovert.
introverted /ɪntrəˈvɜːrnt/ adjective referring to someone who thinks only about himself or herself.
intraduodenal /ɪntrəˌdjuːdənəl/ adjective to insert a tube into any organ or part of the body.
intravenous /ɪntrəˈvɛnəs/ noun a percutaneous catheterisation of the folded part.
inunction /ɪnjuˈʃən/ noun 1. the act of rubbing an ointment into the skin so that the medicine in it is absorbed, 2. an ointment which is rubbed into the skin.
in utero /ɪn ˈjuːtəro/ adjective in, or while still inside, a woman’s womb.
invade /ɪnˈvæd/ verb to enter and spread gradually throughout a part of the body, e.g. the entry of a microorganism that causes disease.
invagination /ɪnˌvædʒəˈneɪʃən/ noun 1. same as intussusception, 2. the surgical treatment of hernia, in which a sheath of tissue is made to cover the opening.
invasive /ɪnˈvæsɪv/ adjective weak or disabled.
invalid /ɪnˈvælɪd/ (dated) adjective someone who has had an illness and has not fully recovered from it or who has been permanently disabled.
invasion /ɪnˈvəʒən/ noun the condition of being disabled.
invasion /ɪnˈvəʒən/ noun the entry of bacteria into a body, or the first attack of a disease.
invasive /ɪnˈvæsɪv/ adjective 1. referring to cancer which tends to spread throughout the
body 2. referring to an inspection or treatment which involves entering the body by making an incision. non-invasive
inverse care law in/vainsˈɛkə laː noun the idea that the people who most need care and services are least likely or able to access them
inversion in/vazˈʃən noun the fact of being turned towards the inside inversion of the uterus a condition in which the top part of the uterus touches the cervix, as if it were inside out, which may happen after childbirth
invertase in/vazˈteɪzər noun an enzyme in the intestine which splits sucrose
investigation in/vestˈstrɪdʒən noun an examination to find out the cause of something which has happened
investigative surgery in/vestˈstrɪdʒətɪv ˈɛnstrʌdʒər noun surgery to investigate the cause of a condition
in vitro in/vɪˈtɾə noun a Latin phrase meaning ‘in a glass’, i.e. in a test tube or similar container used in a laboratory in vitro activity, in vitro experiment which takes place in the laboratory
in vitro fertilisation in/vɪˈtɹərɪ fərˈtɪlɪzən noun the fertilisation of an ovum in the laboratory. Abbr IVF
in vivo in/vəʊə noun. Adverb a Latin phrase meaning ‘in living tissue’, i.e. referring to an experiment which takes place on the living body
in vivo experiment in/vəʊə ɪkˈsperəmənt noun an experiment on a living body, e.g. that of an animal
involution in/vəˈluʃən noun a covering of new bone which forms over diseased bone
involutory in/vəˈluʃərər noun 1. adjective done automatically, without any conscious thought or decision-making being involved Patients are advised not to eat or drink, to reduce the risk of involuntary vomiting while on the operating table.
involutory action in/vəˈluʃərər ˈækʃən noun an action which someone does without thinking or making a conscious decision
involutionary muscle in/vəˈluʃərər ˈmʌsəl noun a muscle supplied by the autonomic nervous system, and therefore not under voluntary control, e.g. the muscle which activates a vital organ such as the heart
involution in/vəˈluʃən noun 1. the return of an organ to its usual size, e.g. the shrinking of the uterus after childbirth 2. a period of decline of organs which sets in after middle age
involutional in/vəˈluʃənəl adjective referring to involuntory
involutional melancholia in/vəˈluʃənəl mənˈlæklə ˈmekələ noun a depression which occurs in people, mainly women, after middle age, probably caused by a change of endocrine secretions
iodine /aɪəˈdiːn noun a chemical element which is essential to the body, especially to the functioning of the thyroid gland (note: Lack of iodine in the diet can cause goitre. The chemical symbol is I)
IOL abbr intraocular lens
ion /aɪən noun an atom that has an electric charge (note: Ions with a positive charge are called cations and those with a negative charge are called anions.)
ionise /aɪəˈnʌzə noun verb to give an atom an electric charge
ioniser /aɪəˈnaɪzər noun a machine that increases the amount of negative ions in the atmosphere of a room, so counteracting the effect of positive ions
ionotherapy /aɪəˌnaɪərəˈθɛri noun treatment by ions introduced into the body via an electric current
iontophoresis /aɪəˌnɒptərəˈθɛsɪs noun the movement of ions through a biological material when an electric current passes through it
IONUS abbr intraoperative ultrasound
IPAV abbr intermittent positive airway ventilation. positive pressure ventilation
ipecacuanha /ɪpɪˈkækɑːnə noun a drug made from the root of an American plant, used as a treatment for coughs, and also as an emetic (note: The US term is ipecac)
IP joint /aɪ ˈpiː dʒənt noun same as interphalangeal joint
IPPP abbr intermittent positive pressure ventilation. positive pressure ventilation
ipratropium /ɪpəˈtræpʃəm noun a drug which helps to relax muscles in the airways, used in the treatment of conditions such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema
ipsilateral /ɪpəˈsɪlətrəl adjective located on or affecting the same side of the body. Also called homolateral. Opposite contralateral
IQ abbr intelligence quotient
IRDS abbr infant respiratory distress syndrome
irid- (prefix referring to the iris
iridectomy /ɪrɪˈdɛktəmi noun the surgical removal of part of the iris
iridencleisis /ɪrɪdəˈklɛsɪs noun an operation to treat glaucoma, where part of the iris...
iridocyclitis 206

is used as a drainage channel through a hole in the sclera.

iridocyclitis /ˌɪrɪdɒskˈklətɪs/ noun inflammation of the iris and the tissues which surround it.

iridodialysis /ˌɪrɪdɔːdɔɪˈlɪsɪs/ noun the separation of the iris from its insertion into the eye.

iridoplegia /ˌɪrɪdəˈplɛɡiə/ noun paralysis of the iris.

iridotomy /ˌɪrɪdəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical incision into the iris.

iritis /ˈɜːrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the iris.

iron /aɪˈrɒn/ noun 1. a chemical element essential to the body, present in foods such as liver and eggs 2. a common grey metal (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Fe.)

iron-deficiency anaemia /aɪrən dɪˈfɪʃənsi ˈænəmiə/ noun anaemia caused by a lack of iron in red blood cells.

iron lung /ˌaɪrənˈluːŋ/ noun same as Drinker respirator.

irradiation /ˌɪrrəˈdeɪʃən/ noun 1. the process of spreading from a centre, as e.g., nerve impulses do 2. the use of radiation to treat people or to kill bacteria in food.

irreducible hernia /ɪrɪˈdjuːsəb(ə)l/ ˈɜːrnɪə/ noun a hernia where the organ cannot be returned to its usual position.

irregular /ɪrˈɛɡjələr/ adjective not regular or normal. 

irritation /ɪrɪˈteɪʃən/ noun a feeling of being irritated or an irritation caused by the ointment or the term stroke does not refer to a single pathological entity. Stroke may be haemorrhagic or ischaemic, the latter is usually caused by thrombus or embolism.

irritant dermatitis /ˌɪrɪtənt ˌdɛrəˈmɪtɪs/ noun an irritation caused by the ointment.

irritable hip /ˈɪrrɪtəb(ə)l hɪp/ noun a condition of pain in the hip which is caused by swelling of the synovium. Treatment involves bed rest, traction and anti-inflammatory drugs.

irritant /ɪrɪˈtənt/ noun a substance which can irritate the skin.

irritation /ɪrɪˈtɛʃ(ə)n/ noun a feeling of being irritated or an irritation caused by the ointment.

iscchemic heart disease /aɪˈskɛmɪk haɪt ˈdɪzər/ noun a disease of the heart caused by a failure in the blood supply, as in coronary thrombosis. Abbr IHD.

ischial /ɪskʃəl/ plural of ischium.

ischialgia /ɪskʃəl ˈdʒiːəl/ adjective referring to the ischium or hip joint.

ischial tuberosity /ɪskʃəl ˈtjuːbərəsətɪ/ noun a lump of bone forming the ring of the ischium.

ischial abscess /ˌɪskʃəl əˈbɛsəs/ noun an abscess which forms in fat cells between the anus and the ischium.

ischio-rectal fossa /ˌɪskʃɪərəkl ˈfəʊsə/ noun a space on either side of the lower end of the rectum and anal canal.

ischium /ˌɪskʃiəm/ noun the lower part of the hip bone in the pelvis. See illustration at PELVIS in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is ischiua).
islets of Langerhans /ˌlæŋɡərˈhæns/ "islands of Langerhans" /ˌlænlərndʒ/ plural noun groups of cells in the pancreas which secrete the hormones glucagon, insulin and gastrin [Described 1869. After Paul Langerhans (1847–88), Professor of Pathological Anatomy at Freiburg, Germany.]

iso- /ˌɪsoʊ/ prefix equal

isoelectric /ˌɪsoʊˈɪlɪtrɪk/ adjective referring to muscle contraction in which tension occurs with very little shortening of muscle fibres 3. referring to exercises in which the muscles are put under tension but not contracted

isometric /ˌɪsoʊˈmɛtrɪk/ adjective 1. involving equal measurement 2. an isometric view of the system 2. referring to muscle contraction in which tension occurs with very little shortening of muscle fibres 3. referring to exercises in which the muscles are put under tension but not contracted

isometrics /ˌɪsoʊˈmɛtrɪks/ plural noun exercises to strengthen the muscles, in which the muscles contract but do not shorten

isoniazid /ˌɪsoʊˈneɪəzɪd/ noun a colourless crystalline compound that is used in the treatment of tuberculosis. Abbreviation INH

isopenaline /ˌɪsoʊˈpɛnəlɪn/ isoproterenol noun a drug that relieves asthma by widening the bronchial tubes in the lungs

isosorbide dinitrate /ˌɪsoʊˈsɔrbɪd dɪˈnɪtrət/ noun a solution which causes widening or relaxation of the blood vessels, used in the treatment of angina pectoris

isotonic /ˌɪsoʊˈtɒnik/ adjective referring to a solution, e.g. a saline drip, which has the same osmotic pressure as blood serum and which can therefore be passed directly into the body. Compare hypertonic, hypotonic

isotonicity /ˌɪsoʊˈtɒnɪsɪ/ noun the equal osmotic pressure of two or more solutions

isotonic solution /ˌɪsoʊˈtɒnɪk ˈsəluʃən/ noun a solution which has the same osmotic pressure as blood serum, or as another liquid it is compared with

isotope /ˌɪsoʊˈtɒp/ noun a form of a chemical element which has the same chemical properties as other forms but a different atomic mass

isotretinoin /ˌɪsoʊˈtretrɪnəʊɪn/ noun a drug used in the treatment of severe acne and several other skin diseases

ispaghula /ˌɪsəˈɡuːlə/ ispaghula husk /ˌɪsəˈɡuːlə hʌsk/ noun a natural dietary fibre used to treat constipation, diverticulitis and irritable bowel syndrome

ISS abbr injury scoring system

isthmus /ˈɪsthməs/ noun 1. a short narrow canal or cavity 2. a narrow band of tissue joining two larger masses of similar tissue, e.g. the section in the centre of the thyroid gland, which joins the two lobes (Note: the plural is isthmuses)

itch /ɪtʃ/ 1. an irritated place on the skin which makes a person want to scratch 2. the itch same as scabies (informal) 3. verb to produce an irritating sensation, making someone want to scratch

itching /ˈɪtʃɪŋ/ noun same as pruritus

itchy /ˈɪtʃi/ adjective making a person want to scratch 2. The main symptom of the disease is an itchy red rash.

itis /ˈaɪtɪs/ suffix inflammation

ITU abbr intensive therapy unit

IU abbr international unit

IUCD abbr intrauterine contraceptive device

IUD abbr 1. intrauterine death 2. intrauterine device

IUS abbr intrauterine system

IV abbr intravenous

IVF abbr in vitro fertilisation

IVP abbr intravenous pyelogram

IVU abbr intravenous urography
those people

The punch on his...

jet-lagged for a week.

jet lag when we flew from Australia.

jet-lagged travellers O We were...
joint (NOTE: For other terms referring to joints, see words beginning with arth-, arthro-.)

joint-breaker fever /dʒɔːnt brēkəˈfɪvə/ noun same as o'nyong-nyong fever

joint capsule /dʒɔːnt kæpsjuːl/ noun white fibrous tissue which surrounds and holds a joint together. See illustration at SYNOVIAL JOINT in Supplement

joint investment plan /dʒɔːnt inˈvestmənt pl/ noun a plan that health and social services draw up together for specific areas of care

joint mouse /dʒɔːnt muːs/ plural noun a loose piece of bone or cartilage in the knee joint, making the joint lock

joule /dʒuːl/ noun the SI unit of measurement of work or energy. 4.184 joules equals one calorie. Symbol J

jugular /dʒʊˈgjʊlər/ adjective referring to the throat or neck

jugular vein /dʒʊˈgjʊlər vɪn/ noun one of the veins which pass down either side of the neck. Also called jugular

jugular nerve /dʒʊˈgjʊlər nɜrv/ noun one of the nerves in the neck

jumper's knee /dʒʊmpərz /dʒuˈmpɚz/ noun a painful condition suffered by athletes and dancers in which inflammation develops in the knee joint

junior doctor /dʒʊnɪər ˈdɒktə/ noun a doctor who is completing his or her training in hospital

junk food /dʒʌŋk fʊd/ noun food of little nutritional value, e.g. high-fat processed snacks, eaten between or instead of meals

juvenile /dʒuˈvɪnl/ adjective relating to or affecting children or adolescents

juxta-/dʒʌkstə/ prefix beside or near

juxta-articular /dʒʌkstə ɑrˈtɪkjʊlər/ adjective occurring near a joint

juxtaposition /dʒʌkstəpəˈzɪʃən/ noun the placing of two or more things side by side so as to make their similarities or differences more obvious
k symbol kilo-
Kahn test /kɑːn tɛst/ noun a test of blood serum to diagnose syphilis [Described 1922. After Reuben Leon Kahn, Lithuanian-born serologist who worked in the USA.]
kala-azar /kaˌlɑː zəˈzɑːr/ noun an often fatal form of leishmaniasis caused by the infection of the intestines and internal organs by a parasite, Leishmania, spread by flies. Symptoms are fever, anaemia, general wasting of the body and swelling of the spleen and liver.
kallum /ˈkɛlɪəm/ noun same as potassium
kaolin /ˈkɛləɪn/ noun a fine soft clay used in the making of medical preparations, especially for the treatment of diarrhoea
Kaposi's sarcoma /kəˈpɑːzə sɑːˈkɑːmə/ noun a cancer which takes the form of many haemorrhagic nodes affecting the skin, especially on the extremities [Described 1872. After Moritz Kahn Kaposi (1837–1902), Professor of Dermatology at Vienna, Austria.]
COMMENT: Formerly a relatively rare disease, found mainly in tropical countries, Kaposi's sarcoma is now more common as it is one of the diseases associated with AIDS.
Kartagener's syndrome /ˈkɑːrətæɡənər ˌsɪndrəm/ noun a hereditary condition in which all the organs in the chest and abdomen are positioned on the opposite side from the usual one, i.e. the heart and stomach are on the right
karyo- /ˈkærəʊ-/ prefix relating to a cell nucleus
karyotype /ˈkærɪəʊtɒp/ noun the chromosomal complement of a cell, shown as a diagram or as a set of letters and numbers
Kawasaki disease /ˈkɑːwəˌskæɪzd/ noun a retrovirus infection that often occurs in small children and causes a high temperature, rash, reddened eyes, peeling skin and swollen lymph nodes
Kayser-Fleischer ring /ˈkeɪzər flɛrˈʃɪər rɪŋ/ noun a brown ring on the outer edge of the cornea, which is a diagnostic sign of hepatitis-

Kegel exercises /ˈkɛɡəl ɪksərəsiz/ noun exercises which strengthen the muscles of the pelvic floor in women and help to prevent any accidental leakage of urine when they cough, sneeze or lift things
Keller's operation /ˈkeɪlərz ˌɒpərəʃən/ noun a surgical operation on the big toe to remove a bunion or to correct an ankylosed joint [Described 1904. After William Lordan Keller (1874–1959), US surgeon.]
Kellow /ˈkɪləʊ/ noun an excessive amount of scar tissue at the site of a skin injury
kerat- /kərət-/ prefix same as kerato-(used before vowels)
keratalgia /ˌkɛrətəldʒiə/ noun pain felt in the cornea
keratectasia /ˌkɛrətɛktəˈziə/ noun a condition in which the cornea bulges
keratectomy /ˌkɛrətɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the whole or part of the cornea (NOTE: The plural is keratectomies.)
keratic /ˈkɛrətɪk/ adjective relating to the cornea, horny tissue or keratin
keratin /ˈkɛrətɪn/ noun a protein found in horny tissue such as fingernails, hair or the outer surface of the skin
keratinisation /ˌkɛrətɪˈnæʃən/ noun the appearance of horny characteristics in tissue. Also called cornification
keratinise /ˌkɛrətɪnaɪz/ verb to convert something into keratin or into horny tissue (NOTE: keratinising = keratinised)
keratinocyte /ˌkɛrətɪˈnəʊsɪt/ noun a cell which produces keratin
keratitis /ˌkɛrətəˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the cornea
kerato- /ˈkɛrətəʊ-/ prefix referring to horn, horny tissue or the cornea
keratoacanthoma /ˌkɛrətəˈækəntəˌmɑː/ noun a type of benign skin tumour which dis-
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layer of the skin

keratococcus /ˌkerətəˈkɔsəs/ noun a cone-shaped lump on the cornea

keratoglobus /ˌkerətəˈgloʊbəs/ noun swelling of the eyeball

keratoma /ˌkerəˈtɔmə/ noun a hard thickened growth due to hypertrophy of the horny zone of the skin (NOTE: The plural is keratomas or keratoma.)

keratomalacia /ˌkerəˈtɔməˈlæʃə/ noun 1, a softening of the cornea frequently caused by Vitamin A deficiency 2. softening of the horny layer of the skin

keratome /ˌkerəˈtɔm/ noun a surgical knife used for operations on the cornea

keratometer /ˌkerəˈtəmətər/ noun an instrument for measuring the curvature of the cornea

keratometry /ˌkerəˈtəmətri/ noun the process of measuring the curvature of the cornea

keratopathy /ˌkerəˈtəpəθi/ noun any non-inflammatory disorder of the cornea (NOTE: The plural is keratopathies.)

keratoplasty /ˌkerəˈtəplæstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to graft corneal tissue from a donor in place of diseased tissue (NOTE: The plural is keratoplasties.)

keratoprosthesis /ˌkerəˈtəprəˈθiːsəs/ noun 1, a surgical operation to replace the central area of a cornea with clear plastic, when it has become opaque 2. a piece of clear plastic put into the cornea (NOTE: The plural is keratoprothoses.)

keratoscope /ˌkerəˈtəskəʊp/ noun an instrument for examining the cornea to see if it has an unusual curvature. Also called Placido's disc

keratoses /ˌkerəˈtəsəz/ noun a lesion of the skin (NOTE: The plural is keratoses.)

keratotomy /ˌkerəˈtətəmə/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut in the cornea, the first step in many intraocular operations (NOTE: The plural is keratomies.)

kerion /ˈkərizən/ noun a painful soft mass, usually on the scalp, caused by ringworm

kermiterus /ˈkərnɪtkərəs/ noun yellow pigmentation of the basal ganglia and other nerve cells in the spinal cord and brain, found in children with icterus

Kernig's sign /ˈkɛrnɪɡz ˌsaɪn/ noun a symptom of meningitis in which the knee cannot be straightened if the person is lying down with the thigh brought up against the abdomen (Described 1882. After Vladimir Mikhailovich Kernig (1840–1917), Russian neurologist.)

ketamine /ˈketəmən/ noun a white crystalline powder that is a general anaesthetic, used in human and veterinary medicine

ketoacidosis /ˌkɛtroˈækəˌdɑːsɪs/ noun an accumulation of ketone bodies in tissue in diabetes, causing acidosis

ketocanazole /ˌkɛtroʊˈkænəˈzoʊl/ noun a drug which is effective against a wide range of fungal infections such as cryptococcosis and thrush

ketogenesis /ˌkɛtroʊˈdʒɛnəsɪs/ noun the production of ketone bodies

ketogenic /ˌkɛtroʊˈdʒɛnɪk/ adjective forming ketone bodies

ketogenic diet /ˌkɛtroʊˈdʒɛnɪk dɪˈɛt/ noun a diet with a high fat content, producing ketosis

ketonemia /ˌkɛtəˈnɪmiə/ noun a morbid state in which ketone bodies exist in the blood

ketone /ˌkɛtəˈnəʊn/ noun a chemical compound produced when glucose is unavailable for use as energy, as in untreated diabetes, and fats are used instead, leading to ketosis

ketone bodies /ˌkɛtəˈnəʊn bəˈdɪz/ plural noun ketone compounds formed from fatty acids

ketone group /ˌkɛtəˈnəʊn grʊp/ noun a chemical group characteristic of ketones, with carbon atoms doubly bonded to an oxygen atom and to the carbon atoms of two other organic groups

ketonuria /ˌkɛtəˈnjuərəˈrɪə/ noun a state in which ketone bodies are excreted in the urine

ketoprotein /ˌkɛtəˈprətrəˈfən/ noun an anti-inflammatory drug used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis

ketosis /ˌkɛtəˈsɔsɪs/ noun a state in which ketone bodies such as acetone and acetic acid accumulate in the tissues, a late complication of Type I diabetes mellitus

ketosteroid /ˌkɛtroʊˈstərəd/ noun a steroid such as cortisone which contains a ketone group

keyhole surgery /ˈkɛɪhoʊl ˈsɜːdʒərɪ/ noun surgery carried out by inserting tiny surgical instruments through an endoscope (informal) Also called laparoscopic surgery

kg abbr. kilogram

kidney /ˈkɪdəni/ noun either of two organs situated in the lower part of the back on either side of the spine behind the abdomen, whose function is to maintain the usual concentrations of the main constituents of blood, passing the waste matter into the urine. See illustration at KIDNEY in Supplement

Comment: A kidney is formed from an outer cortex and an inner medulla. The nephrons which run from the cortex into the medulla filter the blood and form urine. The urine is passed through the ureters into the bladder. Sudden sharp pain in back of the abdomen, going downwards, is an indication of a kidney stone passing into the ureter.

kidney dialysis /ˈkɪdəni ˈdæləˌsɪs/ noun the process of removing waste matter from blood by passing it through a kidney machine. Also called haemodialysis
kidney donor

kidney donor /'kidi n.d'aʊn/ noun a person who gives one of his or her kidneys as a transplant

kidney failure /'kidi n. feɪlər/ noun a situation in which the kidneys do not function properly

kidney machine /'kidi n. 'mæʃi/ noun an apparatus through which blood is passed to be cleaned by dialysis if the person's kidneys have failed

kidney stone /'kidi n. stoun/ noun a hard mass of calcium like a little piece of stone which forms in the kidney

kidney transplant /'kidi n. 'trænsplænt/ noun a surgical operation to give someone with a diseased or damaged kidney a kidney from another person

kill /kil/ verb to make someone or something die ○ She was killed in a car crash. ○ Heart attacks kill more people every year. ○ Antibodies are created to kill bacteria.

killer /'kɪlə/ noun a person or disease which kills ○ In the winter, bronchitis is the killer of hundreds of senior citizens. ○ Virulent typhoid fever can be a killer disease. ○ painkilling

killer cell /'kɪlə sɛl/, killer T cell noun a type of immune cell that recognises and destroys cells that have specific antigens on their surface, e.g. virus-infected or cancerous cells

Killian's operation /'kɪllɪənz ɒpərəʃən/ noun a surgical operation to clear the frontal sinus by curetting in which the incision is made in the eyebrow [After Gustav Killian (1860–1921), German laryngologist]

kilo- /'kɪloʊ-/ prefix one thousand (10³). Symbol k

kilogram /'kɪləgræm/ noun an SI unit of measurement of weight equal to 1000 grams ○ She weighs 62 kilos (62 kg). Symbol kg

kilojoule /'kɪloʊdʒuːl/ noun an SI unit of measurement of energy or heat equal to 1000 joules. Symbol kJ

kilopascal /'kɪloʊpæskəl/ noun an SI unit of measurement of pressure equal to 1000 pascals. Symbol kPa

Kimmelstiel-Wilson disease /'kɪmləstʃəl-ˌwɪlzn dɪzɪs/, Kimmelstiel-Wilson syndrome /'kɪmləstʃəl-ˌwɪlsən smərdrəʊn/ noun a form of nephrosclerosis found in people with diabetes [Described 1936. After Paul Kimmelstiel (1900–70), US pathologist; Clifford Wilson (1906–98), Professor of Medicine, London University, UK]

kin /'kɪn/ noun relatives or close members of the family

kin- /'kɪn-/ prefix same as kine- (used before vowels)

kinaesthesia /'kɪnɪnəθˈiəzɪə/ noun the fact of being aware of the movement and position of parts of the body (NOTE: The US spelling is kinaesthesia.)

COMMENT: Kinaesthesia is the result of information from muscles and ligaments which is passed to the brain and which allows the brain to recognise movements, touch and weight.

kinanaesthesia /'kɪnɪnəθˈiəzɪə/ noun the fact of not being able to sense the movement and position of parts of the body (NOTE: The US spelling is kinaesthesia.)

kinase /'kɪnəs/ noun an enzyme belonging to a large family of related substances that bind to the energy-providing molecule ATP and regulate functions such as cell division and signalling between cells

kinetic /'kɪnɪtɪk/ prefix movement

kineplasty /'kɪnɪplæstɪ/ noun the science of movement, especially of body movements

kineplasty /'kɪnɪplæstɪ/ noun an amputation in which the muscles of the stump of the amputated limb are used to operate an artificial limb (NOTE: The plural is kineplasties.)

kinesi- /'kɪnɪsɪ-/ prefix movement (NOTE: used before vowels)

kinesiology /'kɪnɪsɪələdʒɪ/ noun the study of human movements, particularly with regard to their use in treatment

kinesis noun the movement of a cell in response to a stimulus. Compare taxis

-kinesis /'kɪnɪsɪs/ suffix 1. activity or motion 2. a change in the movement of a cell, though not in any particular direction. Examples are a change in its speed or in its turning behaviour.

kinesitherapy /'kɪnɪsɪsθɛrəpi/ noun therapy involving movement of parts of the body

kinesic /'kɪnɪsɪk/ adjective relating to movement

King's Fund /'kɪŋz 'fʌnd/ noun a major independent health charity in London

King's model /'kɪŋz, 'mɒdl/ noun a model of nurse–patient relationships based on ten principles: interaction, perception, communication, transaction, role, stress, growth and development, time, self and space. Through an exchange of information nurses and patients work together to help individuals and groups attain, maintain and restore health.

kinin /'kɪnɪn/ noun a polypeptide that makes blood vessels widen and smooth muscles contract

Kirschner wire /'kɪrsənə ˈwaiə, Kɪrschnərˈs waiə/ noun a wire attached to a bone and tightened to provide traction to a fracture [Described 1909. After Martin Kirschner (1879–1942), Professor of Surgery at Heidelberg, Germany]

kiss of life /'kɪz əv 'lai/ noun same as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (informal)

kJ abbr kilojoule

Klebsiella /'kλɛbsiələ/ noun a Gram-negative bacterium, one form of which, Klebsiella pneumoniae, can cause pneumonia

Klebs-Loeffler bacillus /'kλɛbz ˌloʊfəl ˈbæsɪləs/ noun the bacterium which causes dipht-
kleptomania /ˌkleptəʊˈmɛniə/ noun a form of mental disorder in which someone has a compulsive desire to steal things, even things of little value

kleptomaniac /ˌkleptəʊˈmɛniək/ noun a person who has a compulsive desire to steal

Klinefelter's syndrome /ˈklɪnfɪltər/ noun a genetic disorder in which a male has an extra female chromosome, making an XXY set, giving sterility and partial female characteristics [Described 1942. After Harry Fitch Klinefelter Jr. (b. 1912), Associate Professor of Medicine, John Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, USA.]

Klumpke's paralysis /ˈklʌmpkAZ/ noun a form of paralysis due to injury during birth, affecting the forearm and hand. Also called Déjerine-Klumpke's syndrome [Described 1888. After Augusta Klumpke (Madame Déjerine-Klumpke) (1859–1937), French neurologist, one of the first women to qualify in Paris in 1888.]

Knee /niː/ noun a joint in the middle of the leg, joining the femur and the tibia (NOTE: For other terms referring to the knee, see genu.)

Knee cap /ˈnɪkəp/ noun same as patella

Knee jerk /ˈnɪkə dʒɜːk/ noun same as patellar reflex

Knee joint /niː dʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint where the femur and the tibia are joined, covered by the kneecap

knead /nɛd/ verb (of broken bones) to join together again ○ Broken bones take longer to knit in elderly people than in children. (NOTE: knitting = knitted – knit)

Knock-knee /nɒkˈnɪk/ noun a state in which the knees touch and the ankles are apart when a person is standing straight. Also called genu valgum

Knock-kneed /nɒkˈnɪkd/ adjective referring to a person whose knees touch when he or she stands straight with feet slightly apart

Knock out /nɒkˈaut/ verb to hit someone so hard that he or she is no longer conscious ○ He was knocked out by a blow on the head.

Knuckle /ˈnʌkəl/ noun the back of each joint on a person’s hand

Koch's bacillus /ˈkɔks bəˈsɪləs/ noun the bacterium which causes tuberculosis, Mycobacterium tuberculosis [Described 1882. After Robert Koch (1843–1910), Professor of Hygiene in Berlin, Germany, later Director of the Institute for Infectious Diseases. (Nobel Prize 1905.)

Korotkoff's method /ˈkɔrtʃknˌmethəd/ noun a method of finding a person's blood pressure by inflating a cuff around his or her upper arm to a pressure well above the systolic blood pressure and then gradually decreasing it

Korsch's syndrome /ˈkɔʃʃsˌsɜːnˈdrəʊm/ noun a condition, caused usually by chronic alcoholism or disorders in which there is a deficiency of vitamin B, in which a person's memory fails and he or she invents things which have not happened and is confused [Described 1887. After Siegert Sergeyevich Korsakoff (1858–1927), US paediatrician.]

Krause corpuscles /ˈkraʊs kɔrˈpɜːsəlz/, plural noun encapsulated nerve endings in the mucous membrane of the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals [Described 1860. After Wilhelm Johann Friedrich Krause (1833–1910), German anatomist.]

Krebs cycle /ˈkrezbˌsɜːkəl/ noun same as citric acid cycle [Described 1937. After Sir Hans Adolf Krebs (1900–81), German biochemist who emigrated to England in 1934. Shared the Nobel prize for Medicine 1953 with F.A. Lipmann.]

Krukenberg tumour /ˈkruːkənlbərɡ/ noun a malignant tumour in the ovary secondary to a tumour in the stomach [After Friedrich Krukenberg (1871–1946), German gynaecologist]
Kuntscher nail

noun a long steel nail used in operations to pin fractures of long bones, especially the femur, through the bone marrow [Described 1940. After Gerhard Küntscher (1900–72), German surgeon.]

Kupffer’s cells

plural noun large specialised liver cells which break down haemoglobin into bile [Described 1876. After Karl Wilhelm von Kupffer (1829–1902), German anatomist.]

Kveim test

noun a skin test to confirm the presence of sarcoidosis [After Morten Ansgar Kveim (b. 1892), Swedish physician.]

kwashiorkor

noun malnutrition of small children, mostly in tropical countries, causing anaemia, wasting of the body and swollen liver

kypho-

prefix a hump

kyphoscoliosis

noun a condition in which someone has both backward and lateral curvature of the spine

kyphosis

noun an excessive backward curvature of the top part of the spine

NOTE: The plural is kyphoses.

kyphotic

adjective referring to kyphosis
**l, L** symbol litre

lab /ˈleɪb/ noun same as laboratory (informal) ○ The samples have been returned by the lab. ○ We'll send the specimens away for a lab test.

lab- /ˈleɪb/ prefix same as labio- (used before vowels)

label /ˈleɪb(ə)r/ noun a piece of paper or card attached to an object or person for identification ■ verb to attach a label to an object ○ The bottle is labelled 'poison'. (NOTE: labelling = labeling – labelled. The US spellings are labeling – labeled.)

labia /ˈleɪbiə/ plural of labium

labial /ˈleɪbiəl/ adjective referring to the lips or to labia

labia majora /ˈleɪbiə məˈdʒɔrə/ plural noun two large fleshy folds at the outside edge of the vulva. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (FEMALE) in Supplement

labia minora /ˈleɪbiə məˈnɔrə/ plural noun two small fleshy folds on the inside edge of the vulva. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (FEMALE) in Supplement. Also called nymphae

labile /ˈleɪbiəl/ adjective referring to a drug which is unstable and likely to change if heated or cooled

lability of mood /ˈleɪbələti əˈmuːd/ noun a tendency for a person's mood to change suddenly

labio- /ˈleɪbɪəʊ/ prefix referring to the lips or to labia

labioplasty /ˈleɪbiəʊˌplæstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to repair damaged or deformed lips (NOTE: The plural is labioplasties.)

labium /ˈleɪbiəm/ noun 1. any of the four fleshy folds which surround the female genital organs 2. a structure which looks like a lip (NOTE: The plural is labia.)

labor /ˈleɪbər/ noun US spelling of labour

laboratory /ˈleɪbərətri/ noun a special room or place where scientists can do specialised work such as research, the testing of chemical substances or the growing of tissues in culture ○ The samples of water from the hospital have been sent to the laboratory for testing. ○ The new drug has passed its laboratory tests. (NOTE: The plural is laboratories.)

laboratory officer /ˈleɪbərət(ə)ri əˈfɪʃə/ noun a qualified person in charge of a laboratory

laboratory technician /ˈleɪbərət(ə)ri tɛkˈnɪʃən/ noun a person who does practical work in a laboratory and has particular care of equipment

laboratory techniques /ˈleɪbərət(ə)ri tɛkˈnɪskəli/ plural noun the methods or skills needed to perform experiments in a laboratory

laboratory test /ˈleɪbərət(ə)ri tɛst/ noun a test carried out in a laboratory

labour /ˈleɪbər/ noun childbirth, especially the contractions in the uterus which take place during childbirth ○ in labour experiencing the physical changes such as contractions in the uterus which precede the birth of a child ○ She was in labour for 14 hours. ○ to go into labour to start to experience the contractions which indicate the birth of a child is imminent ○ She went into labour at 6 o'clock.

COMMENT: Labour usually starts about nine months, or 266 days, after conception. The cervix expands and the muscles in the uterus contract, causing the amnion to burst. The muscles continue to contract regularly, pushing the baby into, and then through, the vagina.

laboured breathing /ˈleɪbərd ˈbreɪnɪŋ/ noun difficult breathing, which can be due to various causes such as asthma

labour pains /ˈleɪbər pens/ plural noun the pains felt at regular intervals by a woman as the muscles of the uterus contract during childbirth

labrum /ˈleɪbrəm/ noun a ring of cartilage around the rim of a joint (NOTE: The plural is labra.)

labyrinth /ˈlaːbrənθ/ noun a series of interconnecting tubes, especially those in the inside of the ear

COMMENT: The labyrinth of the inner ear is in three parts: the three semicircular canals, the vestibule and the cochlea. The osseous labyrinth is filled with a fluid (perilymph) and the membranous labyrinth contains a fluid (endolymph). As the endolymph moves about in the membranous labyrinth it stimulates the vestib-
lacrination /ˈlæktriʃən/ noun a small hollow or cavity in bone which is not the result of stabbing or pricking 2. a dilatation of the lacriferous duct at the base of the nipple
lacto- prefix referring to milk
Lactobacillus /ˌlæktəˈbækjʊləs/ noun a genus of Gram-positive bacteria which produces lactic acid from carbohydrates. It is a normal inhabitant of the human gastrointestinal tract and is used as a probiotic in the production of yogurt and other fermented dairy products.
lactose /ˈlæktoʊs/ noun a sugar produced in the body during the process of milk digestion. It is a disaccharide composed of glucose and galactose.
lactosuria /ˈlæktoʊsjuəriə/ noun the excretion of lactose in the urine.
Lambliasis /lamblia/- /noun/ an infection of tissues containing, e.g., blood vessels and lymphatic vessels, due to a parasite. (NOTE: The plural is lambliasis.)

Lamblia /lan'blə/- /noun/ same as lamblia.

Landsteiner's classification /lan'dstənorz/- /noun/ same as ABO system.

Landsteiner's classification /lan'dstənorz/- /noun/ same as ABO system.

Langens's cells /'læŋɡənz/ - /plural/ /noun/ /cells/ on the outer layers of the skin.

Langer's lines /'læŋɡər/ - /plural/ /noun/ the arrangement of collagen protein fibres which causes the usual skin creases. Cuts made along these lines sever fewer fibres and heal better than other cuts. Also called cleavage lines.

Lange test /'læŋɡə/ - /noun/ a method of detecting globulins in the cerebrospinal fluid. (Described 1912. After Carl Friedrich August Lange (b. 1833), German physician.)

Lanolin /'lænələn/- /noun/ a grease from sheep's wool which absorbs water and is used to rub on dried skin, or in the preparation of cosmetics.

Lanugo /'lænjəgə/ - /noun/ soft hair on the body of a fetus or newborn baby. 2. soft hair on the body of an adult, except on the palms of the hands, the soles of the feet and the parts where long hair grows.

Laparoscopy /'læpərə'skəp/ - /noun/ a surgical instrument which is inserted through a hole in the abdominal wall to allow a surgeon to examine the inside of the abdominal cavity. Also called peritoneoscopy.

Laparoscopic surgery /'læpərə'skərəpi/- /noun/ a procedure in which a laparoscope is used to examine the inside of the abdominal cavity. Also called peritoneoscopy.

Laparotomy /'læpərə'təmə/ - /noun/ a surgical operation to cut open the abdominal cavity. (NOTE: The plural is laparotomies.)

Large intestine /'lɑrdʒ/ - /noun/ the section of the digestive system from the caecum to the rectum.

Larimar /'lɑrəmər/- /noun/ a trade name for melflunine hydrochloride.

Larva /'lɑrvə/ - /noun/ a stage in the development of an insect or tapeworm, after the egg has hatched but before the animal becomes adult. (NOTE: The plural is larvae.)

Laryngoscope /'lɑrɪŋskəp/- /noun/ a keyhole surgery.

Laryngoscopy /'lɑrɪŋskəp/- /noun/ a procedure in which a laryngoscope is used to examine the inside of the larynx.

Laryngoscopy /'lɑrɪŋskəp/- /noun/ a procedure in which a laryngoscope is used to examine the inside of the larynx.

Laryngeal prominence /'lɑrɪŋjəl/ - /noun/ the entrance from the laryngopharynx leading through the vocal cords to the trachea.

Laryngeal prominence /'lɑrɪŋjəl/ - /noun/ the entrance from the laryngopharynx leading through the vocal cords to the trachea.

Laryngoscopy /'lɑrɪŋskəp/- /noun/ a surgical instrument which is inserted through a hole in the abdominal wall to allow a surgeon to examine the inside of the abdominal cavity. Also called peritoneoscopy.

Laryngoscopy /'lɑrɪŋskəp/- /noun/ a surgical instrument which is inserted through a hole in the abdominal wall to allow a surgeon to examine the inside of the abdominal cavity. Also called peritoneoscopy.
laryngeal reflex 218

**laryngeal reflex** /lərˈŋɡiəl ˈrɛflɛks/ noun the reflex that makes a person cough

**laryngectomy** /lərˈŋɡɛkˈtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the larynx, usually as treatment for throat cancer (NOTE: The plural is laryngectomies.)

**larynges** /lərˈŋɡiːz/ plural of larynx

**laryngismus** /lərˈŋɡɪsˌməs/, **laryngismus** /strɪdələs/ noun a spasm of the throat muscles with a sharp intake of breath which occurs when the larynx is irritated, as in children who have croup

**laryngitis** /lərˈŋɡɪnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the larynx

**laryngo-** /lərɪŋɡo-/ prefix referring to both the larynx and laryngeal reflex

**laryngofissure** /lərˈŋɡɔˈfɪsr/ noun a laryngeal reflex referring to a dissection of the vocal cords

**laryngitis** /lərˈŋɡɪnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the larynx

**laryngologist** /lərˈŋɡəlˈɡɒstɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in diseases of the larynx, throat and vocal cords

**laryngology** /lərˈŋɡələˈdʒɪstɪs/ noun the study of diseases of the larynx, throat and vocal cords

**laryngomalacia** /lərˈŋɡəmaˈleɪʃə/ noun a condition in which breathing is made difficult by softness of the larynx, occurring mainly in children under the age of two

**laryngopharyngeal** /lərˈŋɡɔfəˈrɛnɡɡəl/ adjective referring to both the larynx and the pharynx

**laryngopharynx** /lərˈŋɡɔfəˈrɛnɡx/ noun the part of the pharynx below the hyoid bone

**laryngoscope** /lərˈŋɡɔskəʊp/ noun an instrument for examining the inside of the larynx using a light and mirrors

**laryngoscopy** /lərˈŋɡəsˈkɒpɪ/ noun an examination of the larynx with a laryngoscope (NOTE: The plural is laryngoscopies.)

**laryngospasm** /lərˈŋɡɔspæzəm/ noun a muscular spasm which suddenly closes the larynx

**laryngostenosis** /lərˈŋɡɔstəˈnɒsɪs/ noun narrowing of the lumen of the larynx

**laryngostomy** /lərˈŋŋ̩stəˈmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make a permanent opening from the neck into the larynx (NOTE: The plural is laryngostomies.)

**laryngotomy** /lərˈŋŋ̩təˈmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening in the larynx through the membrane, especially in an emergency, when the throat is blocked (NOTE: The plural is laryngotomies.)

**laryngotracheal** /lərˈŋɡɔtrəˈkɛl/ adjective relating to both the larynx and the trachea

**laryngotracheal stenosis** /lərˈŋɡɔtrəˈkɛləstəˈnɒsɪs/ noun

**laryngotracheobronchitis** /lərˈŋɡɔtrəˈkɛləbrɔˈnɒkɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the larynx, trachea and bronchi, as in croup

**larynx** /lərˈɪŋks/ noun the organ in the throat which produces sounds. Also called voice box (NOTE: The plural is larynges or larynxes.)

**laser** /ˈleɪrəz/ noun an instrument which produces a highly concentrated beam of light which can be used to cut or attach tissue, as in operations for a detached retina

**laser laparoscopy** /ˈleɪrəz ˈleɪpərˈtræskəpi/ noun surgery performed through a laparoscope using a laser

**laser probe** /ˈleɪrəz ˈprəʊb/ noun a metal probe which is inserted into the body and through which a laser beam can be passed to remove a blockage in an artery

**laser surgery** /ˈleɪrəz ˌsərdʒərɪ/ noun surgery using lasers, e.g. for the removal of tumours, sealing blood vessels, or the correction of shortsightedness

**Lasix** /ˈleɪzdɪks/ a trade name for frusemide

**Lassa fever** /ˈlæsə ˈfɪvr/ noun a highly infectious and often fatal virus disease found in Central and West Africa, causing high fever, pains, and ulcers in the mouth [After a village in northern Nigeria where the fever was first reported]

**Lassar’s paste** /ˈlæsəz, ˈpɜːst/ noun an ointment made of zinc oxide, used to treat eczema [After Oskar Lassar (1849–1907), German dermatologist]

**lassitude** /ˈleɪstədʒɪd/ noun a state where a person does not want to do anything, sometimes because he or she is depressed

**lata** /ˈleɪtə/ a fascia lata

**latent** /ˈleɪtənt/ adjective referring to a disease which is present in the body but does not show any signs. The children were tested for latent viral infection.

**lateral** /ˈleɪtərl/ adjective 1. further away from the midline of the body 2. referring to one side of the body

**lateral aspect** /ˈleɪtərəl əˈsɛpekt/ noun a view of the side of part of the body. Also called lateral term. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

**lateral epicondyle** /ˈleɪtərəl ˌɛpɪˈkɒndaɪl/ noun a bony prominence on the lateral side of the elbow joint

**lateral epicondylitis** /ˈleɪtərəl ˌɛpɪˌkɒndaɪlɪtɪs/ noun same as tennis elbow

**lateral fissure** /ˈleɪtərəl ˈfɪsr/ noun a groove along the side of each cerebral hemisphere

**laterally** /ˈleɪtərəli/ adverb towards or on the side of the body. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement
lateral malleolus /ˈlɛtərəl ˈmælələs/ noun the part of the end of the fibula which protrudes on the outside of the ankle
lateral view /ˈlɛtərəl ˈvjuː/ noun same as lateral aspect
lateroverversion /ˈlɛtərəvərˈvɜːʃən/ noun a condition in which an organ is turned to one side
lattissimus dorsi /ˌlætɪˈsɪməs ˈdɔrsi/ noun a large flat triangular muscle covering the lumbar region and the lower part of the chest
laudanum /ˈlɔːdənəm/ noun a solution of opium in alcohol that was formerly in widespread use for pain relief
laughing gas /ˈlaʊfɪŋ ˈgæs/ noun same as nitrous oxide (informal)
lavage /ˈleɪvɑːʒ/ noun the act of washing out or irrigating an organ such as the stomach
laxative /ˈleɪkəˈveɪtɪv/ adjective causing a bowel movement noun a medicine which causes a bowel movement, e.g. bisacodyl, which stimulates intestinal motility, or lactulose which alters fluid retention in the bowel also called (all senses) purgative
COMMENT: Laxatives are very commonly used without prescription to treat constipation, although they should only be used as a short term solution. Change of diet and regular exercise are better ways of treating most types of constipation.
lazy eye /ˈleɪzi ˈeɪ/ noun an eye which does not focus properly without an obvious cause (informal) ambyopia
LD abbr lethal dose
LDL abbr low-density lipoprotein
L-dopa /ˈleɪdəˈpəʊər/ noun same as levodopa
LE abbr lupus erythematosus lead /leɪd/ noun a very heavy soft metallic element, which is poisonous in compounds (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Pb.)
lead-free /ˈlɛd friː/ adjective with no lead in it ○ lead-free paint ○ lead-free petrol
lead line /ˈlɛd laɪn/ noun a blue line seen on the gums in cases of lead poisoning
lead poisoning /ˈlɛd ˈpʊsin/ noun poisoning caused by taking in lead salts. Also called plumbism, saturnism
COMMENT: Lead salts are used externally to treat bruises or eczema, but if taken internally produce lead poisoning. Lead poisoning can also be caused by paint (children’s toys must be painted in lead-free paint) or by lead fumes from car engines not using lead-free petrol.
learning /ˈlɜːnɪŋ/ noun the act of gaining knowledge of something or of how to do something
learning disability /ˈlɜːnɪŋ diˈsəblələtɪ/ noun a condition that results in someone finding it difficult to learn skills or information at the same rate as others of similar age ○ children with learning disabilities
LE cells /ˈleɪ ði: ˈsɛlz/ plural noun white blood cells which show that someone has lupus erythematosus
lecithin /ˈleɪsθɪn/ noun a chemical which is a constituent of all animal and plant cells and is involved in the transport and absorption of fats
leech /ˈliːʃ/ noun a blood-sucking parasitic worm which lives in water, occasionally used in specialist procedures
COMMENT: Leeches were formerly commonly used in medicine to remove blood from a patient. Today they are used in special cases, where it is necessary to make sure that blood does not build up in part of the body, e.g. in a severed finger which has been sewn back on.
left-handed /ˈlɛft ˈhændıd/ adjective using the left hand in preference to the right in most everyday tasks
left-handedness /ˈlɛft ˈhændıdnəs/ noun the fact of being left-handed
leg /ˈleg/ noun a part of the body with which a person or animal walks and stands
COMMENT: The leg is formed of the thigh, with the thighbone or femur, the knee with the kneecap or patella, and the lower leg with two bones – theibia and fibula.
legal abortion /ˈlegəl əˈbɔrʃən/ noun an abortion which is carried out legally
Legg-Calvé disease /ˈleɪg ˈkælvi dɪ ˈziːz/ Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease /ˈleɪg ˈkælveɪ ˈpɜːrθɪz dɪ ˈziːz/ noun degeneration of the upper end of the thighbone in young boys, which prevents the bone growing properly and can result in a permanent limp [Described 1910 separately by all three workers, Arthur Thornton Legg (1874–1939), American orthopaedic surgeon; Jacques Calvé (1875–1954), French orthopaedic surgeon; Georg Clemens Perthes (1869–1927), German surgeon.]
Legionnaires’ disease /ˌlɛʒəˈnərriəz diˈziːz/ noun a bacterial disease similar to pneumonia
COMMENT: The disease is thought to be transmitted in droplets of moisture in the air, and so the bacterium is found in central air-conditioning systems. It can be fatal to elderly or sick people, and so is especially dangerous if present in a hospital.
leio- /ˈleɪəʊ-/ prefix smooth or smoothness
leiomyoma /ˌleɪəʊˈmɔːmə/ noun a tumour of smooth muscle, especially the smooth muscle coating the uterus (NOTE: The plural is leiomyomas or leiomyomata.)
leiomyosarcoma /ˌleɪəʊˌmeɪsərˈkəʊmə/ noun a sarcoma in which large bundles of smooth muscle are found (NOTE: The plural is leiomyosarcomas or leiomyosarcomata.)
Leishmaniasis /ˌlɪʃməˈnæsɪs/ noun a disease caused by the parasite Leishmania, one
Lentigines...or like a lens

Leptospirosis...
leucocyte /ˌljuːsəʊˈsɪt/; leukocyte noun a white blood cell which contains a nucleus but has no haemoglobin.

COMMENT: In average conditions the blood contains far fewer leucocytes than erythrocytes (red blood cells), but their numbers increase rapidly when infection is present in the body. Leucocytes are either granular (with granules in the cytoplasm) or nongranular. The main types of leucocyte are: lymphocytes and monocytes which are nongranular, and neutrophils, eosinophils and basophils which are granular (granulocytes). Granular leucocytes are produced by the bone marrow, and their main function is to remove foreign particles from the blood and fight infection by forming antibodies.

leucocytolysis /ˌljuːsəʊsɪˈtɒlɪsɪs/; leukocytolysis noun destruction of leucocytes

leucocytosis /ˌljuːsəʊˈsɪtəsɪs/; leukocytosis noun an increase in the numbers of leucocytes in the blood above the usual upper limit, in order to fight an infection

leucodeplete /ˌljuːkədˈplɪt/; leucodeplete verb to remove white cells from the blood (note: leucodepleting – leucodepleted)

leucoderma /ˌljuːkəˈdɜːmə/; leucoderma noun same as vitiligo

leucolyisin /ˌljuːkəˈloʊsɪn/; leukolyisin noun a protein which destroys white blood cells

leukemia /ˌljuːkəˈmiə/; leukemia noun a white scar of the cornea (note: The plural is leukomas or leukomata.)

leucocynthia /ˌljuːkəˈsɪntɪə/; leucocynthia noun a condition in which white marks appear on the fingernails

leucopenia /ˌljuːkəˈpɪniə/; leucopenia noun a reduction in the number of leucocytes in the blood, usually as the result of a disease

leucoplastia /ˌljuːkəˈplɒskʃə/; leukoplastia noun a condition in which white patches form on mucous membranes, e.g. on the tongue or inside of the mouth

leucopoiesis /ˌljuːkəpəˈoiːsɪs/; leucopoiesis noun the production of leucocytes

leukorrhoea /ˌljuːkəˈrɔʊə/; leukorrhoea noun an excessive discharge of white mucus from the vagina. Also called whites (note: the US spelling is leukorrhoea.)

leukaemia /ˌljuːkəˈmiə/; leukaemia noun any of several malignant diseases where an unusual number of leucocytes form in the blood (note: the US spelling is leukemia.)

COMMENT: Apart from the increase in the number of leucocytes, the symptoms include swelling of the spleen and the lymph glands. There are several forms of leukaemia: the commonest is acute lymphoblastic leukaemia which is the commonest cancer occurring in children and can be treated by radiotherapy.

leuko- /ˌljuːkəʊ/ prefix same as leuco-
The plural is likely to live number of years a person of a particular age is

lies an injured or unconscious person body feature

lift /lɪft/ noun 1. a particular way of carrying an injured or unconscious person o a four-

hundred lift o a shoulder lift 2. a cosmetic operation to remove signs of age or to change a body feature o a face lift

ligament /'lɪgəmənt/ noun a thick band of fibrous tissue which connects the bones at a joint and forms the joint capsule

ligate /'lɪgət/ verb to tie something with a ligature, e.g. to tie a blood vessel to stop bleeding or to tie the Fallopian tubes as a sterilisation procedure (note: ligating – ligated)

ligation /'lɪgəʃ(ə)n/ noun a surgical operation to tie up a blood vessel

ligature /'lɪɡətʃ(ə)n/ noun a thread used to tie vessels or a lumen, e.g. to tie a blood vessel to stop bleeding (verb same as ligate (note: ligaturing – ligatured)

light /laɪt/ adjective 1. bright so that a person can see o At six o’clock in the morning it was just getting light. 2. referring to hair or skin which is very pale o She has a very light complexion. o He has light-coloured hair. 3. weighing a comparatively small amount o The energy that makes things bright and helps a person to see o There’s not enough light in here to take a photo.

light adaptation /'laɪt ədəpeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun changes in the eye to adapt to an unusually bright or dim light or to adapt to light after being in darkness

lightening /'laɪtnɪŋ/ noun a late stage in pregnancy where the fetus goes down into the pelvic cavity

lightening pains /'laɪtənɪŋ peɪnz/ plural noun sharp pains in the legs in someone who has tabes dorsalis

light reflex /'laɪt rɪflɛks/ noun same as pupillary reaction

light therapy /'laɪt ə'θerəpi, 'laɪt trɪstɪm/ noun the treatment of a disorder by exposing the person to light such as sunlight or infrared light

light wave /'laɪt wəv/ noun a wave traveling in all directions from a source of light which stimulates the retina and is visible

ligonacine /'lɪgnəkɪn/ noun same as lidocaine

limb /'lɪmb/ one of the legs or arms

limb /'lɪmb/ plural of limb

limbic system /'lɪmbɪk, 'lɪmɪk/ noun a system of nerves in the brain, including the hippocampus, the amygdala and the hypothalamus, which are associated with emotions such as fear and anger

limb lead /'lɪm lɛd/ noun an electrode attached to an arm or leg when taking an electrocardiogram

limb lengthening /'lɪm ˈlɛŋθɛnɪŋ/ noun a procedure in which an arm or a leg is made longer. Its bone is divided in two and new bone forms in the gap between the ends.

limbless /'lɪmbləs/ adjective lacking one or more limbs
limbus /ˈlimbəs/ noun an edge, especially the edge of the cornea where it joins the sclera (NOTE: The plural is limbi.)

liminal /ˈlimɪn(ə)l/ adjective referring to a stimulus at the lowest level which can be sensed

limp /limp/ noun a way of walking awkwardly because of pain, stiffness or malformation of a leg or foot. He was still limping three weeks after the accident.

limbus /ˈlimbəs/ noun an edge, especially the edge of the cornea where it joins the sclera

lingual /ˈlɪŋɡwɔl/ adjective referring to the tongue

lingual artery /ˈlɪŋɡwɔl əˈtɑːrɪ/ noun an artery which supplies blood to the tongue

lingual tonsil /ˈlɪŋɡwɔl ˈtɒŋsɪl/ noun a mass of lymphoid tissue on the top surface of the back of the tongue

lingual vein /ˈlɪŋɡwɔl ˈvɪn/ noun a vein which takes blood away from the tongue

lingula /ˈlɪŋɡwɔlə/ noun a long thin piece of bone or other tissue of the lingula of the left lung (NOTE: The plural is lingulae.)

linear /ˈlɪŋɡwɔr/ adjective 1. long and narrow in shape 2. able to be represented by a straight line

lipid /ˈlɪpɪd/ noun an organic compound which is insoluble in water, e.g. a fat, oil or wax

lipid metabolism /ˈlɪpɪd ˈmeɪtəˌbolɪzəm/ noun the series of chemical changes by which lipids are broken down into fatty acids

lipidosis /ˈlɪpɪdəsɪs/ noun a disorder of lipid metabolism in which subcutaneous fat is not present in some parts of the body

lipochondrodystrophy /ˈlɪpəkɒndrəroʊˌdraʊˌdraɪstrəˈfeɪv/ noun a congenital disorder affecting lipid metabolism, the bones and the main organs, causing learning difficulties and physical deformity

lipidosis /ˈlɪpɪdəsɪs/ noun the production or making of deposits of fat

lipid /ˈlɪpɒd/ noun a compound lipid, or a fatty substance such as cholesterol which is not present in some parts of the body

lipolytic enzyme /ˈlɪpəlɪtɪk ˌenzəm/ noun an enzyme which breaks down fats in the intestine. Also called lipolytic enzyme

lipolytic enzyme /ˈlɪpəlɪtɪk ˌenzəm/ noun an enzyme which breaks down fats in the intestine. Also called lipolytic enzyme

linoleic acid /ˈlɪnəlɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun one of the essential fatty acids, found in grains and seeds

linolenic acid /ˈlɪnənɛk ˈæsɪd/ noun one of the essential fatty acids, found in linseed and other natural oils

lint /lɪnt/ noun thick flat cotton wadding, used as part of a surgical dressing

liothyronine /ˈlɪzosɪˌθɪrənɪn/ noun a hormone produced by the thyroid gland which can be artificially synthesised for use as a rapid-acting treatment for hypothyroidism

lipo /ˈlɪpəʊ/ noun 1. each of two fleshy muscular parts round the edge of the mouth 2. an edge of flesh round an opening, same as labium

lipemia /ˈlɪpɪmɪə/ noun an excessive amount of fat in the blood (NOTE: The US spelling is lipemia.)

lipase /ˈlɪpɪz/ noun an enzyme which breaks down fats in the intestine. Also called lipolytic enzyme

lipid lowering drug /ˈlɪpɪd ˈloʊərɪŋ ˈdrʌg/ noun a drug which lowers serum triglycerides and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and reduces high-density lipoprotein cholesterol to lower the progression of coronary atherosclerosis. Lipid-lowering drugs are used in people with, or at high risk of developing coronary heart disease. (NOTE: Lipid-lowering drugs have names ending in -fibrate: bezafibrate)

lipid metabolism /ˈlɪpɪd ˈmeɪtəˌbolɪzəm/ noun the series of chemical changes by which lipids are broken down into fatty acids

lipidosis /ˈlɪpɪdəsɪs/ noun a disorder of lipid metabolism in which subcutaneous fat is not present in some parts of the body

lipogenesis /ˈlɪpsəˌdʒɛnəsɪs/ noun the production or making of deposits of fat

lipid /ˈlɪpɪd/ noun a compound lipid, or a fatty substance such as cholesterol which is not present in some parts of the body

lipidosis /ˈlɪpɪdəsɪs/ noun a group of diseases with reticuloendothelial hyperplasia and unusual deposits of lipoids in the cells

lipolysis /ˈlɪpəˌlɪsɪs/ noun the process of breaking down fat by lipase

lipolytic enzyme /ˈlɪpəˌlɪtɪk ˈɛnˌzaɪm/ noun same as lipase
lipoma 224

lipoma /lipəʊˈmaː/ noun a benign tumour formed of fatty tissue (NOTE: The plural is lipomas or lipomata.)

lipomatosis /,lɪpəʊˈmæsɪs/ noun an excessive deposit of fat in the tissues in tumour-like masses

lipoprotein /ˌlɪpəˈprəʊtɪn/ noun a protein which combines with lipids and carries them in the bloodstream and lymph system (NOTE: Lipoproteins are classified according to the percentage of protein which they carry.)

liposarcoma /ˌlɪpəʊˈsærkəmə/ noun a rare malignant tumour found in fatty tissue (NOTE: The plural is liposarcomas or liposarcomata.)

liposuction /ˌlɪpəʊsʌkʃən/ noun the surgical removal of fatty tissue for cosmetic reasons

lipotrophic /ˌlɪpəʊtrəʊfɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which increases the amount of fat present in the tissues

lipophagy /ˌlɪpəʊˈfædʒi/ noun a type of intruterine device

lipping /ˈlɪpɪŋ/ noun a condition in which bone tissue grows over other bones

lip salve /ˈlɪp sɑlv/ noun an ointment, usually sold as a soft stick, used to rub on lips to prevent them cracking

lipuria /ˈlɪpjuəriə/ noun the presence of fat or oily emulsion in the urine

liquid diet /ˈlɪkwɪd dɪt/ noun a diet consisting only of liquids (NOTE: Clear liquid diet is a temporary diet used in preparation for surgery.

liquid paraffin /ˈlɪkwɪd pəˈrɑːfɪn/ noun an oil used as a laxative

liquor /ˈlɪkər/ noun (in pharmacy) a solution, usually aqueous, of a pure substance

lisp /ˈlɪsp/ noun a speech condition in which someone replaces ‘s’ sounds with ‘θ’

Listeria /ˈlɪstrɪəriə/ noun a genus of bacteria found in domestic animals and in unpasteurised milk products which can cause uterine infection or meningitis

listeriosis /ˌlɪstəriˈɑːsɪs/ noun an infectious disease transmitted from animals to humans by the bacterium Listeria

listless /ˈlɪstlɛs/ adjective weak and tired

tiredness /ˈlɪstrənəs/ noun the fact of being generally weak and tired

liter /ˈlɪtər/ noun US spelling of litre

lith- /lɪθ-/ prefix same as litho- (used before vowels)

lithaemia /ˌlɪθəˈmiə/ noun an unusual amount of uric acid in the blood. Also called uricaci-daemia (NOTE: The US spelling is lithemia.)

lithagogy /ˈlɪθəɡədʒi/ noun a drug which helps to remove stones from the urine

lithiasis /ˌlɪθəˈiəsɪs/ noun the formation of stones in an organ

lithium /ˈlɪθiəm/ noun a soft silver-white metallic element that forms compounds, used as a medical treatment for bipolar disorder

litho- prefix referring to a calculus

liholapaxy /ˌlɪθəloʊˈpæksi/ noun the evacuation of pieces of a stone in the bladder after crushing it with a lithotrite. Also called lithotomy (NOTE: The plural is liholapaxies.)

lithotomy /ˌlɪθəˈtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove a stone from the bladder (NOTE: The plural is lithotomies.)

lithotomy position /ˌlɪθəˈtəmi pəˈzɪʃən/ noun a position for some medical examinations in which the person lies on his or her back with the legs flexed and the thighs against the abdomen

lithotripsy /ˌlɪθətrɪpsɪ/ noun the process of breaking up kidney or gall bladder stones into small fragments that the body can eliminate them unaided

lithotrite /ˌlɪθətraɪt/ noun a surgical instrument which crushes a stone in the bladder

lithotritally /ˌlɪθətrɪtəli/ noun same as litholapaxy

lithuresis /ˌlɪθjʊˈriːsɪs/ noun the passage of small stones from the bladder during urination

lithuria /ˌlɪθjʊəriə/ noun the presence of excessive amounts of uric acid or urates in the urine

litmus /ˈlɪtməs/ noun a substance which turns red in acid and blue in alkali

litmus paper /ˌlɪtəməs ,pɜːps/ noun a small piece of paper impregnated with litmus, used to test for acidity or alkalinity

litre /ˈlɪtər/ noun a unit of measure of liquids equal to 1.76 pints. Abbr l (NOTE: With figures, usually written L or L: 2.5L, but it can be written in full to avoid confusion with the numeral 1. The US spelling is liter.)

little finger /ˈlɪtlɪ fɪŋər/ noun the smallest finger on the hand

Little's area /ˈlɪtlɪz ərə/ noun an area of blood vessels in the nasal septum

Little's disease /ˈlɪtlɪz dɪz/ noun same as spastic diplegia (Described 1843. After William John Little (1810–94), physician at the London Hospital, UK.)

little toe /ˈlɪtlɪ tɔʊ/ noun the smallest toe on the foot (NOTE: Her little toe was crushed by the door.)

live adjective /lɪv/ 1. living, not dead ○ graft using live tissue ○ birth 2. carrying electricity ○ He was killed when he touched a live wire. ○ verb /lɪv/ to be alive ○ She is very ill, and the doctor doesn’t think she will live much longer. (NOTE: living = lived)
live birth /ˈlɪv ˈbɜːθ/ noun the birth of a baby which is alive. The number of live births has remained steady.
livedo ʌˈvɪdəʊ/ noun discoloured spots on the skin
liver /ˈlɪvər/ noun a large gland in the upper part of the abdomen. See illustration at digestive system in Supplement (note: for other terms referring to the liver, see words beginning with hepate-).
lobe ʌˈləʊb/ noun a rounded section of an organ such as the lung. The plural is lobes.
liver spot /ˈlɪvər ˈflʌk/ noun a parasitic flatworm which can infest the liver
liver transplant /ˈlɪvər ˈtrænsplənt/ noun a surgical operation to give a person the liver of another person who has died
living will /ˈlɪvɪŋ ˈwɪl/ noun a document signed by a person while in good health to specify the decisions he or she wishes to be taken about medical treatment if he or she becomes incapable of making or communicating them
liver fluke /ˈlɪvər ˈflʌk/ noun a parasitic flatworm which can infest the liver
liver spot /ˈlɪvər ˈspɔt/ noun a small section of a skin of the backs of the hands, attributed to sun damage
lockjaw /ˈlɒkˌʃɛɪn/ noun a condition in which the muscles of the jaw are locked in an extended position, which can be locked in an extended position, e.g. the knee or elbow
lock /lɒk/ verb to fix something in a position
lock-in syndrome /ˈlɒkɪn ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a condition in which only the eyes and eyelids can move although the person is fully alert and conscious. It results from severe damage to the brain stem.
locking joint /ˈlɒkɪŋ ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint which can be locked in an extended position, e.g. the knee or elbow
loch /lɑːk/ noun a small body of water
lochia /ˈlɒkiə/ noun a discharge from the vagina after childbirth or abortion
lochial /ˈlɒkiəl/ adjective referring to lochia
lochiometra /ˈlɒkiəmi ˈtrə θə s/ noun the birth of a baby which is alive.
**locomotion** 226

**locomotion** /ləʊˈkɒmən/ noun the fact of being able to move

**locomotor** /ləʊˈkɒmətər/ adjective relating to locomotion

**locomotor ataxia** /ləʊˈkɒmətər əˈteɪkʃəs/ noun same as tabes dorsalis

**loculated** /ləʊˈkjuːlətɪd/ adjective referring to an organ or a growth which is divided into many compartments ○ a loculated renal abscess

**locule** /ləʊˈkjuːl/ noun same as *loculus*

**loculus** /ləʊˈkjuːləs/ noun a small space in an organ (NOTE: The plural is *loculi*.)

**locum** /ləʊkəm/ noun a healthcare professional such as a doctor or pharmacist who takes the place of another for a time. Also called *locum tenens*.

**locum tenens** noun same as *locum* (NOTE: The plural is *locum tenentes.*)

**locus** /ləʊˈkəs/ noun 1. an area or point where an infection or disease is to be found 2. a position on a chromosome occupied by a gene (NOTE: The plural is *loci*.)

**log** /lɒg/ verb to stay or stick somewhere, or to stick something somewhere ○ The piece of bone lodged in her throat. ○ The larvae of the tapeworm lodge in the walls of the intestines.

**lofepramine** /loʊfəˈprɑːmiːn/ noun an antidepresant drug

**log roll** /lɒg rɔːl/ noun a method of turning people in bed onto their side by putting them into a straight position and pulling on the sheet under them

**logrolling** /lɒɡˈroʊlɪŋ/ noun the process of moving a person who is lying down into another position using the log roll method.

- **-logy** /ləʊˈɡɒlɪ/ noun 1. science or study ○ psychology ○ embryology 2. speech or expression

**loiasis** /loʊˈeɪəsɪs/ noun a tropical disease of the eye caused when the threadworm Loa loa enters the eye or the skin around the eye

**loin** /lɔɪn/ noun the lower back part of the body above the buttocks

**Lomotil** /ləʊˈmɒtɪl/ a trade name for a preparation containing diphenoxylate

**long-acting** /lɔŋˈeɪktɪŋ/ adjective referring to a drug or treatment which has an effect that lasts a long time

**long bone** /lɔŋ bon/ noun any long limb bone that contains marrow and ends in a part that forms a joint with another bone

**longitudinal** /lɔŋˈtjuːdɪn(ə)l/ adjective 1. positioned lengthwise 2. in the direction of the long axis of the body

**longitudinal arch** /lɔŋˈtjuːdɪn(ə)l əˈtʃɜː/ noun same as plantar arch

**longitudinal fissure** /lɔŋˈtjuːdɪn(ə)l ˈfɪʃər/ noun a groove separating the two cerebral hemispheres

**longitudinal lie** /lɔŋˈtjuːdɪn(ə)l ˈlai/ noun the usual position of a fetus, lying along the axis of the mother’s body

**longitudinal study** /lɔŋˈtjuːdɪn(ə)l ˈstʌdɪ/ noun a study of individuals or groups of people and of how some aspect such as their health or education changes over a long time

**longsighted** /lɔŋˈsaɪtɪd/ adjective able to see clearly things which are far away but not things which are close

**longsightedness** /lɔŋˈsaɪtɪdnəs/ noun the condition of being longsighted. Also called *hypermetropia*

**long-stay** /lɔŋ ˈstei/ adjective referring to staying a long time in hospital ○ *patients in long-stay units* ○ *long stay patient* ○ *long stay ward*

**long stay ward** /lɔŋ ˈstei ˈwɔːd/ noun a ward for patients who will stay in hospital for a long time

**loo** /luː/ noun a toilet, or a room containing a toilet (informal) ○ to go to the loo to urinate or defecate

**look after** /lʊk əˈfɜː/ verb to take care of a person and attend to his or her needs ○ The nurses looked after him very well or He was very well looked after in hospital. ○ She is off work looking after her children who have mumps.

**loop** /luːp/ noun 1. a curve or bend in a line, especially one of the particular curves in a fingerprint ○ 2. a curved piece of wire placed in the uterus to prevent contraception

**loop of Henle** /luːp ˈhɛnl/ noun a curved tube which forms the main part of a nephron in the kidney

**loperamide** /ləʊpəˈmɑːrd/ noun a drug that relieves severe diarrhoea by slowing down the movements of the intestine

**loratidine** /ˈlɔːrətɪdɪn/ noun an antihistamine drug

**lorazepam** /ˈlɔːrəzəpɛm/ noun a mild tranquilliser that people often receive before surgery to lessen anxiety

**loradose** /ˈlɔːrədəʊsɪs/ noun excessive forward curvature of the lower part of the spine. ○ *kyphosis*

**lorotic** /ˈlɔːrətɪk/ adjective referring to loradose

**lotion** /ˈlɔtʃən/ noun a medicinal liquid used to rub on the skin ○ a mild antiseptic lotion

**louse** /lɔʊs/ noun a small insect of the Pediculus genus, which sucks blood and lives on the skin as a parasite on animals and humans (NOTE: The plural is *lice*.)

**COMMENT:** There are several forms of louse: the commonest are the body louse, the crab louse and the pubic louse. The commonest lice are parasites on animals and humans (NOTE: The plural is *lice*.)
low-density lipoprotein noun a lipoprotein with a large percentage of cholesterol which deposits fats in muscles and arteries. Abbr LDL

low-fat diet noun a diet with few calories, to help a person to lose weight

low blood pressure noun

lumbar /lʌmbər/ adjective referring to the lower part of the back

lumbar region /lʌmbə_rɪdʒən/ noun the point where several nerves which supply the thighs and abdomen join together, lying in the upper psoas muscle

lumbar puncture /lʌmbər _pʌŋktʃə/ noun a surgical operation to remove a sample of cerebrospinal fluid by inserting a hollow needle into the lower part of the spinal canal. Also called spinal tap (NOTE: the US term is usually spinal tap.)

lumbar vertebra /lʌmbə_r _vɜːtəbra/ plural noun each of the five vertebrae between the thoracic vertebrae and the sacrum

lumbosacral /lʌmbəʊsəˈkrəl/ adjective referring to both the lumbar vertebrae and the sacrum

lumbosacral joint /lʌmbəʊsəˈkrəl_ dʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint at the bottom of the back between the lumbar vertebrae and the sacrum

lumen /ˈljuːmən/ noun 1. an SI unit of light emitted per second 2. the inside width of a passage in the body or of an instrument such as an endoscope 3. a hole at the end of an instrument such as an endoscope

lump /lʌmp/ noun a mass of hard tissue which rises on the surface or under the surface of the skin ○ He has a lump where he hit his head on the low door ○ She noticed a lump in her right breast and went to see the doctor.

lumpectomy /ˈlʌmpɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove a hard mass of tissue such as a breast tumour, leaving the surrounding tissue intact (NOTE: the plural is lumpectomies.)

lunate /ˈljuːnət/ noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist. See illustration at HAND
Lund and Browder chart

Lund and Browder chart /ˌlʌnd ənˈbruːdər/ noun a chart for calculating the surface area of a burn

lung /laŋ/ noun one of two organs of respiration in the body into which air is sucked when a person breathes (note: for other terms referring to the lungs, see words beginning with bronch-, broncho-, pneumo-, pneumo-, pneu-

luteinising hormone /ˈlʊtɪnərɪzɪŋ hɔrmən/ noun a hormone produced by the pituitary gland, which stimulates the formation of the corpus luteum (note: the plural is luteinising hormones)

lutein /ˈlʊtɪn/ noun a yellow pigment in the corpus luteum

luteinising hormone /ˈlʊtɪnərɪzɪŋ hɔrmən/ noun a hormone produced by the pituitary gland, which stimulates the formation of the corpus luteum (note: the plural is luteinising hormones)

lung cancer /ˈlaŋ kɑrkən/ noun cancer in the lung

Lunula /ˈluːŋjʊlə/ noun a curved white mark at the base of a fingernail (note: the plural is lunulae)

lupus /ˈluːpəs/ noun a persistent skin disease, of which there are several unrelated types

lupus erythematosus /ˌluːpəs ˈɛrɪθəməˈtəʊsəs/ noun an inflammatory disease of connective tissue of which the more serious, systemic, form affects the heart, joints and blood vessels. Abbrev LE

lupus vulgaris /ˌluːpəs vəˈɡʊlərɪs/ noun a form of tuberculosis of the skin in which red spots appear on the face and become infected

lutein /ˈlʊtɪn/ noun a yellow pigment in the corpus luteum

luteinising hormone /ˈlʊtɪnərɪzɪŋ hɔrmən/ noun a hormone produced by the pituitary gland, which stimulates the formation of the corpus luteum (note: the plural is luteinising hormones)

LH. Also called interstitial cell stimulating hormone

luteo- /ˈlʊtəʊ/ prefix 1. yellow 2. corpus luteum

luxation /ˈlʌkʃəʃən/ noun same as dislocation

Lyme disease /ˈlaɪm ˈdaɪzɪz/ noun a viral disease caused by Borrelia burgdorferi transmitted by bites from deer ticks. It causes rashes, nervous pains, paralysis and, in extreme cases, death.

lymph /ˈlɪmf/ noun a colourless liquid containing white blood cells which circulates in the lymph system from all body tissues, carrying waste matter away from tissues to the veins. Also called lymph fluid

COMMENT: Lymph drains from the tissues through capillaries into lymph vessels. It is formed of water, protein and white blood cells (lymphocytes). Waste matter such as infection in the lymph is filtered out and destroyed as it passes through the lymph nodes, which then add further lymphocytes to the lymph before it continues in the system. It eventually drains into the brachiocephalic (innominate) veins, and joins the venous bloodstream.

Lymph is not pumped round the body like blood but moves by muscle pressure on the lymph vessels and by the negative pressure of the large veins into which the vessels empty. Lymph is an essential part of the body’s defense against infection.

lymph- /ˈlɪmf/ prefix meaning same as phago-

lymphaden-/ˈlɪmfədən/ prefix relating to the lymph nodes

lymphadenectomy /ˌlɪmfədən ˈɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of a lymph node (note: the plural is lymphadenectomies)

lymphadenitis /ˌlɪmfədən ɪˈnɛtɪs/ noun inflammation of the lymph nodes

lymphadenoma /ˌlɪmfədən əˈnɒmə/ noun same as lymphoma

lymphadenopathy /ˌlɪmfədən əˈpəθi/ noun any unusual condition of the lymph nodes (note: the plural is lymphadenopathies)

lymphangi-/ˈlɪmfən dʒi/ prefix lymphatic vessel

lymphangiectasis /ˌlɪmfən dʒi ɪˈkɛtəsɪs/ noun swelling of the smaller lymph vessels as a result of obstructions in larger vessels

lymphangiography /ˌlɪmfən dʒi ˈɡrɑfɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the lymph vessels following introduction of radio-opaque material (note: the plural is lymphangiographies)

lymphangioma /ˌlɪmfən dʒi əˈmɔː/ noun a benign tumour formed of lymph tissues (note: the plural is lymphangiomas or lymphangiomata)

lymphangioplasty /ˌlɪmfən dʒi ˈpləʊstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make artificial lymph channels (note: the plural is lymphangioplasties)

lymphangiosarcoma /ˌlɪmfən dʒi ˈsærkəmə/ noun a malignant tumour of the endothelial cells lining the lymph vessels (note: the plural is lymphangiosarcomas or lymphangiosarcomata)

lymphangitis /ˌlɪmfən dʒi ɪˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the lymph vessels

lymphatic /ˈlɪmfətɪk/ adjective referring to lymph

lymphatic capillary /ˈlɪmfətɪk ˈkæpɪləri/ plural noun any of the capillaries which lead from tissue and join lymphatic vessels

lymphatic duct /ˈlɪmfətɪk ˈdʌkt/ noun the main channel for carrying lymph

lymphatic node /ˈlɪmfətɪk ˈnəʊd/ noun a small lymph node found in clusters in tissues

lymphatic system /ˈlɪmfətɪk ˈsɪstəm/ noun a series of vessels which transport lymph
from the tissues through the lymph nodes and into the bloodstream

**lymphatic vessel** /ˌlɪmˈfætɪk, ˈvɛs(ə)l/ noun a tube which carries lymph round the body from the tissues to the veins

**lymph fluid** /ˈlɪmf ˈflʌɪd/ noun any channel carrying lymph

**lymph gland** /ˌlɪmf glænd/ noun lymph gland

**lymph node** /ˌlɪmf nəʊd/ noun a mass of lymphoid tissue situated in various points of the lymphatic system, especially under the armpits and in the groin, through which lymph passes and in which lymphocytes are produced. Also called lymphatic node

**lympho-** /ˈlɪmfəʊ-/ prefix meaning lymph

**lymphoblast** /ˌlɪmfəʊˌblæst/ noun a cell which forms in acute lymphoblastic leukaemia as a result of the change which takes place in a lymphocyte on contact with an antigen.

**lymphoblastic** /ˌlɪmfəʊˈblæstɪk/ adjective referring to lymphoblasts, or forming lymphocytes

**lymphocyte** /ˌlɪmfəʊˈsaɪt/ noun a type of mature leucocyte or white blood cell formed by the lymph nodes and concerned with the production of antibodies

**lymphocytopenia** /ˌlɪmfəʊˌsəʊtiˈpiəniə/ noun same as lymphopenia

**lymphocytosis** /ˌlɪmfəʊˌsəʊtɪˈsɪs/ noun an increased number of lymphocytes in the blood

**lymphoedema** /ˌlɪmfəʊˌiːdəmə/ noun a swelling caused by obstruction of the lymph vessels or unusual development of lymph vessels (NOTE: The US spelling is lymphedema.)

**lymphogranuloma inguinale** /ˌlɪmfəʊˌɡrænjuˈleɪnəl/ noun same as lymphogranuloma venereum

**lymphogranuloma venereum** /ˌlɪmfəʊˌɡrænjuˈvənərəm/ noun a sexually transmitted bacterial infection that causes swelling of the genital lymph nodes and, especially in men, a genital ulcer. Abbr LGV.

**lymphography** /ˌlɪmfəʊˈɡræfɪ/ noun the making of images of the lymphatic system after having introduced a radio-opaque substance

**lymphoid** /ˌlɪmfəʊd/ adjective referring to lymph, lymphatic tissue, or the lymphatic system

**lymphoid tissue** /ˌlɪmfəʊd ˈtɪʃəʊ/ noun tissue in the lymph nodes, the tonsils and the spleen where masses of lymphocytes are supported by a network of reticular fibres and cells

**lymphokine** /ˌlɪmfəʊˈkwaɪn/ noun a protein produced by lymphocytes that has an effect on other cells in the immune system. pl cytokine

**lymphoma** /ˌlɪmfəʊˈməʊ/ noun a malignant tumour arising from lymphoid tissue. Also called lymphadenoma (NOTE: The plural is lymphomas or lymphomata.)

**lymphopenia** /ˌlɪmfəʊˈpɪniə/ noun a reduction in the number of lymphocytes in the blood. Also called lymphocytopenia

**lymphopoiesis** /ˌlɪmfəʊˌpiˈəsiəs/ noun the production of lymphocytes or lymphoid tissue

**lymphorrhagia** /ˌlɪmfəˈrəhiə/ noun escape of lymph from ruptured or severed lymphatic vessels

**lymphosarcoma** /ˌlɪmfəsəˈsaʊkərmə/ noun a malignant growth arising from lymphocytes and their cells of origin in the lymph nodes (NOTE: The plural is lymphosarcomas or lymphomas)

**lymphotrophic** /ˌlɪmfəˈtroʊpɪk/ adjective affecting the lymphatic system

**lymphuria** /ˌlɪmfəˈjʊəriə/ noun the presence of lymph in the urine

**lymph vessel** /ˌlɪmf ˈvɛs(ə)l/ noun one of the tubes which carry lymph round the body from the tissues to the veins

**lyophilisation** /ˌlɪfələˈziʃən/ noun the act of preserving tissue, plasma or serum by freeze-drying it in a vacuum

**lyophilise** /ˌlɪfəˈlɪz/ verb to preserve tissue, plasma or serum by freeze-drying in a vacuum (NOTE: lyophilising = lyophilised)

**lysergic acid diethylamide** /ˈlɪsərɡ əˈsɪd dəˈθɪləməd/ noun a powerful hallucinogenic drug which can cause psychosis. Abbr LSD

**lysia** /ˈlɪsɪə/ noun 1. a protein in the blood which destroys the cell against which it is directed 2. a toxin which causes the lysis of cells

**lysine** /ˈlɪsɪn/ noun an essential amino acid

**lysis** /ˈlɪsɪs/ noun 1. the destruction of a cell by a lysin, in which the membrane of the cell is destroyed 2. a reduction in a fever or disease slowly over a period of time. Opposite crisis

**lysol** /ˈlɪsəl/ noun a strong disinfectant, made of cresol and soap

**lysosome** /ˌlɪsəˈsəʊmə/ noun a particle in a cell which contains enzymes which break down substances such as bacteria which enter the cell

**lysozyme** /ˌlɪsəˈsaɪm/ noun an enzyme found in the whites of eggs and in tears, which destroys specific bacteria
m symbol 1. metre 2. milli-
M symbol mega-
MAAG abbr medical audit advisory group
macerate /mæsərət/ verb to make something soft by letting it lie in a liquid for a time (note: macerating – macerated)
maceration /məsərəʃ(ə)n/ noun the process of softening a solid by letting it lie in a liquid so that the soluble matter dissolves
Mackenrodi's ligaments /mækənroʊˈdɑːlənts/ plural noun same as cardinal ligaments
Macmillan nurse /mækˈmilən nɜːs/ noun a nurse who specialises in cancer care and is employed by the organisation Macmillan Cancer Relief
macro- /mækroʊ/ prefix large. Opposite micro-
macrobiotic /mækroʊˈbaɪotɪk/ adjective referring to food which has been produced naturally without artificial additives or preservatives
COMMENT: Macrobiotic diets are usually vegetarian and are prepared in a special way. They consist of beans, coarse flour, fruit and vegetables. They may not contain enough protein or trace elements, especially to satisfy the needs of children.
macerate /məsərət/ verb to make some-
thing soft by letting it lie in a liquid for a time (NOTE: macerating – macerated)
maceration /məsərəʃ(ə)n/ noun the process of softening a solid by letting it lie in a liquid so that the soluble matter dissolves
Mackenrodi's ligaments /mækənroʊˈdɑːlənts/ plural noun same as cardinal ligaments
Macmillan nurse /mækˈmilən nɜːs/ noun a nurse who specialises in cancer care and is employed by the organisation Macmillan Cancer Relief
macro- /mækroʊ/ prefix large. Opposite micro-
macrobiotic /mækroʊˈbaɪotɪk/ adjective referring to food which has been produced naturally without artificial additives or preservatives
COMMENT: Macrobiotic diets are usually vegetarian and are prepared in a special way. They consist of beans, coarse flour, fruit and vegetables. They may not contain enough protein or trace elements, especially to satisfy the needs of children.
macrocephaly /mækroʊˈsɛfəli/ noun the condition of having an unusually large head
macrochelitis /mækroʊˈkɛlitəs/ noun the condition of having large lips
macrocyst /mækroʊˈsɒst/ noun an unusually large red blood cell found in people who have pernicious anaemia
macrocystic /mækroʊˈsɪstɪk/ adjective referring to macrocysts
macrocystic anaemia /mækroʊˈsɪstɪk ˌænəˈmiə/ noun anaemia in which someone has unusually large red blood cells
macrocystosis /mækroʊˈsɒtəsɪs/ noun the condition of having macrocysts in the blood. Also called macrocythaemia
macrodactyly /mækroʊˈdæktəlɪ/ noun a condition in which a person has unusually large or long fingers or toes
macrogenitosa /mækroʊˈɡrɛnɪtəʊsə/ noun premature development of the body with the genitals being of an unusually large size
macroglobulin /mækroʊˈɡləbljuɪn/ noun a class of immunoglobulin, a globulin protein of high molecular weight, which serves as an antibody
macroglossia /mækroʊˈɡlɒsɪə/ noun the condition of having an unusually large tongue
macrogynia /mækroʊˈɡɪniə/ noun a condition in which the jaw is larger than usual
macrolide drug /mækˈroʊlaɪd drəʊɡ/ noun a drug used in the treatment of bacterial infection, often in place of penicillin in people sensitive to penicillin (note: Macrolide drugs have names ending in -omycin: erythromycin.)
macromastia /mækroʊˈmeɪstəs/ noun overdevelopment of the breasts
macromelia /mækroʊˈmɪlɪə/ noun a condition in which a person has unusually large limbs
macronutrient /mækroʊˈnjuːtərɪnt/ noun a substance which an organism needs in large amounts for normal growth and development, e.g. nitrogen, carbon or potassium. Compare micronutrient
macrophage /mækroʊˈfædʒ/ noun any of several large cells which destroy inflammatory tissue, found in connective tissue, wounds, lymph nodes and other parts
macropsia /mækˈprɒsіə/ noun a condition in which a person sees objects larger than they really are, caused by an unusual development in the retina
macropsopic /mækroʊˈspɒpɪk/ adjective able to be seen with the naked eye
macrosomia /mækroʊˈsɔmɪə/ noun a condition in which the body grows too much
macrostomia /mækroʊˈstɔmɪə/ noun a condition in which the mouth is too wide because the bones of the upper and lower jaw have not fused, either on one or on both sides
macula /ˈmeɪkələ/ noun 1. same as macule 2. a small coloured area, e.g. a macula lutea 3. an area of hair cells inside the utricle and saccule of the ear (NOTE: The plural is maculae.)

macula lutea /ˈmeɪkələ lʊtə/ noun a yellow spot on the retina surrounding the fovea, the part of the eye which sees most clearly. Also called yellow spot

macular /ˈmeɪkələ/ adjective referring to a macula

macular degeneration /ˌmeɪkələr dɪˈdʒərəʃən/ noun an eye disorder in elderly people in which fluid leaks into the retina and destroys cones and rods, reducing central vision

macular oedema /ˈmeɪkələr əˈdɛmə/ noun a disorder of the eye in which fluid gathers in the fovea

macule /ˈmeɪkələ/ noun a small flat coloured spot on the skin. Compare papule

maculopapular /ˌmeɪkələʊpəˈpæpələr/ adjective made up of both macules and papules ○ maculopapular rash

mad cow disease noun same as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (informal)

maduromycosis /ˌmeɪdʒəməˈraʊməkəsɪs/ noun a tropical fungus infection in the feet which can destroy tissue and infect bones

Magendie’s foramen /ˌmeɪgəndiˈz fərəmən/ noun an opening in the fourth ventricle of the brain which allows cerebrospinal fluid to flow [Described 1828. After François Magendie (1783–1855), French physician and physiologist.]

magna /ˈmæɡna/ or cisterna magna

magnesium /meɪˈzɪgnəm/ noun a chemical element found in green vegetables, which is essential especially for the correct functioning of muscles (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Mg)

magnesium sulphate /meɪˈzɪgnəm ‘sʌlt fət/ noun a magnesium salt used as a laxative. Also called Epsom salts

magnesium trisilicate /meɪˈzɪgnəm trɪˈsaɪlɪkət/ noun a magnesium compound used to treat peptic ulcers

magnetic /meɪˈɡɛstɪk/ adjective able to attract objects, like a magnet

magnetic field /meɪˈɡɛstɪk fɪld/ noun an area round an object which is under the influence of the magnetic force exerted by the object

magnetic resonance imaging /meɪˈɡɛstɪk rɪˈzɔrənsn ɪmˈdʒɪŋ/ noun a scanning technique which exposes the body to a strong magnetic field and uses the electromagnetic signals emitted by the body to form an image of soft tissue and cells. Abbrev MRI

magnun /ˈmeɪgnən/ or foramen magnum

maim /meɪm/ verb to incapacitate someone with a major injury

main bronchi /meɪn ‘braŋki/ plural noun the two main air passages which branch from the trachea outside the lung. Also called primary bronchi

major /ˈmeɪdʒər/ adjective 1. important or serious 2. more important or serious than others of the same type ○ The operation was a major one. ▶ opposite minor

major surgery /ˌmeɪdʒər ˈsɛriərə/ noun surgical operations involving important organs in the body. Compare minor surgery

mal /meɪl/ noun an illnes or disease

mal- /meɪl/ prefix bad or unusual

malabsorption /ˌmeɪləbˈɑːsərən/ noun a situation where the intestines are unable to absorb the fluids and nutrients in food properly

malabsorption syndrome /ˌmeɪləbˈɑːsərən ˈsəndrəm/ noun a group of symptoms and signs, including malnutrition, anaemia, oedema and dermatitis, which results from steatorrhoea and malabsorption of vitamins, protein, carbohydrates and water

malacia /ˈmeɪləʃə/ noun the pathological softening of an organ or tissue

maladjusted /ˌmeɪlədˈɑːstəd/ adjective referring to a person who has difficulty fitting into society or family

maladjustment /ˌmeɪlədˈɑːstəmənt/ noun difficulty experienced in fitting into society or family

malaise /ˈmeɪləz/ noun a feeling of discomfort

malaligned /ˌmeɪlələndəɪd/ adjective not in the correct position relative to other parts of the body

malalignment /ˌmeɪlələmənt/ noun a condition in which something is malaligned, especially in which a tooth is not in its correct position in the mouth

malar /ˈmeɪlər/ adjective referring to the cheek

malar bone /ˈmeɪlər bɒn/ noun same as cheekbone

malaria /ˈmeɪləriə/ noun a mainly tropical disease caused by a parasit Plasmodium, which enters the body after a bite from the female anopheles mosquito

COMMENT: Malaria is a recurrent disease. It produces headaches, shivering, vomiting, sweating and sometimes hallucinations which are caused by toxins coming from the waste of the parasite Plasmodium in the blood

malarial /ˈmeɪləriəl/ adjective referring to malaria

malarial parasite /ˈmeɪləriəl ˈpərəsər/ noun a parasite transmitted into the human bloodstream by the bite of the female anopheles mosquito

malarial therapy /ˈmeɪləriəl ˈθerəpi/ noun a treatment in which a person is given a form of malaria in the belief that the high fevers they
male menopause

experience can stimulate the immune system to fight off serious diseases such as syphilis and HIV

male menopause /meɪlˈmenəpəʊs/ noun a period in middle age when a man may feel insecure and anxious about the fact that his physical powers are declining (informal)

male sex hormone /meɪlˈsɛks ˌhɔrəməʊn/ noun same as testosterone

male sex organs /meɪlˈsɛks ˌɔrsənənz/ plural noun the testes, epididymis, vasa deferentia, seminal vesicles, ejaculatory ducts and penis

malformation /meɪlˈfɔrˌməʃn/ noun an unusual variation in the shape, structure or development of something

malformed /meɪlˈfɔrˌməd/ adjective unusual in shape, structure or development

malfunction /meɪlˈfʌŋkʃn/ noun a situation in which a particular organ does not work in the usual way. Her loss of consciousness was due to a malfunction of the kidneys or to a kidney malfunction. ■ verb to fail to work correctly. During the operation his heart began to malfunction.

malignancy /maˈlɪgnənsi/ noun 1. the state of being malignant. □ The tests confirmed the malignancy of the growth. 2. a cancerous growth (note: The plural is malignancies.)

malignant /maˈlɪgnənt/ adjective likely to cause death or serious disablement if not properly treated

malignant hypertension /maˈlɪgnənt ˌhɑːpˈtɛnʃn/ noun dangerously high blood pressure

malignant melanoma /maˈlɪgnənt ˈmələˈnəʊmə/ noun a dark tumour which develops on the skin from a mole, caused by exposure to strong sunlight

malignant pustule /maˈlɪgnənt ˈpʌstəl/ noun a pus-filled swelling that results from infection of the skin with anthrax

malignant tumour /maˈlɪgnənt ˈtjuːrəmə/ noun a tumour which is cancerous and can grow again or spread into other parts of the body, even if removed surgically. Opposite benign tumour

maligner /maˈlɪngər/ noun a person who pretends to be ill

malignering /maˈlɪnərɪŋ/ adjective the act of pretending to be ill

malleolar /maˈlɛlər/ adjective referring to a malleolus

malleolus /maˈlɛləs/ noun one of two bony prominences at each side of the ankle (note: The plural is malleoli.)

mallet finger /meɪlɪt ˈfrɪŋə/ noun a finger which cannot be straightened because the tendon attaching the top joint has been torn

malleus /maˈlɛləs/ noun the largest of the three ossicles in the middle ear, shaped like a hammer. See illustration at EAR in Supplement

malloS bodies /meɪləriˌbɔrdiz/ plural noun large irregular masses which occur in the cytoplasm of damaged liver cells, often a sign of an alcohol-related disease

Mallory’s stain /meɪləriˈstein/ noun trichrome stain, used in histology to distinguish collagen, cytoplasm and nuclei

Mallory-Weiss syndrome /meɪlərɪˌwɛs ˈsɜːndrəm/ Mallory-Weiss tear /meɪlərɪˌwɛs ˌteər/ noun a condition in which there is a tearing in the mucous membrane where the stomach and oesophagus join, e.g. because of strain on them due to vomiting [Described 1929. After G. Kenneth Mallory (b. 1900), Professor of Pathology, Boston University, USA; Konrad Weiss (1868–1942) US physician.]

maltreated /meɪlˈtrɛtɪd/ adjective not having enough to eat or having only poor-quality food, leading to ill-health

malfacture /meɪlˈnjuːtrəˈʃən/ noun 1. a lack of food or of good-quality food, leading to ill-health. 2. the state of not having enough to eat

malocclusion /meɪlˈəkəljuˈʃən/ noun a condition in which the teeth in the upper and lower jaws do not meet properly when the person’s mouth is closed.

malodorous /maˈlɒdərəs/ adjective with a strong unpleasant smell

Malpighian body /meɪlˈpɪdʒiən ˈbɔrdi, Mal-pіəˈɡіən ˈbɔrdi/ noun same as renal corpuscle [Described 1666. After Marcello Malpighi (1628–94), anatomist and physiologist in Rome and Bologna, Italy.]

Malpighian glomerulus /meɪlˈpɪdʒiən ˈɡlərəmələs/ noun same as Bowman’s capsule

Malpighian layer /meɪlˈpɪdʒiən ˈleɪər/ noun the deepest layer of the epithelium

malposition /meɪlˈpɔzəʃn/ noun an unusual or unexpected position of something such as a fetus in the uterus or fractured bones

malpractice /meɪlˈprækts/ noun 1. illegal, unethical, negligent or immoral behaviour by a professional person, especially a healthcare professional. □ The surgeon was found guilty of malpractice. 2. wrong treatment of a patient for which a healthcare professional may be tried in court

malpresentation /meɪlˈprɛzəˈʃən/ noun an unusual position of a fetus in the uterus just before it is ready to be born

Malt fever /maʊlˈfjuː/ noun same as brucellosis

maltase /maʊlˈteɪz/ noun an enzyme in the small intestine which converts maltose into glucose

maltose /maʊlˈteɪs/ noun a sugar formed by digesting starch or glycogen

malunion /meɪlˈjuːnʃən/ noun a bad join of the pieces of a broken bone
mammilla /ma'mɪlə/ noun another spelling of mammilla
mammillary /'mæmɪlɪrɪ/ adjective another spelling of mammillary
mamm- prefix same as mammo- (used before vowel)
mamma /'mæmə/ noun same as breast (NOTE: The plural is mammæae.)
mammary /'mæmərɪ/ adjective referring to the breast
mammary gland /'mæmərɪ glænd/ noun a gland in female mammals which produces milk.
mammilla (mas'milə), mammilla noun the protruding part in the centre of the breast, containing the milk ducts through which the milk flows. Also called nipple
mammillary /'mæmɪlɪrɪ/ı, mammillary adjective referring to the breast
mammary body /'mæmɪlɪrɪ bɔdɪ/ noun one of two little projections on the base of the hypothalamus
mammo- prefix referring to breasts
mammogram /'mæmɔɡræm/ noun a picture of a breast made using a special X-ray technique
mammography /'mæmɔɡrəfi/ noun examination of the breast using a special X-ray technique
...mammography is the most effective technique available for the detection of occult (non-palpable) breast cancer. It has been estimated that mammography can detect a carcinoma two years before it becomes palpable. [Southern Medical Journal]
mammoplasty /'mæməplæstɪ/ı, mammoplasty noun plastic surgery to alter the shape or size of the breasts
mammothermography /'mæməθərməɡrəfi/ noun thermography of a breast
manage /'mænɪdʒ/ verb 1. to be in charge or control of something 2. to be able to do something, or to succeed in doing something 3. to manage to phone the doctor 4. Can she manage to feed herself? (NOTE: managing – managed)
management /'mænɪdʒmənt/ noun 1. the organising or running of an organisation such as a hospital, clinic or health authority 2. the organisation of a series of different treatments for a person
manager /'mænɪdʒə/ noun a person in charge of a department in the health service or in charge of a group of hospitals
Manchester operation /'mæntʃəstər ɔpə/ı, man'ʃəstər/ noun a surgical operation to correct downward movement of the uterus, involving removal of the cervix
mandible /'mændɪbəl/ı noun the lower bone in the jaw. Also called lower jaw
COMMENT: The jaw is formed of two bones, the mandible which is attached to the skull with a hinge joint and can move up and down, and the maxillae which are fixed parts of the skull.
mandibular /'mændɪbjuələr/ adjective referring to the lower jaw
mandibular fossae /'mændɪbjuələr ˈfɒsɪ/ plural noun sockets in the skull into which the ends of the lower jaw fit
mandibular nerve /'mændɪbjuələr nɜ/ noun a sensory nerve which supplies the teeth in the lower jaw, the temple, the floor of the mouth and the back part of the tongue
mane /'mɛrə/ adjective (used on prescriptions) during the daytime. Opposite nocte
...he was diagnosed as having diabetes mellitus at age 14, and was successfully controlled on insulin 15 units mane and 10 units nocte' [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]
manganese /'mæŋɡənɪz/ı noun a metallic trace element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Mn.)
mania /'mɛrɪə/ noun a state of bipolar disorder in which the person is excited, very sure of his or her own abilities and has increased energy
-mania /'mɛrɪə/ suffix obsession with something
maniac /'mɛnɪək/ı noun a person who behaves in an uncontrolled way or is considered to have an obsession (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.)
manic /'mɛnɪk/ı adjective referring to mania
manic depression /'mɛnɪk dɪˈpresʃən/ı noun same as bipolar disorder
manic-depressive /'mɛnɪk dɪˈpresɪv/ı adjective relating to bipolar disorder ı noun a person with bipolar disorder
manic-depressive illness /'mɛnɪk dɪˈpresɪv ɪləsʃən/ı manic-depressive psychosis /'mɛnɪk dɪˈpresɪv saɪˈkɒsɪs/ı noun same as bipolar disorder
manifestation /ˈmænɪfəstəʃən/ı noun a sign, indication or symptom of a disease
...the reason for this susceptibility is a profound abnormality of the immune system in children with sickle cell disease. The major manifestations of pneumococcal infection in SCD are septicemia, meningitis and pneumonia.' [Lancet]
manikin /ˈmænikɪn/ı noun an anatomical model of the human body, used in teaching anatomy
manipulate /'mænіpjuəlt/ı verb to rub or move parts of the body with the hands to treat a joint, a slipped disc or a hernia (NOTE: manipulating – manipulated)
manipulation /ˈmænіpjuələʃən/ı noun a form of treatment that involves moving or rubbing parts of the body with the hands, e.g. to treat a disorder of a joint
manner /ˈmɛnər/ı noun a way of doing something or of behaving ı He was behaving in a strange manner
-manner /ˈmɛnər/ı noun a diuretic drug used in the treatment of oedema of the brain
manometer /məˈnɒmɪtə/ noun an instrument for coming pressures
manometry /maˈnɒmətri/ noun the measurement of pressures within organs of the body which contain gases or liquids, e.g. the oesophagus or parts of the brain
Mantoux test /mænˈtuːx test/ noun a test for tuberculosis, in which a person is given an intradermal injection of tuberculin, and the development of a red, firm area of induration over the face of a person who has suffered a failure to thrive
manual /ˈmeɪnʃjuːl/ adjective done by hand
manual examination /ˈmeɪnʃjuːl ɪɡˈzæktɪn/ noun an examination using the hands and fingers
manubrium /maˈnjuːbriəm/ noun a handle-shaped anatomical part, e.g. part of the inner ear
manubrium sterni /maˈnjuːbrɪəm ˈstɜːni/ noun the upper part of the sternum
MAO abbr monoamine oxidase
MAOI abbr monoamine oxidase inhibitor
MAO inhibitor /məˈɛnʃjuːl ˈɪnˈhɪbɪtə/ noun same as monoamine oxidase inhibitor
maple syrup urine disease /ˌmeɪpl ˈsɜːrp jʊərᵻ ˈnuː/ noun an inherited condition caused by not having enough of a particular enzyme which helps the body to deal with amino acid. The urine smells like maple syrup. It can be fatal if not treated.
marasmus /ˌmeɪrəˈzəməs/ noun a wasting disease which affects small children who have difficulty in absorbing nutrients or who are malnourished. Also called failure to thrive
marble bone disease /ˈmeɪbəl ˈbon ˈdiːzəs/ noun same as osteopenosis
Marburg disease /ˈmeɪbɜːrg dɪˈziːz/ Marburg virus disease /ˈmeɪbɜːrg ˈvɜːrəs ˈdiːˈziːz/ noun a severe viral infection causing high fever, bleeding from mucous membranes, vomiting and often death. Also called green monkey disease
menstrual fracture /ˈmeɪstrəl ˈfræktraɪl/ noun a fracture of one of the metatarsal bones in the foot, caused by excessive exercise to which the body is not accustomed
Marfan's syndrome /ˈmeɪrfʌnz ˈsin drəʊm/, Marfan syndrome /ˈmeɪrfʌn ˈsin drəʊm/ noun a hereditary condition in which a person has extremely long fingers and toes, with disorders of the heart, aorta and eyes [Described 1896. After Bernard Jean Antonin Marfan (1858–1942), French paediatrician.]
marijuana /ˈmeɪriwənə/ noun same as cannabis
mark /mɑrk/ noun a spot or small area of a different colour ○ There's a red mark where you hit your head. ○ The rash has left marks on the chest and back. ■ verb to make a mark ○ the door is marked 'Supervisor' the door has the word 'Supervisor' written on it marked /mɑrkɪd/ adjective obvious or noticeable ○ There has been a marked improvement in his condition.
marker /ˈmeɪkər/ noun 1. something which acts an indicator of something else 2. a substance introduced into the body to make internal structures clearer to X-rays
marrow /mɑrˈəʊr/ noun soft tissue in cancellous bone. In young animals red marrow is concerned with blood formation while in adults it becomes progressively replaced with fat and is known as yellow marrow. Also called bone marrow. See illustration at BONE STRUCTURE in Supplement
marsupialisation /ˈmeɪsəpjuːəliˈzeɪʃən/ noun a surgical procedure in which the inside of a cyst is opened up so that the cyst can be allowed to shrink gradually, because it cannot be cut out
masculinisation /ˈmeɪskəliˌneɪʃən/, masculinization /ˈmeɪskəliˌneɪʃən/ noun the development of male characteristics such as body hair and a deep voice in a woman, caused by hormone deficiency or by treatment with male hormones
mask /mɑsk/ noun 1. a metal and rubber frame that fits over the nose and mouth and is used to administer an anaesthetic 2. a piece of gauze which fits over the mouth and nose to prevent droplet infection 3. a cover which fits over the face of a person who has suffered facial damage in an accident
masked /ˈmeɪskət/ adjective used to describe diseases that are present but not observable
Maslow's hierarchy of human needs /ˈmeɪzlɔʊ həˈruːniən nɪˈdɪz/ noun a system which explains human behaviour by organising human needs in order of priority, from basic ones such as eating to complex ones such as finding self-fulfilment, a higher level of motivation not being activated until the lesser needs have been satisfied
masochism /ˈmeɪsəkɪzɪzm/ noun a sexual condition in which a person takes pleasure in being hurt or badly treated
masochist /ˈmeɪsəkɪst/ noun a person suffering from masochism
masochistic /ˈmeɪsəkɪstɪk/ adjective referring to masochism
mass /meɪs/ noun 1. a large quantity, e.g. a large number of people ○ The patient’s back was covered with a mass of red spots. 2. a body of matter with no clear shape 3. a mixture for making pills 4. the main solid part of bone
massage /ˈmeɪsæʒ/ noun a treatment for muscular conditions which involves rubbing, stroking or pressing the body with the hands
The symptoms are fever and pain in the ears.

Mastoid process and air cells.

Surgical operation to make a cut into the mastoid process to treat infection.

Mass radiography is the practice of taking X-ray photographs of large numbers of people to check for tuberculosis.

Mass screening is the practice of testing large numbers of people for a disease.

Masseter is a muscle in the cheek which clenches the lower jaw making it move up, to allow chewing.

Massive is a very large.

Mass pregnancy is the act of becoming a mother.

She had a massive heart attack.

Masseter muscle is the masseter muscle.

Mass effect is the thick soft part of a bed for lying on.

Match is a verb used to examine two things to see if they are similar or fit together.

They are trying to match the donor to the recipient.

Maternal death is the death of a mother during pregnancy, childbirth or up to twelve months after childbirth.

Maternal deprivation is a psychological condition caused when a child does not have a proper relationship with a mother.

Maternal mortality is the study of drugs or dosages as used in treatment.

Modern matron is a woman to look after and protect a child.

Mother is a maternal instinctive feeling in a woman to look after and protect her child.

Maternal dystocia is difficult childbirth caused by a physical problem in the mother.

Maternal stress is instinctive feelings in a woman to look after and protect her child.

Maternal death is the death of a mother during pregnancy, childbirth or up to twelve months after childbirth.

Maternal deprivation is a psychological condition caused when a child does not have a proper relationship with a mother.

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Maternal death is the death of a mother during pregnancy, childbirth or up to twelve months after childbirth.
mattress suture

mattress suture /ˈmeɪtrəs, ˈsuːfrəs/ noun a suture made with a loop on each side of the incision

maturation /ˌmeɪtʃəˈreɪʃən/ noun the process of becoming mature or fully developed

mature /ˈmeɪtər/ adjective fully developed

mature follicle /ˈmeɪtər ˈfolɪk(ə)l/ noun a Graafian follicle just before ovulation

maturing /ˈmeɪtʃərɪŋ/ adjective becoming mature

maturing egg /ˈmeɪtʃərɪŋ ˈeɡ/ noun an egg that was undergoing the process of becoming a mature ovum

maturation /ˈmeɪtʃərəʃən/ noun the process of becoming mature or fully developed

meat /meɪt/ noun animal flesh which is eaten (NOTE: No plural: some meat, a piece or a slice of meat; he refuses to eat meat.)

meat- /mɛt-/ prefix relating to a meatus

meatus /ˈmeɪtəs/ noun an opening leading to an internal passage in the body, e.g. the urethra or the nasal cavity (NOTE: The plural is meatuses or meatus.)

mechanism /ˈmekənizəm/ noun 1. a physical or chemical change by which a function is carried out 2. a system in the body which carries out or controls a particular function (NOTE: The inner ear is the body's mechanism for the sense of balance).

mechanotherapy /ˌmekənəˈθerəpi/ noun the treatment of injuries through mechanical means, such as massage and exercise machines

meckel's diverticulum /ˌmekəlz ˈdɜrɪvɪtələm/ noun a congenital formation of a diverticulum in the ileum (Described 1809. After Johann Friedrich Meckel II (1781–1833), German surgeon and anatomist.)

meconism /ˈmekənɪzəm/ noun poisoning by opium or morphine

meconium /ˈmeɪkəniəm/ noun the first dark green faeces produced by a newborn baby

measles /ˈmeɪlz(ə)lz/ noun an infectious disease of children, where the body is covered with a red rash. ◎ She’s in bed with measles. ◎ He’s got measles. ◎ They caught measles from their friend at school. ◎ Have you had the measles? Also called morbilli, rubella (NOTE: Takes a singular or plural verb.)

COMMENT: Measles can be a serious disease as it weakens the body’s resistance to other diseases, especially bronchitis and ear infections. It can be prevented by immunisation. If caught by an adult it can be very serious.

measles /ˈmeɪlzə/ noun a unit of size, quantity or degree ◎ A metre is a measure of length. ● verb 1. to find out the size of something ◎ A thermometer measures temperature. 2. to be a particular size ◎ The room measures 3 metres by 2 metres.

measurement /ˈmeɪzmənt/ noun the size, length, etc. of something which has been measured

meat /meɪt/ noun animal flesh which is eaten (NOTE: No plural: some meat, a piece or a slice of meat; he refuses to eat meat.)

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medical epicondyle /ˌmidɪdʒɪl ˌɛpɪˈkɒndɪl/ noun a medical projection on the condyle of the humerus

medially /ˌmidɪdʒɪl/ adverb towards or on the sagittal plane of the body. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

medial malleolus /ˌmidɪdʒɪl ˈmælələs/ noun a bone at the end of the tibia which protrudes at the inside of the ankle

medial rectus /ˌmidɪdʒɪl ˈrɛkˈtɔs/ noun a muscle inserted into the sclera of the eyeball

median /ˈmiːdɪən/ adjective towards the central midline of the body, or placed in the middle

median nerve /ˈmiːdɪən nɜːv/ noun one of the main nerves of the forearm and hand

median plane /ˈmiːdɪən pлеɪn/ noun an imaginary flat surface on the midline and at right angles to the coronal plane, which divides the body into right and left halves. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

mediastinal /ˌmiːdɪəstɪnəl/ adjective referring to the mediastinum or the mediastinal surface of plexus or of the lungs

mediastinotomy /ˌmiːdɪəstɪnətəmɪ/ noun an operation in which a tube is put into the mediastinum so that its organs can be examined

mediastinum /ˌmiːdɪəstɪnəm/ noun the section of the chest between the lungs, where the heart, oesophagus and phrenic and vagus nerves are situated

medic /ˈmedɪk/ noun a doctor or medical student (informal)

medical /ˈmedɪkal/ adjective 1, referring to the study of diseases 2, referring to treatment of disease which does not involve surgery 3, Medical help was provided by the Red Cross. 2, referring to treatment given by a doctor, as opposed to a surgeon, in a hospital or in his or her surgery. 3, Medical help was provided by the Red Cross. He wanted to join the army, but failed his medical. 4, You will have to have a medical if you take out an insurance policy.

medical administration /ˌmedɪkal ədˌmɪnɪˈteɪʃən/ noun the running of hospitals and other health services. She started her career in medical administration.

medical aid /ˈmedɪkal əd/ noun treatment of someone who is ill or injured, given by a doctor.

medical alert bracelet /ˌmedɪkal əˈlɜːtˌbrɛtɑː/ noun a band or chain worn around the wrist giving information about the wearer’s medical needs, allergies or condition

medical assistance /ˌmedɪkal əˈsɪstəns/ noun help provided by a nurse, an ambulanceman or a member of an association such as the Red Cross, to a person who is ill or injured

medical assistant /ˌmedɪkal əˈsɪstənt/ noun a person who performs routine administrative and clinical tasks to help in the offices and clinics of doctors and other medical practitioners

medical audit /ˌmedɪkal əˈsɪdɪt/ noun a systematic critical analysis of the quality of medical care provided to a person, which examines the procedures used for diagnosis and treatment, the use of resources and the resulting outcome and quality of life for the person

medical audit advisory group /ˌmedɪkal əˈsɪdɪt əˈdeɪzəri grʊp/ noun a body with the responsibility of advising on medical audit in primary care. Abbr MAAG

medical centre /ˌmedɪkal əˈsɛntə/ noun a place where several different doctors and specialists practise

medical certificate /ˌmedɪkal əˈsɛrtɪfɪkət/ noun an official document signed by a doctor, giving someone permission to be away from work or not to do specific types of work

medical committee /ˌmedɪkal əˈkɔmɪtɪ/ noun a committee of doctors in a hospital who advise the management on medical matters

medical diathermy /ˌmedɪkal ədɪˈθɜːmi/ noun the use of heat produced by electricity for treatment of muscle and joint disorders such as rheumatism

medical doctor /ˌmedɪkal əˈdɒktər/ noun a doctor who practises medicine, but is not usually a surgeon

medical ethics /ˌmedɪkal əˈθɪts/ plural noun the moral and professional principles which govern how doctors and nurses should work, and, in particular, what type of relationship they should have with their patients

medical examination /ˌmedɪkal əˈzɛmɪnəˈteɪʃən/ noun an examination of a person by a doctor or medical professional. He wanted to join the army, but failed his medical. You will have to have a medical if you take out an insurance policy.

medical intervention /ˌmedɪkal əˈɪntərˈveɪʃən/ noun the treatment of illness by drugs

medical jurisprudence /ˌmedɪkal əˈdʒʊərɪs ˈprəʊdʒʊsəns/ noun the use of the principles of law as they relate to the practice of medicine and the relationship of doctors with each other, their patients and society.

medical officer /ˌmedɪkal əˈfɪsər/ noun a medical officer, formerly, a local government official in charge of the health services in an area. Abbr MOH

Medical Officer of Health /ˌmedɪkal əˈfɪsər/ noun a medical officer, formerly, a local government official in charge of the health services in an area. Abbr MOH
medical practitioner

medical practitioner /ˌmedɪk(ə)præk/ noun a person trained in medicine, i.e. a doctor or surgeon

medical profession /ˌmedɪk(ə)prəʃə/ noun a field of study involving medical practice

medical records /ˌmedɪk(ə)rɪk/ noun a list of medical documents

medical school /ˌmedɪk(ə)skwɔl/ noun a section of a university which teaches medicine

medical social worker /ˌmedɪk(ə)səˈwɜr/ noun a medical worker who specialises in medical documentation, either in a hospital or in a doctor’s surgery

medical ward /ˌmedɪk(ə)wɔrd/ noun a ward for people who do not have to undergo surgery

medical insurance /ˌmedɪk(ə)lɪnˈsərəns/ noun a system of public health insurance

medicated /ˌmedɪk(ə)tɪd/ adjective containing a medicinal drug

medicated cough sweet /ˌmedɪk(ə)ˈtɪd kɔʃ sɛt/ noun a remedy for coughing

medicated shampoo /ˌmedɪk(ə)tɪd ˈʃæmpəʊ/ noun a shampoo containing a chemical which is supposed to prevent dandruff

medication /ˌmedɪkˈeɪʃən/ noun 1. the treatment of illnesses by giving people drugs, 2. a drug used to treat a particular illness 3. a preparation taken to treat a disease or condition, especially one in liquid form 4. a special bottle which contains medicine

medicinal /ˌmedɪksəˈnəl/ adjective referring to both medicine and surgery

medico /ˌmedɪkəʊ/ noun a doctor (informal)

medicochirurgical /ˌmedɪkəʊkəˈʃərjʊlər/ adjective referring to both medicine and surgery

medicolegal /ˌmedɪkəʊˈliɡəl/ adjective referring to both medicine and law

medicosocial /ˌmedɪkəʊˈsəʊʃəl/ adjective referring to both medicine and social factors

medium /ˈmiːdɪəm/ noun any structure similar to bone marrow

medroxyprogesterone /ˌmedrəʊksɪˈprəʊɡɛstərən/ noun a synthetic hormone used to treat menstrual disorders, in oestrogen replacement therapy and as a contraceptive

medulla /ˈmedələ/ noun 1. the soft inner part of an organ, as opposed to the outer cortex. See illustration at kidney in Supplement 2. a hollow centre of a long bone, containing bone marrow. See illustration at bone structure in Supplement

medulla oblongata /ˌmedəˌləu ˈɔbləŋgətə/ noun a continuation of the spinal cord going through the foramen magnum into the brain

medullary /ˈmedələri/ adjective 1. similar to marrow 2. referring to a medulla

medullary cavity /ˌmedəˈləri ˈkævəti/ noun a hollow centre of a long bone, containing bone marrow. See illustration at bone structure in Supplement

medullary cord /ˈmedəˌləri ˈkɔrd/ noun an epithelial fibre found near the hilum of the fetal ovary

medullated nerve /ˌmedələˈteɪtɪd ˈnɜrv/ noun a nerve surrounded by a myelin sheath

medullolastisma /ˌmedəˌluˈboʊleɪstəˌsmə/ noun a tumour which develops in the medulla oblongata and the fourth ventricle of the brain in children

mefenamic acid /ˌmeˈfɛnəmɪk/ noun a drug which reduces inflammation and pain,
used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and menstrual problems.

**mefloquine** /ˌmɛfləkwɪn/ /ˌmɛfləkwɪn hɪˈdrəʊklaɪd/ noun a drug used in the prevention and treatment of malaria

**megacolon** /ˌmegəˈkəʊlən/ noun a condition in which the lower colon is very much larger than normal, because part of the colon above is constricted, making bowel movements impossible

**megajoule** /ˌmegəˈdʒuːl/ noun a unit of measurement of energy equal to one million joules. Symbol MJ

**megakaryocyte** /ˌmegəˈkærəɪəʊt/ noun a bone marrow cell which produces blood platelets

**megalo-** /ˌmɛɡəˈləʊ-/ prefix large

**megaloblastic anaemia** /ˌmɛɡəˈləʊbəstɪk əˈniəmiə/ noun anaemia caused by Vitamin B12 deficiency

**megalo-** /ˌmɛɡəˈləʊ-/ prefix

**megaloblastic anemia** /ˌmɛɡəˈləʊbəstɪk əˈniəmiə/ noun

**mebias** /ˈmɪbəs/ /ˈmɪbiəs/ noun a receptor cell in the skin which is thought to be sensitive to touch

**Meissner’s corpuscle** /ˌmiːsɪnz ˈkɔrpəskl/ noun a network of nerve fibres in the wall of the alimentary canal [Described 1853. After Georg Meissner (1829–1905), German anatomist and physiologist.]

**melaena** /məˈlɛnə/ noun black faeces where the colour is caused by bleeding in the intestine

**melan-** /ˈmelən-/ prefix same as melan- (used before vowels)

**melancholeia** /ˌmɛlənˈkɔliə/ noun 1. a severe depressive illness occurring usually between the ages of 45 and 65. 2. a clinical syndrome with a tendency to delusion, fixed personality and agitated movements

**melanin** /ˈmelənɪn/ noun a dark pigment which gives colour to skin and hair, also found in the choroid of the eye and in some tumours

**melanoma** /ˌmeləˈnəʊmə/ noun a tumour formed of dark pigmented cells

**melanocyte-stimulating hormone** /ˌmɛlənəʊˈsætstɪˈmeɪlətɪŋ, ˌhæməʊmæ/ noun a hormone produced by the pituitary gland which causes darkening in the colour of the skin. Abbrev MSH

**melanoderma** /ˌmɛləˈnɔdrəmə/ noun 1. a large amount of melanin in the skin. 2. discoloration of patches of the skin

**melanoma** /ˌmɛləˈnɔmə/ noun a tumour formed of dark pigmented cells

**melanophore** /ˌmɛlənəˈfoʊr/ noun a cell which contains melanin

**melanoplakia** /ˌmɛlənəˈpləkiə/ noun areas of pigment in the mucous membrane inside the mouth

**melanosis** /ˌmɛləˈnɔsɪs/ noun same as melanism

**melanuria** /ˌmɛləˈnjuːrə/ noun 1. the presence of dark colouring in the urine. 2. a condition in which the urine turns black after being
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Melanoma

Melanoma /məˈlænəmə/ noun the presence of little brown, yellow or black spots on the skin.

Melatonin /ˌmɛləˈtɒʊnɪn/ noun a hormone produced by the pineal gland during the hours of darkness, which makes animals sleep during the winter months. It is thought to control the body's rhythms.

Mela /ˈmɛlə/ a diabetes mellitus

Membrane /ˈmembrən/ noun a thin layer of tissue which lines or covers an organ.

Membrane bone /ˈmembrən bəʊn/ noun a bone which develops from tissue and not from cartilage.

Membranous /ˈmɛmbrənəs/ adjective referring to membranes, or like a membrane.

Membranous labyrinth /ˌmɛmbrənəs ˈlæbərɪnθ/ noun a series of ducts and canals formed of membrane inside the osseous labyrinth.

Memory /ˈmɛməri/ noun the ability to remember.

Menarche /ˈmɛnətʃə/ noun the start of menstrual periods.

Mend /mɛnd/ verb to repair something.

Mendel's laws /ˈmɛndəlz lətʃə/ plural noun the laws of heredity, that are the basis of the science of genetics. [Described 1865. After Gregor Johann Mendel (1822–84), Austrian Augustinian monk and naturalist of Brno, whose work was rediscovered by de Vries in 1900.]

Mendelson's syndrome /ˈmɛndəlsən/ˈsɜːn/ noun a sometimes fatal condition in which acid fluid from the stomach is brought up into the windpipe and passes into the lungs, occurring mainly in obstetric patients. [Described 1946. After Curtis L. Mendelson (b. 1913), US obstetrician and gynaecologist.]

Ménétrie's disease /məˈnɛtriəz dɪz/ noun Ménière's disease.

Ménétrie's syndrome /ˌmɛnɪˈtrɪəs sɪˈnɔːrdʒiə/ noun a disease of the middle ear, in which someone becomes dizzy, hears ringing in the ears and may vomit, and becomes progressively deaf. The causes may include infections or allergies, which increase the fluid contents of the labyrinth in the middle ear. [Described 1861. After Prosper Ménière (1799–1862) and his son, Emile Antoine Ménière (1839–1905), French physicians.]

Meningeal /ˈmɛnɪdʒiəl/ adjective referring to the meninges.

Meningea al haemorrhage /ˌmɛnɪdʒiəl hɛməˈrɪdʒiə/ noun a haemorrhage from a meningeal artery.

Meningeal sarcoma /ˌmɛnɪdʒiəl sɑːrˈkəʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour in the meninges.

Meninges /ˌmɛnɪdʒiəz/ plural noun the membranes which surround the brain and spinal cord. (Note: The singular is meninx.)

Comment: The meninges are divided into three layers: the tough outer layer (dura mater) which protects the brain and spinal cord; the middle layer (arachnoid mater) and the delicate inner layer (pia mater) which contains the blood vessels. The cerebrospinal fluid flows in the space (subarachnoid space) between the arachnoid mater and pia mater.

Meningioma /ˌmɛnɪŋiˈəʊmə/ noun a benign tumour in the meninges.

Meningism /ˌmɛnɪdʒɪzəm/ noun a condition in which there are signs of meningeal irritation suggesting meningitis, but where there is no pathological change in the cerebrospinal fluid.

Meningitis /ˌmɛnɪŋɪˈtɪs/ noun inflammation of the meninges, causing someone to have violent headaches, fever, and stiff neck muscles, and sometimes to become delirious.

Comment: Meningitis is a serious viral or bacterial disease which can cause brain damage and even death. The bacterial form can be treated with antibiotics. The most common forms of bacterial meningitis are Hib and meningococcal.

Meningo- /ˌmɛnɪŋɡəʊ/ prefix referring to the meninges.

Meningocele /ˌmɛnɪŋɡəʊsəl, mɛnɪŋɡəˈsɔːl/ noun a condition in which the meninges protrude through the vertebral column or skull.

Meningocele disease /məˌnɪŋɡəˌsəldiːs/ noun a disease caused by a meningococcus.

Meningocele meningitis /ˌmɛnɪŋɡəˌsəldiˈneɪtɪs/ noun the commonest epidemic form of meningitis, caused by a bacterium Neisseria meningitidis, where the meninges become inflamed causing headaches and fever.

Meningococcus /ˌmɛnɪŋɡəˈkɒksəs/ noun the bacterium Neisseria meningitidis which causes meningococcal meningitis. (Note: The plural is meningococci.)

Meningoencephalitis /ˌmɛnɪŋɡəˌensɪˈfɛlətɪs/ noun inflammation of the meninges and the brain.

Meningoencephalocoele /ˌmɛnɪŋɡəˌensɪˈfɛləˌkəʊliˌeɪl/ noun a condition in which part of the meninges and the brain push through a gap in the skull.

Meningomyelocoele /ˌmɛnɪŋɡəˌmɪˌjeləˌkiːl/ noun the pushing forward of part of the
meninges and spinal cord through a gap in the spine. Also called myelomeningocele, myelo-
locle
meningovascular /məˈniŋgəvəˈskəl/ adjective referring to the meningeal blood vessels
meninx /ˈmɛnɪŋks/ noun • meninges
meniscectomy /ˌmɛnɪˈsɛktəmi/ noun the surgical removal of a cartilage from the knee
meniscus /ˈmɛnɪskəs/ noun one of two pads of cartilage, the lateral meniscus and medial
meniscus, between the femur and tibia in a knee joint. Also called semilunar cartilage
(note: The plural is menisci.)
meno- /ˈmɛnəʊ-/, prefix referring to menstruation
menopausal /ˈmɛnəpəʊzəl/ adjective referring to the menopause
menopause /ˈmɛnəpəʊz/ noun a period, usually between 45 and 55 years of age, when a woman stops menstruating and can no longer bear children. Also called climacteric, change of life
menorrhagia /ˈmɛnərækˈdʒiə/ noun very heavy bleeding during menstruation. Also called flooding
menorrhoea /ˌmɛnəˈrəʊə/ noun normal bleeding during menstruation
menses /ˈmɛnzɪs/ plural noun same as menstruation
menstrual /ˈmɛnstrʊəl/ adjective referring to menstruation
menstrual cramp /ˈmɛnstrʊəl ˈkrep/ noun a cramp in the muscles round the uterus during menstruation
menstrual cycle /ˈmɛnstrʊəl ˈsɜːk(ə)l/ noun a period, usually of 28 days, during which a woman ovulates, the walls of the uterus swell and bleeding takes place if the ovum has not been fertilised
menstrual flow /ˈmɛnstrʊəl ˈfləʊ/ noun the discharge of blood from the uterus during menstruation
menstruate /ˈmɛnstrjuːt/ verb to bleed from the uterus during menstruation
menstruation /ˌmɛnstrjuˈeɪʃn/ noun bleeding from the uterus which occurs in a woman each month when the lining of the uterus is shed because no fertilised egg is present
menstruum /ˈmɛnstrʊəm/ noun a liquid used in the preparation of active principles from an unfertilised egg
mental /ˈmɛnt(ə)l/ adjective 1. referring to the mind 2. referring to the chin
mental aberration /ˈmɛntəl əˈbɛrəˈʃən/ noun slight forgetfulness or confusion (often humorous) • I thought the meeting was at 11 – I must have had a mental aberration.
mental age /ˈmɛntəl ˈeɪdʒ/ noun a measurement based on intelligence tests that shows a person's intellectual development, usually compared to standardised data for a chronological age • he's nine, but he has a mental age of five although he is nine years old, his level of intellectual development is the same as that of an average child of five
mental block /ˈmɛntəl ˈbloʊk/ noun a temporary inability to remember something, caused by the effect of nervous stress on the mental processes
mental deficiency /ˈmɛntəl ˈdiʃəˈnəsi/ noun a former term for learning disability (note: This term is regarded as offensive.)
mental development /ˈmɛntəl ˈdɛvəlpəmənt/ noun the development of the mind • Her mental development is higher than usual for her age
mental disorder /ˈmɛntəl ˈdɜːrəd/ noun a temporary or permanent change in a person's mental state which makes them function less effectively than they would usually, or than the average person would be expected to function
mental faculties /ˈmɛntəl ˈfæktərɪz/ plural noun abilities such as thinking and decision-making • There has been no impairment of the mental faculties
mental handicap /ˈmɛntəl ˈhændɪkæp/ noun a former term for learning disability (note: This term is regarded as offensive.)
mental health /ˈmɛntəl ˈhɛlθ/ noun the condition of someone's mind
Mental Health Acts /ˈmɛntəl ˈhɛlti əkts/ plural noun laws made by a parliament which lay down rules for the care of people with mental illness
Mental Health Review Tribunal /ˌmɛntəl ˈhɛlti ˈriːvjuː ˈtrɪbjuː/ noun a committee which makes decisions about whether people who have been detained under the Mental Health Acts should be released. It consists of medical members, legal experts and lay members, who include people with experience in social services. Abbr MHRT
mental hospital /ˈmɛntəl ˈhɒspɪtəl/ noun a psychiatric hospital (note: This term is regarded as offensive.)
mental illness /ˈmɛntəl ˈɪlnəs/ noun any disorder which affects the mind
mental impairment /ˈmɛntəl ɪmˈpɛrəmənt/ noun a temporary or permanent condition which affects a person's mental state, making them function less effectively than they would usually, or than the average person would be expected to function
mentalis muscle /ˈmɛntəlɪs ˈməs(ə)l/ noun a muscle attached to the front of the lower jaw and the skin of the chin
mentally /ˈmɛntəlɪ/ adverb in the mind • Mentally, she is very advanced for her age.
mentally handicapped /ˈmɛntəlɪ ˈhændɪkæpt/ adjective a former term for
mentally ill

someone with learning disability (NOTE: This term is usually regarded as offensive.)

mentally ill /ˈmentəli/ adj/ adj/ adjective experiencing mental illness

mental nerve /ˈment(ə)l/ nэv/ noun a nerve which supplies the chin

Merkel's cells /ˈmɜkəlz sɛlz/, Merkel's discs /ˈmɜkəlz dɪskz/ plural noun epithelial cells in the deeper part of the dermis which form touch receptors [After Friedrich Siegmund Merkel (1845–1919), German anatomist]

mesenteric /ˈmesəntəri/ adj/ adjective referring to the mesentery

mesenteric ganglion /ˈmesəntərik ˈgæŋgliən/ noun a plexus of sympathetic nerve fibres and ganglion cells around the superior mesenteric artery

mesenteric veg, mesenteric 'vein/ noun a vein in the portal system running from the intestine to the portal vein

mesentry /ˈmesəntəri/ noun a double-layer peritoneum which attaches the small intestine and other abdominal organs to the abdominal wall

mesial /ˈmiəsəli/ adjective 1. in dentistry, relating to the middle of the front of the jaw, or occurring in a place near this 2. relating to or located in the middle part of something

meso- /ˈmesəʊ/ prefix middle

mesophosis /ˈmesəʊpɒsɪs/ noun a fold of peritoneum which links the appendix to the ileum

mesocolon /ˈmesəkoʊlən/ noun a fold of peritoneum which supports the colon. In an adult it supports the transverse and sigmoid sections only.

mesoderm /ˈmesədɜrm/ noun the middle layer of an embryo, which develops into muscles, bones, blood, kidneys, cartilages, urinary ducts and the cardiovascular and lymphatic systems

mesodermal /ˈmesədɜrməl/ adjective referring to the mesoderm

mesometrium /ˈmesəmɪˈtreɪriəm/ noun the upper part of the broad ligament around the Fallopian tubes

mesothelioma /ˈmesəθɛlɪəmə/ noun a tumour of the serous membrane, which can be benign or malignant

mesothelium /ˈmesəθɛliəm/ noun a layer of cells lining a serous membrane. Compare epithelium, endothelium

mesovarium /ˈmaxəʊvəˈrɪərɪəm/ noun a fold of peritoneum around the ovaries
metabolite

metabolism noun the chemical processes which are continually taking place in the human body and which are essential to life, especially the processes that convert food into energy

metabolise maˈtəbəlɪz/ verb to change the nature of something by metabolism

metabolism /maˈtəbolɪzəm/ noun one of the stages in mitosis or meiosis

metabolise maˈtəbəlɪz/ verb to spread by metabolism

metastatic /meˈstætɪk/ adjective relating to, or produced by, metastasis

metastasis /meˈstætɪs/ noun the spreading of a malignant disease from one part of the body to another through the bloodstream or the lymph system. Also called secondary growth

metatarsal /meˈtætɑsəl/ noun one of the five bones in the metatarsus

metatarsal arch /meˈtætɑsəl/ noun an arched part of the sole of the foot, running across the sole of the foot from side to side. Also called transverse arch

metatarsalgia /meˈtætɑsəlɡeɪə/ noun pain in the heads of the metatarsal bones

metatarsophalangeal joint /meˈtætɑrsoʊˈfeɪləndzɪdʒɪəl, dʒɪstən/ noun a joint between a metatarsal bone and a toe

metatarsus /meˈtætɑrəs/ noun the five long bones in the foot between the toes and the tarsus. See illustration at foot in Supplement

meter /ˈmiːtər/ noun US same as metre

metformin /ˈmiːtfoʊrmən/ noun a drug which reduces the level of the blood sugar levels, used to treat non-insulin dependent diabetes which does not respond to dietary measures

methadone /ˈmiːθədəʊn/ noun a synthetically produced narcotic drug, used to reduce pain and as a substitute for heroin in the treatment of addiction

methaemoglobin /meθəˈeɪməʊɡləʊbɪn/ noun a dark brown substance formed from haemoglobin which develops during illness, following treatment with some drugs. Methae-
methylene blue /meθəli/lengthmarkn/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorblu/lengthmark / noun a blue dye, formerly used as a mild urinary anti-
infarction /miθəli/lengthmarkn/spərt/ / noun a tiny swelling in the wall of a capillary microangiopathy /maθrəkraου/lengthmarkn/pipe/vertstrokesuperior/ashnjərz / noun a disease caused by a microbe microbe /maθəli/lengthmarkn/pipe/vertstrokesuperior/ashnjərz / noun any disease of the capillaries microbital /maθrəkraου/lengthmarkn/ashmjəpəθi/ / adjective referring to microbes microbiological /maθrəkraου/lengthmarkn/pipe/vertstrokeinferiorbarə 'lin dikstəso/ / adjective referring to microbiology microbiologist /maθrəkraου/lengthmarkn/pipe/vertstrokeinferiorbarə 'lin dikstəso/ / noun a scientist who specialises in the study of microorganisms microbiology /maθrəkraου/lengthmarkn/ashndʒəri/ / noun the scientific study of microorganisms methadone /meθəleθən/ / noun a way of doing something methanol /meθənəl/ / noun almost pure alcohol, with wood al-
methoclopramide /meθəklopræməd/ / noun a drug used to treat nausea, vomiting and indigestion metronidazole /meθənidaζəul/ / noun a yellow antibiotic compound, used especially in the treatment of vaginal infections methicillin /meθəkɪlɪn/ / noun the same as methicillin methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus /meθəkɪlɪn rɪ'zɪstənt stə'fɪkəs /,kə'kəs /ˌstrɪs/ / noun a bacterium resistant to almost all antibiotics and which can cause life-threatening infection in people recovering from surgery. Abbr MRSA methionine /meθi'naɪtən/ / noun an essential amino acid metrorrhagia /meθərəθdʒiə/ / noun unusual bleeding from the vagina between the menstrual periods methotrexate /meθətroʊseɪt/ / noun a drug which stimulates the central nervous system, used in the treatment of neoplasms and attention deficit disorder method /meθəd/ / noun a way of doing something metronome /meθənəm/ / noun any device which produces a regular beat, usually to keep time or in timing long musical compositions methyl alcohol /meθələk'hol/ / noun almost pure alcohol, with wood alcohol and colouring added methyl alcohol /meθələk'hol/ / noun almost pure alcohol, with wood alcohol and colouring added methylated spirits /meθəleɪtɪd 'spɪrɪts/ / plural noun almost pure alcohol, with wood alcohol and colouring added methylated spirits /meθəleɪtɪd 'spɪrɪts/ / plural noun almost pure alcohol, with wood alcohol and colouring added methylene blue /meθəlˌblu/ / noun a blue dye, formerly used as a mild urinary anti-
methotrexate /meθətroʊseɪt/ / noun a drug which helps to prevent cells reproducing, used in the treatment of cancer methotrexate /meθətroʊseɪt/ / noun a drug which helps to prevent cells reproducing, used in the treatment of cancer methicillin /meθəkɪlɪn/ / noun a colourless poi-
metabolism /meθəbɒlɪzm/ / noun the process of measuring, or to instruments which are used for measuring mg /meθələk'hol/ / noun almost pure alcohol, with wood alcohol and colouring added methicillin /meθəkɪlɪn/ / noun a colourless poi-
methanol /meθənəl/ / noun a colourless poi-
methane /meθən/ / noun a colourless flavemless gas with no smell metastasis /metə'stæsɪs/ / plural noun a condition in which the uterus protrudes into the vagina metrorrhagia /meθərəθdʒiə/ / noun unusual bleeding from the vagina between the menstrual periods methicillin /meθəkɪlɪn/ / noun a bacterium resistant to almost all antibiotics and which can cause life-threatening infection in people recovering from surgery. Abbr MRSA methionine /meθi'naɪtən/ / noun an essential amino acid method /meθəd/ / noun a way of doing something methotrexate /meθətroʊseɪt/ / noun a drug which helps to prevent cells reproducing, used in the treatment of cancer methyl alcohol /meθələk'hol/ / noun almost pure alcohol, with wood alcohol and colouring added methyl alcohol /meθələk'hol/ / noun almost pure alcohol, with wood alcohol and colouring added methyl alcohol /meθələk'hol/ / noun almost pure alcohol, with wood alcohol and colouring added
microcephaly /mairɪ'kɒfəlɪ/ noun a condition in which a person has an unusually small head, sometimes caused by the mother having had a rubella infection during pregnancy
microchelia /mairɪ'klɛliə/ noun the condition of having unusually small lips
Microbotococcus /mairɪ'kreʊsɒkɒk/ a genus of bacterium, some species of which cause arthritis, endocarditis and meningitis
microcyte /mairɪ'kraʊsət/ noun an unusually small red blood cell
microcythaemia /mairɪ'kraʊsə'tiːmɪə/ noun same as microcytosis
microcytic /mairɪ'kraʊstɪk/ adjective referring to microcytes
microcytosis /mairɪ'kraʊsətəʊsɪs/ noun the presence of excess microcytes in the blood
micoctyly /mairɪ'kaʊdaktɪlɪə/ noun a condition in which a person has unusually small or short fingers or toes
microdisectomy /mairɪ'kraʊdɪsɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove all or part of a disc in the spine which is pressing on a nerve
microodontism /mairɪ'kraʊdɒntɪzɪzɪm/ noun a condition of having unusually small teeth
microglia /mairɪ'ɡlɪə/ noun in the central nervous system composed of tiny cells which destroy other cells
micrognathia /mairɪ'ɡnæθiə/ noun a condition in which a person has an unusually small tongue
microgranulosis /mairɪ'ɡrænəloʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which one jaw is unusually smaller than the other
microgram /mairɪ'ɡræm/ noun a unit of measurement of weight equal to one millionth of a gram
micromastia /mairɪ'kraʊmæstɪə/ noun a condition in which a person has unusually small breasts
micromelia /mairɪ'kraʊməlɪə/ noun a condition in which a person has unusually small arms or legs
micrometer /mairɪ'kraʊmɪtər/ noun an instrument for taking very small measurements, such as the width or thickness of very thin pieces of tissue 1. US same as micrometre
micrometre /mairɪ'kraʊmiːtrə/ noun a unit of measurement of thickness (= one millionth of a metre) (NOTE: With figures, usually written μm.)
micromole /mairɪ'kraʊmɔːl/ noun a unit of measurement of the amount of substance equal to one millionth of a mole. Symbol μmol
micron /mairɪ'kraʊn/ noun same as micrometre
micturition /mairɪ'tʃʊrɪtʃən/ noun an unusually small quantity of urine, e.g. a vitamin or mineral. Compare macronutrient
microorganism /mairɪ'kraʊɡərənizəm/ noun an organism which can only be seen under a microscope and which may cause disease. Viruses, bacteria and protozoa are microorganisms
microphtalmia /mairɪ'kraʊθɪlˈmiə/ noun a condition in which the eyes are unusually small
micropsia /mairɪ'kraʊpsɪə/ noun a condition in which someone sees objects smaller than they really are, caused by an unusual development in the retina
microscope /mairɪ'kraʊskɒp/ noun a scientific instrument with lenses, which makes very small objects appear larger ○ The tissue was examined under the microscope. ○ Under the microscope it was possible to see the cancer cells.
comment: In an ordinary or light microscope the image is magnified by lenses. In an electron microscope the lenses are electromagnets and a beam of electrons is used instead of light, thereby achieving much greater magnifications.
microscopic /mairɪ'kraʊskrɪpsɪk/ adjective so small that it can only be seen through a microscope
microscopy /mairɪ'kraʊskɒpsɪ/ noun the science of the use of microscopes
microsecond /mairɪ'kraʊsɛkənd/ noun a unit of measurement of time (= one millionth of a second) (NOTE: With figures, usually written μs.)
Microsporum /mairɪ'kraʊspɔrəm/ noun a type of fungus which causes ringworm of the hair, skin and sometimes nails
microsurgery /mairɪ'kraʊˌsɜːdʒərɪ/ noun surgery using tiny instruments and a microscope. Microsurgery is used in operations on eyes and ears, and also to connect severed nerves and blood vessels
microvillus /mairɪ'kraʊvɪlɪs/ noun a very small process found on the surface of many cells, especially the epithelial cells in the intestine (NOTE: The plural is microvilli.)
microwave therapy /mairɪ'kraʊweɪvɛrəpi/ noun treatment using high-frequency radiation
micturate /mairɪ'tʃʊrət/ verb same as urinate
micturating cystogram /mairɪ'tʃʊretɪŋ /sɪstəɡrəm/ noun an X-ray of the bladder and urethra taken while the bladder is being filled and then emptied. Abbrev MCU, MCUG
micturition /mairɪ'tʃʊrɪʃən/ noun same as urination
mid- /mɪd/ prefix middle
midazolam /ˌmɪdəˈzeləm/ noun a drug used to produce sleepiness and to reduce anxiety before surgery or other procedures
midbrain /ˈmɪdbrɛn/ noun the small middle section of the brain stem above the pons and between the cerebrum and the hindbrain. Also called mesencephalon
midcarpal /ˈmɪdˌkɑːrpol/ adjective between the two rows of carpal bones
mid /ˈmɪd/ noun 1. the centre or central point of something 2. the waist or stomach area (informal)
middle-aged /ˈmɪdədʒ/ adjective not young and not old, in the middle years of life ○ a disease which affects middle-aged women
middle colic /ˌmɪdəlˈkɒlɪk/ noun an artery which leads from the superior mesenteric artery
middle ear /ˌmɪdəl/ noun a section of the ear between the eardrum and the inner ear ○ an imaginary line drawn down the middle of the body from the head through the navel to the point between the feet
middle ear infection /ˌmɪdəl/ ‘ɪntʃən/ noun an acute infection of the middle ear ○ an imaginary line drawn down the middle of the body from the head through the navel to the point between the feet
middle finger /ˌmɪdəl/ ‘fɪŋər/ noun the longest of the five fingers
midstream /ˌmɪdstrɛm/ noun the stage of childbirth, where a leg becomes pale and in- flamed as a result of lymphatic obstruction. ○ in childbirth, where a leg becomes pale and inflamed as a result of lymphatic obstruction.
midstream specimen /ˌmɪdstrɛmˌsʌpsɪˈmɪn/ noun a sample of urine collected in a sterile bottle in the middle of a flow of urine, because the first part of the flow may be contaminated with bacteria from the skin, Abbr MSU
midtarsal /ˌmɪdˌtɑːsəl/ adjective between the tarsal bones
midwife /ˈmɪdˌwɪ夫/ noun a professional person who helps a woman give birth to a child, often at home

midwifery /ˈmɪdˌwɪfərɪ/ noun 1. the profession of a midwife 2. the study of the practical aspects of obstetrics
midwifery course /ˈmɪdˌwɪfərɪ kɔːs/ noun a training course to teach nurses the techniques of being a midwife
migraine /ˈmɪɡrən/ noun a very severe throbbing headache which can be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, visual disturbance and vertigo. The cause is not known. Attacks may be preceded by an ‘aura’, where the patient sees flashing lights, or the eyesight becomes blurred. The pain is usually intense and affects one side of the head only.
migrainous /ˈmɪɡrənəs/ adjective referring to someone who is subject to migraine attacks
mild /mɪld/ adjective not severe, not cold, gentle ○ a mild throat infection
mildly /ˈmɪldli/ adverb slightly, not strongly ○ a mildly infectious disease ○ a mildly anti-septic solution
milia /ˈmɪliə/ plural of miliare
miliare /ˈmɪliərə/ noun itchy red spots which develop on the chest, under the armpits and between the thighs in hot countries, caused by blocked sweat glands. Also called prickly heat, heat rash
miliary /ˈmɪliərɪ/ adjective small in size, like a seed
miliary tuberculosis /ˌmɪliərɪ ˈtʃɜːbəkˌloʊsɪs/ noun a form of tuberculosis which occurs as little nodes in many parts of the body, including the meninges of the brain and spinal cord
miliary /ˈmɪliərɪ/ noun 1. a white pinhead-sized tumour on the face in adults 2. a retention cyst in infants 3. a cyst on the skin (NOTE: [all senses]) The plural is milia.
milk /mɪlk/ noun 1. a white liquid produced by female mammals to feed their young. Cow’s milk and other dairy products are important parts of most diets, especially children’s. ○ The patient can only drink warm milk. (NOTE: No plural; some milk, a bottle of milk or a glass of milk.) 2. the breast milk produced by a woman ○ The milk will start to flow a few days after childbirth. (NOTE: For other terms referring to milk, see words beginning with galact-, galacto-, lact-, lacto-)
milk dentition /mɪlk dɛnˈtʃən/ noun same as deciduous dentition
milk leg /mɪlk ˈlɛɡ/ noun a temporary blushing of the skin seen in young babies

midwifery /ˈmɪdˌwɪfərɪ/ noun 1. the profession of a midwife 2. the study of the practical aspects of obstetrics
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milk sugar  /milk ʃʊɡə/ noun same as lactose

milk tooth  /milk tʊθ/ noun same as primary tooth

milky  /ˈmɪlki/ adjective referring to liquid which looks like milk

Miller-Abbott tube  /ˈmɪlər əˈbɒt tjuːb/ noun a tube with a balloon at the end, used to clear the small intestine. The balloon is inflated after the tip of the tube reaches an obstruction.

milli-  /ˈmɪli/ prefix one thousandth (10⁻³). Symbol m

milligram  /ˈmɪlɪɡræm/ noun a unit of measurement of weight equal to one thousandth of a gram. Symbol mg

millilitre  /ˈmɪlɪlɪtər/ noun a unit of measurement of liquid equal to one thousandth of a litre. Abbr ml (NOTE: The US spelling is mililitre).

millimetre  /ˈmɪlɪmɪtər/ noun a unit of measurement of length equal to one thousandth of a metre. Abbr mm (NOTE: The US spelling is millimeter).

millimole  /ˈmɪlɪməʊl/ noun a unit of measurement of the amount of a substance equal to one thousandth of a mole. Abbr mmol

millisievert/year  /ˈmɪlɪsɪvɜːt ˈjʊərɪ/ noun the smallest amount of radiation a person who works should be exposed to. It is said to be one hundredth of a sievert. Abbr mSv/year

milk tooth  /mɪlk tʊθ/ noun same as primary tooth

milk sugar  /mɪlk ʃʊɡə/ noun same as lactose

mirrored /ˈmɜːrdəʊd/ adjective opposite major

minor injuries unit  /ˈmɪnər ɪnˈdʒərɪz ˌjuːnɪt/ noun a hospital department which treats most accidents and injuries. Compare major injuries unit

minor surgery  /ˈmɪnər ˈsɜːdʒəri/ noun surgery which can be undertaken even when there are no hospital facilities. Compare major surgery

miscarriage  /ˈmɪskərɪdʒ/ noun a situation in which an unborn baby leaves the uterus before the end of the pregnancy, especially dur-
miscarry /mɪsˈkɛəri/ verb to have a miscarriage  

misdiagnosis /ˌmɪsˌdaɪəˈɡneɪʃən/ noun an incorrect diagnosis

mitral valve /ˈmɪtrəl ˈvælv/ noun a valve in the heart which allows blood to flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle but not in the opposite direction. Also called bicuspid valve

mitral valvotomy /ˌmɪtrəl ˈvælvətəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to separate the cusps of the mitral valve in mitral stenosis

MITU abbr minor injuries unit

mit /mɪt/ verb to match tissues wrongly

'M' finding donors of correct histocompatible type is difficult but necessary because results using mismatched bone marrow are disappointing. 

mis-matched bone marrow are disappointing

mite /mait/ noun a very small parasite, which causes dermatitis

mitochondrion /ˌmɪtərˈkɒndrɪən/ noun a tiny rod-shaped part of a cell's cytoplasm responsible for cell respiration (note: the plural is mitochondria)

mitomycin C /mɪtəmˈsɪməsɪn/ noun an antibiotic which helps to prevent cancer cells from growing, used especially in the chemotherapy treatment of bladder and rectal cancers

mitosis /mɪtəˈsɪsɪs/ noun the process of cell division, where the mother cell divides into two identical daughter cells. Compare meiosis

mitral incompetence /ˌmɪtrəl ɪnˈkɒmpətəns/ noun Also called mitral incompetence

mitral regurgitation /ˌmɪtrəl ˈrɛɡərʒən/ noun a condition in which the mitral valve does not close completely so that blood goes back into the atrium

mitral stenosis /ˌmɪtrəl ˈstɛnəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the opening in the mitral valve becomes smaller because the cusps have fused (note: this condition is almost always the result of rheumatic endocarditis.)

moderm matron /məˈdɛr məˈtrʌn/ noun a matron in a nursing post which supports the ward sister in ensuring that basic care of patients, including cleanliness of the ward and infection control, is carried out to a high standard

modiolus /məˈdɪələs/ noun the central stalk in the cochlea

MODS abbr multiple organ dysfunction syndrome
MOF abbr 1. male or female 2. multi-organ failure
Mogadon /'mɔgədɔn/ a trade name for ni-
trazepam
MOH abbr Medical Officer of Health
moist /moʊst/ adjective slightly wet or damp ○ The compress should be kept moist.
moisten /'moʊst(ə)n/ verb to make something damp
moist gangrene /ˌmoʊst 'ɡæŋɡrɛn/ noun a condition in which dead tissue decays and
swells with fluid because of infection and the
tissues have an unpleasant smell
moisture /'moʊstʃə/ noun water or other liq-
uid
moisture content /ˈmoʊstʃəˈkɔntent/ noun the amount of water or other liquid which a
substance contains
mol /mɔl/ symbol mole noun 2
molar /ˈmoʊlar/ adjective 1. referring to the
large back teeth 2. referring to the mole, the SI
unit of amount of a substance. Symbol mol ○ noun one of the large back teeth, used for grinding food. In
milk teeth there are eight molars and in perma-
nent teeth there are twelve. See illustration at
TEETH in Supplement
molarity /ˈmɔlərəti/ noun the strength of a solution shown as the number of moles of a
substance per litre of solution
molasses /ˈmɔləsəz/ noun a dark sweet sub-
stance made of sugar before it has been refined
molasses ○ noun 1. a dark raised spot on the
skin ○ She has a large mole on her chin. ○ melanoma 2. an SI unit of measurement of the
amount of a substance. Symbol mol
molecular /ˈmɔləklər/ adjective referring to a
molecule
molecular biology /ˌmɔləˌkjuːlər bɪˈɒlədʒi/ noun the study of the molecules of living mat-
ter
molecular weight /ˌmɔləˈkjuːlər ˈwɛt/ noun the weight of one molecule of a substance
molecule /ˈmɔləkljuːl/ noun the smallest in-
dependent mass of a substance
molluscum /ˈmɔləskəm/ noun a soft round
skin tumour
molluscum contagiosum /ˌmɔləskəm kənˌtædʒiəsəm/ noun a contagious viral skin infection which gives a small soft sore
molluscum fibrosum /ˌmɔləskəm ˈfɪbrosəm/ noun same as neurofibromatosis
molluscum sebaceum /ˌmɔləskəm ˈsiːbəsəm/ noun a benign skin tumour which disappears after a short time
molybdenum /ˈmɔlɪbdənəm/ noun a metal-
lic trace element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Mo.).
monaural /ˌmɔnərəl/ adjective referring to the use of one ear only
Mönckeberg’s arteriosclerosis /ˌmɒŋkəˈbergz ˌɑrtrɪəˈskloʊrəsɪs/ noun a
condition of elderly people, where the media
of the arteries in the legs harden, causing lym-
ping [Described 1903. After Johann Georg Mönckeberg (1877–1925), German physician
and pathologist.]
mongolism /ˈmɒŋgəlɪz(ə)m/ noun a former
name for Down's syndrome (NOTE: This term is
regarded as offensive.)
Mollia /ˈmɔlɪə/ noun same as Candida
moniliasis /ˈmɔnɪlɪəsɪs/ noun same as can-
didiasis
monitor /ˈmɒnɪtər/ noun a screen on a comput-
er to 1, to check something 2. to examine
how someone is progressing
monitoring /ˈmɒnɪtərɪŋ/ noun the regular
examination and recording of a person’s tem-
perature, weight, blood pressure and other es-
ternal indicators
mono- /məˈnəʊ/ prefix single or one
monoa mine oxidase /ˌmɔnəˈmeɪn ˌɔksɪdəz/ noun an enzyme which breaks down the
catecholamines to their inactive forms.
Abbr MAO
monoa mine oxidase inhibitor /ˌmɔnəˈmeɪn ˌɔksɪdəz ˌɪnhibitər/ noun a drug
which inhibits monoamine oxidase and is used
to treat depression, e.g. phenelzine. Its use is
limited, because of the potential for drug and
dietary interactions and the necessity for slow
withdrawal. It can also cause high blood pres-
sure. Abbr MAOI. Also called MAO inhibitor
monoblast /ˌmɔnəˈblæst/ noun a cell which
produces a monocyte
monochromatism /ˌmɔnəˈkroʊmətɪzəm/ noun colour blindness in which all
colours appear to be black, grey or white.
Compare dichromatism, trichromatism
monoclonal /ˌmɔnəkloʊnəl/ adjective referring to cells or products of cells which are
formed or derived from a single clone
monoclonal antibody /ˌmɔnəˈkloʊnəl ˌæntɪbɒdi/ noun an antibody which can be
easily made in the laboratory by a single clone of
cells. It may be useful in the treatment of cancer.
monocular /ˌmɔnəˈnʊklər/ adjective referring to
one eye. Compare binocular
monocular vision /ˌmɔnəˈnʊklər ˌvɪʒən/ noun the ability to see with one eye only, so
that the sense of distance is impaired
monocyte /ˌmɔnəˈsɔtɪk/ noun a white blood
cell with a nucleus shaped like a kidney, which
destroys bacterial cells
monocytosis /ˌmɔnəsɪˈtɒsɪs/ noun a
condition in which there is an unusually high
number of monocytes in the blood. Symptoms
include sore throat, swelling of the lymph
nodes and fever. It is probably caused by the
Epstein–Barr virus. Also called glandular fe-
ver
monodactylism

monodactylism  /mənəˈdæktıliːz/ noun a congenital condition in which only one finger or toe is present on the hand or foot

monomania  /mənəˈmiːniə/ noun a state of mental disorder in which a person concentrates attention on one idea

mononeuritis  /mənənɔjuːriˈrɪtɪs/ noun a neuritis which affects one nerve

mononuclear  /mənənjuˈkʌlər/ adjective referring to a cell such as a monocyte which has one nucleus

mononucleosis  /mənənjuˈkʌlɪəsɪs/ noun same as monocyotosis

monoplegia  /mənəpəˈliːdʒə/ noun the paralysis of one part of the body only, i.e. one muscle or one limb

monorchism  /mənərɔˈkɪzəm/ noun a condition in which only one testis is visible

monosaccharide  /mənəsəˈsækrəd/ noun a simple sugar which cannot be broken down any further, such as glucose or fructose

monosodium glutamate  /mənəsəˈnɒmɔdʒɪkJʊtəmeɪt/ a sodium salt of glutamic acid, often used to make food taste better. ◊ Chinese restaurant syndrome

monosomy  /mənəsəˈmiːə/ noun a condition in which a person has a chromosome missing from one or more pairs

monosynaptic  /mənəsəˈsɪnæptɪk/ adjective referring to a nervous pathway with only one synapse

mononuclear  /mənənjuˈkʌlər/ adjective having a valency of one

monoxide  /mənəˈɔksaɪd/ carbon

monogygotic twins  /mənəˈɡɔtɪk tˈwɪnz/ plural noun same as identical twins

mons  /mənz/ noun a fleshy body part which sticks out, especially the one formed by the pad of flesh where the pubic bones join (Note: The plural is montes.)

mons pubis  /mənz pˈjuːbɪs/ noun a cushion of fat covering the pubis

monster  /mənəstər/ noun a former term for a fetus or infant with severe developmental malformations, usually not able to live

mons veneris  /mənz vəˈnɛrɪs/ noun same as mons pubis

Montezuma’s revenge  /mɒnˈtɛzʊməz rɪˈvendʒ/ noun a diarrhoea which affects people travelling in foreign countries, often due to eating unwashed fruit or drinking water which has not been boiled (informal)

Montgomery's glands  /mɒntˈɡɔməriz ɡlændz/ plural noun sebaceous glands around the nipple which become more marked in pregnancy (After William Fetherstone Montgomery (1797–1859), Dublin gynaecologist)

mood /mɔːd/ noun a person’s mental state at a particular time ◊ a mood of excitement □ in a bad mood feeling angry or irritable □ in a good mood feeling happy

moon face  /mɔːn fɛs/ noun a condition in which someone has a round red face, occurring in Cushing’s syndrome and when there are too many steroid hormones in the body

Moorens ulcer  /ˈmoʊərənəs ʌlsə/ noun a persistent ulcer of the cornea, found in elderly people [After Albert Mooren (1828–99), ophthalmologist in Düsseldorf, Germany]

morbid  /mərˈbɪd/ adjective 1. showing symptoms of being diseased ◊ The X-ray showed a morbid condition of the kidneys. 2. referring to disease 3. referring to an unhealthy mental faculty

morbid anatomy  /mərˈbɪd əˈnætəmɪ/ noun same as pathology

morbidity  /mərˈbɪdɪti/ noun the condition of being diseased or sick

morbid rate  /mərˈbɪd rɛt/ noun the number of cases of a disease per hundred thousand of population

morbilli  /mərˈbɪlɪ/ noun same as measles

morbilliform  /mərˈbɪlɪfɔːrm/ adjective referring to a rash which is similar to measles

morbus  /mərˈbuːs/ noun disease

moribund  /mərɪˈbʌnd/ adjective dying ◊ noun a dying person

morning  /ˈmɔrɪŋ/ noun the first part of the day before 12 o’clock noon

morning-after feeling  /ˈmɔrɪŋ əˈfiːlɪŋ/ noun ◊ hangover (informal)

morning-after pill  /ˈmɔrɪŋ əˈpɪl/ noun a contraceptive pill taken after intercourse. Also called next-day pill

morning sickness  /ˈmɔrɪŋ ˈsɪknəs/ noun nausea and vomiting experienced by women in the early stages of pregnancy when they get up in the morning

Moro reflex  /ˈmɔrəʊ rɪˈfleks/ noun a reflex of a newborn baby when it hears a loud noise (Note: The baby is laid on a table and observed to see if it raises its arms when the table is struck) [After Ernst Moro (1874–1951), paediatrician in Heidelberg, Germany]

morphoea  /ˈmɔrfəʊə/ noun a form of scleroderma, a disease where the skin is replaced by thick connective tissue

morphia  /ˈmɔrfəsiə/ noun same as morphine

morphine  /ˈmɔrfɪn/ noun an analgesic derived from opium that is used to treat severe pain and may become addictive with prolonged use

morpho-  /mɔrˈfoʊə/ prefix relating to form, shape or structure

morphology  /mɔrˈfolədʒi/ noun the study of the structure and shape of living organisms
movement by sending impulses to the motor area of the brain which controls voluntary muscle movement.

Momentous movement by sending impulses to the motor area of the brain causes motion sickness which affects people who travel by car, plane, or boat. It is characterized by nausea, dizziness, and a feeling of being seasick or ill. Motion sickness is caused by the brain's mismatch between visual and vestibular inputs, and it can be mitigated by avoiding motion, taking medication, or using techniques like acupressure bands or aromatherapy.

Mortality rate is the number of deaths per year, shown per hundred thousand of population.

Mortification is the act of laying a dead body out for burial. It is often performed by an undertaker, and it is a religious or cultural practice in many societies.

Mortality rate is the number of deaths per year, shown per hundred thousand of population.

Mother

Mother fixation is a condition in which a person's development has been stopped at a stage where he or she remains like a child, dependent on his or her mother.

Mother

Mote /mɔt/ rigid or inflexible

Motor /ˈmʌtər/ noun a nerve which carries impulses from the brain and spinal cord to muscles and causes movements. Also called efferent nerve.

Motor neurone /ˈmɔtər ˈnjuəroʊn/ noun a neuron which is part of a nerve pathway transmitting impulses from the brain to a muscle or gland.

Motor neurone disease /ˈmɔtər ˈnjuəroʊn dɪˌzɪs/ noun a disease of the nerve cells which control the movement of the muscles. Abbreviation: MND.

Motor pathway /ˈmɔtər ˈpɑːθwèi/ noun a series of motor neurones leading from the motor cortex to a muscle.

Motor

Mottled /ˈmɔtəlɪd/ adjective with patches of different colours.

Mountain sickness /ˈmɔntən sɪknəs/ noun mountain sickness is the condition that affects you when you are at high altitudes. It is characterized by fatigue, headache, dizziness, and nausea, and it can be prevented by acclimatization and avoiding rapid altitude changes.

Mountain

Mountain fever /ˈmɔntən ˈfɪvə/ noun mountain fever is a condition that affects you when you are at high altitudes. It is characterized by fatigue, headache, dizziness, and nausea, and it can be prevented by acclimatization and avoiding rapid altitude changes.

Mountain

Mounting

Mouth

Mouth ulcer /ˈmɔuθ ələr/ noun a small white ulcer that appears in groups in the mouth and on the tongue.

Mouth

Mouthwash /ˈmɔuθwɔʃ/ noun an antiseptic solution used to treat infection in the mouth.

Mouth

Moxbustion /ˈmɔksbəstʃən/ noun a treatment used in the Far East, where dried herbs are placed on the skin and set on fire.
mucus and pus

colitis

tion in which a cavity or organ becomes swol-

fungus

mucopurulent

mucoprotein

/vertstrokeinferiorləmənəs kə/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorlat/s

mucolytic

mucoid

mucocutaneous leishmaniasis

mucociliary transport

mucocele

muco-

muco-

mucin

mSv

MS

MRSA

MRCP

MRCGP

MRC

MPS

metacarpophalangeal joint

MP joint

MP joint /em 'pi:dʒənt/ noun same as metatarsal joint

MPS abbr member of the pharmaceutical society

MRC abbr Medical Research Council

MRCP abbr Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners

MRCP abbr Member of the Royal College of Physicians

MRCS abbr Member of the Royal College of Surgeons

MRI abbr magnetic resonance imaging

...during an MRI scan, the patient lies within a strong magnetic field as selected sections of his body are stimulated with radio frequency waves. Resulting energy changes are measured and used by the MRI computer to generate images. [Nursing 87]

mRNA abbr messenger RNA

MRSA abbr methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus

MS abbr 1. mitral stenosis 2. multiple sclerosis

MSH abbr melanocyte-stimulating hormone

MSU abbr midstream specimen of urine

mSV abbr milliSiemens

mucin /'mjju:stin/ noun a compound of sugars and protein which is the main substance in mucus

muco-/ 'mjju:ksɔsi:l/ noun a cavity containing an accumulation of mucus

cellular transport /'mjju:ksɔsi:l 'trənspɔrt/ noun the process in which the cell, the microscopic structures within the nose, move mucus towards the oesophagus, cleansing the nose of dust and bacteria

mucocele /'mjju:ksɔsi:l/ noun 1. a condition in which a cavity or organ becomes swollen because there is too much mucus in it 2. the swelling produced by this condition

muco-cutaneous /'mjju:ksɔku:ˈtiəniəs/ adjective referring to both mucus membrane and the skin

muco-cutaneous leishmaniasis /'mjju:ksɔkju ˈtiəməniəs/ noun a disorder affecting the skin and mucus membrane

muco-/ 'mjju:ksɔli/ adjective similar to mucus

muco-lytic /'mjju:ksɔlɪtɪk/ noun a substance which dissolves mucus

muco-membranous colitis /'mjju:ksɔmbrənəs 'kɔlətɪs/ noun same as mucous colitis

muco-protein /'mjju:ksɔprəˈtriən/ noun a form of protein found in blood plasma

muco-purulent /'mjju:ksɔpjʊəˈrələnt/ adjective consisting of a mixture of mucus and pus

mucopus /'mjju:ksɔpəs/ noun a mixture of mucus and pus

mucormycosis /'mjju:ksɔrməkˈɔsɪs/ noun a disease of the ear and throat caused by the fungus Muco-
mucosa /'mjjuːsɔ/ noun same as mucous membrane

mucosal /'mjjuːsɔ(ə)l/ adjective referring to a mucous membrane

mucous /'mjjuːksəs/ adjective referring to mucus, covered in mucus

mucous cell /'mjjuːksəs kəl/ noun a cell which contains mucinogen which secretes mucin

mucous colic /'mjjuːksəs 'klɪk/ noun an inflammation of the colon, with painful spasms in the muscles of the walls of the colon

mucous colitis /'mjjuːksəs 'kɔlətɪs/ noun an inflammation of the mucous membrane in the intestine, in which the person experiences pain caused by spasms in the muscles of the walls of the colon, accompanied by constipation or diarrhea or alternating attacks of both. Also called irritable bowel syndrome

mucous membrane /'mjjuːksəs /'membrən/ noun an inflammation of the mucous membrane in the intestine, in which the person experiences pain caused by spasms in the muscles of the walls of the colon

mucous plug /'mjjuːks pлюɡ/ noun a plug of mucus which blocks the cervical canal during pregnancy

mucoviscidosis /'mjjuːksəvɪskiːdəsɪs/ noun same as cystic fibrosis

mucus /'mjjuːksəs/ noun a slippery liquid secreted by mucous membranes inside the body, which protects those membranes [Note: For other terms referring to mucus, see words beginning with blenno-]

muddled /'mʌldəd/ adjective referring to someone whose thought processes are confused

Müllerian duct /maˈljuərən 'dʌkt/ noun same as paramesonephric duct [Described 1825. After Johannes Peter Müller (1801–58), Professor of Anatomy at Bonn, later Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Berlin, Germany.]

multi- /'mʌlti/ prefix many

multicentric /'mʌltiˌsentri:k/ adjective in several centres

multicentric trial /'mʌltiˌsentri:k ˈtrə:skəl/ noun a clinical trial testing /ˈmʌltiˌsentri:k ˈtestɪŋ/ noun trials carried out in several centres at the same time

multidisciplinary /'mʌltiˌdɪsɪplərni/ adjective using or involving several specialised subjects or skills ○ a multidisciplinary team

multifactorial /'mʌltiˌfækˈtɔrɪəl/ adjective 1. involving several different factors or elements 2. referring to inheritance which depends on more than one gene. Height and weight are examples of characteristics determined by multifactorial inheritance.

multifocal lens /ˌmʌltɪˈfoʊkl/ noun a lens in spectacles whose focus changes from top to bottom so that the person wearing the
multivitamina /ˈmʌltɪˌvɪtəmɪn/ noun a preparation containing several vitamins and sometimes minerals, used as a dietary supplement

multivitamin pills O multivitamin supplement

mumps /mʌmps/ noun an infectious disease of children, with fever and swellings in the salivary glands, caused by a paramyxovirus O He caught mumps from the children next door.

Also called infectious parotitis (note: takes a singular or a plural verb.)

COMMENT: Mumps is a relatively mild disease in children. In adult males it can have serious complications and cause inflammation of the testicles (mumps orchitis).

Münchhausen’s syndrome /ˈmʌntʃaʊzənz ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a mental disorder in which someone tries to get hospital treatment by claiming symptoms of an illness which he or she does not have. Many people will undergo very painful procedures which they do not need. [Described by Richard Asher in 1951, and named after Baron von Münchhausen, a 19th century traveler and invertebrate liar]

Münchhausen’s syndrome by proxy /ˈmʌntʃaʊzənz ˈsɪndrəm ˈbi ˈprɔksi/ noun a mental disorder in which someone tries to get hospital treatment for someone else such as their child or an elderly relative. It is regarded as a form of child abuse, as the person may cause a child to be ill in order to receive attention.

mural thrombus /ˈmjuərəl ˈθrɔmbs/ noun a thrombus which forms on the wall of a vein or artery

murder /ˈmɜrdər/ noun the crime of killing someone intentionally [verb to kill someone intentionally]

murmur /ˈmɜrmər/ noun a sound, usually the sound of the heart, heard through a stethoscope

Murphy’s sign /ˈmɜfɪz ˈsɪŋ/ noun a sign of an inflamed gall bladder, where the person will experience pain if the abdomen is pressed while he or she inhales [Described 1912. After John Benjamin Murphy (1857–1916), US surgeon.]

muscae volitantes /ˈmjuːskəʊ ˈvɒlɪtəntz/ plural noun pieces of cellular or blood debris present in the vitreous of the eye, common in old age but, if a sudden event, can be a symptom of retinal haemorrhage. Also called floaters

muscarine /ˈmjuːskərɪn/ noun a poisonous found in fungi

muscarinic /ˈmjuːskərɪnɪk/ adjective referring to a neurone or receptor stimulated by acetylcholine and muscarine

muscle /ˈmʌskl/ noun 1. an organ in the body, which contracts to make part of the body...
muscle coat 254

move • If you do a lot of exercises you develop strong muscles. • The muscles in his legs were still weak after he had spent two months in bed. • She had muscle cramp after going into the cold water. See illustration at EYE in Supplement 2, same as muscle tissue.

COMMENT: There are two types of muscle: voluntary muscles, which are attached to bones and move parts of the body when made to do so by the brain, and involuntary (smooth) muscles which move essential organs such as the intestines and bladder automatically. The heart muscle also works automatically.

muscle coat /ˈmʌsk(ə)l ˈkɑːt/ noun one of two layers of muscle forming part of the lining of the intestine.

muscle fatigue /ˈmʌsk(ə)l ˈfeɪtj/ muscular fatigue /ˈmæskjʊlə ˈfeɪtʃər/ noun tiredness in the muscles after strenuous exercise.

muscle fibre /ˈmʌsk(ə)l ˈfaɪər/ noun a component fibre of muscles. (NOTE: There are two types of fibre which form striated and smooth muscles.)

muscle relaxant /ˈmʌsk(ə)l ˈræksənt/ noun a drug which reduces contractions in the muscles, e.g. baclofen.

muscle spasm /ˈmʌsk(ə)l ˈspæzm/ noun a sudden contraction of a muscle.

muscle spindle /ˈmʌsk(ə)l ˈspɪndl/ noun one of the sensory receptors which lie along the striated muscle fibres.

muscle tissue /ˈmʌsk(ə)l ˈtʃuːz/ muscular tissue /ˈmæskjʊlə ˈtʃuːz/ noun the specialised type of tissue which forms the muscles and which can contract and expand.

muscle wasting /ˈmʌsk(ə)l ˈwɛstɪŋ/ noun a condition in which the muscles lose weight and become thin.

muscular /ˈmæskjʊlər/ adjective referring to muscle.

muscular branch /ˈmæskjʊlər ˈbrɑːntʃ/ noun a branch of a nerve to a muscle carrying effenter impulses to produce contraction.

muscular defence /ˈmæskjʊlər ˈdefɪns/ noun a rigidity of muscles associated with inflammation such as peritonitis.

muscular disorder /ˈmæskjʊlər ˈdɪsərdər/ noun a disorder which affects the muscles, e.g. cramp or strain.

muscular dystrophy /ˈmæskjʊlər ˈdɪstrəfɪ/ noun a type of muscle disease where some muscles become weak and are replaced with fatty tissue. • Duchenne muscular dystrophy. • muscular fatigue /ˈmæskjʊlər ˈfeɪtɪʃər/ noun same as muscle fatigue.

muscularis /ˈmæskjʊlər əs/ noun muscular layer of an internal organ.

muscular relaxant /ˈmæskjʊlər ˈrɛksənt/ noun a drug which relaxes the muscles.

muscular rheumatism /ˈmæskjʊlər ˈrjuːmətɪzəm/ noun a disease giving pains in the back or neck, usually caused by fibrositis or inflammation of the muscles.

muscular system /ˈmæskjʊlər ˈsɪstəm/ noun the muscles in the body, usually applied only to striated muscles.

muscle tissue /ˈmæskjʊlər ˈtʃuːz/ noun same as muscle tissue.

musculo- /ˈmæskjʊləʊ-/ prefix relating to or affecting muscle.

musculocutaneous /ˈmæskjʊləkʊtənjuːs/ musculocutaneous nerve /ˈmæskjʊləkʊtənjuːs ˈnɜːr/ noun a nerve in the brachial plexus which supplies the muscles in the arm.

musculoskeletal /ˈmæskjʊləskjuːtəl/ noun referring to both muscular and tendinous tissue.

musculotendinous /ˈmæskjʊlətendənjuːs/ adjective referring to muscles and bone.

mutant /ˈmjuːtənt/ noun in which mutation has occurred. • A mutant organism carrying a mutant gene.

mutant gene /ˈmjuːtənt ˈdʒiːn/ noun a gene which has undergone mutation.

mutate /ˈmjuːteɪt/ verb to undergo a genetic change. • Bacteria can mutate suddenly, and become increasingly able to infect.

mutation /ˈmjuːteɪʃən/ noun a change in DNA which changes the physiological effect of the DNA on the cell.

COMMENT: A mutation in the gene for amyloid precursor protein (APP) in some families causes early-onset Alzheimer's disease, when unusual deposits of beta amyloid are formed and dementia occurs.

mute /ˈmjuːt/ adjective 1. unwilling or unable to speak 2. felt or expressed without speech. • noun somebody who is unable or unwilling to speak. (NOTE: This term is sometimes considered offensive.)

mutism /ˈmjuːtɪzəm/ noun the condition of being unable to speak. Also called dumbness.

myalgia /ˈmeɪglɪə/ noun a muscle pain.

myalgic encephalomyelitis /ˈmeɪglɪk ˌɛnˈʃɛlfəʊmɪlɪtɪs/ (ENGLISH) en, kelsəˈfəʊməˌlaɪtɪs/ noun a long-term condition affecting the nervous system, in which someone feels tired and depressed and has pain and weakness in the muscles. Abbr ME. Also called chronic fatigue syndrome, postviral fatigue syndrome.

myasthenia /ˈmeɪstəniə, ˈmeɪstənɪə/ noun a general weakness and dysfunction of the muscles, caused by poor conduction at the motor end plates.

myo- /ˈmeɪəʊ-/ prefix same as myco- (used before vowels).
myelium /ˈmɪəliəm/ noun a mass of threads which forms the main part of a fungus
mychetoma /ˌmaɪsəˈtɔmə/ noun same as maduromycosis
myco- /ˈmaɪkəʊ/ prefix referring to fungus
Mycobacterium /ˌmaɪkəˈbækərɪəm/ noun one of a group of bacteria including those which cause leprosy and tuberculosis
myology /ˌmaɪrəˈkɒlədʒi/ noun the study of fungi
Mycoplasm/ /ˌmaɪkɔˈplæzma/ noun a type of microorganism, similar to a bacterium, associated with diseases such as pneumonia and urethritis
mycosis /maɪˈkɒsɪs/ noun any disease caused by a fungus, e.g. athlete’s foot
mycosis fungoides /ˌmaɪkɒˈsɪs fʌŋˈgaɪdɪz/ noun a form of skin cancer, with irritating nodules
mydriasis /ˌmaɪdrəˈræsɪs/ noun an enlargement of the pupil of the eye
myndrist /ˌmaɪndəˈrɪst/ noun a drug which makes the pupil of the eye become larger
myectomy /ˌmaɪrɪˈktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of part or all of a muscle
myel-/ /ˈmaɪəl/ prefix same as myelo- (used before vowels)
myelin /ˌmaɪəlɪn/ noun the substance of the cell membrane of Schwann cells that coils into a protective covering around nerve fibres called a myelin sheath
myelinated /ˌmaɪəlɪnɪtɪd/ adjective referring to nerve fibre covered by a myelin sheath
myelinisation /ˌmaɪəlɪnɪˈzeɪʃən/ noun the process by which a myelin sheath forms around nerve fibres
myelin sheath /ˌmaɪəlɪn ˈʃeɪθ/ noun a layer of myelin that insulates some nerve cells and speeds the conduction of nerve impulses. See illustration at NEURONE in Supplement
myelitis /ˌmaɪəlɪtɪs/ noun 1. inflammation of the spinal cord 2. an inflammation of bone marrow
myelo- /ˌmaɪələʊ/ prefix 1. referring to bone marrow 2. referring to the spinal cord
myeloblast /ˌmaɪələˈbлаʊst/ noun a precursor of a granulocyte
myeloce /ˌmaɪələsɪd/ noun same as meningomyeloce
myelocyte /ˌmaɪələsɪt/ noun a cell in bone marrow which develops into a granulocyte
myelofibrosis /ˌmaɪələˌfɪbrosɪs/ noun fibrosis of bone marrow, associated with anaemia
myelogram /ˌmaɪələˈɡ्रɑm/ noun a record of the spinal cord taken by myelography
myelography /ˌmaɪələˈɡrɑfɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the spinal cord and subarachnoid space after a radio-opaque substance has been injected
myeloid /ˌmaɪələd/ adjective 1. referring to bone marrow, or produced by bone marrow 2. referring to the spinal cord
myeloid leukaemia /ˌmaɪələd luːˈkeɪmɪə/ noun an acute form of leukaemia in adults
myeloid tissue /ˌmaɪələd ˈtɪʃuː/ noun red bone marrow
myeloma /ˌmaɪələmə/ noun a malignant tumour in bone marrow, at the ends of long bones or in the jaw
myelomalacia /ˌmaɪələməˈlæʃə/ noun softening of tissue in the spinal cord
myelomatosis /ˌmaɪələˈmɑtəsɪs/ noun a disease where malignant tumours infiltrate the bone marrow
myelomeningocele /ˌmaɪələməˈnɪŋɡəʊsiːl/ noun same as meningomyeloce
myelopathy /ˌmaɪələˈpɑθɪ/ noun any disorder of the spinal cord or bone marrow
myelosuppression /ˌmaɪələˈsʌpˌrənʃən/ noun a condition in which the bone marrow does not produce enough blood cells, often occurring after chemotherapy
myenteron /ˌmaɪərˈɛntərɔn/ noun a layer of muscles in the small intestine, which produces peristalsis
myiasis /ˌmaɪəˈsiːs/ noun an infestation by larvae of flies
myelophagia /ˌmaɪəˈloʊfɑdʒiə/ noun, adjective referring to the molar teeth in the lower jaw and the hyoid bone
myelophagia line /ˌmaɪəˈloʊfɑdʒiə lайн/ noun a line running along the outside of the lower jawbone, dividing the upper part of the bone which forms part of the mouth from the lower part which is part of the neck
myo-/ /ˈmaɪəʊ/ prefix referring to muscle
myoblast /ˌmaɪəˈblɑst/ noun an embryonic cell which develops into muscle
myoblastic /ˌmaɪəˈblɑstɪk/ adjective referring to myoblast
myocardial /ˌmaɪəˈkɔrdɪəl/ adjective referring to the myocardium
myocardial infarction /ˌmaɪəˈkɔrdɪəl ɪnˈfærkʃən/ noun the death of part of the heart muscle after coronary thrombosis. Abbrev MI
myocarditis /ˌmaɪəˈkɔrdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the heart muscle
myocardium /ˌmaɪəˈkɔrdɪəm/ noun the middle layer of the wall of the heart, formed of heart muscle. See illustration at HEART in Supplement
myoce /ˌmaɪəˈsɪd/ noun a condition in which a muscle pushes through a gap in the surrounding membrane
myoclonic /ˌmaɪəˈklɒnɪk/ adjective referring to myoclonus
myoclonic epilepsy /ˌmaɪəˈklɒnɪk ˈepɪ lɛpsɪ/ noun a form of epilepsy where the limbs jerk frequently
myoclonus /məʊˈklɒnəs/ noun a muscle spasm which makes a limb give an involuntary jerk
myocyte /məʊˈsaɪət/ noun a muscle cell
myodynia /ˌmaɪədɪnə/ noun a pain in the muscles
myofibril /ˌmaɪəfrɪˈbrɪl/ noun a long thread of striated muscle fibre
myofibrosis /ˌmaɪəfɪˈbrosɪs/ noun a condition in which muscle tissue is replaced by fibrous tissue
myogenic /ˌmaɪəˈdʒnɪk/ adjective referring to movement which comes from an involuntary muscle
myoglobin /ˌmaɪəˈɡləʊbɪn/ noun a muscle haemoglobin, which takes oxygen from blood and passes it to the muscle
myoglobinuria /ˌmaɪəˌɡləʊbɪˈnjuərɪə/ noun the presence of myoglobin in the urine
myogram /ˌmaɪəˈɡrɑm/ noun a record showing how a muscle is functioning
myography /ˌmaɪəˈɡrɑfi/ noun an instrument which records the degree and strength of a muscle contraction
myography /ˌmaɪəˈɡrɑfi/ noun the process of recording the degree and strength of a muscle contraction with a myograph
myokymia /ˌmaɪəˈkɪmɪə/ noun twitching of a particular muscle
myology /ˌmaɪəˈlɒdʒi/ the study of muscles and associated structures and diseases
myopia /ˌmaɪəˈpɪə/ noun a benign tumour in a smooth muscle
myomectomy /ˌmaɪəˈmɛktəmɪ/ noun 1, the surgical removal of a benign growth from a muscle, especially removal of a fibroid from the uterus 2, same as myectomy
myometritis /ˌmaɪəˌmɛtrətɪs/ noun inflammation of the myometrium. Also called metritis
myometrium /ˌmaɪəˌmɛtrɪmə/ noun the muscular tissue in the uterus
myoneural /ˌmaɪəˈnjuərəl/ adjective relating to or involving both the muscles and the nerves
myoneural junction /ˌmaɪənjuərəl ˈdʒʌŋkʃən/ noun same as neuromuscular junction
myopathy /ˌmaɪəˈpəθi/ noun a disease of a muscle, especially one in which the muscle wastes away
myopia /ˌmaɪəˈpɪə/ noun a condition in which someone can see clearly objects which are close, but not ones which are further away. Also called shortsightedness. Opposite longsightedness
myopic /ˌmaɪəˈpɪk/ adjective able to see close objects clearly, but not objects which are further away. Also called shortsighted
myoplasm /ˌmaɪəplæzəm/ noun same as sarcoplasm
myoplasty /ˌmaɪəˈplæstɪ/ noun a form of plastic surgery to repair a muscle
myosarcoma /ˌmaɪəˈsɑrəkɑmə/ noun 1, a malignant tumour containing unstratified muscle 2, combined myoma and sarcoma
myomatosis /ˌmaɪəˈmətəsɪs/ noun another spelling of miosis 1
myositis /ˌmaɪəˈsɪtɪs/ noun inflammation and degeneration of a muscle
myotatic /ˌmaɪəˈtætɪk/ adjective referring to the sense of touch in a muscle
myotatic reflex /ˌmaɪəˈtætɪk ˈrɛfleks/ noun a reflex action in a muscle which contracts after being stretched
myotic /ˌmaɪəˈtɪk/ noun a drug which causes the pupil of the eye to contract
myotony /ˌmaɪəˈtɒnɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut a muscle
myotonia /ˌmaɪəˈtɒnɪə/ noun difficulty in relaxing a muscle after exercise
myotonic /ˌmaɪəˈtɒnɪk/ adjective referring to tone in a muscle
myotonic dystrophy /ˌmaɪəˈtɒnɪk ˈdɪstrəfɪ/ noun a hereditary disease with muscle stiffness leading to atrophy of the muscles of the face and neck
myotonus /ˌmaɪəˈtɒnəs/ noun a muscle tone
myringa /ˈmaɪrɪŋɡə/ noun same as eardrum
myringitis /ˌmaɪrɪŋɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the eardrum
myringoplasty /ˌmaɪrɪŋɡəˌplɑsˈtɪ/ noun the surgical repair of a perforated eardrum. Also called tympanoplasty
myringotome /ˌmaɪrɪŋɡəˈtɑmə/ noun a sharp knife used in myringotomy
myringotomy /ˌmaɪrɪŋɡəˌtɒmə/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening in the eardrum to allow fluid to escape
mx- /miks/ prefix referring to mucus
myxoedema /ˌmaɪksəˈdɛmə/ noun a condition caused when the thyroid gland does not produce enough thyroid hormone. The person, often a middle-aged woman, becomes overweight, moves slowly and develops coarse skin. It can be treated with thyroxine. (Note: The US spelling is myxedema.)
myxoedematous /ˌmaɪksəˈdɛmətəs/ adjective referring to myxoedema
myxoid cyst /ˌmaɪksɔd ˈsɪst/ noun a cyst which develops at the base of a fingernail or toenail
myxoma /ˌmaɪksəˈmɑmə/ noun a benign tumour of mucous tissue, usually found in subcutaneous tissue of the limbs and neck
myxosarcoma /ˌmaɪksəˌsɑrəkɑmə/ noun a malignant tumour of mucous tissue
myxovirus /ˌmaɪksəˈvɜrəs/ noun any virus which has an affinity for the mucoprotein receptors in red blood cells. One of these viruses causes influenza.
n symbol nano-
nabothian cyst /næˈboʊθiən ˈsɪst/, nabothian /næˈboʊθiən/ 'sɪst/, nabothian /næˈboʊθiən/ 'sɪst/, nabothian /næˈboʊθiən/ 'sɪst/', nabothian /næˈboʊθiən/ 'sɪst/, nabothian
a cyst which forms in the cervix of the uterus when the ducts in the cervical glands are blocked
Naægele rule /ˈneɪɡəl ru/ noun a method used to determine when a pregnant woman is likely to go into labour, in which nine months and seven days are added to the date on which her last period started. If the woman does not have a 28-day menstrual cycle, an adjustment is made: e.g., if she has a 26-day cycle you would subtract 2 days from the Naægele’s estimated due date.
nævesus /ˈnɛvəs/ noun same as birthmark (note: The plural is naevi.)
Naga sore /nɑˈɡɑ sɑ/ noun same as tropical ulcer
nagging pain /ˈnæɡɪŋ ˈpeɪn/ noun a dull, continuous throbbing pain
NAI abbr non-accidental injury
nail /neɪl/ noun a hard growth, made of keratin, which forms on the top surface of the end of each finger and toe. Also called ungula (note: For terms referring to nail, see words beginning with onych-, onycho-)
nail avulsion /ˈneɪl əˌvʌlsən/ noun the act of pulling away an ingrowing toenail
nail bed /ˈneɪl bɛd/ noun the part of the finger which is just under the nail and on which the nail rests
nail biting /ˈneɪl ˈbɪtɪŋ/ noun the obsessive chewing of the fingernails, usually a sign of stress
nail matrix /ˈneɪl ˈmætrɪks/ noun the internal structure of the nail, the part of the finger from which the nail grows
naloxone /ˈnælɔksəʊn/ noun a drug resembling morphine, used in the diagnosis of narcotics addiction and to reverse the effects of narcotics poisoning
named nurse /ˈnɛmd /ˈnɜz/ noun a nurse, midwife or health visitor who is responsible for communicating with a particular person and ensuring that his or her needs for care and information are met
nandrolone /ˈnændrələʊn/ noun an anabolic steroid which builds muscle. Its use is banned by the International Amateur Athletics Federation.
nano- /ˈnænəʊ/ prefix one thousand millionth (10⁻⁹). Symbol n
nanometre /ˈnænəˌmoʊtər/ noun a unit of measurement of length equal to one thousand millionth of a metre. Symbol nm
nanomole /ˈnænəˌmoʊl/ noun a unit of measurement of the amount of a substance equal to one thousand millionth of a mole. Symbol nmol
nanosecond /ˈnænəˌsɛnd/ noun a unit of measurement of time equal to one thousand millionth of a second. Symbol ns
nap /ˈneɪp/ noun the back of the neck. Also called nucha
napkin /ˈneɪpkɪn/ noun a soft cloth, used for wiping or absorbing
nappy /ˈneɪpi/ noun a cloth used to wrap round a baby’s bottom and groin, to keep clothing clean and dry (note: The US term is diaper)
nappy rash /ˈneɪpi ˈreɪʃ/ noun sore red skin on a baby’s buttocks and groin, caused by long contact with ammonia in a wet nappy (note: The US term is diaper rash.)
naproxen /ˈnæprosɛn/ noun a drug which reduces inflammation and pain, used in the treatment of arthritis
narcissism /ˈnɑrəsɪsɪz/ (z)ɪzm noun in psychiatry, a personality disorder in which someone has a very confident opinion about their own appearance and abilities, and a great need to be admired by other people. It sometimes involves sexual interest in their own body.
narco- /ˈnɑrkəʊ/ prefix referring to sleep or stupor
narcoanalysis /ˈnɑrkəʊˌneɪkləˈzeɪʃəs/ noun the use of narcotics to induce a comatose state in someone about to undergo psychoanalysis which may be emotionally disturbing
narcolepsy /ˈnɑrkəlɛsɪ/ noun a condition in which someone has an uncontrollable tendency to fall asleep at any time
nasopharynx is the two ridges of bone, called the superior nasal conchae (plural noun). The three ridges of bone, called the superior nasal conchae, which project into the nasal cavity from the side walls. Also called turbinate bones.

nasal congestion: /'næzəl kənˈdʒestʃən/ plural noun the three ridges of bone, called the superior nasal conchae.

nasal drops /'næzəl dɒps/ plural noun drops of liquid inserted into the nose.

nasal septum /'næzəl ˈspɛtəm/ noun a wall of cartilage between the two nostrils and the two parts of the nasal cavity.

nasal spray /'næzəl spreɪ/ plural noun a spray of liquid into the nose.

narcotic /ˈnærkətɪk/ adjective 1. causing narcosis 2. having narcotics.

narcosis /ˈnærkoʊsɪs/ plural noun a state of lowered consciousness induced by a drug.

narrow /ˈnærəʊ/ adjective not wide. The blood vessel is a narrow channel which takes blood to the tissues. The surgeon inserted a narrow tube into the vein.

nasal /ˈn æzl/ adjective referring to the nose.

nasal apertures /ˈn æzl əˈpərtʃərz/ plural noun the two openings shaped like funnels leading from the nasal cavity to the pharynx.

nasal bone /ˈnæzl bɒn/ plural noun one of two small bones which form the bridge at the top of the nose.

nasal cartilage /ˈnæzl kɑrtəˈlɪdʒ/ plural noun one of two cartilages in the nose. The upper is attached to the nasal bone and the front of the maxilla. The lower is thinner and curls round each nostril to the septum.

nasal cavity /ˈnæzl ˈkævɪti/ plural noun the cavity behind the nose where the cribiform plates are above and the hard palate below, divided in two by the nasal septum and leading to the nasal sinuses and nasal passages.

nasal conchae /ˈnæzl kɒŋkəz/ plural noun the three ridges of bone, called the superior nasal conchae, which project into the nasal cavity from the side walls. Also called turbinate bones.

nasal congestion /ˈnæzl kənˈdʒestʃən/ plural noun the blocking of the nose by inflammation as a response to a cold or other infection.

nasal drops /ˈnæzl dɒps/ plural noun drops of liquid inserted into the nose.

nasal septum /ˈnæzl ˈspɛtəm/ plural noun a wall of cartilage between the two nostrils and the two parts of the nasal cavity.

nasal spray /ˈnæzl spreɪ/ plural noun a spray of liquid into the nose.

nascent /ˈnæsnt/ plural noun starting to develop.

naso- /ˈn æsəʊ/ prefix referring to the nose.

nasogastric /ˈnæzəʊˌgæstrɪk/ adjective referring to the nose and the stomach.

nasogastrically /ˈnæzəʊˌgæstrɪkli/ adverb referring to a method of feeding someone via a tube passed through the nose into the stomach.

nasolacrimal /ˈnæzləˈkræmɪkl/ adjective referring to the nose and the tear glands.

nasolacrimal duct /ˈnæzləˈkræmɪkl ˈdʌkt/ plural noun a duct which drains tears from the lacrimal sac into the nose.

nasosinusitis /ˈnæzləˈsaɪnəsɪtɪs/ plural noun inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nasal part of the pharynx.

nasopharyngeal /ˈnæzəfərˈfɪŋʒəl/ adjective referring to the nasopharynx.

nasopharyngeal-nasal /ˈnæzəˌfərˈfɪŋʒəl -ˈn æzl/ adjective referring to a substance, especially hydrogen, in the process of being created. At this stage it is often in a highly active form.
the NHS. She went to see a specialist on the NHS. Compare privately

‘...figures reveal that 5% more employees in the professional and technical category were working in the NHS compared with three years before’ [Nursing Times]

National Institute for Clinical Excellence /næʃ(ə)nl ɪnstɪtʃ(ə)nt fɔ klimnɪk(ə)l

‘<noun> an organisation in the UK which produces recommendations for treatments based on clinical evidence and cost-effectiveness. Abbr NICE

National Insurance /næʃ(ə)nl ɪnsərəns n noun a weekly payment from a person’s wages, with a supplement from the employer, which pays for state assistance and medical treatment, in the UK

natriuretic /næt(ə)rjuərɪtɪk/ noun something which helps sodium to be excreted in the urine

natural /ˈnætʃərəl/ adjective 1. usual or expected in particular conditions 2. It’s natural for people to be anxious before an operation, 2. referring to something which comes from nature and is not made by humans 3. natural products

natural child birth /ˈnætʃərəl tʃaɪldbɜːθ/ noun childbirth where the mother is not given any pain- killing drugs or anaesthetic but is encouraged to give birth after having prepared herself through relaxation and breathing exercises and a new psychological outlook

natural immunity /ˈnætʃərəl ɪmjuːnəti/ noun the immunity from disease which a newborn baby has from birth and which is inherited or acquired in the uterus or from the mother’s milk

natural killer cell /ˈnætʃərəl ˈkɪlə sel/ noun a white blood cell which can recognise microorganisms and tumour cells as foreign without any previous exposure to them, and destroy them

natural mother /ˈnætʃərəl ˈmʌðə/ noun the same as birth mother, birth parent

natural nurture debate /ˈnætʃərəl nɜːtʃərbɪt/ noun the arguments put forward about whether human beings behave in the way they do because of their genetic make-up and instincts or because of the way they are educated and the influences they are exposed to when they are young

naturopathy /ˈnætʃərəpəθi/ noun a method of treatment of diseases and disorders which does not use medical or surgical means, but natural forces such as light, heat, massage, eating natural foods and using herbal remedies

nausea /ˈnɔːziə/ noun a feeling that you want to vomit 1. She suffered from nausea in the morning. 2. He felt slight nausea after getting onto the boat.

COMMENT: Nausea can be caused by eating habits, such as eating too much rich food or drinking too much alcohol. It can also be caused by sensations such as unpleasant smells or motion sickness. Other causes include stomach disorders, such as gastritis, ulcers and liver infections. Nausea is commonly experienced by women in the early stages of pregnancy, and is called morning sickness.

nauseated /ˈnɔːziətɪd/ adjective feeling as if you are about to vomit 1. The casualty may feel nauseated. (Note: The US term is nauseous.)

nauseous /ˈnɔːziəs/ adjective having the feeling in the stomach that precedes the urge to vomit

navel /ˈnɛv(ə)l/ noun the scar with a depression in the middle of the abdomen where the umbilical cord was detached after birth. Also called umbilicus (Note: For other terms referring to the navel, see words beginning with omphalo-)

navicular /ˈnævɪkjuələr/ adjective relating to a navicular bone same as navicular bone

navicular bone /ˈnævɪkjuələr bɔːn/ noun one of the tarsal bones in the foot. See illustration at FOOT in Supplement

NCVO noun a government body in the UK responsible for setting standards of qualification for specific jobs. Full form National Council for Vocational Qualifications

NDU abbr Nursing Development Unit

nearsighted /ˈnɛəsɑːtɪd/ adjective same as myopic

nearsightedness /ˈnɛəsɑːtɪdəsn/ noun same as myopia

nebula /ˈnebjʊlə/ noun 1. a slightly cloudy spot on the cornea 2. a spray of medicinal solution, applied to the nose or throat using a nebuliser

nebuliser /ˈnebjʊlɪzaʃə, ˌnebəlɪzaʃə/ noun same as atomiser

Necator /ˈnɛkətər/ noun a genus of hookworm which infests the small intestine

necatoriasis /ˈne,kektəriəsɪs/ noun infestation of the small intestine by the parasite Necator

neck /nɛk/ noun 1. the part of the body which joins the head to the body 2. He is suffering from pains in the neck. 3. The front of the neck is swollen with goitre. 4. The jugular veins run down the side of the neck. 2. a narrow part of a bone or organ 3. neck of the femur: femoral neck the narrow part between the head and the diaphysis of the femur 4. neck of a tooth point where a tooth narrows slightly, between the crown and the root
neck collar  /ˈnekˌklɔr/ noun a strong high collar to support the head of a person with neck injuries or a condition such as cervical spondylosis

necro- /nɛkrəʊ-/ prefix referring to death

necrobiosis /nɛkrəˈboʊsɪs/ noun 1. the death of cells surrounded by living tissue 2. the gradual localised death of a part or tissue

necrology /ˈnekrəlɒdʒi/ noun the scientific study of mortality statistics

necrophilia /nɛkrəˈfilɪə/, necrophilism /ˈnekrəfilɪz(ə)m/ noun 1. unusual pleasure in corpses 2. sexual attraction to dead bodies

necropsy /ˈnekroʊpsɪ/ noun same as post mortem

necrosed /ˈnɛkrəʊzd-/ adjective referring to dead tissue or bone

necrosis /nɛkrəˈzoʊsɪs/ noun the death of a part of the body such as a bone, tissue or an organ as a result of disease or injury ○ Gangrene is a form of necrosis.

necrospermia /nɛkrəˈspermɪə/ noun a condition in which dead sperm exist in the semen

necrotic /nɛkrəˈtɪk/ adjective referring to, or affected with, necrosis ○ necrotic tissue

necrotising enterocolitis /ˌnɛkrətɪzɪŋ ˈentərəkəlɪtɪs/ noun a disorder in which patches of dead tissue are found in the small or large intestine as a result of severe bacterial infection. It occurs in babies, especially premature ones.

necrotising fasciitis /ˌnɛkrətɪzɪŋ ˈfæsɪɪtɪs/ noun a severe bacterial infection that causes cell tissue to decay rapidly (NOTE: It is sometimes referred to in the media as the ‘flesh-eating bug.’)

necrototomy /ˈnekrətɒmɪ/ noun the dissection of a dead body (NOTE: The plural is necrotomies).

needle /ˈnɪdl/ noun 1. a thin metal instrument with a sharp point at one end and a hole at the other for attaching a thread, used for sewing up surgical incisions 2. the hollow pointed end of a hypodermic syringe, or the syringe itself

needle myopathy /ˈnɪdlˌmiəˈpəʊθi/ noun destruction of muscle tissue caused by using a large needle for intramuscular injections

needlestick /ˈnɪdlstɪk/ noun an accidental pricking of your own skin by a needle, as by a nurse picking up a used syringe

needlestick injury /ˈnɪdlstɪk ˌɪndʒərɪ/ noun the real or potential harm resulting from a prick with a needle previously used to take blood or give an injection. The main concern is the risk of HIV or hepatitis B infection.

needling /ˈnɪdlɪŋ/ noun the puncture of a cataract with a needle

needs assessment /ˈnɪdz əˌsɛsˌmen t/ noun the investigation of what a particular group of people need in terms of health and social care, so that services can be matched to their needs

needs deprivation /ˈnɪdz ˌdɪprɪˈveɪʃn/ noun a state in which someone does not have the opportunity or capacity to fulfil his or her basic needs

negative /ˈnegətɪv/ adjective 1. meaning or showing ‘no’ ○ The answer is in the negative 2. indicating that something being tested for is not present ○ The test results were negative. Opposite positive

negative feedback /ˈnegətɪv ˈfiːdbɛɪk/ noun a situation in which the result of a process represses the process which caused it

negativism /ˌnegətɪvɪz(ə)m/ noun the attitude of a person who opposes advice or instructions

COMMENT: There are two types of negativism: active, where someone does the opposite of what a doctor tells him or her, and passive, where someone does not do what he or she has been asked to do.

negligence /ˈneglɪdʒəns/ noun the act of causing injury or harm to another person or to property as the result of doing something wrongly or failing to provide a proper level of care

Negri body /ˈnegri ˈboʊdi/ noun a round or oval inclusion in the cytoplasm of nerve cells of people or animals who have rabies [Described 1903. After Adelchi Negri (1876–1912), Professor of Bacteriology at Pavia, Italy] Neil Robertson stretcher /ˈnɪl ˈrɔbətsˌstrɛtʃə/ noun a stretcher to which a person can be strapped and moved about in an upright position

Neisseria /nəˈsɪərɪə/ genus of bacteria which includes gonococcus, which causes gonorrhoea, and meningococcus, which causes meningitis

nematode /nɛməˈtɔd/ noun a type of parasitic roundworm, e.g. a hookworm, pinworm or roundworm

neo-/nɪəʊ- prefix new

neoadjuvant chemotherapy /ˌnɪədʒuˈvənt ˌkɛmɪˈθɛrəpi/ noun chemotherapy given to people with tumours instead of immediate surgery or radiotherapy, in the hope of reducing the need for these later neo-cerebellum /nɪəˈsɛrəbələm/ noun the middle part of the cerebellum (NOTE: The plural is neo-cerebellums or neo-cerebella.)

neomycin /ˌnɪəməˈsɪn/ noun a drug used externally to treat bacterial infections
neonatal /'niːəʊɒˈnet(ə)t/ adjective referring to the first few weeks after birth
“...one of the most common routes of neonatal poisoning is percutaneous absorption following topical administration” [Southern Medical Journal]

neonatal death rate /'niːəʊɒˈnet(ə)t/ ˈdeθ ˈreɪt/ noun the number of babies who die soon after birth, shown per thousand babies born

neonatal maceration /'niːəʊɒˈnet(ə)t/ ˈmeɪsərəʃən/ noun softening or rotting of fetal tissue after the fetus has died in the uterus and has remained in the amniotic fluid

neonatal screening /'niːəʊɒˈnet(ə)t/ ˈskiːrənɪŋ/ noun a set of tests performed on babies soon after birth so that any problems can be treated immediately (NOTE: Tests for certain diseases such as hypothyroidism and phenylketonuria are a legal duty)

neonate /'niːəʊɒət/ noun a baby which is less than four weeks old

neonatologist /'niːəʊəˌtɒləˈdʒɪst/ noun a specialist who looks after babies during the first few weeks of life, or premature babies and babies with some congenital disorders

neonatology /'niːəʊɒˈneɪtɒlɒdʒi/ noun the branch of medicine dealing with babies in the first few weeks of life

neonatorum /'niːəʊɒˈneɪtɒrəm/ ə asphyxia neonatorum

neoplasia /'niːəʊəˈpleɪziə/ noun the formation of tumours

neoplasm /'niːəʊəˈpleɪzləm/ noun any new and morbid formation of tissue

testicular cancer comprises only 1% of all malignant neoplasms in the male, but it is one of the most frequently occurring types of tumours in late adolescence [Journal of American College Health]

neoplastic /'niːəʊəˈplæstɪk/ adjective referring to neoplasms, neoplasia or neoplasia

neoplasticity noun the surgical repair or replacement of damaged tissue

neo-stigmamine /'niːəʊəˌstɪgməmɪn/ noun a white crystalline compound used in the treatment of muscle fatigue myasthenia and to reverse the effects of muscle relaxant drugs

nephro-/nefr/ prefix kidney

nephralgia /nefrəˈlejə/ noun pain in the kidney

nephralgic /nefrəˈlejɪk/ adjective relating to pain in the kidney

nephrectomy /nefrˈɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the whole kidney (NOTE: The plural is nephrectomies.)

nephric /nefr/κ/ nephritic /nefrɪtɪk/ adjective referring to the kidneys

nephritis /nefrɪˈtɪs/ noun inflammation of the kidney

COMMENT: Acute nephritis can be caused by a streptococcal infection. Symptoms can include headaches, swollen ankles, and fever.

nephroblastoma /ˌnefrəˈblaʊstəmə/ noun a malignant tumour in the kidneys in young children, usually under the age of 10, leading to swelling of the abdomen. It is treat- ed by removal of the affected kidney. Also called Wilms tumour (NOTE: The plural is nephroblastomas or nephroblastomata.)

nephrocalcinosis /ˌnefrəˌkælˈsɪnəs/ noun a condition in which calcium deposits are found in the kidney

nephrocapssulectomy /ˌnefrəˌkæpsˈjuːtəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the capsule round a kidney (NOTE: The plural is nephrocapsulectomies.)

nephrogram /ˈnefrəˌɡrəʊm/ noun a radiographic examination of the kidney

nephrolith /ˌnefrəˈloʊθ/ noun a stone in the kidney

nephrolithiasis /ˌnefrəˌlɪθˈeɪʒəs/ noun a condition in which stones form in the kidney

nephrotomy /ˌnefrəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a stone in the kidney (NOTE: The plural is nephrolithotomies.)

nephrologist /nefrəˈlɒɡɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of the kidney and its diseases

nephrology /nefrəˈlɒɡi/ noun the study of the kidney and its diseases

nephroma /nefrəˈrɒmə/ noun a tumour in the kidney, or a tumour derived from renal substances (NOTE: The plural is nephromas or nephromata.)

nephron /nefrən/ noun a tiny structure in the kidney through which fluid is filtered

COMMENT: A nephron is formed of a series of tubules, the loop of Henle, Bowman’s capsule and a glomerulus. Blood enters the nephron from the renal artery, and waste materials are filtered out by the Bowman’s capsule. Some substances return to the bloodstream by reabsorption in the tubules. Urine is collected in the ducts leading from the tubules to the ureters.

nephropathy /nefrəˈpɒθɪ/ noun a disease or medical disorder of the kidney (NOTE: The plural is nephropathies.)

nephropsy /nefrəˈprɒpsɪ/ noun a surgical operation to attach a mobile kidney (NOTE: The plural is nephropses.)

nephroptosis /ˌnefrəˌpəˈtɒsɪs/ noun a condition in which a kidney is mobile. Also called floating kidney

nephroscerosis /ˌnefrəˈskrəsɪs/ noun a kidney disease due to vascular change

nephroscope /ˌnefrəˈskroʊs/ noun a type of endoscope used to examine the kidneys

nephrosclerosis /ˌnefrəˌskrəˈsɪs/ noun degeneration of the tissue of a kidney

nephrostomy /ˌnefrəˈstrəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make a permanent opening into the pelvis of the kidney from the surface (NOTE: The plural is nephrostomies.)

nephrotic /nefrəˈtɪk/ adjective relating to or caused by nephrosis
nephrotic syndrome

nephrotic syndrome /nefr0tık 'sin drouma/ noun increasing oedema, albuminuria and raised blood pressure resulting from nephrosis

nephrotoxic /nefr0'toksi:k/ adjective poisonous to kidney cells

nephroureterectomy /'nekfr0rjuəre'tektəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove all or part of a kidney and the ureter attached to it. Also called ureteronephrectomy (NOTE: The plural is nephroureterectomies.)
nephroureterectomy /'nekfr0rjuəre'tektəmi/ noun a surgical operation to cut into a kidney (NOTE: The plural is nephroureterectomies.)

nerves transmit messages such as sight or pain to the central nervous system of lines and spaces, like a net or a network of fine blood vessels

nervous /'nəvəs/ adjective 1. referring to nerves 2. very easily worried or nervous — the operation is a very simple one.
nervous breakdown /'nəvəs 'breikdaun/ noun any sudden mental illness (informal)
nervous complaint /'nəvəs kom'plənt/, nervous disorder noun an emotional or mental illness (informal)
nervousness /'nəvəsnəs/ noun the state of being nervous

neurosurgical /'nəvəsədʒʊərəl/ adjective referring to a nerve or the nervous system

neuroarchitectured /'nəvərə'ɑrkitɛktɔd/ noun an interconnecting system of lines and spaces, like a net or a network of fine blood vessels

neuroanatomy /'nəvərə'nætəmi/ noun a modern model for nursing in which prevention is the primary nursing aim (NOTE: Prevention focuses on keeping both the things which cause stress and the patient’s response to stress from having a damaging effect on the body.)
nervous /'nəvəs/ adjective (used before vowel)

neurology /'nəvərəlapeuti/ noun the state of being nervous

neural tube /'nəvəl tjuːb/ noun a tube lined with ectodermal cells running the length of an embryo, which develops into the brain and spinal cord

neural tube defect /'nəvərəl tjuːb dɪ fekt/ noun a congenital anomaly which occurs when the edges of the neural tube do not close up properly while the fetus develops in the uterus, e.g. spina bifida (NOTE: There is less risk of a neural tube defect if the mother takes folic acid during her pregnancy.)
The plural is neurotases.

neuropraxia /ˌnjʊərəˈpræksɪə/ noun a lesion of a nerve which leads to paralysis for a very short time, giving a tingling feeling and loss of function

neuropathia /ˌnjʊəˈrɒpθiə/ noun a type of neurosis in which a person is mentally and physically irritable and extremely fatigued

neurotic /ˌnjʊəˈrɒtɪk/ noun a person affected by neurotisn

neurotis /ˌnjʊəˈroktaɪs/ noun a surgical operation to stretch a peripheral nerve (NOTE: The plural is neuroticas.)

neurectomy /ˌnjʊəˈrɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove all or part of a nerve (NOTE: The plural is neurectomies.)

neurilemma /ˌnjʊərɪˈlemə/ noun the outer sheath, formed of Schwann cells, which covers the myelin sheath around a nerve fibre. Also called neurolemma. See illustration at NEU- RONE in Supplement

neurilemma /ˌnjʊərɪˈleɪmə/ noun a benign tumour of a nerve, formed from the neurilemma (NOTE: The plurals are neurilemmomas or neurolemmomas and neurinomas or neuroinomas.)

neuritis /ˌnjʊəˈrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a nerve, giving a constant pain

neuro-/njʊəro/ prefix nerve or nervous system

neuroanatomy /ˌnjʊərəˈnætmə/ noun the scientific study of the structure of the nervous system

neuroblast /ˌnjʊəroʊˈblæst/ noun a cell in the embryonic spinal cord which forms a nerve cell

neuroblastoma /ˌnjʊərəˈblæstəʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour formed from the neural crest, found mainly in young children (NOTE: The plural is neuroblastomas or neuroblastosomas.)

neurocranium /ˌnjʊərəˈkrɛnɪəmə/ noun a part of the skull which encloses and protects the brain (NOTE: The plural is neurocraniums or neurocrania.)

neurodegenerative /ˌnjʊərəˈdʒɪdərətɪv/ adjective referring to a disorder such as Alzheimer’s disease or Parkinson’s disease that causes damage to the nerves

neurodermatitis /ˌnjʊərəˈdrɒmətɪtɪs/ noun a nervous condition involving the skin caused by psychological factors

neurodermatosis /ˌnjʊərəˈdrɒmətɒsɪs/ noun a condition of the skin caused by the nervous system

neuroendocrine system /ˌnjʊərəˈændəkrɪn/ system a system in which the central nervous system and hormonal systems interact to control the function of organs and tissues

neuroepithelial /ˌnjʊərəˌɛpθiˈɛlɪl/ adjective referring to the neuroepithelium

neuroepithelioma /ˌnjʊərəˌɛpθiˈɛlɪmə/ noun a malignant tumour in the retina (NOTE: The plural is neuroepitheliomas or neuroepitheliomata.)

neuroepithelium /ˌnjʊərəˌɛpθiˈɛlɪəm/ noun the layer of epithelial cells forming part of the lining of the mucous membrane of the nose or the labyrinth of the middle ear

neurofibril /ˌnjʊərəˈfaɪbrɪl/ noun a fine thread in the cytoplasm of a neuron

neurofibrilla /ˌnjʊərəˈfaɪbrɪlə/ noun same as neurofibril, see illustration at NEURONE in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is neurofibri- lae.)

neurofibroma /ˌnjʊərəˈfaɪbroymə/ noun a benign tumour of a nerve, formed from the neurofibriloma (NOTE: The plural is neurofibromas or neurofibromata.)

neurofibromatosis /ˌnjʊərəˈfaɪbroʊməˈtɒsɪs/ noun a hereditary condition in which a person has neurofibromata on the nerve trunks, limb plexuses or spinal roots, and pale brown spots appear on the skin. Abb: NF. Also called molluscum fibrosum, von Reckling- hausen’s disease

neurogenesis /ˌnjʊərəˈdʒenəsɪs/ noun the development and growth of nerves and nervous tissue

neurogenic /ˌnjʊərəˈdʒɪnɪk/ adjective 1. coming from the nervous system 2. referring to neurogenesis

neurogenic bladder /ˌnjʊərəˈdʒɪnɪk ˈblædər/ noun a disturbance of the bladder function caused by lesions in the nerve supply to the bladder

neurogenic shock /ˌnjʊərəˈdʒɪnɪk ˈʃʊk/ noun a state of shock caused by bad news or an unpleasant surprise

neuroglandular junction /ˌnjʊərəˌɡlændjʊlər/ dʒənˈdʒəŋkʃən/ noun the point where a nerve joins the gland which it controls

nervous /ˈnjʊəvəs/ adjective same as glia

neurohormone /ˌnjʊərəˈhɔrmən/ noun a hormone produced in some nerve cells and secreted from the nerve endings

neurohypophysis /ˌnjʊərəˌhɔˈpɒfɪsɪs/ noun the lobe of the pituitary gland, which secretes oxytocin and vasopressin (NOTE: The plural is neurohypophyses.)

neurolema /ˌnjʊərəˈlɛmə/ noun same as neurolemma

neuroleptic /ˌnjʊərəˈlɛptɪk/ noun an anti- psychotic drug which calms a person and stops him or her from worrying, e.g. chlorpromazine hydrochloride

neurological /ˌnjʊərəˌlɒdʒɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to neurology

neurological assessment /ˌnjʊərəˌlɒdʒɪk(ə)l əˌsɛsment/ noun an evaluation of the health of a person with a disorder of the nervous system, using interviews, a
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physical examination, and specific diagnostic tests, sometimes with the help of a family member or close friend

neurologist /neu'roloɡist/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of the nervous system and the treatment of its diseases

neurology /neu'roloɡi/ noun the scientific study of the nervous system and its diseases

neuroma /neu'roʊmə/ noun a benign tumour formed of nerve cells and nerve fibres (NOTE: The plural is neuromas or neuromata.)

neuromuscular /neu'roʊməsəkjuəl/ adjective referring to both nerves and muscles

neuromuscular junction /neu'roʊməsəkjuəl ɪn'ʃʌn/ the point where a motor nerve joins muscle fibre. Also called myoneural junction

neuromyelitis optica /neu'rəʊmoʊlətɪs əʊptɪˈkə/ noun a condition, similar to multiple sclerosis, in which a person has acute myelitis and the optic nerve is also affected. Also called Devic’s disease

neuron /nju'roʊn/ noun a cell in the nervous system which transmits nerve impulses. Also called nerve cell

neuropathic bladder /nju'ropæθɪk 'bledə/ noun a condition in which the bladder does not function properly because its nerve supply is damaged, e.g. due to an injury to the spinal cord

neuropathology /nju'roʊpæθələ'ʒi/ noun the study of diseases of the nervous system

neuropathy /nju'roʊpæθi/ noun a disease involving dysfunction of the tissues of the nervous system (NOTE: The plural is neuropathies.)

neurophysiology /nju'roʊfɪzələ'jɪ/ noun the study of the physiology of nerves

neuroplasty /nju'roʊpəlæstɪ/ noun surgery to repair damaged nerves

neuropsychiatric /nju'roʊpsikˈtrɪk/ adjective referring to neuropsychiatry

neuropsychiatry /nju'roʊpsikətɹi/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study and treatment of mental and nervous disorders

neurophysiology /nju'roʊfɪzələ'jɪ/ noun the study of mental and nervous disorders

neuorrhaphy /nju'roʊrəfə/ noun a surgical operation to join by suture a nerve which has been cut (NOTE: The plural is neuorrhaphies.)

neurosarcoma /nju'roʊsərəkəmə/ noun a malignant neuroma (NOTE: The plural is neurosarcomas or neurosarcomata.)

neurosecretion /nju'roʊsəkriʃən/ noun 1. a substance secreted by a nerve cell 2. the process of secretion of an active substance by nerve cells

neurosis /nju'roʊsɪs/ noun a disorder of the personality in which a person experiences obsessive negative emotions towards someone or something, e.g. fear of empty spaces or jealousy of a sibling. ◆ psychoneurosis (NOTE: The plural is neuroses.)

neurosurgeon /nju'roʊsərˈjuən/ noun a surgeon who operates on the nervous system, including the brain and spinal cord

neurosurgery /nju'roʊsərˈje/ noun surgery on the nervous system, including the brain and spinal cord

neurosyphilis /nju'roʊsɪfɪl/ noun syphilis which attacks the nervous system

neurotic /nju'roʊtɪk/ adjective relating to or having neurosis ◆ noun a person who is worried about or obsessed with something (informal).

neurotically /nju'roʊtɪkli/ adverb in a neurotic way ◆ She is neurotically obsessed with keeping herself clean.

neurotomy /nju'roʊtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to cut a nerve (NOTE: The plural is neurotomies.)

neurotoxic /nju'roʊtəkəsɪk/ adjective harmful or poisonous to nerve cells

neurotransmitter /nju'roʊtrənˈmɪtər/ noun a chemical substance which transmits nerve impulses from one neuron to another

COMMENT: The main neurotransmitters are the catecholamines (adrenaline, noradrenaline and 5-hydroxytryptamine) and acetylcholine. Other neurotransmitters such as gamma aminobutyric acid, glutamine and substance P are less common.

neurotropin /nju'roʊtrəpən/ noun surgical bruising or crushing of a nerve

neurotrophic /nju'roʊtrəfɪk/ adjective relating to the nutrition and maintenance of tissue of the nervous system

neurotropic /nju'roʊtrətɪk/ adjective referring to a bacterium which is attracted to and attacks nerves

neutral /nuətrəl/ adjective neither male nor female

neutral /nuətrəl/ adjective neither acid nor alkali ◆ A pH factor of 7 is neutral.

neutralise /nuətrəlaɪz/ verb 1. to counteract the effect of something ◆ Alkali poisoning can be neutralised by applying acid solution. (NOTE: neutralising – neutralised) 2. to form a salt from an acid

neuropenia /nju'roʊpəni/ noun a condition in which there are fewer neutrophils than usual in the blood

neutrophil /nju'roʊtəfɪl/ noun a type of white blood cell with an irregular nucleus, which can attack and destroy bacteria. Also called polymorph

newborn /nu'jubən/ adjective born recently. ◆ neonatal ◆ noun a recently born baby. ◆ neonate
newton /'njuːt(ə)n/ noun an SI unit of measurement of force. Symbol N

COMMENT: One newton is the force required to move one kilogram at the speed of one metre per second

new variant CJD /'niːvərənt/ variant SId'tjuː /dʒiːd/ noun S variant CJD

next-day pill /ˈneks(t) dɪˈpil/ noun same as morning-after pill

next of kin /ˈneks(t) əv ˈkiːn/ noun the person or persons who are most closely related to someone ○ The hospital has notified the next of kin of the death of the accident victim. (NOTE: Takes a singular or plural verb.)

nexus /ˈneksəs/ noun 1. a link (NOTE: The plural is nexuses or nidi.) 2. a point where two organs or tissues join

NF abbr neurofibromatosis

NHS abbr National Health Service

NHS Direct /en dɪˈrekt/ es dɪˈrekt/ noun in the UK, a national telephone helpline run by nurses to provide information about health and health services for the public

niacin /ˈnəsiən/ noun a vitamin of the vitamin B complex found in milk, meat, liver, kidney, yeast, beans, peas and bread, lack of which can cause mental disorders and pellagra. Also called nicotinic acid

nicardipine /ˈnɪkɑrədiˈpɪn/ noun a drug which slows the movement of calcium ions into smooth muscle cells, used especially to treat angina

NICE /ˈnɪs(ə) / abbr National Institute for Clinical Excellence

nick /nɪk/ noun a little cut ○ She had a nick in her earlobe which bled. □ verb to make a little cut in something ○ He nicked his chin while shaving.

cicosamide /nɪkəˈsaɪəməd/ noun a drug used for removing tapeworms

nicotine /ˈnɪkətiən/ noun the main alkaloid substance found in tobacco

nicotine addiction /ˈnɪkətiən ədˈdɪkʃən/ noun an addiction to nicotine, derived from smoking tobacco

nicotine patch /ˈnɪkətiən ˈpætʃ/ noun a patch containing nicotine which is released slowly into the bloodstream, applied to the skin as a method of curing nicotine addiction

nicotine poisoning /ˈnɪkətiən pəˈzaɪnɪŋ/ noun poisoning of the autonomic nervous system with large quantities of nicotine. Also called nicotinism

nicotinic receptor /ˈnɪkətiən rɪˈseptər/ noun a cholinergic receptor found at the neuromuscular junction on skeletal muscle and in the autonomic ganglia, which responds to nicotine and nicotine-like drugs. Also called nicotinic receptor

nicotinic acid /ˌnɪkətiən əˈkید/ same as niacin

nicotinic receptor /ˈnɪkətiən ˈrɪseptər/ noun same as nicotine receptor

nicotinism /ˈnɪkətiənɪzəm/ noun same as nicotine poisoning

nictation /ˈnɪktəʃən/ noun the act of winking

nidus /ˈnɪdəs/ noun a site where bacteria can settle and breed, which becomes a centre of infection (NOTE: The plural is niduses or nidi.)

Niemann-Pick disease /niːmən ˈpɪk di ˈdʒiːd/ noun a rare inherited disease of a group which affect metabolism. Signs in babies include feeding difficulties, a large abdomen within 3 to 6 months, and progressive loss of early motor skills.

nifedipine /ˈnɪfədiˈpɪn/ noun a drug which stops the heart muscles from taking up calcium, used in the treatment of high blood pressure and angina pectoris

night duty /ˈnaɪt djuːtɪ/ noun the situation of working at night ○ Nurse Smith is on night duty this week.

Nightingale ward /ˈnɪktəl/ noun an old-fashioned type of long ward with a row of beds along each wall and a centrally placed point for the nurse in charge to work from

nightmare /ˈnɪtˈmeɪər/ noun a dream which frightens the dreamer ○ The child had a nightmare and woke up screaming.

night nurse /ˈnaɪt nɜːs/ noun a nurse who is on duty at night

night sweat /ˈnaɪt swet/ noun heavy sweating when a person is asleep at night

night terror /ˈnaɪt tərər/ noun a period of disturbed sleep, which a child does not remember afterwards

nigra /ˈnɪgrə/ adjective relating to or showing a belief in nihilism

nihilism /ˈnɪhəlɪzəm/ noun the rejection of all the usual social conventions and beliefs, especially of morality and religion

nihilistic /ˌnɪhəlɪstɪk/ adjective relating to or showing a belief in nihilism

ninety-nine /ˈnaɪnti ˈnɪnti/ noun a number which a doctor asks a person to say so that he or she can inspect the back of the throat ○ The doctor told him to open his mouth wide and say ninety-nine.

nipple /ˈnɪp(ə)l/ noun 1. same as mammilla 2. US a rubber teat on a baby’s feeding bottle
Nissl granule

Nissl granule /ˈnɪs(ə)l ˈɡrænˌʒʊrəl/ Nissl body /ˈnɪs(ə)l ˈbɒdi/ one of the coarse granules surrounding the nucleus in the cytoplasm of nerve cells. See illustration at NEU- RONE in Supplement [Described 1894. After Franz Nissl (1860–1919), German psychiatrist.]

lit /lit/ noun an egg or larva of a louse

nitrater /ˈnaɪt.rət/ noun 1. a salt or an ester of nitric acid 2. a drug such as glyceryl trinitrate which dilates the vessels leading to the heart muscle and lowers cardiac work by reducing venous return to the heart, for rapid relief of angina and in heart failure [NOTE: Patients can develop tolerance to these drugs.]

-nitrate /ˈnaɪt.rət/ suffix used in names of nitrate drugs

nitrazepam /ˈnaɪt.ræz.ə.pəm/ noun a tranquiliser used in some sleeping pills

nitrofurantoin /ˌnaɪt.rəˈfuːr.ən.tɔɪn/ noun a drug which helps to prevent the growth of bacteria, used in the treatment of urinary infections

nitrogen /ˈnaɪt.ər.ʒən/ noun a chemical element, which is a gas that is the main component of air and is an essential part of protein [NOTE: The chemical symbol is N.]

COMMENT: Nitrogen is taken into the body by digesting protein-rich foods; excess nitrogen is excreted in urine. When the intake of nitrogen and the excretion rate are equal, the body is in nitrogen balance or protein balance.

nitroglycerin /ˈnaɪt.əɡl.ə.sər.ɪn/ noun a drug which helps to prevent the growth of bacteria, used in the treatment of urinary infections

nitrous oxide /ˈnaɪt.rəs ˈaʊd.əs/ noun a colourless gas with a sweet smell, used in combination with other gases as an anaesthetic in dentistry and surgery. Also called laughing gas

nm abbr nanometre

NMC abbr Nursing and Midwifery Council

nmol abbr nanomole

NMR abbr nuclear magnetic resonance

Nocardia /ˈnəʊ.kər.dɪ.ə/ noun a genus of bacteria found in soil, some species of which cause nocardiosis and maduramycosis

nocardiosis /ˌnəʊ.kər.dɪ.əˈsɪsɪs/ Nocardia /ˌnəʊ.kər.dɪ.ə/ noun a lung infection which may metastasise to other tissue, caused by Nocardia

noci-/ˈnəʊ.sɪ/ prefix pain or injury

nociaassociation /ˌnəʊ.sɪ.əˌsəˌsɪ.ʃən/ noun an unconscious release of nervous energy, e.g. as a result of shock

nociceptive /ˌnəʊ.sɪ.ˈsɛptɪv/ adjective referring to nerves which carry pain to the brain

nociceptor /ˌnəʊ.sɪ.ˈsɛptər/ noun a sensory nerve which carries pain to the brain

nocit- /ˈnɒk.tɪ/ prefix night

nocambulation /ˌnɒk.təmˈbjuːlə.ʃən/ noun same as somnambulism

coc- /ˈnɒktɪ/ adverb at night. Opposite MANE [NOTE: used on prescriptions]

nocuria /ˈnɒk.tər.iə/ noun the fact of passing an unusually large quantity of urine during the night

nocurnal /ˈnɒk.tən(ə)r/ adjective referring to or taking place at night

nocurnal emission /ˈnɒk.tən(ə)r ɪnˈʃən/ 'ris.tis/ noun the act of passing urine when asleep in bed at night. Also called bedwetting

nodal /ˈnəʊ.dəl/ adjective referring to nodes

nodal tachycardia /ˈnəʊ.dəl ˈtæk.ɪ.dʒə/ noun a sudden attack of rapid heartbeats. Also called paroxysmal tachycardia

node /ˈnəʊ.d/ noun 1. a small mass of tissue 2. a group of nerve cells

node of Ranvier /ˈnəʊ.d əv ˈræn.vɪə/ noun one of a series of gaps in the myelin sheath surrounding a nerve fibre. See illustration at NEU- RONE in Supplement

nod off verb to fall asleep (internal)

nodosum /ˈnəʊ.dəs.əm/ noun a swelling

nodular /ˈnəʊ.dələr/ adjective formed of nodules

nodule /ˈnəʊ.dəl/ noun 1. a small node or group of cells 2. Bohn’s nodules 2. the anterior part of the inferior vermis

noma /ˈnəʊ.mə/ noun same as cancer tum oris

nomen proprium /ˈnəʊ.mən ˈprəʊprɪ.əm/ noun full form of n.p.

non- /nɒn/ prefix not

non-A, non-B hepatitis noun now called hepatitis C

non-absorbable suture /ˈnɒn əb.ɜːr.bəˈbəl/ noun a suture made of a substance which cannot be absorbed into the body and which eventually has to be removed

non-accidental injury /ˈnɒn əkˈsɪ.dəntəl ɪnˈdʒɜːri/ noun a injury which is not caused accidentally

non-allergic /ˈnɒn əl ərˈdʒɛnɪk/ adjective not aggravating an allergy

non-cancerous /ˈnɒn ˈkænsər.əs/ adjective not malignant

non-clinical /ˈnɒn ˈkli.nɪkl/ adjective referring to the wider non-medical aspects of patient care O non-clinical services such as administration and catering O non-clinical guidelines including confidentiality protocols

non-compliance /ˈnɒn kəmˈplɛn.əs/ noun the failure to take drugs at the correct times and in the dosages prescribed, or to take them at all

NRM abbr Nuclear Research and Medical Division

nmol abbr nanomole

NMR abbr Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
non compos mentis /ˌnɒn kɒmpəsˈmɛntɪs/ adjective referring to a person who is mentally incapable of managing his or her own affairs (NOTE: From a Latin phrase meaning ‘not of sound mind’).

non-contagious /ˌnɒn kɑːnˈtɛɡəs/ adjective not contagious

non-drowsy /ˌnɒn ˈdraʊzɪ/ adjective not causing drowsiness

non-emergency surgery /ˌnɒn ˈɛmnɪʒərri/ noun a surgical operation which does not need to be performed immediately because it is for a condition which is not life-threatening, e.g. joint replacement. Also called non-urgent surgery

non-granular leucocyte /ˌnɒn ˈɡrænjuːlər/ noun a leucocyte which has no granules, e.g. a lymphocyte or monocyte

non-Hodgkins lymphoma /ˌnɒn hɒʤknz ˈlɪmfoʊmə/ noun a cancer of the lymph nodes which differs from Hodgkin’s disease by the absence of a particular type of cell with double nuclei

non-insulin-dependent diabetes /ˌnɒn ˌɪnsjʊlɪn ˈdɛpəndənt dɪˈbɛtɪs/ noun same as Type II diabetes mellitus

non-invasive /ˌnɒn ɪnˈvɪzɪv/ adjective referring to treatment which does not involve entering the body by making an incision

non-malignant /ˌnɒn ˈmælɪɡənt/ adjective not cancerous, or not life-threatening or non-malignant growth

non-medical /ˌnɒn ˈmedɪkəl/ adjective 1. not relating to medicine or non-medical genetic 2. not according to medical practice, or not as directed by a doctor or non-medical use of stimulant drugs 3. not used in specialised medical speech or ‘Nervous breakdown’ is a non-medical term for a type of sudden mental illness.

non-nucleated /ˌnɒn ˈnjuːkliətɪd/ adjective referring to a cell with no nucleus

non-official drug /ˌnɒn ˈɔfɪʃəl ˈdrʌg/ noun a drug that is not listed in the national pharmacopoeia

non-palpable /ˌnɒn ˈpælpəbl/ adjective not able to be felt when touched

non-paralytic poliomyelitis /ˌnɒn ˈpærəlɪtɪk ˈpɔlɪməˌlɪtɪs/ noun a form of poliomyelitis similar to abortive poliomyelitis but which also affects the muscles to some degree

non-secretor /ˌnɒn ˈsɛkrɪtər/ noun a person who does not secrete substances indicating ABO blood group into mucous fluids such as semen or saliva

non-smoker /ˌnɒn ˈsmɔːkər/ noun a person who does not smoke

non-specific /ˌnɒn ˈspɛsɪfɪk/ adjective not caused by any single identifiable cause

non-specific urethritis /ˌnɒn ˈspɛsɪfɪk ˌjuːrɪˈtɛrɪtɪs/ noun any sexually transmitted inflammation of the urethra not caused by gonorrhoea (dated). Abbr NSU

non-sterile /ˌnɒn ˈstɛrɪl/ adjective not sterile or sterilised

non-steroidal /ˌnɒn ˈstɛrədʒəl/ adjective not containing steroids

non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug /ˌnɒn ˈstɛrədʒəl ˌænтиˌɪnˈfləmətɔrɪ ˈdrʌg/ noun a drug used in the treatment of pain associated with inflammation, including rheumatic disease, post-operative analgesia and dysmenorrhoea, by inhibiting the release of prostaglandins. Abbr NSAID (NOTE: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs have names ending in -fen

ibuprofen.)

COMMENT: Serious gastro-intestinal side effects can occur, especially in the elderly. Asthma can worsen.

non-union /ˌnɒn ˈjʊnɪn/ noun a condition in which the two parts of a fractured bone do not join together and do not heal

non-urgent surgery /ˌnɒn ˈərdʒənt ˈsɛrɡjʊrɪ/ same as non-emergency surgery

noradrenaline /ˌnɔːrədrenəˈlایn/ noun a hormone secreted by the medulla of the adrenal glands which acts as a vasoconstrictor and is used to maintain blood pressure in shock, haemorrhage or hypotension (NOTE: The US term is norepinephrine.)

norma /ˈnɔːrmə/ noun a view of the skull as seen from a particular angle (NOTE: The plural is normae)

normal /ˈnɔːrm(ə)l/ adjective usual, ordinary or conforming to a standard. After he took the tablets, his blood pressure went back to normal. ○ He had an above-normal pulse rate. ○ Is it normal for a person with myopia to suffer from headaches?

normally /ˈnɔːrməli/ adverb in an ordinary way, on most occasions or in most circumstances. The patients are normally worried before the operation. He was breathing normally.

normo- /ˈnɔrməʊ/ prefix normal, usual or expected

normoblast /ˈnɔrməblɑːst/ noun an early form of a red blood cell, usually found only in bone marrow but occurring in the blood in some types of leukaemia and anaemia

normocyte /ˈnɔrməsət/ noun a red blood cell

normocytic /ˈnɔrməsətɪk/ adjective referring to a normocyte
nosebleed /nəʊzˈblid/ noun an incident of bleeding from the nose, usually caused by a blow or by sneezing, by blowing the nose hard or by high blood pressure (informal) She had a headache, followed by a violent nosebleed. Also called epistaxis.
nose- /nəʊs-/ prefix disease
nosocomial /ˌnɒsəʊˈkæmiəl/ adjective referring to hospitals
nosocomial infection /ˌnɒsəʊsˈkæmiəl ɪnfækʃən/ noun an infection which is passed on to a person being treated in a hospital
nosology /ˈnɒsəlɒdʒi/ noun the classification of diseases
nostril /ˈnɒstrɪl/ noun one of the two passages in the nose through which air is breathed in or out His right nostril is blocked. (Note: The nostrils are also referred to as the nares.)
nostrils /ˈnɒstrɪlz/ plural of nostril
notch /nɒtʃ/ noun a depression on a surface, usually on a bone, but sometimes on an organ.
cardiac notch, occipital notch
notice /ˈnəʊtɪs/ noun 1. a piece of writing giving information, usually put in a place where everyone can see it 2. a warning They had to leave with ten minutes’ notice. 3. attention to take notice (of something or someone) to give attention (to something or someone) We need to take notice of this feedback.
verb to see or be aware of something No body noticed that she was sweating. Did you notice the development of any new symptoms? (Note: noticing – noticed)
normocytosis /ˈnɔrmoʊsɪtəsɪs/ noun the condition of having the standard number of red blood cells in the peripheral blood
normotension /nɔrmoʊˈtɛnʃən/ noun blood pressure at the usual level
normotensive /nɔrmoʊˈtɛnsɪv/ adjective referring to blood pressure at the usual level
Norton score /ˈnɔrt(ə)n ˈskɔːr/ noun a scale for deciding how likely it is that pressure sores will develop, used mostly in assessing elderly patients
nortriptyline /ˈnɔrtriptɪlɪn/ noun a drug used to reduce pain and as an antidepressant and tranquiliser
noticeable /ˈnəʊtɪsəb(ə)l/ adjective able to be noticed The disease has no easily noticeable symptoms.
noticeboard /ˈnəʊtɪsbɔːd/ noun a flat piece of wood, or board fixed on a wall, on which notices can be pinned
notifiable disease /ˌnəʊtɪfərəb(ə)l/ dɪˈzɪz/ noun a serious infectious disease which, in the UK, has to be reported by a doctor to the Department of Health so that steps can be taken to stop it spreading. Comment: The following are notifiable diseases: cholera, diphtheria, dysentery, encephalitis, food poisoning, jaundice, malaria, measles, meningitis, ophthalmia neonatorum, paratyphoid, plague, poliomyelitis, relapsing fever, scarlet fever, smallpox, tuberculosis, typhoid, typhus, whooping cough and yellow fever.
notify /ˈnəʊtɪfai/ verb to inform a person or authority officially The local doctor notified the Health Service of the case of cholera. (Note: notifies – notifying – notified. You notify a person of something.)
nourish /ˈnɜːrɪʃ/ verb to give food or nutrients to a person
nourishment /ˈnɔːrɪʃmənt/ noun 1. the act of supplying nutrients to a person 2. food and the nutrients in it, e.g. proteins, fats or vitamins
noxious /ˈnɒksəs/ adjective harmful n.p. noun the name of the drug written on the label of its container. Full form nomen proprium
NPO abbreviation used to refer to patients being kept without food The patient should be kept NPO for five hours before the operation. Full form ne per os
NSAID abbr non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug
NSU abbr non-specific urethritis
nucleic acid of a type found in all living cells, e.g. DNA
nucleic acid /njuˈleɪk əˈsɪd/ noun same as nape (Note: The plural is nucleae.)
nuclear /ˈnjuːklər/ adjective referring to the back of the neck
nuclei /ˈnjuːklɪə/ plural of nucleus
nucleus /ˈnjuːkləs/ noun a small dense body which marks the center of a cell, or of an atom
nuclear magnetic resonance /ˈnjuːklər ˈmæɡ.nɪtɪk ˈrɛznəns/ noun a scanning technique using magnetic fields and radio waves which reveals abnormalities in soft tissue and body fluids. Also magnetic resonance imaging.
Abbrev NMR
nuclear medicine /ˌnjuːklər ˈmɛd(ə)si/ noun the use of radioactive substances for detecting and treating disorders
nuclease /ˈnjuːklɪskeɪz/ noun an enzyme which breaks down nucleic acids
nucleic acid /ˈnjuːklɪk əˈsɪd/ noun an organic acid of a type found in all living cells,
which consists of complex nucleotide chains which pass on genetic information, e.g. DNA or RNA.

nucleo- /nju:kləʊ-/ prefix referring to a cell or atomic nucleus.

nucleolus /nju:kləˈləʊs/ noun a structure inside a cell nucleus, containing RNA (NOTE: The plural is nucleoli.)

nucleoprotein /nju:kləˈprəʊtein/ noun a compound of protein and nucleic acid, e.g. a chromosome or ribosome.

nucleus /nju:kləs/ noun 1. a central part which has others grouped or built around it; the central body in a cell, which contains DNA and RNA and controls the function and characteristics of the cell. See illustration at NEURONE in Supplement 3. a group of nerve cells in the brain or spinal cord (NOTE: The plural is nuclei.)

nucleus pulposus /nju:kləs pəˈpouːs/ noun a soft central part of an intervertebral disc which disappears in old age (NOTE: The plural is nucleus pulposi.)

nullipara /nju:ˈlɪpərə/ noun a woman who has never had a child (NOTE: The plural is nulliparas or nulliparae.) adjective referring to a woman who has never had a child.

numb /nʌm/ adjective 1. referring to a part of the body which has no feeling 2. unable to feel emotion.

numbness /ˈnʌmnbəs/ noun a loss of feeling.

nurse /nɜːs/ noun a person who looks after patients. ○ She works as a nurse in the local hospital. ○ He’s training to be a nurse. ○ nurse practitioner noun verb 1. to look after a sick person, or to be employed as a nurse. ○ When he was ill his mother nursed him until he was better, 2. to behave so as not to aggravate a condition ○ nursing a sprained ankle (NOTE: nurses = nursing = nurse).

nurse executive director /nɜːs ɪgˈzekjʊtɪv dɪˈrɛktaʊr/ noun in the UK, a senior nurse who sits on the Board of an NHS Trust and has corporate as well as professional responsibilities in the organisation for nursing and sometimes other aspects such as quality or human resources.

nurse manager /nɜːsməˈɡɛnər/ noun a nurse who has administrative duties in a hospital or a health service.

nurse practitioner /nɜːsprækˈtɪʃən/ noun a nurse with additional clinical training at degree level who often works independently, assessing, diagnosing and treating patients, particularly in primary care.

nurse station /ˈnɜːstɛn/ noun an area in or near a ward from which nurses work, keep records and control the activities of the ward.

nurse tutor /nɜːstəʊˈtjuːtə/ noun an experienced nurse who teaches student nurses.

nursing /ˈnɜːsɪŋ/ noun 1. the work or profession of being a nurse ○ He has chosen nursing as his career. 2. care for sick people provided by a nurse. ○ adjective providing care as a nurse. ○ few would now dispute the need for clear, concise nursing plans to guide nursing practice, provide educational tools and give an accurate legal record (Nursing Times). ○ all relevant sections of the nurses’ care plan and nursing process records had been left blank (Nursing Times).

Nursing and Midwifery Council /nɜːsɪŋ ænd mɪdˈwɪfəri kəʊnsəl/ noun in the UK, an organisation that sets standards for the education, practice and conduct of nurses, midwives and health visitors. Abbreviation NMC.

nursing audit /ˈnɜːsɪŋ əˈdʌt/ noun a formal detailed review of records or observation of nursing actions so that judgments can be made about the quality of nursing care being given. (NOTE: The documented evidence is compared with accepted standards and criteria.)

nursing development unit /nɜːsɪŋ dɪˈvɝ̃pment ʌnɪt/ noun a nurse-led ward or unit that sets out to demonstrate by example innovative high-quality care, to reflect on practice and draw lessons from this experience, and to provide learning opportunities for other nurses. Abbreviation NDU.

nursing home /nɜːsɪŋ həʊm/ noun a house where convalescents or dependent elderly people can live under medical supervision by a qualified nurse.

nursing intervention /nɜːsɪŋ ɪnˈtɛrvenʃən/ noun the treatment of illness by nursing care, without surgery.

nursing model /nɜːsɪŋ ˈmɒdl/ noun a set of stated principles about nursing which gives professionals a way of formulating a plan of care, assessing its success and addressing any problems which arise from it.

nursing mother /nɜːsɪŋ ˈmoʊðə/ noun a mother who breast-feeds her baby.

Nursing Officer /nɜːsɪŋ ˈɒfɪʃəl/ noun in the UK, a nurse employed by the Department of Health to assist the Chief Nursing Officer in providing professional advice to Ministers and policy-makers.

nursing practice /nɜːsɪŋ ˈpræktɪs/ noun treatment given by nurses.

nursing process /nɜːsɪŋ ˈprɒses/ noun a standard method of treatment and documentation of treatment carried out by nurses.

nursing station /ˈnɜːstʃən/ noun a hospital sister who has administrative duties.

nursing standard /nɜːsɪŋ ˈstændərd/ noun an accepted level of achievement by which nursing care can be assessed or compared.
nurture /ˈnɜːtʃər/ noun care given to a child while it is developing (NOTE: nurturing – nurtured)
nutans /ˈnjuːtəns/ noun spasmus nutans
mutation /ˈmjuːtəʃən/ noun involuntary nodding of the head
nutrient /ˈnjuːtrɪənt/ noun a substance in food which is necessary to provide energy or to help the body grow, e.g. protein, fat or a vitamin
nutrition /ˈnjuːtrɪʃən/ noun 1. the study of the supply of nutrients to the body from digesting food 2. nourishment or food nutritional /ˈnjuːtrɪʃənl/ adjective referring to nutrition
nutritional anaemia /ˈnjuːtrɪʃənl əˈnɛmiə/ noun anaemia caused by an imbalance in the diet
nutritional disorder /ˈnjuːtrɪʃənl əˈdɪsər/ noun a disorder related to food and nutrients, e.g. obesity
nutritionist /ˈnjuːtrɪʃənɪst/ noun a person who specialises in the study of nutrition and advises on diets.
yct- /ˈnɪkt-/ prefix night or darkness
nyctalopia /ˈnɪktələpiə/ noun the condition of being unable to see in bad light. Also called night blindness
nyctophobia /ˈnɪktəfəˈbɪəriə/ noun fear of the dark
nymфe /ˈnɪmfə/ plural noun same as labia minora
nymфо- /ˈnɪmfə–/ prefix 1. female sexuality 2. nymphs
nymфомания /ˈnɪmfəˌməniə/ noun an obsessive sexual urge in a woman (NOTE: A similar condition in a man is called satyriasis.)
nymphomaniac /ˈnɪmfaˌməniək/ noun a woman who has an unusually obsessive sexual urge (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.)
nystagmus /ˈnɪstəɡməs/ noun a rapid, involuntary movement of the eyes up and down or from side to side
COMMENT: Nystagmus can be horizontal, vertical, torsional or rotary; it can be congenital, but is also a symptom of multiple sclerosis and Ménière’s disease.
nystatin /ˈnɪstətən/ noun an anti-microbial drug used in the treatment of fungal infections, especially thrush
oat cell carcinoma /ˈɔut sel kərˈsin omitted
noun a type of cancer of the bronchi, with distinctive small cells

OB abbr obstetrics

obese /ˈɔbˌziː/ adjective so overweight as to be at risk of several serious illnesses, including diabetes and heart disease

obesity /ˈɔbˈsiːtɪ/ noun the condition of being seriously overweight

COMMENT: Obesity is caused by excess fat accumulating under the skin and around organs, but it is usually caused by eating or drinking too much. A tendency to obesity can be hereditary.

obey /əˈbiː/ verb to do what a person, authority or rule says you should do ○ You ought to obey the doctor’s instructions and go to bed.

objective /əˈbɪdʒɪktɪv/ noun an aim or goal ○ adjective 1. existing independently of any individual person’s mind 2. not influenced by any bias or prejudice caused by personal feelings 3. referring to symptoms of illness which can be observed by somebody other than the person who is ill. Compare subjective

obligate /ˈɔblɪɡeɪt/ adjective referring to an organism which exists and develops in only one way, e.g. a virus which is a parasite only inside cells

oblique /ˈɔbliːk/ adjective leaning at an angle ○ noun also called oblique muscle ○ …there are four recti muscles and two oblique muscles in each eye, which coordinate the movement of the eyes and enable them to work as a pair [Nursing Times]

oblique fissure /ˈɔbliːk ˈfɪʃər/ noun a groove between the superior and inferior lobes of a lung. See illustration at lungs in Supplement

oblique fracture /ˈɔbliːk ˈfrækʃər/ noun a fracture in which the bone is broken diagonally

oblique muscle /ˈɔbliːk „mʌskəl/ noun 1. each of two muscles in the wall of the abdomen 2. each of two muscles which control the movement of the eyeball

obliterate /ˈɔblɪtərət/ verb 1. to destroy something completely ○ 2. to block a cavity completely [NOTE: obliterate – obliterated]

obliteration /ˈɔblɪtərəʃən/ noun 1. the complete destruction of something 2. the complete blocking of something such as a cavity

oblongata /ˈɔblɒŋətə/ a groove in Supplement

observable /əˈbɪzərəbəl/ adjective which can be seen or measured

observation /əˌbɪzərəˈveɪʃən/ noun the process of watching and examining a person or thing over a period of time ○ She was admitted to hospital for observation.

observation register /əˌbɪzərəˈveɪʃən reˈzɜːr/ a record of children who have had problems at birth, or soon after their birth, and so need particular follow-up care from a health visitor, general practitioner or social worker

observe /əˈbɪzərv/ verb 1. to see something ○ The nurses observed signs of improvement in the patient’s condition. ○ The girl’s mother observed symptoms of anorexia. 2. to watch a person or thing carefully in order to discover something ○ Observe the way in which the patient is lying. 3. to take something into account ○ You’re expected to observe the rules of conduct.

obsessed /əˈbɪsɛd/ adjective having an obsession ○ He is obsessed with the idea that someone is trying to kill him.

obsession /əˌbɪʃən/ noun a mental disorder in which a person has a fixed idea or emotion which he or she cannot get rid of, even if he or she knows it is wrong or unpleasant ○ She has an obsession about cats.

obsessional /əˌbɪʃəˈlən/ adjective referring to or having an obsession ○ He is suffering from an obsessional disorder.

obsessive /əbˈɛsɪv/ adjective having or showing an obsession ○ He has an obsessive desire to steal little objects.

obsessive action /əbˈɛsɪv ˈækʃən/ noun an action such as washing which is repeated over and over again and indicates a mental disorder

obsessive–compulsive disorder /əbˈɛsɪv kəmˈpʌlsɪv dəˈzɪdər/ a mental disorder characterised by the need to perform re-
obstetric

peated ritual acts such as checking or cleaning, which can be treated with psychotherapy and antidepressants. Abbr OCD

obstetric /ɒbˈstɛtrɪk/ adj, obstetrical /ɪbˈstɛtrɪkl/ adjective referring to obstetrics

obstetrical forceps /æbˈstɛtrɪkl fɔrˈspiːps/ plural noun a type of large forceps used to hold a baby’s head during childbirth

obstetrician /ˌɒbstɛtrɪˈʃən/ noun a doctor who specialises in obstetrics

obstetric patient /ˈɒbstɛtrɪk ˈpeʃənt/ noun a woman who is being treated by an obstetrician

obstetrics /ˈɑbˈstɛtrɪks/ noun a branch of medicine and surgery dealing with pregnancy, childbirth and the period immediately after childbirth. Abbr OB

obstipation /ˈɒbstəˌpeɪʃən/ noun severe constipation, often caused by a blockage in the intestines

obstruct /ɒbˈstrʌkt/ verb to block something

obstruction /ˌɒbstrʌkʃən/ noun 1. something which blocks a passage or a blood vessel 2. the blocking of a passage or blood vessel

obstructive /ɒbˈstrʌktɪv/ adjective caused by an obstruction

obstructive jaundice /ˌɑbstrʌktɪv ˈdʒɔɪndɪs/ noun jaundice caused by an obstruction of the bile ducts. Also called posthepatic jaundice. 3. acholicuric jaundice, icterus gravis neonatorum

obstructive lung disease /ˌɑbstrʌktɪv ˈlʊŋ dɪzəs/ noun bronchitis and emphysema

obstructive sleep apnoea /ˌɑbstrʌktɪv ˈslaɪp əpˈnoʊə/ noun the stopping of breathing, or difficulty in breathing, during sleep, resulting in loud snoring

obtain /ˈɒbˌteɪn/ verb to get something

obstruction rate /ˌɒbstrʌkʃən ˈreɪt/ noun the number of beds occupied in a hospital, shown as a percentage of all the beds

obstructed /ˈɑbstrʌktid/ adjective closed or blocked

obcluded /ˈɑbklʌktid/ adjective closed or blocked

occlusion / ˈɒklʊʒən/ noun 1. a thing which blocks a passage or which closes an opening 2. the way in which the teeth in the upper and lower jaws fit together when the jaws are closed (NOTE: A bad fit between the teeth is a malocclusion.)

occlusive / ˈɒkləsɪv/ adjective referring to occlusion or blocking

occlusive stroke / ˈɑkləsɪv ˈstrɔuk/ noun a stroke caused by a blood clot

occlusive therapy / ˈɑkləsɪv ˈθɛrəpi/ noun a treatment for a squint in which the good eye is covered up in order to encourage the squinting eye to become straight

occur /ˈɑklər/ verb 1. not easy to see with the naked eye. Opposite over 2. referring to a symptom or sign which is hidden

occur blood /əˈklərd/ noun very small quantities of blood in the faeces, which can only be detected by tests

occupancy rate /ˈɑkkɔpənsi rɛt/ noun the number of beds occupied in a hospital, shown as a percentage of all the beds

occupation /əˈkəʊpəʃən/ noun 1. a job or work 2. What is his occupation? 3. People in sedentary occupations are liable to digestive disorders, 2. the state or fact of occupying something or of being occupied

occupational /əˈkəʊpəʃənl/ adjective referring to work
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>occupational asthma</td>
<td>/ˈnkjuːprəf(ə)ˈn(ə)l/ 'ətənmə/ noun asthma caused by materials with which people come into contact at work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupational dermatitis</td>
<td>/ˈnkjuːprəf(ə)ˈn(ə)l/ 'dərmətətɪs/ noun dermatitis caused by materials touched at work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupational disease</td>
<td>/ˈnkjuːprəf(ə)ˈn(ə)l/ 'debətis/ noun a disease which is caused by the type of work a person does or the conditions in which a person works, e.g. a disease caused by dust or chemicals in a factory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupational hazard</td>
<td>/ˈnkjuːprəf(ə)ˈn(ə)l/ 'heərədʒ/ noun a dangerous situation related to the working environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupational health nurse</td>
<td>/ˈnkjuːprəf(ə)ˈn(ə)l/ 'helθ ˈnɜːts/ noun a nurse who deals with health problems of people at work. Abbr OH nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupational medicine</td>
<td>/ˈnkjuːprəf(ə)ˈn(ə)l/ 'medɪʃ(ə)m/ noun the branch of medicine concerned with accidents and diseases connected with work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupational therapist</td>
<td>/ˈnkjuːprəf(ə)ˈn(ə)l/ 'θerəpɪst/ noun a qualified health professional who offers patients occupational therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occupational therapy</td>
<td>/ˈnkjuːprəf(ə)ˈn(ə)l/ 'θərəpi/ noun light work or hobbies used as a means of treatment, especially for physically challenged or mentally ill people, to promote independence during the recovery period after an illness or operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>occurrence</td>
<td>/əˈkərəns/ noun something that takes place or/Neuralgia is a common occurrence after shingles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OED abbr obsessive-compulsive disorder</td>
<td>ochronosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ocular</td>
<td>/ˈɒklər/ adjective referring to the eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oculism</td>
<td>/ˈɒklɪzəm/ noun a condition in which a person uses one eye more than the other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oculist</td>
<td>/ˈɒklɪst/ noun a qualified physician or surgeon who specialises in the treatment of eye disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oculo-</td>
<td>/ˈɔkəloʊ-/ prefix eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oculogyric</td>
<td>/ˌɔkəluˈɡarɪk/ adjective causing eye movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oculomotor</td>
<td>/ˌɔkəluˈmoʊtər/ adjective referring to movements of the eyeball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ocular</td>
<td>/ˈɑkələr/ noun the third cranial nerve which controls the eyeballs and eyelids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ocular asthma</td>
<td>/ˈɑkələr/ noun asthma caused by dust or chemicals in a factory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oculoplasty</td>
<td>/ˌɔkələˈplaʊstɪ/ noun a false eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oculoplastic</td>
<td>/ˌɔkələˈplæstɪk/ adjective referring to both the eye and the nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oculethysmography</td>
<td>/ˌɔkəluˈθɪzəmˈɡraʊfɪ/ noun measurement of the pressure inside the eyeball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT abbr overdose</td>
<td>o.d. abbr (written on a prescription) every day. Full form omni die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ODA abbr operating department assistant</td>
<td>odont-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odontalgia</td>
<td>/ˌɒdəntˈælədʒɪə/ noun same as toothache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odontitis</td>
<td>/ˌɒdəntˈtɪtəs/ noun inflammation of the pulpy interior of a tooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odontoid process</td>
<td>/ˌɒdəntˈɔdədʒəd/ 'prəʊses/ noun a projecting part of a vertebra, shaped like a tooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odontology</td>
<td>/ˌɒdəntˈɒλdʒɪə/ noun the study of teeth and associated structures, and their disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odontoma</td>
<td>/ˌɒdəntəˈməʊma/, /ˈɒdəntəməʊn/ noun 1. a structure like a tooth which has an unusual arrangement of its component tissues 2. a solid or cystic tumour derived from cells concerned with the development of a tooth (Note: The plural is odontomas or odontomata)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odolourless</td>
<td>/ˈɔdələrəs/ adjective with no smell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>odony-</td>
<td>/ˈɒdnə-/ prefix same asodyno- (used before vowels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oedema</td>
<td>/ˈoʊdəmə/ noun the swelling of part of the body caused by accumulation of fluid in the intercellular tissue spaces or Her main problem is oedema of the feet. Also called dropsy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oedematous</td>
<td>/ˌoʊdəˈmeɪtəs/ adjective referring to oedema (Note: The US spelling is edema.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oedipus complex</td>
<td>/ˌɔdɪˈpʌs ,kəmplɪkəs/ noun (in Freudian psychology) a condition in which a boy feels sexually attracted to his mother and sees his father as an obstacle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oesophag-</td>
<td>/ˈoʊsəfæɡ-/ prefix same asoesophago- (used before vowels)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A synthetic form of oestradiol is given as treatment of the oesophagus, caused by acid juice from the stomach or by infection.

Oesophagostomy /ˈoʊsəfəɡɒstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove part of the oesophagus (NOTE: The plural is oesophagostomies.)

Oesophagi /ˈoʊsəfəɡə/ plural of oesophagus

Oesophagitis /ˈoʊsəfəɡətɪs/ noun inflammation of the oesophagus, caused by acid juice from the stomach or by infection

Oesophago- /ˈoʊsəfəɡəʊ-/ prefix oesophagus (NOTE: The US spelling is esophageal.)

Oesophagoscope /ˈoʊsəfəɡəskəʊp/ noun an examination of the oesophagus with a light at the end, which can examine it, the stomach and the duodenum. Abbreviated OGD (NOTE: The plural is oesophagogastroduodenoscopies.)

Oesophagjejunostomy /ˈoʊsəfəɡəˌdʒɪnəʊskəʊmi/ noun a surgical operation to create a junction between the jejunum and the oesophagus after the stomach has been removed (NOTE: The plural is oesophagojejunostomies.)

Oesophagoscopy /ˈoʊsəfəɡəskaʊpi/ noun a thin tube with a light at the end, which is passed down the oesophagus to examine it

Oesophagoscopies (NOTE: The plural is oesophagoscopies.)

Oesophagogastomy /ˈoʊsəfəɡəˌɡæstəmi/ noun an examination of the oesophagus with an oesophagoscope (NOTE: The plural is oesophagogastromies.)

Oesophagotomy /ˈoʊsəfəɡəˌtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening in the oesophagus to remove something which is blocking it (NOTE: The plural is oesophagotomies.)

Oesophagus /ˈoʊsəfəɡəs/ noun a tube down which food passes from the pharynx to the stomach (NOTE: The plural is oesophagi. The US spellings are esophagus and esophagi.)

Oestradiol /ˌoʊsəstrəˈdeɪəl/ noun a type of oestrogen secreted by an ovarian follicle, which stimulates the development of secondary sexual characteristics in females at puberty (NOTE: A synthetic form of oestradiol is given as treatment for oestrogen deficiency. The US spelling is estradiol.)

Oestriol /ˌoʊsəstriˈəl/ noun a placental hormone with oestrogenic properties, found in the urine of pregnant women (NOTE: The US spelling is estriol.)

Oestrogen /ˌoʊsəˈstrəʒən/ noun any steroid hormone which stimulates the development of secondary sexual characteristics in females at puberty (NOTE: The US spelling is estrogen.)

Oestrogenic hormone /ˌoʊsəˈstrəʒənikˈhərməʊn/ noun synthetic oestrogen used to treat conditions which develop during menopause (NOTE: The US spelling is estrogenic hormone.)

Oestrone /ˌoʊsəˈstrəʊn/ noun a type of oestrogen produced in the ovaries (NOTE: The US spelling is estrone.)

Official /əˈfɪʃ(ə)l/ adjective 1. accepted or permitted by an authority (NOTE: We need to undertake a review of the official procedures. 2. constituting an authority

Officially /əˈfɪʃ(ə)li/ adverb in a way that is approved by an authority (NOTE: officially listed as a dangerous drug

OGD abbreviates oesophagogastroduodenoscopy

OH nurse /ˈəʊ ˈɛtʃ ˈnɜːs/ abbr occupational health nurse

-oid /ˈoɪd/ suffix like or related to

Oil /ɔɪl/ noun a liquid which cannot be mixed with water (NOTE: There are three types of oil: fixed vegetable or animal oils, volatile oils and mineral oils)

Oily /ˈoɪli/ adjective containing or resembling oil

Ointment /ˈɔɪntmənt/ noun a smooth oily medicinal preparation which can be spread on the skin to soothe or to protect

Old age /ˈɔld ədʒ/ noun a period in a person’s life, usually taken to be after the age of sixty-five

Oleaginous /ˌoʊləˈdʒiənəs/ adjective same as oily

Olecranon /ˌoʊləˈkrænən/ noun a curved projecting part at the end of the ulna at the elbow, which gives rise to a painful tingling sensation if hit by accident. Also called funny bone

Oleic /ˌoʊləˈɪk/ adjective referring to oil

Oleic acid /ˌoʊləˈɪk/ noun a fatty acid which is present in most oils

Oleoc /ˌoʊləʊˈeɪk/ prefix oil

Oleum /ˌoʊləm/ noun oil (used in pharmacy)
olfaction /'ɔlfækʃən/ noun 1. the sense of smell 2. the way in which a person’s sensory organs detect smells

olfactory /'ɔlfaktəri/ adjective referring to the sense of smell

olfactory area /'ɔlfaktəri 'eəriə/ noun the part of the brain that registers smell

olfactory bulb /'ɔlfaktəri bəlb/ noun the end of the olfactory tract, where the processes of the sensory cells in the nose are linked to the fibres of the olfactory nerve

olfactory cortex /'ɔlfaktəri 'kɔrɛks/ noun the parts of the cerebral cortex which receive information about smell

olfactory nerve /'ɔlfaktəri nərv/ noun the first cranial nerve which controls the sense of smell

olfactory tract /'ɔlfaktəri trækt/ noun a nerve tract which takes the olfactory nerve from the nose to the brain

oligo- /'ɒlɪgəʊ/ prefix same as oligo- (used before vowels)

oligaemia /ˌɒlɪˈɡiːmɪə/ noun a condition in which a person has too little blood in his or her circulatory system (NOTE: The US spelling is oligemia.)

oligo- /ˈɒlɪgəʊ/ prefix few or little

oligodactylysm /ˌɒlɪɡəˈdaktɪlɪzəm/ noun a congenital condition in which babies are born without some fingers or toes

oligodipsia /ˌɒlɪɡəˈdɪpsɪə/ noun a condition in which a person does not want to drink

oligodontia /ˌɒlɪɡəˈdɒntɪə/ noun a state in which most of the teeth are lacking

oligohydramnios /ˌɒlɪɡəʊˈhaɪdɾəmnɪəs/ noun a condition in which the amniotic fluid surrounding the fetus contains too little amniotic fluid

oligomenorrhoea /ˌɒlɪɡəˈmɒnərəʊˈeɪə/ noun a condition in which a woman menstruates infrequently (NOTE: The US spelling is oligomenorrhea.)

oligo-ovulation /ˌɒlɪɡəʊ ˌɒvjuˈleɪʃən/ noun ovulation which does not occur as often as usual

oligospermia /ˌɒlɪɡəsˈpɜːrmiə/ noun a condition in which there are too few spermatozoa in the semen

oliguria /ˌɒlɪˈɡjuəriə/ noun a condition in which a person does not produce enough urine

olive /ˈɒliv/ noun 1. the fruit of a tree, which gives an edible oil 2. a swelling containing grey matter, on the side of the pyramid of the medulla oblongata

-ology /ˌɒlədʒi/ suffix area of study

-ol /-əl/ suffix beta blocker ∙ atenolol ∙ propranolol hydrochloride

o.m. adverb (written on a prescription) every morning. Full form omni mane

-oma /ˈɒmə/ suffix tumour

Ombudsman /ˈɒmboʊdzmən/ Health Service Commissioner

omentum /ˈɔment/ prefix omentum

omental /ˈɔment(ə)l/ adjective referring to the omentum

omentumectomy /ˌɒmenˈtɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove part of the omentum (NOTE: The plural is omentectomy.)

omentum /ˌɒmenˈtɛmt/ noun a double fold of peritoneum hanging down over the intestines. Also called epiploon (NOTE: The plural is omentum. For other terms referring to the omentum see words beginning with epiplo-.)

omentum /ˌɒmenˈtɛmt/ noun the omentum is in two sections: the greater omentum which covers the intestines, and the lesser omentum which hangs between the liver and the stomach and the liver and the duodenum.

omeprazole /ˌɔmɪpˈpræzoʊl/ noun a drug which reduces the amount of acid released in the stomach, used in the treatment of ulcers and heartburn

omphal- /ˈɒmfəl-/ prefix same as omphalo- (used before vowels)

omphalocele /ˌɒmfələˈsɛl/ noun a hernia in which part of the intestine protrudes through the abdominal wall near the navel

omphalitis /ˌɒmfələˈlɪtɪs/ noun an inflammation of the navel

omphaloocele /ˌɒmfələˈsɛl/ noun a hernia in which part of the intestine protrudes through the abdominal wall near the navel

omphalitis /ˌɒmfələˈlɪtɪs/ noun a scar with a depression in the middle of the abdomen where the umbilical cord was detached after birth. Also called navel, umbilicus (NOTE: The plural is omphali.)

-omycrin /ˌɒməˈkrɪn/ suffix macrolide drug ∙ erythromycin

o.n. adverb (written on a prescription) every night. Full form omni nocte

onanias /ˌɒnəˈneɪəz/ noun same as masturbation

Onchocerca /ˌɒŋkəˈsɜːkə/ noun a genus of tropical parasitic threadworms

onchocerciasis /ˌɒŋkəˈsɜːsɪs/ noun an infestation with Onchocerca in which the larvae can move into the eye, causing river blindness

onco- /ˈɒŋkə-/ prefix tumour

oncogene /ˌɒŋkəˈdʒiːn/ noun a part of the genetic system which causes malignant tumours to develop

‘…all cancers may be reduced to fundamental mechanisms based on cancer risk genes or oncogenes within themselves. An oncogene is a gene that encodes a protein that contributes to the malignant phenotype of the cell’ [British Medical Journal]
growth of the nails of the fingers or toes
of a tumour or of tumour cells
bed, without falling out
in which a nail becomes separated from its

cancer
noun

oocyte

(oocyte) is the cell which forms
a pregnancy which develops in the ovary (note: the plural is oocytes.)
occyte donation / oocyte / noun the transfer of oocytes from one woman
to another who cannot produce her own, so
that she can have a baby. The oocytes are re-
moved in a laparoscopy and fertilised in vitro.

oogenesis / noun the formation and development of ova

 COMMENT: In oogenesis, an oogonium produc-
es an oocyte, which develops through several
stages to produce a mature ovum. Polar bod-
ies are also formed which do not develop into
ova.
oogenetic / adjective referring to oogenesis

oogonium / noun a cell produced at the beginning of the development of
an ovum (note: the plural is oogonia.)
oophor- / prefix same as oophoro-

oncologist / noun a doctor who specialises in oncology, especially cancer

oncology / noun the scientific study of new growths, especially cancers

oncotic / adjective referring to cancer

onset / noun the beginning of something

The onset of the illness is marked by
a sudden high temperature.

ontogeny / noun the origin and development of an individual organism

ontophyte / noun

onych- / prefix

onychomadesis / noun a condition in which the nails become separated from its
bed, without falling out

onychomadesis / noun the surgical operation to re-
move an ovarian cyst (note: the plural is oophorocystomas.)

oophorocystectomy / noun a surgical operation to remove an ovary. Also
called ovarietomy (note: The plural is oophorectomies.)

Oophoritis / noun an inflammation in an ovary, which can be caused by
mumps. Also called ovaritis

oophoro- / prefix

oophoro- / prefix ovary

Oophorocystectomy / noun a surgical operation to remove an ovarian
cyst (note: The plural is oophorocystomas.)

oophorectomy / noun the development of one or more ovarian
cysts

oophorosis / noun a rare ovarian tumour, occurring in middle age (note: The
plural is oophoromas or oophoromatata.)

oophoron / noun same as ovary (technical) (note: The plural is oophora.)

oophoropexy / noun a surgical operation to attach an ovary (note: The
plural is oophorectomies.)

oophorocystectomy / noun a surgical operation to remove an ovary and the Fallopian tube attached to it (note: The plural is oophorocystectomies.)

ooze / verb (1. of pus, blood or other liquid) to flow slowly 2. to leak a substance such as pus or blood (note: oozing – oozed)
oo / noun an operation (informal)

OP / abbr outpatient

opacification / noun the fact of becoming opaque, as the lens does in a case of cataract

opacity / noun 1. the fact of not allowing light to pass through 2. an area in the eye which is not clear (note: the plural is opacities.)

opaque / adjective not allowing light to pass through. Opposite transparent
open /əˈpəʊn/ adjective not closed
operate /ˈɔpəreɪt/ verb 1. to function or work, or to make something function or work 2. to treat a person for a condition by cutting open the body and removing a part which is diseased or repairing a part which is not functioning correctly 3. The patient was operated on yesterday 4. The surgeons decided to operate on the baby’s eye 5. A form of learning which refers to the eye
operating department noun a hospital department specialising in surgical operations
operating microscope noun a special microscope with two eyepieces and a light, used in very delicate surgery
operating table noun a special table on which the patient is placed to undergo a surgical operation
operating theatre noun a special room in a hospital, where surgical operations are carried out (NOTE: The US term is operating room)
operation /əˈpərəʃən/ noun 1. the way in which something operates or carries out an operation on a patient 2. a surgical procedure carried out to repair or remove a damaged body part 3. She’s had an operation on her foot 4. The operation to remove the cataract was successful 5. A team of surgeons performed the operation 6. Heart operations are always difficult 7. A surgeon performs or takes part in an operation on a patient
open fracture /əˈpəʊn ˈfræktʃər/ noun same as compound fracture
open-heart surgery /əˈpəʊn ˈhɑːrt/ noun surgery to repair part of the heart or one of the coronary arteries while the heart has been bypassed and the blood is circulated by a pump
opening /əˈpəʊnɪŋ/ noun a place where something opens
open visiting /əˈpəʊn ˈvɪzɪtɪŋ/ noun an arrangement in a hospital by which visitors can enter the wards at any time
operable /əˈpərərəbəl/ adjective referring to a condition which can be treated by a surgical operation 1. The cancer is still operable 2. Someone whose job is to operate a machine or piece of equipment
operator /əˈpərətər/ noun 1. a person who operates on people 2. an instrument containing a bright light and two eyepieces and a light, used in very delicate surgery
operating microscope noun a special microscope with two eyepieces and a light, used in very delicate surgery
operating department noun a hospital department specialising in surgical operations
operating department assistant /əˈpərətɪŋ dɪˈpɑːrtnənt əˈsɪstənt/ noun a person who works in an operating department
operating room US same as operating theatre
ophthalmic surgeon /əˈfθləmɪk ˈsɜːdʒən/ noun a surgeon who specialises in surgery to treat eye disorders
ophthalmitis /əˈfθləmɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the eye
ophthalmologist /əˈfθləməˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of the eye and its diseases. Also called eye specialist
ophthalmology /əˈfθləməˈlɒdʒi/ noun the study of the eye and its diseases
ophthalmomegaly /əˈfθləməˈmɛɡəlɪ/ noun paralysis of the muscles of the eye
ophthalmoscope /əˈfθləməˈskɒp/ noun an instrument containing a bright light and small lenses, used by a doctor to examine the inside of an eye
ophthalmoscopy /əˈfθləməˈskɒpi/ noun an examination of the inside of an eye using an ophthalmoscope
ophthalmotomy /əˈfθləməˈtəmə/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut in the eyeball
ophthalmology /əˈfθləməˈlɒdʒi/ noun the study of the eye and its diseases
ophthalmomonometer /ˌɒfθəlmoʊˈmɒnəmətər/ noun an instrument which measures pressure inside the eye
-opia /ˈoʊpiə/ suffix eye condition
opioid /ˈoʊpiəd/ adjective based on opium
opiophagia /ˌoʊpiːˈfæɡiə/ noun an aversion to the taste of blood
opinio "opiniō/ noun what a person thinks about something ○ What’s the surgeon’s opinion of the case? ○ The doctor asked the consultant for his opinion as to the best method of treatment.
optic /ˈɒptɪk/ adjective referring to the visible light spectrum
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opportunism /ˌoʊpəˈrʊnɪzəm/ noun one of a group of muscles which control the movements of the fingers, especially one which allows the thumb and little finger to come together
opportunist /ˌoʊpəˈrʊnɪst/ noun referring to a parasite or microorganism which takes advantage of the host’s weakened state to cause infection
opposition /ˌoʊpəˈzɪʃən/ noun 1. hostility towards something 2. a movement of the hand muscles in which the tip of the thumb is made to touch the tip of another finger so as to hold something
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optical illusion /ˌɒptɪk(ə)l/ ˈɪljuːʒ(ə)n/ noun something which is seen wrongly so that it appears to be something else
optic choio/documat /ˈɒptɪk ˈkwɪzəmə/ noun a structure where some of the optic nerves from each eye partially cross each other in the hypothalamus
optic disc /ˈɒptɪk dɪsk/ noun the point on the retina where the optic nerve starts. Also called optic papilla
optic fundus /ˈɒptɪk ˈfʌndəs/ noun the back part of the inside of the eye, opposite the lens
ophthalmic /ˌɒfθəlˈmɪk/ adjective a qualified person who specialises in making glasses and in testing eyes and prescribing lenses. Also called ophthalmic optician ○ NOTE: In US English, an ophthalmic optician is a technician who makes lenses and fits glasses, but cannot test patient’s eyesight.
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optometrist /ˈɒpətmətrɪst/ noun mainly US a person who specialises in testing eyes and prescribing lenses
optometry /ˈɒpətmətri/ noun the testing of eyes and prescribing of lenses to correct sight
oral /ˈɔrəl/ plural noun of os noun 2
oral contraceptive /ˈɔrəl kəntrəˈkɒntrəsɪv/ noun a contraceptive pill which is swallowed ○ An oral contraceptive is a substance made based on opium which is used in the preparation of codeine and heroin ○ Compare parenteral
oral cavity /ˈɔrəl ˈkeɪvətɪ/ noun the mouth
oral hygiene /ˈɔrəl ˈhɑːrdɪgiene/ noun the practice of keeping the mouth clean by gargling and mouthwashes
orally /ˈɔrəli/ adverb by swallowing ○ not to be taken orally
oral medication /ˈɔrəl ˌmedɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun medication which is taken by swallowing
oral rehydration solution /ˈɔrəl ˌrɪhəˈdʒiːənəl/ ˈsɔljuːʃən/ noun a liquid given as a drink to correct the mouth clean by gargling and mouthwashes ○ not to be taken orally
oral rehydration therapy /ˈɔrəl ˌrɪhəˈdʒiːənəl ˈθɛrəpi/ noun the administration of a simple glucose and electrolyte solution to treat acute diarrhoea, particularly in children, which has greatly reduced the number of deaths from dehydration
oral thermometer /ˈɔrəl ðəˈθɜrmɪtər/ noun a thermometer which is put into the mouth to take someone’s temperature

EYE

opsonin /ˈɒpsənɪn/ noun un /ˈεν/ noun a substance which is a spinal am of the bone in which the spine is arched backwards, occurring, e.g., in people with tetanus
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oral rehydration therapy /ˈɔrəl ˌrɪhəˈdʒiːənəl ˈθɛrəpi/ noun the administration of a simple glucose and electrolyte solution to treat acute diarrhoea, particularly in children, which has greatly reduced the number of deaths from dehydration
oral thermometer /ˈɔrəl ðəˈθɜrmɪtər/ noun a thermometer which is put into the mouth to take someone’s temperature
The surgeon was able to transplant an organ to treat anemia.

A condition in which a testicle and its covering become swollen.

A surgical operation to place an undescended testis in a place where a muscle is attached, or where the branch of a nerve or blood vessel begins.

A disease of birds which can be passed to humans as a form of pneumonia.

A circular hollow bony depression in the front of the skull in which each eye and the muscles which close the lips tight are arranged.

An amino acid produced by the liver.

An X-ray photograph of an organ taken using only a thin stream of X-rays which allows accurate measurements of the organ to be made.
orthodontic /ɔːθədɒntɪk/ adjective correcting badly formed or placed teeth. He had to undergo a course of orthodontic treatment.

orthodontics /,ɔːθədɒntɪks/ noun a branch of dentistry which deals with correcting badly placed teeth (Note: The US term is orthodontia.)

orthodontist /ˌɔθədɒntɪst/ noun a dental surgeon who specialises in correcting badly placed teeth

orthopaedic /ˌɔθəpɪˈdɪk/ adjective referring to treatment which corrects badly formed bones or joints, referring to or used in orthopaedics (Note: The US spelling is orthopedic.)

orthopaedic collar /ˌɔθəpɪˈdɪk kələr/ noun a special strong collar to support the head of a person with neck injuries or a condition such as cervical spondylosis

orthopaedic hospital /ˌɔθəpɪˈdɪk ˈhɒspɪtl/ noun a hospital which specialises in operations to correct badly formed joints or bones

orthopaedics /ˌɔθəpɪˈdɪks/ noun a branch of surgery dealing with irregularities, diseases and injuries of the locomotor system (Note: The US spelling is orthopedics.)

orthopaedic surgeon /ˌɔθəpɪˈdɪk ˈsɜːrɡən/ noun a surgeon who specialises in orthopaedics

orthopaedist /ˌɔθəpɪˈdɪst/ noun a surgeon who specialises in orthopaedics

orthopnoea /ˌɔθəpəˈniːə/ noun a condition in which a person has great difficulty in breathing while lying down. (Note: The US spelling is orthopnea.)

orthopnoic /ˌɔθəpəˈniːk/ adjective referring to orthopnoea (Note: The US spelling is orthopnic.)

orthopsychiatry /ˌɔθəpəsɪˈkeɪtri/ noun the science and treatment of behavioural and personality disorders

orthoptics /ˌɔθərˈpɒtɪks/ noun the study of methods used to treat squints

orthoptist /ˌɔθərˈpɒtɪst/ noun an eye specialist, working in an eye hospital, who treats squints and other disorders of eye movement

orthoscope /ˌɔθərˈskɒps/ noun a device which is fitted to the outside of the body to support a weakness or correct a malformation, e.g., a surgical collar or leg brace (Note: The plural is orthoscopes.)

orthostatic /ˌɔθəstəˈtɪk/ adjective referring to the position of the body when standing up straight

orthostatic hypotension /ˌɔθəstəˈtɪsk hæipəˈtenʃən/ noun a common condition where the blood pressure drops when a person stands up suddenly, causing dizziness

orthotics /ˌɔθəˈtɪks/ plural noun the branch of medical engineering which deals with the design and fitting of devices such as braces in the treatment of orthopaedic disorders

orthotist /ˌɔθəˈtɪst/ noun a qualified person who fits orthoses

Ortolani’s sign /ˌɔrtoʊˈlæni zaim/ Gr., Ortolani manoeuvre /ˌɔrtoʊˈlæni mnəˈvʊr/ 

os /ˈɒs/ noun (technical) 1. a bone (Note: The plural is ossa.) 2. the mouth (Note: The plural is ora.)

OSA abbr obstructive sleep apnoea

oscillation /ˌɒskəˈleɪʃən/ noun (Note: The plural is oscillations.) 1. the act of moving forwards and backwards between two points 2. a single movement between two points

oscilloscope /ˌɒskəˈlɪskəʊp/ noun a device which produces a visual record of an electrical current on a screen using a cathode ray tube. It is used in the testing of electronic equipment and in measuring electrical impulses of the heart or the brain.

osculum /ˌɒskəˈləm/ noun a small opening or pore (Note: The plural is oscula.)

-os /−os/ suffix disease

Osler’s nodes /ˌɒzləz nəʊdz/ plural noun tender swellings at the ends of fingers and toes in people who have subacute bacterial endocarditis (Described 1885. After Sir William Osler 1849–1919, Professor of Medicine in Montreal, Philadelphia, Baltimore and then Oxford.)

osm- /ˈɒzm/ prefix 1. smell 2. osmosis

osmoreceptor /ˌɒzəˈməʊrəsˈseptər/ noun a cell in the hypothalamus which checks the level of osmotic pressure in the blood by altering the secretion of ADH and regulates the amount of water in the blood.

osmosis /ˌɒzməsɪs/ noun the movement of a solvent from one part of the body through a semipermeable membrane to another part where there is a higher concentration of molecules

osmotic pressure /ˌɒzməˈtɪk/ noun the pressure required to stop the flow of a solvent through a membrane

ossa /ˈɒsə/ plural of os noun 1

osseous /ˈɒsəs/ adjective referring to or resembling bone

ossaceous /ˈɒsəs/ adjective same as bony

ossicle /ˈɒskəl/ noun a small bone

ossification /ˌɒsɪˈfɪkeɪʃən/ noun the process of bone formation

otoscope /ˌɒtəˈskɒp/ noun a small instrument used to examine the outer and middle ear.
haussen’s disease
attached from the joint surface by fibrous tissue. Also called the thyroid gland and associated with forma-
tion disturbances to that part of the bone which affects the joints in children, caus-
ing them to become stiff and painful. Also called people characterised by inflamed joints which are a disease of middle-aged and elderly
care. osteoclast is a cell which destroys bone. osteoklastoma a usually benign tumour occurring at the ends of long bones. osteoclastoma a bone disease, especially one caused by disorder of the metabolism osteogenesis imperfecta a congenital condition in which bones are brittle and break easily due to unusual bone formation. Also called brittle bone disease osteo-genic a disease which gradually softens bones in the spine, legs and skull, so that they become curved. Also called Paget’s dis-
ease osteitis deformans a disorder of cartilage and bone forma-
tion of sound by bone, as occurs in the ear. osteopathy a con-
dition of joints, causing pain and a limp, probably due to circulation disturbances to that part of the bone. osteostasis a disease of a group in which bones increase in density. Also called marble bone disease osteophony a disorder of cartilage and bone formation which affects the joints in children, cau-
sing pain and a limp, probably due to circulation disturbances to that part of the bone. osteoplasy a surgical operation to fracture or refracture bone to correct a deform-
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sing pain and a limp, probably due to circulation disturbances to that part of the bone. osteoplasty a surgical operation to
osteoporosis /ˌostəˈpɔrəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the bones become thin, porous and brittle, due to low levels of oestrogen, lack of calcium and lack of physical exercise. Also called brittle bone disease

COMMENT: Osteoporosis mainly affects postmenopausal women, increasing the risk of fractures. Hormone replacement therapy is the most effective method of preventing osteoporosis though there are other risks to health from long-term use.

osteosarcoma /ˌɒstəʊˈsɑːrkoʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour of bone cells (NOTE: The plural is osteosarcomas or osteosarcomata.)

osteosclerosis /ˌɒstəʊskləˈrəʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which the bony spaces become hardened as a result of persistent inflammation

osteotome /ˌɒstəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a type of chisel used by surgeons to cut bone

osteotomy /ˌɒstəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut a bone, especially to relieve pain in a joint (NOTE: The plural is osteotomies.)

ostia /ˈɒstɪə/ plural of ostium

ostium /ˈɒstjʊəm/ noun an opening into a passage (NOTE: The plural is ostia.)

ostomy /ˈɒstəmɪ/ noun a colostomy or ileostomy (informal) (NOTE: The plural is ostomies.)

-ostomy /ˈɒstəmɪ/ suffix operation to make an opening

OT abbr occupational therapist

ot- /ˈɒt/ prefix same as oto- (used before vowels)

otalgia /ˈɒtəlɡə/ noun same as earache

OTC abbreviation referring to medication which can be bought freely at a chemist’s shop, and does not need a prescription. Full form over the counter

OTC drug /ˌɒt sɪˈdrʌɡ/ noun same as over-the-counter drug

otic /ˌɒtɪk/ adjective referring to the ear

otic ganglion /ˈɒtɪk ˈɡæŋɡlɪən/ noun a ganglion associated with the mandibular nerve where it leaves the skull

otitis /ˌɒtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the ear

otitis externa /ˌɒtɪtɪs ɪkˈstɜːrə/ noun inflammation of the external auditory meatus to the eardrum

otitis interna /ˌɒtɪtɪs ɪnˈtrɜːnə/ noun inflammation of the inner ear. Also called labyrinthitis

otitis media /ˌɒtɪtɪs ˈmɛdɪə/ noun an infection of the middle ear, usually accompanied by headaches and fever. Also called middle ear infection, tympanitis

oto- /ˈɒtəʊ/ prefix ear

otolaryngologist /ˌɒtələrɪŋˈɡɒldʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in treatment of diseases of the ear and throat

otolaryngology /ˌɒtələrɪŋˈɡɒldʒɪ/ noun the study of diseases of the ear and throat

otolith /ˈɒtəlɪθ/ noun a tiny piece of calcium carbonate attached to the hair cells in the saccule and utricle of the inner ear

otolysis /ˌɒtəliˈsɪs/ noun one of two pairs of sensory organs in the inner ear, the saccule and the utricle, which pass information to the brain about the position of the head

otologist /ˌɒtələˈlɪdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of the ear

otology /ˌɒtələˈlɪdʒɪ/ noun the scientific study of the ear and its diseases

-otomy /ˈɒtəmɪ/ suffix an act of cutting into an organ or part of the body in a surgical operation

otomyosis /ˌɒtəmiˈɒsɪs/ noun an infection of the external auditory meatus by a fungus

otoplasty /ˌɒtəplæstɪ/ noun plastic surgery of the external ear to repair damage or deformity

otorhinolaryngologist /ˌɒtəˈθɪnləˈrɪŋɡɒldʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of the ear, nose and throat

otorhinolaryngology /ˌɒtəˈθɪnləˈrɪŋɡɒldʒɪ/ noun the study of the ear, nose and throat. Also called ENT

otorrhea /ˌɒtərˈriːə/ noun the discharge of pus from the ear (NOTE: The US spelling is otorrhea)

otosclerosis /ˌɒtəskləˈrəʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which the ossicles in the middle ear become thicker and the stapes becomes fixed to the oval window leading to deafness

otoscope /ˌɒtəskəʊp/ noun same as auriscope

otospongiosis /ˈɒtəs,pɔŋdʒɪəˈsɪsɪs/ noun the formation of spongy bone in the labyrinth of the ear which occurs in otosclerosis

Otosporin /ˈɒtəspɔrɪn/ a trade name for ear drops containing hydrocortisone, neomycin and polymixin B

ototoxic /ˌɒtətɒkˈsɪk/ adjective referring to a drug or an effect which is damaging to organs or nerves involved in hearing or balance

outbreak /ˈaʊtbrɛk/ noun a series of cases of a disease which starts suddenly ○ There was an outbreak of typhoid fever or a typhoid outbreak

outcome /ˈaʊtkʌm/ noun 1. what happens as the result of something 2. a measure of the result of an intervention or treatment, e.g. the mortality rate following different methods of surgery ○ medical outcomes

outer /ˈaʊtər/ adjective outside or external

external /ˈɛkstrən/ adjective to the part of the ear which is on the outside of the head, together with the passage leading to the eardrum. Also called external ear
an ovary

create the female hormone oestrogen. Also through which something can go out

operation to remove an ovary or a tumour in an

a hospital which deals with outpatients

oxygen.)

feels as though they have left their body and,

an outpatient.

a cell which contains an ovum. Also called

also called oophoron. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (FEMALE) in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is ovaries. For other terms referring to ovaries, see words beginning with oophoro-.)

over- /əuvə/ prefix too much

overbite /əuvəbət/ noun the usual formation of the teeth, in which the top incisors come down over and in front of the bottom incisors when the jaws are closed

overcome /əuvə'kæm/ verb 1. to fight something and win 2. to make a person lose consciousness (NOTE: overcoming – overcame – overcome)

overcompensate /əuvə'kəmpləns/ verb to try too hard to cover the effects of a condition or quality (NOTE: overcompensating – overcompensated)

overcompensation /əuvəkəmplənsən/ noun an attempt by a person to remove the bad effects of a mistake or a fault in their character in which they make too much effort, and so cause some other problem

overdo /əuvə'dəʊ/ verb 1. to overdo it or to overdo things to work too hard or to do too much exercise (informal) 2. He has been overdoing things and has to rest.

overdose /əuvə'dəʊs/ noun a dose of a drug which is larger than the recommended or usual dose

toovereating /əuvər'etiŋ/ noun eating too much food

overexertion /əuvər'ɛksərʃən/ noun doing too much physical work or taking too much exercise

overflow incontinence /əuvəfləʊr'ɪnvəntʃən/ noun a leakage of urine because the bladder is too full

overgrow /əuvərgrəʊ/ verb (of a tissue) to grow over another tissue (NOTE: overgrew – overgrown)

overgrowth /əuvərgrəʊθ/ noun a growth of tissue over another tissue

overjet /əuvɪdʒet/ noun a space which separates the top incisors from the bottom incisors when the jaws are closed

overlap /əuvərlæp/ verb (of bandages, etc.) to lie partly on top of another (NOTE: overlapping – overlapped)

overprescribe /əuvəprə'skrɪbr/ verb to issue too many prescriptions for something (NOTE: overprescribing – overprescribed)

overproduction /əuvəprə'dʒəʊprən/ noun the act of producing too much of something (NOTE: overproduced – overproduction)

conditional

the condition is caused by overproduction of thyroxine by the thyroid gland.
beginning with tissue over a perforation when fertilised by a spermatozoon, begins to develop into an embryo when oxycephaly is called oxycephalic.

Also called oxybutynin, a drug which is present in the air and essential to human life. (Note: The chemical symbol is O.)

COMMENT: Oxygen is absorbed into the bloodstream through the lungs and is carried to the tissues along the arteries. It is essential to healthy metabolism and given to patients with breathing difficulties.

oxygenate /'oksɪdʒənɛt/ verb to combine blood with oxygen (note: oxygenating – oxygenated)

oxygenated blood /'oksɪdʒənɪtɪd blɒd/ noun a blood which has received oxygen in the lungs and is being carried to the tissues along the arteries. Also called arterial blood. Compare deoxygenated blood (note: Oxygenated blood is brighter red than venous deoxygenated blood.)

oxygenation /'oksɪdʒəneɪʃən/ noun the fact of becoming combined or filled with oxygen ○ Blood is carried along the pulmonary artery to the lungs for oxygenation.

oxygenerator /'oksɪdʒənətər/ noun a machine which puts oxygen into the blood, used as an artificial lung in surgery

oxygen cylinder /'oksɪdʒən sɪlɪndər/ noun a heavy metal tube which contains oxygen and is connected to a patient’s oxygen mask

oxygen mask /'oksɪdʒən mɑsk/ noun a mask connected to a supply of oxygen, which can be put over the face to help someone with breathing difficulties

oxygen tent /'oksɪdʒən tɛnt/ noun a type of cover put over a person so that he or she can breathe in oxygen

oxygen therapy /'oksɪdʒən θəˈrepi/ noun any treatment involving the administering of oxygen, e.g. in an oxygen tent or in emergency treatment for heart failure

oxyhaemoglobin /'oksɪˌhiːməʊˈɡləʊbɪn/ noun a compound of haemoglobin and oxygen, which is the way oxygen is carried in arterial blood from the lungs to the tissues. ○ haemoglobin (note: The US spelling is oxyhemoglobin.)

oxytic /'oksɪtɪk/ adjective referring to glands and cells in the stomach which produce acid

oxytocic /'oksɪtəsɪk/ noun a drug which helps to start the process of childbirth, or speeds it up. (Note: oxytocic referring to drugs which causes the contractions of the uterus and encourages the flow of milk)
COMMENT: An extract of oxytocin is used as an injection to start contractions of the uterus and to assist in the third stage of labour.

oxyuriasis /ˌɔksjʊˈraɪəsɪs/ noun same as enterobiasis
Oxyuris /ˌɒksəˈraɪəs/ noun same as Enterobius

ozaena /ˈoʊzənə/ noun 1. a disease of the nose in which the nasal passage is blocked and mucus forms, giving off an unpleasant smell 2. any unpleasant discharge from the nose (NOTE: The US spelling is ozena.)
ozone /ˈoʊzn/ noun a gas present in the atmosphere in small quantities, which is harmful at high levels of concentration

ozone sickness /ˈoʊzn ˈsɪknəs/ noun a condition experienced by jet travellers, due to levels of ozone in aircraft.

COMMENT: The maximum amount of ozone which is considered safe for humans to breathe is 80 parts per billion. Even in lower concentrations it irritates the throat, makes people cough and gives headaches and asthma attacks similar to hay fever. The ozone layer in the stratosphere acts as a protection against the harmful effects of the sun’s radiation, and the destruction or reduction of the layer has the effect of allowing more radiation to pass through the atmosphere with harmful effects such as skin cancer on humans.
with cotton wool to absorb the discharge.

2. or vagina

an orifice with a tampon

organ arrived at the hospital packed in ice.

The ear was packed

Pacinian corpuscle

a sensory nerve ending in

the skin which is sensitive to touch and vibrations

pack /'pæk/ noun 1. a tampon of gauze or cotton wool, used to fill an orifice such as the nose or vagina 2. a piece of wet material folded tightly, used to press on the body 3. a treatment in which a blanket or sheet is used to wrap round the body 4. a box or bag of goods for sale 5. a pack of sticking plaster 6. The cough tablets are sold in packs of fifty. 7. verb 1. to fill an orifice with a tampon 2. The ear was packed with cotton wool to absorb the discharge. 2. to put things in cases or boxes 3. The transplant organ arrived at the hospital packed in ice.

called

organ which regulates the heartbeat. Also

cardiac

implant or attach a cardiac pacemaker

as

a condition in which the fingers and toes become thicker than usual

douted

a condition in which soft tissues of the body become unusually thick

pacifier /'pæsɪfər/ noun US a child’s dummy

pacifier

or attach a cardiac pacemaker

Pacinian /ˈpæsɪˈmeɪn/ corpuscle /ˈkɒr.pʌs.kl/ noun a sensory nerve ending in

the skin which is sensitive to touch and vibrations

PACT abbr prescribing analyses and cost

packed

Packed cell volume /ˈpækt ˈselˌvɔljuːm/ noun the volume of red blood cells in a person’s blood shown against the total volume of blood. Also called haematocrit

packing /ˈpækɪŋ/ noun absorbent material put into a wound or part of the body to absorb fluids

PACK up /ˈpæk ap/ verb to stop working (informal) 1. His heart simply packed up under the strain.

PACT abbr prescribing analyses and cost

pad /ˈpæd/ noun 1. a piece or mass of soft absorbent material, placed on part of the body to protect it 2. She wrapped a pad of soft cotton wool round the sore. 2. a thickening of part of the skin

paed- /ˈpiːd/ prefix same as pedo- (used before vowel) (NOTE: The US spelling is ped-.)

paediatric /ˈpiːd.ɪˈtrɪkrɪk/ adjective referring to the treatment of the diseases of children 1. A new paediatric hospital has been opened. 2. Parents can visit children in the paediatric wards at any time.

‘Paediatric day surgery minimizes the length of hospital stay and therefore is less traumatic for both child and parents’ [British Journal of Nursing]

paediatrician /ˈpiːd.ɪˈtrɪkJ.ən/ noun a doctor who specialises in the treatment of diseases of children

paediatrics /ˌpiːd.ɪˈtrɪkrɪksi/ noun the study of children, their development and diseases. Compare geriatrics

paedo- /ˈpiːdəʊ/ prefix referring to children

paedodontia /ˌpiːd.əˈdɒnt.iə/ noun another spelling of pedodontia

Paget’s disease /ˌpeɪdʒɪts dɪˈziːz/ noun 1. same as osteitis deformans 2. a form of breast cancer which starts as an itchy rash round the nipple [Described 1877. After Sir James Paget (1814-99), British surgeon.]
pain to have very sharp pains which are difficult to bear

COMMENT: Pain is carried by the sensory nerves to the central nervous system. From the site it travels up the spinal column to the medulla and through a series of neurones which use Substance P as the neurotransmitter to the sensory cortex. Pain is the method by which a person knows that part of the body is damaged or infected, though the pain is not always felt in the affected part. See synaesthesia.

pain clinic /ˈpiːkən/. noun a centre which looks after people with severe persistent pain and whose staff include professionals from many specialist areas of medicine

painful /ˈpiːfn/ adjective causing pain ○ She has a painful skin disease. ○ His foot is so painful he can hardly walk. ○ Your eye looks very red – is it very painful?

painkiller /ˈpiːknəl/ noun a drug that reduces pain

painless /ˈpiːnliːzn/ adjective not causing pain ○ a painless method of removing warts

pain pathway /ˈpiːn ˈpæθweɪ/ noun a series of linking nerve fibres and neurones which carry impulses of pain from the site to the sensory cortex

pain receptor /ˈpiːn rɪˌsɛptər/ noun a nerve ending which is sensitive to pain

pain relief /ˈpiːn ˈriːlif/ noun the act of easing pain by using analgesics

paint /ˈpiːnt/ noun a coloured antiseptic, analgesic or astringent liquid which is put on the surface of the body ○ verb to cover a wound with an antiseptic, analgesic or astringent liquid or lotion ○ She painted the rash with calamine.

painter's colic /ˈpiːntərz ˈkɒlɪk/ noun a form of lead poisoning caused, especially formerly, by working with paint

pain threshold /ˈpiːn ˈθrɛʃθəʊld/ noun the point at which a person finds it impossible to bear pain without crying

palatal /ˈpælətəl/ adjective referring to the palate

palate /ˈpælət/ noun the roof of the mouth and floor of the nasal cavity, formed of the hard and soft palates

palate bone /ˈpælət ˈbɔːn/ noun one of two bones which form part of the hard palate, the orbits of the eyes and the cavity behind the nose. Also called palatine bone

palatine /ˈpælətɪn/ adjective referring to the palate

palatine arch /ˈpælətɪn ərʃ/ noun a fold between the soft palate and the tongue, anterior to the tonsil

palatoglossal arch /ˈpælətɔˈglos(ə)l/ noun a fold between the soft palate and the tongue, anterior to the tonsil

palatopharyngeal arch /pələˈtɒfərɪn(ə)l/ noun a fold between the soft palate and the pharynx, posterior to the tonsil

palatoplasty /pəˈlætəplæstɪ/ noun plastic surgery of the roof of the mouth, e.g. to repair a cleft palate

palatoglossia /ˈpælətɔˈɡləsɪə/ noun paralysis of the soft palate

palatopharyngostomy /ˌpæləˈtɒfəˈrɪŋstəmə/ noun a surgical operation to suture and close a cleft palate. Also called staphylorrhaphy, uraniscor-rhaphy

pale /ˈpɛl/ adjective light coloured or white ○ After her illness she looked pale and tired, ○ to turn pale to become white in the face, because the flow of blood is reduced ○ Some people turn pale at the sight of blood.

pallor /ˈpælə/ noun the fact of being pale

pallid /ˈpælɪd/ adjective same as pale

palatoglossa /ˌpæləˈɡləsə/ adjective referring to the palate

palatal /ˈpælətəl/ prefix same as palin-

palatalia /ˈpæləˈteɪliə/ noun a speech disorder in which the person repeats words

pallin- /ˈpælin-/ prefix repeating

palindrome /ˌpælɪˈdramən/ noun a recurring or recurring ○ a palindromic disease

palliative /ˈpæliətɪv/ noun a treatment or drug which relieves symptoms but does nothing to cure the disease which causes the symptoms. For example, a painkiller can reduce the pain in a tooth, but will not cure the cavity which causes the pain. ■ adjective providing relief ○ coronary artery bypass grafting is a palliative procedure aimed at the relief of persistent angina pectoris (British Journal of Hospital Medicine)

palliative care /ˈpæliətɪv ˈkeə/, palliative treatment /ˌpæliətɪv ˈtrɪtmənt/ noun treatment which helps to reduce the symptoms of a disease, especially a terminal or chronic condition, but does not cure it

COMMENT: Palliative care may involve giving antibiotics, transfusions, pain-killing drugs, low-dose chemotherapy and psychological and social support to help the person and their family adjust to the illness. The treatment is often provided in a hospice.

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palindromic /ˌpæliˈdramən/ adjective referring to the palate

palatin /ˈpælətɪn/ noun the fact of being pale

pallor /ˈpælə/ noun the condition of being pale

palm /ˈpælm/ noun the inner surface of the hand, extending from the bases of the fingers to the wrist

palmar /ˈpælmər/ adjective referring to the palm of the hand
palmar arch

palmar arch /ˈpælmər ɑːrʃ/ noun one of two arches or joins within the palm formed by two arteries which link together

palmar fascia /ˈpælmər ˈfæʃə/ noun the tendons in the palm of the hand

palmar interosseus /ˈpælmər ˈɪntər ˈɔsjuəs/ noun a deep muscle between the bones in the hand

palmar region /ˈpælmər ˈrɪdʒ(ə)n/ noun an area of skin around the palm

palpable /ˈpælpəbl/ adjective 1. able to be felt when touched 2. able to be examined with the hand

palpation /ˈpælpəteɪʃən/ noun an examination of part of the body by feeling it with the hand

palpebra /ˈpælpəbrə/ noun same as eyelid (NOTE: the plural is palpebrae)

palpebral /ˈpælpəbrəl/ adjective referring to the eyelids

palpitate /ˈpælpɪteɪt/ verb to beat rapidly or irregularly

palpitation /ˈpælpɪteɪʃən/ noun awareness that the heart is beating rapidly or irregularly, possibly caused by stress or by a disease

pan- /ˈpæn/ prefix referring to everything

panacea /ˈpænəsə/ noun a medicine which is supposed to cure everything

panadol /ˈpænədəl/ a trade name for paracetamol

panarthrits /ˈpænərərθrɪts/ noun inflammation of all the tissues of a joint or of all the joints in the body

pancarditis /ˈpænkuːrθrɪts/ noun inflammation of all the tissues in the heart, i.e. the heart muscle, the endocardium and the pericardium

pancreas /ˈpæŋkrəs/ noun a gland which lies across the back of the body between the kidneys. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement

COMMENT: The pancreas has two functions: the first is to secrete the pancreatic juice which goes into the duodenum and digests proteins and carbohydrates; the second function is to produce the hormone insulin which regulates the use of sugar by the body. This hormone is secreted into the bloodstream by the islets of Langerhans which are in the pancreas.

pancreatectomy /ˌpæŋkrɪˈeɪktəmi/ noun the surgical removal of all or part of the pancreas

pancreatic /ˌpæŋkrɪˈetɪk/ adjective referring to the pancreas

pancreatic duct /ˌpæŋkrɪˈeɪktɪk ˈdʌkt/ noun a duct leading through the pancreas to the duodenum

pancreatic juice /ˌpæŋkrɪˈeɪktɪk ˈdʒuːs/; pancreatic secretion /ˌpæŋkrɪˈeɪktɪk ˈsɪkˈrɛʃən/ noun a digestive juice, formed of enzymes produced by the pancreas, which digests fats and carbohydrates

pancreatectomy /ˌpæŋkrɪˈeɪktəmi/ noun the surgical operation to open the pancreatic duct

pancreatitis /ˌpæŋkrɪˈeɪktərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the pancreas

pancreatomy /ˌpæŋkrɪˈeɪktəmɪ/; pancreatotomy /ˌpæŋkrɪˈeɪktətəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to open the pancreatic duct

pang /ˈpæŋ/ noun a sudden sharp pain, especially in the intestine ○ After not eating for a day, she suffered pangs of hunger.

panhysterectomy /ˌpænɪˈhɪstərɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of all the uterus and the cervix

panic /ˈpænɪk/ noun a feeling of great fear which cannot be stopped and which sometimes results in irrational behaviour ○ He was in a panic as he sat in the consultant’s waiting room. ■ verb to be suddenly afraid ○ She panicked when the surgeon told her she might need to have an operation.

panic attack /ˈpænɪk ˈætæk/ noun a sudden onset of panic

panic disorder /ˈpænɪk ˈdɪsərɔr/ noun a condition in which somebody has frequent panic attacks

panniculitis /ˈpænɪkjuːlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the panniculus adiposus, producing tender swellings on the thighs and breasts

panniculus /ˈpænɪkjʊləs/ noun a layer of membranous tissue

panniculus adiposus /ˈpænɪkjʊləs ˈædɪˈpɔsəs/ noun a layer of fat underneath the skin

panus /ˈpænəs/ noun a growth on the cornea containing tiny blood vessels

panophthalmitis /ˌpænəˌfæθəlˈmɪtɪs/; panophthalmitis /ˌpænəˌfæθəlˈmɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the whole of the eye

panostitis /ˌpænəˈstɪtɪs/; panostitis /ˌpænəˈstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the whole of a bone

panositis /ˌpænəˈstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation affecting all of the ear, but especially the middle ear
sticks up above the usual surface level
pass out
prove bile drainage and allow any stones to
meet to go into the duodenum, in order to im-
the common bile duct and pancreatic duct
was panting when he reached the top of the
is present. Also called
testing a cervical smear sample to see if cancer
cous body secretions to test for malignancy, e.g.
to take short breaths because
of too much exercise, to gasp for breath
1883–1962), Greek anatomist and physician
1933. After George Nicholas Papanicolaou
of the eye
mour on the skin or mucous membrane
as warts, are benign
papylvirus
referring to a virus
Papanicolaou test
noun a vitamin of the vitamin B complex,
conjoined twins
same as
referring to a
Papanicolaou test
noun an accumu-
lation of fluid in the optic disc at the back of the eye
papilloma
noun a benign tu-
mour on the skin or mucous membrane
Pap smear
noun inflammation of the optic disc at the back of the eye
papilloedema
noun an ac-
cumulation of fluid in the optic disc at the back of the eye
papilloma
noun a benign tu-
mour on the skin or mucous membrane
Pap smear
noun inflammation of the optic disc at the back of the eye

paraesthesia
noun an unex-
plained tingling sensation, or pins and needles

pulsus paradoxus
noun a pulse that appears
when the person is attached securely, so that he or
she can be carried upright. It is used for rescu-
Para-influenza virus

Para-influenza virus /ˌpɑːrəˌɪnfləˈenzə/ varia noun a virus which causes upper respiratory tract infection. In its structure it is identical to paramyxoviruses and the measles virus.

Paralyse /ˌpærələtʃ/ verb to make a part of the body unable to carry out voluntary movements by weakening or damaging muscles or nerves so that they cannot function, or by using a drug. His arm was paralysed after the stroke. (Note: The US spelling is paralyze.)

Paralysis /ˈpɑːrləsɪs/ noun a condition in which part of the body cannot be moved because the motor nerves have been damaged or the muscles have been weakened. The condition causes paralysis of the lower limbs. He suffered temporary paralysis of the right arm.

Comment: Paralysis can have many causes: the commonest are injuries to or diseases of the brain or the spinal column.

Paralysis agitans /ˌpɑːrləsɪs ˈædʒɪtəns/ noun same as Parkinsonism.

Paralytic /ˌpærəˈlɪtɪk/ adjective 1. referring to paralysis 2. referring to a person who is paralysed.

Paralytica /ˌpærəˈlɪtɪkə/ noun dementia paralytica.

Paralytic ileus /ˌpærəlɪtɪk ˈɪliəs/ noun an obstruction in the ileum caused by paralysis of the muscles of the intestine. Also called adynamic ileus.

Paralytic poliomyelitis /ˌpærəlɪtɪk pəˌluːɪəˌlɪtɪs/ noun poliomyelitis which affects the muscles.

Paramedian /ˌpærəˈmiːdiən/ adjective near the midline of the body.

Paramedian plane /ˌpærəˈmiːdiən pliːn/ noun a plane near the midline of the body, parallel to the sagittal plane and at right angles to the coronal plane. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement.

Paramedic /ˌpærəˈmedɪk/ noun a person whose work involves the restoration of health and normal functioning. Paramedic is to be used to refer to all types of services and staff, from therapists and hygienists, to ambulance drivers and radiographers, but does not include doctors, nurses or midwives.

Paramedical /ˌpærəˈmedɪkəl/ adjective referring to services linked to those given by nurses, doctors and surgeons.

Paramesonephric duct /ˌpærəˌmiːsnəˈnɛfrɪk/ noun one of the two ducts in an embryo which develop into the uterus and Fallopian tubes. Also called Müllerian duct.

Parameter /ˌpærəˈtɜːrɪər/ noun a measurement of something such as blood pressure which may be an important consideration in treating the condition which the person has.

Parmetritis /ˌpærəˌmɪˈtrɪts/ noun inflammation of the parametrium.

Parametrium /ˌpærəˌmɪˈtrɪəm/ noun the connective tissue around the uterus.

Paramnesia /ˌpærəˈmɪʃəsɪs/ noun a disorder of the memory in which someone remembers events which have not happened.

Paramyxovirus /ˌpærəˌmɪksˌɔːvərəs/ noun one of a group of viruses, which cause mumps, measles and other infectious diseases.

Paramedical /ˌpærəˈmedɪkəl/ adjective by the side of the nose.

Parametral sinus /ˌpærəˌmɛtrəl sɪˈnɔːs/ noun a duct to the parametrium.

Paramedical /ˌpærəˌmedɪkəl/ adjective having a fixed delusion.

Paramedical /ˌpærəˌmedɪkəl/ noun a person affected by paranoia.

Paranoid /ˌpærəˈnɔɪd/ adjective having a delusion.

Paranoid disorder /ˌpærəˈnɔɪd dɪˈzɔːd/ noun a mental disorder which causes someone experiencing it to believe strongly that something is not right with them, with someone else or with the world generally and to maintain the belief even when given evidence against it. (Note: The preferred term is delusional disorder.)

Paranoid schizophrenia /ˌpærəˈnɔɪd ˌskɪzəˈfəniə/ noun a form of schizophrenia in which the person believes he or she is being persecuted.

Paraparesis /ˌpærəˈpərisɪs/ noun incomplete paralysis of the legs.

Paraphasia /ˌpærəˈfeʃəsɪs/ noun a speech disorder in which the person uses a wrong sound in the place of the correct word or phrase.

Paraphimosis /ˌpærəfəˈməʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which the foreskin around the penis is tight and may have to be removed by circumcision.

Paraphrenia /ˌpærəˈfreniə/ noun a dated term for a mental disorder involving delusions without severe personality deterioration.

Paraplegia /ˌpærəˈpleɪdʒə/ noun paralysis which affects the lower part of the body and the legs, usually caused by an injury to the spinal cord.

Paraplegic /ˌpærəˈpleɪdʒɪk/ noun someone who has paraplegia.

Paraprosessional /ˌpærəˈprɔsəʃənəl/ noun somebody with training who acts as an assistant to a professional person.
parasiticide /pərəˈsaɪtɪd/ noun a drug which kills parasites, such as malaria and amebic dysentery, which rises slowly in the blood. Also called a parasiticide.

parasitism /pərəˈsaɪtɪzəm/ noun a group of skin diseases with scales, similar to psoriasis.

parasiticide /pərəˈsaɪtɪd/ noun a drug which kills parasites, such as malaria and amebic dysentery, which rises slowly in the blood. Also called a parasiticide.

parasitology /pərəˈsaɪtələdʒi/ noun the scientific study of parasites.

parasiticide /pərəˈsaɪtɪd/ noun a substance which kills parasites. Also called a parasiticide.

parasympathetic /pərəˈsɪmpəθɛtɪk/ adjective referring to the parasympathetic nervous system.

parasympathetic nervous system /pərəˈsɪmpəθɛtɪk ˈnɜrveɪs sɪstəm/ noun one of two parts of the autonomic nervous system. Its messages reach the organs of the body through the cranial and sacral nerves to the eyes, gastrointestinal system and other organs.

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parenteral

/ˈpærərɛntərəl/ adjective referring to medication which is not given by mouth but in the form of injections or suppositories. Compare enteral, oral

parenteral nutrition /ˈpærərɛntərəl ˈnjuːtʃər/ the process of feeding someone by means other than the digestive tract, especially by giving injections of glucose to someone critically ill

parenthood /ˈperərəntθud/ noun the state of being a parent

parenting /ˈperərəntɪŋ/ noun the activities involved in bringing up children. Parenting skills are the abilities and experience that make someone a good parent.

paresthesia /ˌpærəˈsthɛziə/ noun partial paralysis

paralysis /ˈpærəlɪzɪs/ noun partial paralysis

paralysis /ˈpærəlɪzɪs/ noun US same as paresis

partial /ˈpɑrʃəl/ adjective affecting only part of something

partial /ˈpɑrʃəl/ adjective not complete, affecting only part of something

partial /ˈpɑrʃəl/ adjective as used for anticoagulants

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past history  

past history /ˈpɑːstˈhɪstrəʊ/ noun records of earlier illnesses ○ He has no past history of renal disease.

pastille /ˈpɑːstɪl/ noun 1. a sweet jelly with medication in it, which can be sucked to relieve a sore throat 2. a small paper disc covered with barium platinocyanide, which changes colour when exposed to radiation

pat /pæt/ verb to hit someone or something lightly and gently with the palm of the hand or some other flat surface ○ She patted the baby on the back to make it burp.

patch /pætʃ/ noun a piece of sticking plaster with a substance on it, which is stuck to the skin to allow the substance to be gradually absorbed into the system through the skin, e.g. in HRT

COMMENT: Patches are available on prescription for various treatments, especially for administering hormone replacement therapy. They are also used for treating nicotine addiction and can be bought without a prescription.

patch test /ˈpætʃtɛst/ noun a test for allergies or tuberculosis, where a piece of sticking plaster containing an allergic substance or tuberculin is stuck to the skin to see if there is a reaction

patella /ˈpætələ/ noun the small bone in front of the knee joint. Also called kneecap

patellar /ˈpætəlær/ adjective referring to the kneecap

patellar reflex /ˈpætəlær ˈrɛflex/ noun the jerk made as a reflex action by the knee, when the legs are crossed and the patellar tendon is tapped sharply. Also called knee jerk

patellar tendon /ˈpætəlær ˈtɛndən/ noun a tendon just below the kneecap

patellectomy /ˌpætəlɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the kneecap

patency /ˈpætənsi/ noun the condition of being wide open ○ A salpingostomy was performed to restore the patency of the Fallopian tube.

patent /ˈpætənt, ˈpætnənt/ adjective open, exposed ○ The presence of a pulse shows that the main blood vessels from the heart to the site of the pulse are patent.

patent ductus arteriosus /ˈpætənt ˈdæktəsərˈtɛrɪəsəs/ noun a congenital condition in which the duc tus arteriosus does not close, allowing blood into the circulation without having passed through the lungs

patent medicine /ˈpætənt ˈmediksən/ noun a medicinal preparation which is made and sold under a trade name and is protected by law from being copied or sold by other manufacturers for a certain length of time after its invention. ○ proprietary medicine

paternity /ˈpætərəntri/ noun 1. the fact of being or becoming a father ○ paternity leave Compare maternity 2. the identity of a father ○ paternity test /ˈpætərəntri ˈtest/ noun a test such as blood grouping which makes it possible to determine the identity of the father of a child

COMMENT: DNA fingerprinting may be required in order to identify a man who might be the father according to his blood group and that of the child, but is not in fact the father.

path-/pæθ, path-/ˈpæθə/ prefix referring to disease

pathogen /ˈpæθədʒən/ noun a microorganism which causes a disease

pathogenesis /ˈpæθədʒənˌɛsɪs/ noun the origin, production and development of a morbid or diseased condition

pathogenetic /ˈpæθədʒənˈɛtɪk/ adjective referring to pathogenesis

pathogenic /ˈpæθədʒɪk/ adjective causing or producing a disease

pathogenicity /ˈpæθədʒɪkəti/ noun the ability of a pathogen to cause a disease

pathognomonic /ˈpæθəˌgonəˈmɒnɪk/ adjective referring to a symptom which is typical and characteristic, and which indicates that someone has a particular disease

pathological /ˈpæθəlɑːdʒɪkəl/ adjective referring to the study of unusual or diseased organs or producing a disease

pathological depression /ˈpæθəlɑːdʒɪkəl ˈdɛprəzhən/ noun an unusually severe state of depression, possibly leading to suicide

pathological dislocation /ˈpæθəlɑːdʒɪkəl ˈdɪsloʊkeɪʃən/ noun the dislocation of a diseased joint

pathological fracture /ˈpæθəlɑːdʒɪkəl ˈfræktr/ noun a fracture of a diseased bone

pathologist /ˈpæθəlɑːdʒɪst/ noun 1. a doctor who specialises in the study of diseases and the changes in the body caused by disease, examining tissue specimens from patients and reporting on the presence or absence of disease in them 2. a doctor who examines dead bodies in order to find out the cause of death

pathology /ˈpæθəlɑːdʒɪlɪ/ noun the study of diseases and the changes in structure and function which diseases cause in the body. Also called morbid anatomy

pathology report /ˈpæθəlɑːdʒɪlɪ riˈpɔːt/ noun a report on tests carried out to find the cause of a disease

pathophysiology /ˈpæθəfɪzɪlɪˈθɛdlɪ/ noun the study of unusual or diseased organs

pathway /ˈpæθweɪ/ noun a series of linked neurons along which nerve impulses travel

path-/pæθ, path-/ˈpæθə/ prefix 1. disease 2. treatment of a disease

patient /ˈpætʃənt/ adjective being able to wait a long time without becoming annoyed ○ You will have to be patient if you are waiting for treatment – the doctor is late with his ap-
**pediculosis**

**peaky** /ˈpiːki/ adjective thin, pale, and sickly in appearance (informal)

**pearl** /ˈpɔːl/ Bohn’s nodules

**Pearson bed** /ˈpɛrson/ bed noun a type of bed with a Balkan frame, a rectangular frame attached to and overhanging the bed, used mainly for people with splints

**peau d’orange** /ˈpwa ˈɔʁɑ̃/ noun thickened skin with many little depressions caused by lymphoedema which forms over a breast tumour or in elephantiasis [NOTE: From the French phrase meaning ‘orange peel.’]

**pecten** /ˈpektən/ noun 1. the middle section of the wall of the anal passage 2. a hard ridge on the pubis

**pectineal** /ˈpektɪnəl/ adjective referring to the pecten of the pubis 2. referring to a structure with ridges like a comb

**pectoral** /ˈpektərəl/ noun 1. a therapeutic substance which has a good effect on respiratory disease 2. same as pectoral muscle adjective referring to the chest

**pectoral girdle** /ˈpektərəl ˈɡɜːrdəl/ noun the shoulder bones, the scapulae and clavicles, to which the upper arm bones are attached. Also called shoulder girdle

**pectoralis** /ˈpektərələs/ noun a chest muscle

**pectoralis major** /ˈpektərələs ˈmeɪɔr/ a large chest muscle which pulls the arm forward or rotates it

**pectoralis minor** /ˈpektərələs ˈmɪnər/ noun a small chest muscle which allows the shoulder to be depressed

**pectoral muscle** /ˈpektərəl ˈməsəl/ noun one of two muscles which lie across the chest and control movements of the shoulder and arm. Also called chest muscle

**pectus** /ˈpektəs/ noun the anterior part of the chest

**pectus carinatum** /ˈpektəs ˈkærɪnətəm/ noun a condition in which the sternum is unusually prominent. Also called pigeon breast

**pectus excavatum** /ˈpektəs ˈɛkскəˈvɛktəm/ noun a congenital condition, in which the chest is depressed in the centre because the lower part of the breastbone is curved backwards. Also called funnel chest

**pedes** /ˈpiːdəs/ plural of pes

**pediatrics** /ˌpiːdiˈætriks/ noun US same as paediatrics

**pedicile** /ˈpedɪk(ə)l/ noun 1. a long thin piece of skin which attaches a skin graft to the place where it was growing originally 2. a piece of tissue which connects a tumour to healthy tissue 3. a bridge which connects the lamina of a vertebra to the body

**pediculicide** /ˈpedɪkjuˌlaɪsɪd/ noun a chemical substance that kills lice

**pediculosis** /ˌpiːdɪkJʊˈloʊsɪs/ noun a skin disease caused by being infested with lice
Pediculus

Pediculus /ˈpɛdɪkjʊləs/ noun same as louse

Pediculus capitis /ˈpɛdɪkjʊləs ˈkæpɪtɪs/ noun same as head louse

pedo- /ˈpiːdəʊ/ prefix same as paedo-

pedodontia /ˈpiːdəʊdɑːntɪə/ noun the study of children’s teeth

pedodontist /ˈpiːdəʊdɑːntɪst/ noun a dentist who specialises in the treatment of children’s teeth

peduncle /ˈpiːdəŋkəl/ noun a stem or stalk. Opposite sessile

pee /piː/ verb same as urinate (informal)

peel /piːl/ verb 1. to take the skin off a fruit or vegetable 2. (of skin) to come off in pieces After getting sunburnt, his skin began to peel.

pee /piː/ noun 1. a small rod- or oval-shaped pill of steroid hormone, usually either oestrogen or testosterone, that is implanted under the skin for slow absorption 2. solid sediment at the base of a container after centrifuging

pellicle /ˈpelɪklə/ noun a thin layer of skin tissue

pellucida /ˌpɛluːsɪdə/ ζονα pellucida

pelvis /ˈpɛlvɪs/ plural of pelvis

pelvic /ˈpɛlvɪk/ adjective referring to the pelvis

pelvic brim /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈbrɪm/ noun a line on the ilium which separates the false pelvis from the true pelvis

pelvic cavity /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈkeɪvɪtɪ/ noun a space below the abdominal cavity, above the pelvis

pelvic colon /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈkəʊlən/ noun same as sigmoid colon

pelvic diaphragm /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈdɪəfrəʊm/ noun a sheet of muscle between the pelvic cavity and the peritoneum

pelvic floor /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈflɔːr/ noun the lower part of the space beneath the pelvic girdle, formed of muscle

pelvic fracture /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈfʁæktʃər/ noun a fracture of the pelvis

pelvic girdle /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈɡɜːdʒəl/ noun the ring formed by the two hip bones to which the thigh bones are attached. Also called hip girdle

pelvic inflammatory disease /ˈpɛlvɪk ɪnˈfləmətəri dɪˈziːən/ noun an inflammation of a woman’s reproductive organs in the pelvic area, which can cause infertility

pelvic outlet /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈaʊtlet/ noun an opening at the base of the pelvis

pelvic version /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈvənʃən/ noun turning a fetus around in the uterus by moving the buttocks of the fetus

pelvimeter /ˈpɛlvɪmɪtər/ noun an instrument to measure the diameter and capacity of the pelvis

pelvimetry /ˈpɛlvɪmɪtrɪ/ noun the act of measuring the pelvis, especially to see if the internal ring is wide enough for a baby to pass through in childbirth

pelvis /ˈpɛlvɪs/ noun 1. the strong basin-shaped ring of bone near the bottom of the spine, formed of the hip bones at the front and sides and the sacrum and coccyx at the back 2. the internal space inside the pelvic girdle (note: [all senses] The plural is pelvises or pelvies.)

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penetrate /'penrətər/ verb to go through or into something ○ The end of the broken bone has penetrated the liver. ○ The ulcer burst, penetrating the wall of the duodenum.
penetration /'pentrəmənt/ noun the act of penetrating ○ the penetration of the vagina by the penis ○ penetration of an ovum by a spermatozoon
-penia /'pənəriə/ suffix meaning a deficiency or not enough of something
penicillamine /'pənɪsɪləməni/ noun a chelating agent which is used to help the body get rid of toxic metals
penicillin /'pənɪsəlɪn/ noun a common antibiotic originally produced from a fungus (note: Penicillin drugs have names ending in -cilin: amoxicillin.)
COMMENT: Penicillin is effective against many microbial diseases, but some people can be allergic to it, and this fact should be noted on medical record cards.
penicillinase /'pənɪsɪlɪnɛs/ noun an enzyme produced by some bacteria that inactivates penicillin, used to treat adverse reactions to penicillin
penicillin resistance /'pənɪsɪlɪn rɪˈzɪstəns/ noun the ability of bacteria to resist penicillin
Penicillium /'pənɪsɪlɪəm/ noun the fungus from which penicillin is derived
penile /'pənɪnəl/ adjective referring to the penis
penile urethra /'pənɪnəl jʊˈrɪθrə/ noun a tube in the penis through which urine and semen pass
penis /'pənɪs/ noun the male genital organ, which also passes urine. See illustration at urogenital system (male) in Supplement. ○ kraurosis penis
COMMENT: The penis is a mass of tissue containing the urethra. When stimulated the tissue of the penis fills with blood and becomes erect.
pentamidine /'pen.təmɪdɪn/ noun an antibiotic used in the treatment of African sleeping sickness and of pneumonia in people with AIDS
pentazocine /'pen.təzəsɪn/ noun an artificially produced narcotic drug used to reduce pain
pentose /'pentəzəʊ/ noun a sugar containing five carbon atoms
pentosuria /'pən.təsəjʊərɪə/ noun a condition in which pentose is present in the urine
Penotnal /'pənəˌthoʊl/ a trade name for thio-pentone
Peplau's model /'pəpləu, məd(ə)/ noun a model for nursing which describes the individual as a system with physiological, psychological and social components. The nurse and patient work together to define the patient’s problems and to understand their reactions to one another, and the nurse takes on different roles in each phase of the relationship, such as a teacher, counsellor, leader, and technical expert, until the patient no longer needs their care.
pepsin /'pɛpsɪn/ noun an enzyme in the stomach which breaks down the proteins in food into peptones
pepsinogen /'pɛpsɪnəˈɡən/ noun a secretion from the gastric gland which is the inactive form of pepsin
peptic /'pɛptɪk/ adjective referring to digestion or to the digestive system
peptic ulcer /'pɛptɪk ˈəlsər/ noun a benign ulcer in the duodenum or in the stomach
peptidase /'pɛptɪdəz/ noun an enzyme which breaks down proteins in the intestine into amino acids
peptide /'pɛptɪd/ noun a compound formed of two or more amino acids
peptone /'pɛptən/ noun a substance produced by the action of peptin on proteins in food
peptonuria /'pɛptəˈnjuərɪə/ noun a condition in which peptones are present in the urine per /pər/ preposition 1. out of each ○ ten per thousand 2. by or through ○ per rectum per cent /pərˈsɛnt/ noun, adjective, adverb in or for every hundred ○ Fifty per cent (50%) of the tests were positive. ○ Seventy-five per cent (75%) of hospital cases remain in hospital for less than four days. ○ there has been a five per cent increase in applications the number of applications has gone up by five in every hundred ○ new cases have decreased twenty per cent this year the number of new cases has gone down by twenty in every hundred percentage /pəˈsɛntɪdʒ/ noun the proportion rate in every hundred or for every hundred ○ What is the percentage of long-stay patients in the hospital?
perception /pərˈsepʃən/ noun an impression formed in the brain as a result of information about the outside world which is passed back by the senses
perceptive deafness /pərˈpektɪv ˈdɛfnəs/ noun same as sensorineural deafness
percussion /pərˈkʌʃən/ noun a test, usually on the heart and lungs, in which the doctor taps part of the person’s body and listens to the sound produced
percutaneous /pərˈkjuːnəs/ adjective through the skin
percutaneous absorption /pərˈkjuːnəs əˈbɛərʃən/ noun the process of absorbing a substance through the skin
percutaneous angioplasty /pərˈkjuːnəs ənˈdʒɪoʊplæsə/ noun the repair of a narrowed artery by passing a balloon into the artery through a catheter and then inflating it. Also called balloon angioplasty
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perform

percutaneous epididymal sperm aspiration (pərˈkətənəs əˌspidədīˈmāl sərˈprizən) noun the removal of sperm from the epididymis by withdrawing it through the skin, usually as part of fertility treatment. Abbr PESA

per diem /ˈpər ˈdiːəm/ adverb (written on prescriptions) per day

perennial /ˈpərəˈniən/ adjective which continues all the time, for a period of years ○ She has perennial bronchial asthma.

perforate /pəˈfɔrət/ verb to make a hole through something ○ The ulcer perforated the duodenum.

perforated eardrum /pəˈfɔrət əˈdrəm/ noun an eardrum with a hole in it

perforated ulcer /pəˈfɔrət əˈləkər/ noun an ulcer which has made a hole in the wall of the intestine

perforation /pəˈfɔrəˈʃən/ noun a hole through the whole thickness of a tissue or membrane such as the intestine or eardrum

perform /pərˈfɔrn/ verb 1. to do an operation ○ A team of three surgeons performed the heart transplant operation. 2. to work ○ The new heart has performed very well. ○ The kidneys are not performing as well as they should.

performance indicators /pərˈfɔrəməns ɪndɪˈkɛtərz/ plural noun statistical information needed for analysis of how effectively health organisations are meeting their objectives, produced by health authorities and sent to the government. Abbr PIs

perfuse /pərˈfjuːz/ verb to introduce a liquid into tissue or an organ, especially by circulating it through blood vessels

perfusion /pərˈfjuːʒən/ noun the process of passing a liquid through vessels, an organ or tissue, e.g. the flow of blood into lung tissue

perfusion scan /pərˈfjuːʒən skən/ noun a procedure in which radioactive or radiopaque substances are introduced into the body so that the blood supply of an organ can be traced

peri- /pərˈiː/ prefix, near, around or enclosing

periadenitis /pərɪəˈdɛnətɪs/ noun inflammation of tissue around a gland

perianal /pərɪˈeɪnəl/ adjective around the anus

perianal haematoma /pərɪeɪnəl ˈheɪmətəmə/ noun a small painful swelling outside the anus caused by forcing a bowel movement

periarteritis /pərɪərˈɑrtərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the tissue round a joint

periarticular /pərɪərˈɑrtɪkjələr/ adjective referring to the pericardium

pericardectomy /pərɪkɑrdˈɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the pericardium

pericardial /pərɪˈkɑrdɪdəl/ adjective referring to the pericardium

pericardial effusion /pərɪkɑrdˈɪdəl ˈɛfənʃən/ noun an excess of fluid which forms in the pericardial sac

pericardial friction /pərɪkɑrdˈɪdəl ˈfrɪʃən/ noun the rubbing together of the two parts of the pericardium in pericarditis

pericardial sac /pərɪkɑrdˈɪdəl ˈsæk/ noun the inner part of the pericardium forming a bag-like structure or sac which contains fluid to prevent the two parts of the pericardium rubbing together

pericardiectomy /pərɪkɑrdˈɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the pericardium

pericardiocentesis /pərɪˌkɑrdɪəˈsɛnˌtɪsɪs/ noun the puncture of the pericardium to remove fluid

pericardiorrhaphy /pərɪˌkɑrdɪəˌrɔrəˈfɪ/ noun a surgical operation to repair a wound in the pericardium

pericardiostomy /pərɪˌkɑrdɪəˌstɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to open the pericardium through the thoracic wall to drain off fluid

pericardiectomy /pərɪˌkɑrdɪəˌtɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the pericardium

pericarditis /pərɪˌkɑrdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the pericardium ○ acute pericarditis a sudden attack of fever and pains in the chest, caused by the two parts of the pericardium rubbing together

pericardium /pərɪˈkɑrdɪəm/ noun a membrane which surrounds and supports the heart

pericardotomy /pərɪˌkɑrdəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to open the pericardium

perichondritis /pərɪˌkɑndəˈrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of cartilage, especially in the outer ear

perichondriectomy /pərɪˌkɑndəˌɪktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the perichondrium

pericolic /pərɪˌkoʊlɪk/ adjective referring to the pericolic region

pericolicitis /pərɪˌkoʊlɪˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the pericolic region

periculitis /pərɪˌkjuˈlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the skin round hair follicles

periculitis /pərɪˌkjuˈlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the membrane round the liver

perilymph /pərɪˈlɪmpl/ noun a fluid found in the labyrinth of the inner ear
fibres

birth, from the 28th week after conception to

to measure the field of vision

fecting the mother and/or infant just before

spreads from an infected kidney

mation of tissue round the kidney, which

the outside line around an enclosed area

the eyeball

periocular

periosteotome
periosteum /ˌpɜːriˈɒstɪəm/ noun a dense layer of connective tissue around a bone. See illustration at bone structure in Supplement.

periosteum elevator /ˌpɜːriˈɒstɪəm ˈɛləvətər/ noun a surgical instrument used to remove the outer layer of bone.

periostitis /ˌpɜːriˈɒstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the periosteum.

periotic /ˌpɜːriˈtɪk/ adjective referring to the area around the ear, especially the bones around the inner ear.

peripheral /ˈpɜːrɪfərəl/ adjective at the edge.

peripheral nerves /ˈpɜːrɪfərəl nɜrvz/ plural noun the parts of motor and sensory nerves which branch from the brain and spinal cord.

peripheral nervous system /ˌpɜːrɪfəˈrəl nɜrvəs ˈsɪstəm/ noun all the nerves in different parts of the body which are linked and governed by the central nervous system. Abbrev. PNS.

peripheral resistance /ˌpɜːrɪfəˈrəl riˈzɪstəns/ noun the ability of the peripheral blood vessels to slow down the flow of blood inside them.

peripheral vascular disease /ˌpɜːrɪfəˈrəl vərˈsɪklər dɪˈziːs/ noun a disease affecting the blood vessels which supply the arms and legs.

peripheral vasodilator /ˌpɜːrɪfəˈrəl vəˈsɒdɪleɪtər/ noun a chemical substance which acts to widen the blood vessels in the arms and legs and so improves bad circulation.

periphery /ˈpɜːrɪfəri/ noun 1. the regions of the body where the nerves end, such as the sense organs or the muscles. 2. the surface of something.

periphlebitis /ˌpɜːrɪfɪlˈbɪtɪs/ noun 1. inflammation of the outer coat of a vein. 2. an inflammation of the connective tissue round a vein.

periproctitis /ˌpɜːrɪpəˈrɒkˈtɪtɪs/ noun swelling of the tissues around the rectum.

perisalpingitis /ˌpɜːrɪsælˈpɪŋɡɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the peritoneum and other parts round a Fallopian tube.

perisplenitis /ˌpɜːrɪspleˈnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the peritoneum and other parts round the spleen.

peristalsis /ˌpɜːrɪstəˈlætləs/ noun the movement, like waves, produced by alternate contraction and relaxation of muscles along an organ such as the intestine or oesophagus, which pushes the contents of the organ along it. Compare antiperistalsis.

peristaltic /ˌpɜːrɪstəˈlætlɪk/ adjective occurring in waves, as in peristalsis.

peritendinitis /ˌpɜːrɪtɛnˈdɪnɪtɪs/ noun same as tenosynovitis.

peritony /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɒni/ noun 1. a surgical operation on the eye, where the conjunctiva is cut in a circle round the cornea. 2. circumcision.

peritoneal /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɒniəl/ adjective referring to, or belonging to, the peritoneum.

peritoneal cavity /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɒniəl ˈkeɪvətɪ/ noun a space between the layers of the peritoneum, containing the major organs of the abdomen.

peritoneal dialysis /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɒniəl ˈdɛləsɪs/ noun removing waste matter from someone's blood by introducing fluid into the peritoneum which then acts as a filter, as opposed to haemodialysis.

peritoneoscope /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɒnɪskəʊp/ noun same as laparoscope.

peritoneoscopy /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɒnɪˌskɒpɪ/ noun same as laparoscopy.

peritendinitis /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɪndɪnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the peritoneum as a result of bacterial infection.

COMMENT: Peritonitis is a serious condition and can have many causes. One of its effects is to stop the peristalsis of the intestine so making it impossible for a person to eat and digest.

peritonsillar /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɒnɪslər/ adjective around the tonsils.

peritonsillar abscess /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɒnɪslər əˈbɛsɪs/ noun same as quinsy.

peritrichous /ˌpɜːrɪˈtrɪkəs/ adjective referring to bacteria where the surface of the cell is covered with flagella.

perityphlitis /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɪfɪlɪtɪs/ noun swelling of the tissues around the caecum.

periumbilical /ˌpɜːrɪˈuːmˈbɪlɪkəl/ adjective around the navel.

perireteritis /ˌpɜːrɪˈriːtərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the ureter itself.

perirethral /ˌpɜːrɪrɪˈθɜrəl/ adjective around the urethra.

PERLA abbreviation Pupils Equal and Reactive to Light and Accommodation.

perle /pɜːr/ noun a soft capsule of medicine.

perleche /pɜːrˈleʃ/ noun 1. inflammation, with small cracks, at the corners of the mouth, caused by infection, poor diet, or producing too much saliva. 2. candidiasis.

permanent /ˈpɜːrˌmæŋənt/ adjective always existing. ○ The accident left him with a permanent disability.

permanently /ˈpɜːrˌmæŋəntli/ adverb always, forever ○ He was permanently disabled by the accident.

permanent teeth /ˌpɜːrˌmæŋənt tiːθ/ noun the teeth in an adult, which replace the child's milk teeth during childhood.
consciousness. Abbr brain activity, and will never recover con-

belonging to a person

ing place during a surgical operation

act of repeating actions or words without any

some substances to pass through it

pernicious /pə'ni:sıʃ/ adjective harmful or
dangerous, or unusually severe and likely to

end in death

pernicious anaemia /pə'ni:sıʃı ə'nəmiə/ noun a disease where an inability to absorb vi-
tamin B₁₂ prevents the production of red blood
cells and damages the spinal cord. Also called
Addison's anaemia

perniosis /pə'ni:ziəs/ noun any condition
caused by cold which affects blood vessels in
the skin

pes planus
pes cavus

pes /vertstrokeinferiorkevəs
pes /vertstrokesuperiorpleıənəs

peroneal muscle /pənə'ralı ə'masıəl/ noun one of three
muscles, the peroneus brevis, longus and tertii,
on the outside of the lower leg which make
the leg turn outwards

peroperative /pə'rəpəriətiv/ adjective taking
place during a surgical operation

peroral /pə'rəral/ adjective through the
mouth

per os /par 'os/ adverb referring to a drug or other
substance to be taken through the mouth

perspiration /pəsə'pəriəʃən/ noun sweat
or the action of sweating

perspiration broke

out on her forehead.

COMMENT: Perspiration is formed in the sweat

glands under the epidermis and cools the
body as the moisture evaporates from the

skin. Sweat contains salt, and in hot countries
it may be necessary to take salt tablets to re-
place the salt lost through perspiration.

perspire /pə'spir/ verb to produce moisture
through the sweat glands

Perthes’ disease /pə'thı:z dı,zi:zi/, Per-
theses’ hip /pə'thı:s 'hip/ noun a disease found
in young boys, in which the upper end of the

femur degenerates and does not develop as ex-
pected, sometimes resulting in a permanent
limp

pertussis /pə'tasıız/ noun same as whooping
cough

perspiration /pəsə'pəriəʃən/ noun a form of be-

haviour which is thought to be unnatural,
dangerous or disgusting

○ He is suffering from a

form of sexual perversion.

pes /pes/ noun a foot

PESA abbr percutaneous epididymal sperm
aspiration

pes cavus /pes 'kevəs/ noun same as claw
foot

pes planus /pes 'plənəs/ noun same as flat
foot

pessay /pesəri/ noun 1. a drug in soluble
material which is pushed into the vagina and
absorbed into the blood there. Also called vag-
nal suppository 2. a contraceptive device
worn inside the vagina to prevent spermatozoa

members of staff can consult the personal
records of the patients.

personal care /pə'zı:ln ol keə/ noun the act of
washing, toileting and dressing someone
who cannot do these things for themselves

personal hygiene /pə'zı:ln ə'hi:nı/ 'handʃən/
noun the standards someone has of looking af-
after parts of their body such as hair, skin, teeth
and breath, hands and nails, and keeping them

clean

personality /pəsə'nelı ti/ noun all the char-
acteristics which are typical of one particular
person and the way he or she thinks and be-
haves, and which make him or her different
from other people

‘Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive disorder which
sees a gradual decline in intellectual functioning and
deterioration of personality and physical coordina-
tion and activity (Nursing Times)

personality disorder /pə'sə'neli ti dı-
'sərdı/ noun a disorder which affects the way a
person behaves, especially in relation to other
people

personnel /pə'sonıəl/ noun members of
staff ○ All hospital personal must be imma-

nised against hepatitis. ○ Only senior person-
nel can inspect the patients’ medical records.

(personel is singular.)

peristalsis /pə'si:taılsıs/ noun same as
whooping cough

perspiration /pəsə'pəriəʃən/ noun a form of be-

haviour which is thought to be unnatural,
dangerous or disgusting

○ He is suffering from a

form of sexual perversion.

pes /pes/ noun a foot

PESA abbr percutaneous epididymal sperm
aspiration

pes cavus /pes 'kevəs/ noun same as claw
foot

pes planus /pes 'plənəs/ noun same as flat
foot

pessay /pesəri/ noun 1. a drug in soluble
material which is pushed into the vagina and
absorbed into the blood there. Also called vag-
nal suppository 2. a contraceptive device
worn inside the vagina to prevent spermatozoa
pest

entering 3. a device like a ring, which is put into the vagina as treatment for prolapse of the uterus

**pest** /pest/ noun an animal which carries disease, attacks plants and animals and harms or kills them ○ a spray to remove insect pests **pesticide** /pest'sis/ noun a substance which kills pests

**PET scan** /pet'si kan/ noun an ultrasonic technique which turns a cataract in the eye into liquid. It is then removed by suction and a plastic lens is put into the eye.

**phacoemulsification** /ˌfækəˌeməlˌsifik/-ˌʃi/ noun an ultrasonic technique which turns a cataract in the eye into liquid. It is then removed by suction and a plastic lens is put into the eye.

**phaeochromocytoma** /ˌfeɪəˌkroʊməˈsɔtəmə/ noun a tumour of the adrenal glands which affects the secretion of hormones such as adrenaline, which in turn results in hypertension and hyperglycaemia

**phag-** /fəg/- prefix same as phago- (used before root words)

**phage** /feɪdʒ/ noun same as bacteriophage

**phag-** /fəg/- suffix referring to something which eats

**phagomy** /feɪdʒi/ noun a ulcer that spreads rapidly

**phagia** /fədʒiə/ noun referring to eating

**phaeochromocytoma** /ˌfæeəˌkroʊməˈsɔtəmə/ noun a tumour of the adrenal glands which affects the secretion of hormones such as adrenaline, which in turn results in hypertension and hyperglycaemia

**phantom** /fəntəm/ noun 1. a model of the whole body or part of the body, used to practice or demonstrate surgical operations 2. an image not brought about by actual stimuli, something which is not there but seems to be there

**phantom limb** /fəntəm 'lim/ noun a condition in which someone seems to feel sensations in a limb which has been amputated

**phantom pregnancy** /fəntəm 'preŋɡənsi/ noun same as pseudocyesis

**phantom tumour** /fəntəm 'tuəmə/ noun a condition in which a swelling occurs which imitates a swelling caused by a tumour
The study of drugs or medicines, and their actions, is known as pharmacology. A scientist who specialises in the study of drugs is called a pharmacologist. Pharmacokinetics is the study of how the body reacts to drugs over a period of time. Pharmacogenomics refers to the study of the relationship between a person’s genetic makeup and their response to drug treatments. Pharmacodynamics is the science of the preparation and dispensing of medicines, while pharmacodynamics is the study of the effects of drugs on living organisms, and especially of how much the body’s response changes when you increase the dose of a drug. Compare pharmacokinetics (note: Takes a singular verb.)

Pharmacogenomics, a prefix referring to the study of the relationship between a person’s genetic makeup and their response to drug treatments (note: Takes a singular verb.)

Pharmacokinetic, a prefix referring to a property of a drug which affects the part where it is applied, such as the study of the effects of drugs on living organisms, and especially of how much the body’s response changes when you increase the dose of a drug. Compare pharmacokinetics (note: Takes a singular verb.)

Pharmacological, a prefix referring to the study of drugs or medicines, and their actions, properties and characteristics. Pharmacopoeia, an official list of drugs, their methods of preparation, dosages and the ways in which they should be used.
Numbness is the second grade of paralysis. Spinal damage is the reason for numbness.

Because the blood returns to the heart and the lungs on the right side of the heart, a total obstruction on the right side of the heart may cause death. Such an obstruction may be due to atherosclerosis or pulmonary embolus. A totally obstructed coronary artery on the left side of the heart may also cause death, but only if the obstruction is total. Such an obstruction is usually due to a thickened intima or atherosclerotic plaque.

* Chest pain, especially on the left side.
* Difficulty breathing.
* Numbness or weakness on the left side of the body.
* A sudden onset of profound weakness.
* Loss of consciousness.

The death of a large number of people is due to heart attack. Such heart attacks usually occur in middle-aged or older people. Such people are usually physically active and have no known risk factors for heart disease. In such cases, the death may be due to atherosclerosis or pulmonary embolism. In such cases, the death may be due to atherosclerosis or pulmonary embolism.
is common among workers in match factories.

bones of the lower jaw. The disease was once
fumes, which results in disintegration of the
bones and converts them into a visual display

The process of recording the sounds made by the heart

the study of the system of speech sounds used in a particular
language or in human speech generally

performed to alter the quality of the voice

a toxic chemical element which is present in very

/vertstrokesuperiorəfɒsfet/ noun a salt of phosphoric acid

a condition in which the eyes become sensitive
to light and conjunctivitis may be caused
(note: it can be associated with measles and some other infectious diseases.) 2. a morbid fear of light

a type of phosphorus

a condition of

from the heat caused by light, used to treat a detached retina

a lesion of the skin after exposure to

a condition in which the eyes become sensitive
to light and conjunctivitis may be caused
(note: it can be associated with measles and some other infectious diseases.) 2. a morbid fear of light

light adaptation

a condition of the eye in which someone sees flashes of light

a treatment for jaundice and vitamin D deficiency, which involves exposing the person to ultraviolet rays

a cause of damage to the retina of the eye due to exposure to too much ultraviolet light or radi-
photuria

- Children's retinas are more likely to experience damage as a result of phototoxicity from excess ultraviolet light than those of adults. *retinopathy*

photuria /ˈfəʊtəraɪə/ noun phosphorescent urine

- phrenic /ˈfrenɪk/ adjective 1. referring to the phrenic nerve 2. referring to the mind or intellect

phrenic /ˈfrenɪk/ noun a surgical operation to crush the phrenic nerve in order to paralyse the diaphragm

phrenectomy /ˈfrenɪkətəmi/ noun the surgical removal of part of the phrenic nerve

phreniclasia /ˈfrenɪkˌklɛziə/ noun an operation to clamp the phrenic nerve

phrenic nerve /ˈfrenɪk nɜːv/ noun a pair of nerves which controls the muscles in the diaphragm

phrenicotomy /ˈfrenɪkˌtəmə/ noun an operation to divide the phrenic nerve

phrenop- /ˈfrenəp-/ prefix 1. referring to the brain 2. referring to the phrenic nerve

pH test /ˈpiː tɛst/ noun a test to see how acid or alkaline a solution is

- phthiriasis /ˌfæθərɪəˈsɪs/ noun infestation with the crab louse

Physiologic tremor /ˌfɪzɪəˈlɒdʒɪk ˈtremər/ noun a small movement of the limbs which takes place when a person tries to remain still

Physiologist /ˌfɪzɪəˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a scientist who specialises in the study of the functions of living organisms

Physiology /ˌfɪzɪəˈlɒdʒɪ/ noun the study of regular body functions

Physiotherapist /ˌfɪzɪəˈθerəpɪst/ noun a trained specialist who gives physiotherapy

Physiotherapy /ˌfɪzɪəˈθerəpɪ/ noun the treatment of a disorder or condition by exercise, massage, heat treatment, infrared lamps or other external means, e.g. to restore strength or function after a disease or injury

Physiotherapy clinic /ˌfɪzɪəˈθerəpɪˌklɪnɪk/ noun a clinic where people can have physiotherapy

Physique /fɪˈzɪk/ noun the shape and size of a person's body

Physio-/ /ˈfɪzɪəʊ/ prefix 1. tending to swell

Physostigmine /ˌfɪzəˈstɪgmiːn/ noun an extract of the dried leaves of the vine that pro-
duces Calabar bean, which is toxic but may be used in the treatment of glaucoma and to counter the effects of anticholinergic drugs on the central nervous system.

phyt-: fast- , phyto-: fasta- prefix referring to plants or coming from plants.

phyto-oestrogen: /fætaʊ/ɪstrədʒən/ noun a substance obtained from cereals, legumes and seeds which has a similar effect on the body as oestrogen, used increasingly as an alternative to hormone replacement therapy.

phyto-photo dermatitis: /fætaʊ/ fætaʊ /dɪzma/ tautos/ noun an acute skin reaction due to the combination of plant irritation and sunlight.

P I abbr pressure index

pila: /ˈpaɪlə/ pl. patic: /ˈpaɪtɪk/ noun the delicate innermost membrane of the three which cover the brain. ∧ arachnoid, dura mater

plan: /ˈplæn/ noun same as plains

pica: /ˈpɪkə/ noun a desire to eat things which are not food, e.g. wood or paper, often found in pregnant women and small children.

pick: /pɪk/ verb to take away small pieces of something with the fingers or with a tool. She picked the pieces of glass out of the wound with tweezers.

Pick’s disease: /ˈpɪks dʒɪts/ noun a rare form of presenile dementia, in which a disorder of the lipoid metabolism causes mental impairment, anaemia, loss of weight and swelling of the spleen and liver.

pick up: /pɪk/ verb (informal) 1. to catch a disease. She must have picked up the disease when she was travelling in Africa. 2. to get stronger or better. He was ill for months, but he’s picking up now.

pilco: /ˈpɪlkəʊ/ prefix one million millionth (10^-15). Symbol p

picomole: /ˈpɪkəmɔʊl/ noun a unit of measurement of the amount of substance equal to one million millionth of a mole. Symbol pmol

picornavirus: /ˈpɪkərənˌvərəs/ noun a virus containing RNA, e.g. enteroviruses and rhinoviruses.

PID abbr prolapsed intervertebral disc

PIDS abbr primary immune deficiency syndrome

Pierre Robin syndrome: /ˈpjɛr roˈbɛn sɪntrəˈnuːm/ noun a combination of facial features including a small lower jaw and a cleft palate that exist at birth, causing breathing and feeding problems early in a child’s life.

pigeon breast: /ˈpɪdʒɪn brest/ noun same as pectus carinatum

pigeon toes: /ˈpɪdʒɪn tɔʊz/ plural noun a condition in which the feet turn towards the inside when a person is standing upright.

pigment: /ˈpɪɡmənt/ noun 1. a substance which gives colour to the body such as blood, the skin or hair. (in pharmacy) a paint. Comment: The body contains several substances which control colour: melanin gives dark colour to the skin and hair; bilirubin gives yellow colour to bile and urine; haemoglobin in the blood gives the skin a pink colour. Carotene can give a reddish-yellow colour to the skin if the patient eats too many tomatoes or carrots. Some pigment cells can carry oxygen and are called respiratory pigments.

pigmentation: /ˈpɪɡməntəˈteɪʃən/ noun the colouring of the body, especially that produced by deposits of pigment.

pigmented: /ˈpɪɡməntɪd/ adjective 1. coloured 2. showing an unusual colour.

pigmented epithelium: /ˈpɪɡməntəd epiˈθɛlɪəm/ noun. pigmented layer: /ˈpɪɡməntəd ləˈɛr/ noun coloured tissue at the back of the retina.

PHT abbr pregnancy-induced hypertension.

Pilates /ˈplætəz/ noun a holistic form of exercise and postural therapy that develops the deep abdominal muscles to control body movement and protect the back.

piles: /ˈpɛlz/ plural noun same as haemorrhoids.

pill: /ˈpɪl/ noun 1. a small hard round ball of medication that is taken by swallowing. O He has to take the pills twice a day. O the pill an oral contraceptive. O morning-after pill O on the pill taking a regular course of contraceptive pills.

pillar: /ˈpɪlə/ noun a part that is long and thin.

pillow: /ˈpɪləʊ/ noun a soft cushion on a bed which the head lies on when the person is lying down. O The nurse gave her an extra pillow to keep her head raised.

pill-rolling: /ˈpɪl rəˈlɪŋ/ noun nervous action of the fingers, in which the person seems to be rolling a very small object, associated with Parkinson’s disease.

pilo-: /ˈpɪloʊ/ prefix referring to hair.

pilocarpine: /ˈpɪləkoʊˈkɑrpɪn/ noun an organic compound of plant origin which is used in eye drops to treat glaucoma.

pilomotor: /ˈpɪləməˈtər/ adjective referring to something that moves the hairs of the skin.

pilomotor nerve: /ˈpɪləməˈtər nɜrv/ noun a nerve which supplies the arrector pilorum muscles attached to hair follicles.

pilomotor reflex: /ˈpɪləməˈtər ˈrɪsfleks/ noun a reaction of the dermal papillae of the skin to cold and fear which causes the hairs on the skin to become erect.

pilonidal: /ˈpɪlənədəl/ adjective relating to a cyst or cavity which has a growth of hair.

pilonidal cyst: /ˈpɪlənədəl sɪst/ noun a cyst containing hair, usually found at the bottom of the spine near the buttocks.
pilonidal sinus /paɪlnədɪəl/ noun a small depression with hairs at the base of the spine

pilosebaceous /paɪləsəˈbeɪʃəs/ adjective referring to the hair follicles and the glands attached to them

pilosis /paɪləsɪs/ noun a condition in which someone has an unusual amount of hair or where hair is present in an unusual place

pilot study /ˈpɪlət stədi/ noun a small version of a project which is carried out first, in order to discover how well it works and to solve any problems, before going ahead with the full version

pilus /paɪləs/ noun 1. one hair (NOTE: The plural is pilii.) 2. hair-like process on the surface of a bacterium

pimple /ˈpɪmpl/ noun a small swelling on the skin, containing pus. He had pimples on his neck.

pimply /ˈpɪmplɪ/ adjective covered with pimples. He has had a pimple on his nose.

pin /pɪn/ noun 1. a small sharp piece of metal for attaching things together. She fastened the bandage with a pin. 2. a metal nail used to attach broken bones. He has had a pin inserted in his hip.

pinch /pɪŋ/ 1. an act of squeezing the thumb and first finger together. She pinched the bandages carefully to stop them slipping. 2. to squeeze something with a pin. She pinned the bandages to her ankle where her shoe pinched.

pineal /ˈpɪnɪəl/ adjective relating to or released by the pineal gland

pineal body /ˌpaɪnɪəl ˈbɒdi/, pineal gland /ˌpaɪnɪəl ɡlænd/ noun a small cone-shaped gland situated below the corpus callosum in the brain, which produces melatonin and is believed to be associated with the circadian rhythm. See illustration at BRAIN in Supplement

pinguecula /ˈpaɪŋkwɪkjʊlə/, pinguecula /ˈpaɪŋkwɪkjʊlə/ noun a condition affecting elderly people, in which the conjunctiva in the eyes has small yellow growths near the edge of the cornea, usually on the nasal side

pink disease /ˈpaɪŋk dɪz/ noun same as acrodermatitis

pinna /ˈpaɪnə/ noun the outer ear, the part of the ear which is outside the head, connected by a passage to the eardrum. See illustration at EAR in Supplement

pinnaplasty /ˈpaɪnəplæstɪ/ noun a cosmetic surgical procedure to correct the shape of the ear

pinocytosis /ˌpaɪnoʊsɪˈtɒsɪs/ noun the process by which a cell surrounds and takes in fluid

pins and needles /ˈpaɪnz əˈnɪdəlz/ noun an unpleasant tingling sensation, usually occurring after a temporarily restricted blood supply returns to an arm or leg (informal) paraesthesia

pipette /ˈpiptet/ noun a tiny glass tube used in the laboratory for taking or measuring samples of liquid

piriform fossae /ˌpaɪrɪfɔrm ˈfɒsɪz/ plural fossa /ˈfɒsə/ noun the two hollows at the sides of the upper end of the larynx.

Pirton /ˈpaɪrtən/ a trade name for chlorphennicaprime. PIP abbr proximal interphalangeal joint

pipette /ˈpaɪptet/ noun a tiny glass tube used in the laboratory for taking or measuring samples of liquid

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pisiform /ˌpaɪzɪfɔrəm/ bone /ˌpaɪzɪfɔrəm/ noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist. See illustration at HAND in Supplement

pit /pɪt/ noun a hollow place on a surface or the pit of the stomach the epigastrum, the part of the upper abdomen between the ribcage above the navel. Arm pit /ˈɑrmpit/ pith /paɪθ/ noun a way of influencing someone’s mind by persuading him or her of something, as when a doctor treats a condition by telling the person that he or she is in fact well

pitted /ˈpaɪtɪd/ adjective covered with small hollows. His skin was pitted by acne.

pitting /ˈpaɪtɪŋ/ noun the formation of hollows in the skin

pituitary /ˈpaɪjʊtəri/ adjective 1. relating to or produced by the pituitary gland 2. caused by a disturbance of the pituitary gland

pituitary gland /ˌpaɪjʊtəri ˈgland/ noun the main endocrine gland in the body which secretes hormones that stimulate other glands.
Also called *pituitary body, hypophysis cerebri*. See illustration at BRAN in Supplement
COMMENT: The pituitary gland is about the size of a pea and hangs down from the base of the brain, inside the sphenoid bone, on a stalk which attaches it to the hypothalamus. The front lobe of the gland (the adenohypophysis) secretes several hormones (TSH, ACTH) which stimulate the adrenal and thyroid glands, or which stimulate the production of sex hormones, melanin and milk. The posterior lobe of the pituitary gland (the neurohypophysis) secretes the antidiuretic hormone (ADH) and oxytocin.

pituitrin /ˌpɪjʊˈtɪtrɪn/ noun a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland

pityriasis /ˌpɪtɪˈrɪəsiːs/ noun any skin disease in which the skin develops thin scales

pityriasis alba /ˈpɪtɪˌrɪəsis ˈælbə/ noun a disease affecting children which results in flat white patches on the cheeks that usually heal naturally

pityriasis capitis /ˌpɪtɪˌrɪəsiːs ˈkæpətɪs/ noun dandruff

pityriasis rosea /ˌpɪtɪˌrɪəsiːs ˈreʊzə/ noun a mild irritating rash affecting young people, which appears especially in the early part of the year and has no known cause

pityriasis rubra /ˌpɪtɪˌrɪəsiːs ˈrʊbə/ noun a serious, sometimes fatal, skin disease, a type of exfoliative dermatitis in which the skin turns dark red and is covered with white scales

pivot /ˈpɪvət/ noun a stem used to attach an artificial crown to the root of a tooth ■ verb to rest and turn on a point ○ The atlas bone pivots on the second vertebra.

pivot joint /ˈpɪvət dʒɒɪnt/ noun same as trochanteric joint

PKD abbr polycystic kidney disease

PKU abbr phenylketonuria

placebo /ˈpləsɛboʊ/ noun a tablet which appears to be a drug, but has no medicinal substance in it

COMMENT: Placebos may be given to patients who have imaginary illnesses. Placebos can also help in treating real disorders by stimulating the patient's psychological will to be cured. Placebos are also used on control groups in studies of new drugs (a placebo-controlled study).

placebo effect /ˈpləsɛbəʊ ɪˈfekt/ noun the apparently beneficial effect of telling someone that he or she is having a treatment, even if this is not true, caused by the hope that the treatment will be effective

placenta /ˈplæsəntə/ noun the tissue which grows inside the uterus during pregnancy and links the baby to the mother

COMMENT: The vascular system of the fetus is not directly connected to that of the mother. The placenta allows an exchange of oxygen and nutrients to be passed from the mother to the fetus to which she is linked by the umbilical cord. It stops functioning when the baby breathes for the first time and is then passed out of the uterus as the afterbirth.

placental /ˈplæsənt(ə)l/ adjective referring to the placenta

placental barrier /ˈplæsənt(ə)l ˈbærəriz/ noun a barrier which prevents the blood of a fetus and that of the mother from mixing, but allows water, oxygen and hormones to pass from mother to fetus

placental insufficiency /ˈplæsənt(ə)l ɪnsəˈfɪʃən/ noun a condition in which the placenta does not provide the fetus with the necessary oxygen and nutrients

placenta praevia /ˈplæsəntə prəˈviə/ noun a condition in which the fertilised egg becomes implanted in the lower part of the uterus, which means that the placenta lies across the cervix and may become detached during childbirth and cause brain damage to the baby

placentography /ˌplæsəntəˈɡrəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the placenta of a pregnant woman after a radiopaque dye has been injected

Placido's disc /ˈpləsɪdəʊd ˈdɜːsk/ noun same as keratroscope [After A. Placido, Portuguese oculist.]

plagiocephaly /ˌplædʒiəˈkɛfəli/ noun a condition in which a person has a distorted head shape, from irregular closure of the cranial sutures

plague /ˈpleɪg/ noun an infectious disease which occurs in epidemics where many people are killed

COMMENT: Bubonic plague was the Black Death of the Middle Ages; its symptoms are fever, delirium, prostration, rigor and swelling of the lymph nodes.

plan /plæn/ noun arrangement of how something should be done ■ verb to arrange how something is going to be done ○ they are planning to have a family

planning /ˈplænɪŋ/ noun the work of deciding and arranging how something should be done

planta /ˈplæntə/ noun the sole of the foot

plantar /ˈplæntər/ adjective referring to the sole of the foot

plantar arch /ˈplæntər ˈæktʃər/ noun the curved part of the sole of the foot running...
plantar flexion 310

along the length of the foot. Also called longitudinal arch

plantar reflex /plæntə ˈrɪʃfleks/ noun the bending of the toes downwards

plantar response /plæntə ˈrespons/ noun the usual downward movement of the toes when the sole of the foot is stroked in the Babinski test

plantar region /ˈπλαςτίκον/ noun the sole of the foot

plantar surface /ˈπλαςτίκον/ noun the skin of the sole of the foot

plantar wart /ˈπλαςτίκον wɔt/ noun a wart on the sole of the foot

planus /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπλακέν/ lichen planus

plaque /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπλεκ/ noun 1. a flat area 2. a film of saliva, mucus, bacteria and food residues that builds up on the surface of teeth and can cause gum damage

-plasia /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπλεϊə/ suffix referring to something which develops or grows

plasm- /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπλεϊə/ prefix same as plasma-(used before vowels)

plasma /ˈπλαςτίκον/ noun 1. a yellow watery liquid which makes up the main part of blood 2. lymph with no corpuscles 3. cytoplasm

COMMENT: If blood does not clot it separates into blood corpuscles and plasma, which is formed of water and proteins, including the clotting agent fibrinogen. If blood clots, the corpuscles separate from serum, which is a watery liquid similar to plasma, but not containing fibrinogen. Dried plasma can be kept for a long time, and is used, after water has been added, for transfusions.

plasma cell /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈσέλ/ noun a lymphocyte which produces a particular type of antibody

plasmacytoma /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈσαιζοεινα/ noun a malignant tumour of plasma cells, usually found in lymph nodes or bone marrow

plasmapheresis /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπλεϊειν/ noun an operation to take blood from someone, then to separate the red blood cells from the plasma, and to return the red blood cells suspended in a saline solution to the patient through a transfusion

plasma protein /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπροʊtιν/ noun a protein in plasma, e.g. albumin, gamma globulin or fibrinogen

plasmin /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπλαςτίκον/ noun same as fibrinolysin

plasminogen /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπλαςτιν/ noun a substance in blood plasma which becomes activated and forms plasmin

plasmo- /ˈπλαςτίκον/ prefix referring to blood plasma

Plasmodium /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπλαςτινι/ noun a type of parasite which infests red blood cells and causes malaria

plasmosydia /ˈπλαςτίκον ˈπλαςτινι/ noun the contraction of a cell protoplasm by dehydration, where the surrounding cell wall becomes smaller

plaster /ˈπλαςτεı/ noun a white powder which is mixed with water and used to make a solid support to cover a broken limb ○ After his accident he had his leg in plaster for two months.

plaster cast /ˈπλαςτεı ˈκαστ/ noun a hard support made of bandage soaked in liquid plaster of Paris, which is allowed to harden after being wrapped round a broken limb and which prevents the limb moving while the bone heals

plaster of Paris /ˈπλαςτεı ˈπαρις/ noun a fine white plaster used to make plaster casts

plastic /ˈπλαςτικ/ noun an artificial material made from petroleum, and used to make many objects, including replacement organs ● adjective able to change shape or develop in different shapes

plastic lymph /ˈπλαςτεı ˈλίμφ/ noun a yellow liquid produced by an inflamed wound which helps the healing process

plastic surgeon /ˈπλαςτεı ˈσαιζοειν/ noun a surgeon who specialises in plastic surgery

plastic surgery /ˈπλαςτεı ˈσαιζοειν/ noun surgery to repair damaged or malformed parts of the body (internal) ○ reconstructive surgery

COMMENT: Plastic surgery is especially important in treating accident victims or people who have suffered burns. It is also used to correct congenital disorders such as a cleft palate. When the aim is simply to improve the patient’s appearance, it is usually referred to as ‘cosmetic surgery.’

plastin /ˈπλαςτεı ˈπλαςτιν/ noun same as fibrinolysin

-plasty /ˈπλαςτεı ˈπλεϊι/ suffix referring to plastic surgery

plate /pleɪt/ noun 1. a flat sheet of metal or bone ○ The surgeon inserted a plate in her skull. 2. a flat piece of metal attached to a fractured bone to hold the broken parts together

platelet /ˈpleɪtɛl/ noun a small blood cell which releases thromboplastin and which multiplies rapidly after an injury, encouraging the coagulation of blood. Also called thromboocyte

platelet count /ˈpleɪtɛl ˈkɔunt/ noun a test to count the number of platelets in a specific quantity of blood

platy- /ˈπλαςτεı ˈπλεϊı/ prefix flat

platysma /ˈπλαςτεı ˈπλαςτιμα/ noun a flat muscle running from the collarbone to the lower jaw

pledget /ˈπλεϊɪɡ/ noun a small piece of gauze or cotton wool used to protect or apply medication to a small enclosed space, such as the ear passage

-plegia /ˈπλεϊɪɪɡ/ suffix paralysis

pleio- /ˈπλεϊιο/ prefix same as pleo-

pleio- /ˈπλεϊιο/ prefix too many
pleocytosis /ˈplɪəʊsɪtəʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which there are an unusual number of leucocytes in the cerebrospinal fluid

pleoptics /ˈplɪəʊptɪks/ noun treatment to help the partially sighted

plessor /ˈplesər/ noun a little hammer with a rubber tip, used by doctors to tap tendons to test for reflexes or for percussion of the chest. Also called plexor

plethora /ˈplɛθərə/ noun too much blood in a part of the body

plethoric /ˈplɛθərɪk/ adjective referring to an appearance that is due to dilatation of superficial blood vessels, e.g. a red complexion

plethysmography /ˌplɛθəzˈməɡrəfi/ noun a method of recording the changes in the volume of organs, mainly used to measure blood flow in the limbs

pleur- /ˈpluər-/ prefix same as pleuro- (used before vowels)

pleura /ˈpluərə/ noun one of two membranes lining the chest cavity and covering each lung (note: the plural is pleuras or pleurae.)

pleuracentesis /ˌpluərəsɛntəˈsɪtɪs/ noun same as pleurocentesis

pleural /ˈpluərəl/ adjective referring to the pleura

pleural cavity /ˈpluərəl ˈkeɪvəti/ noun a space between the inner and outer pleura of the chest. See illustration at lung in Supplement

pleural effusion /ˈpluərəl ɪˈfjuʒən/ noun an excess of fluid formed in the pleural sac

pleural fluid /ˈpluərəl ˈfljuːd/ noun a fluid which forms between the layers of the pleura in pleurisy

pleural membrane /ˈpluərəl ˈmembərn/ noun same as pleura

pleural mesothelioma /ˌpluərəl ˌmesəˈθɛliəmə/ noun a tumour of the pleura, caused by inhaling asbestos dust

pleurectomy /ˌpluərəˈektəmi/ noun the surgical removal of part of the pleura which has been thickened or made stiff by chronic empyema

pleuritis /ˈpluərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the pleura, usually caused by pneumonia

pleurisy /ˈpluərɪsɪ/ noun the act of packing of the lung or pleural cavities with antiseptic material

pleuritic /ˈpluərɪtɪk/ adjective referring to the pleura

pleurocele /ˌpluərəˈsɛl/ noun 1. a condition in which part of the lung or pleura is herniated

pleurocentesis /ˌpluərəʊsɛntəˈsiːtɪs/ noun an operation in which a hollow needle is put into the pleura to drain liquid. Also called pleuracentesis

pleurodesis /ˌpluərəʊdɪˈzɪs/ noun treatment for a collapsed lung, in which the inner and outer pleura are stuck together

pleurodynia /ˌpluərəʊˈdaɪniə/ noun pain in the muscles between the ribs, due to rheumatic inflammation

pleuron /ˈpluərən/ noun a membrane that encases the lung

pleuropneumonia /ˌpluərəpuˈnoʊməniə/ noun acute lobar pneumonia, the classic type of pneumonia

plexor /ˈpleksər/ noun same as plessor

plexus /ˈpleksəs/ noun a network of nerves, blood vessels or lymphatics

pliable /ˈplɛərəbl/ adjective able to be bent easily

plica /ˈplɪkə/ noun a fold

plicate /ˈplɪkət/ adjective folded

plication /ˌplɪkəˈʃən/ noun 1. a surgical operation to reduce the size of a muscle or a hollow organ by making folds in its walls and attaching them 2. the action of folding 3. a fold

ploidy /ˈplɔdɪ/ noun the number of sets of chromosomes within a cell

plombo /ˈplɑmbəʊ/ noun 1. the act of packing bone cavities with antiseptic material 2. the act of packing the lung or pleural cavities with inert material

plumbing /ˈpləmnɪŋ/ noun any system of tubes or vessels in the body, especially the urinary system (informal: ‘humours’)

plumbism /ˌpləmbɪzəm/ noun same as lead poisoning

Pleumer–Vinson syndrome /ˈpləmərˈvɪznɪn sɪndrəm/ noun a type of iron-deficiency anaemia, in which the tongue and mouth become inflamed and the person cannot swallow [described 1912 by Plummer, 1919 by Vinson (also described in 1919 by Patterson and Brown Kelly, whose names are frequently associated with the syndrome), Henry Stanley Plummer (1874–1937), US physician; Porter Paisley Vinson (1890–1959), physician at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, USA]

plunger /ˈplʌŋə/ noun the part of a hypodermic syringe which slides up and down inside the tube, either sucking liquid into the syringe or forcing the contents out

pluri- /ˈpluər-/ prefix indicating more than one of something

PM abbr 1. particulate matter 2. post mortem

PMA abbr progressive muscular atrophy

pmol symbol picomole

PMR abbr polymyalgia rheumatica

PMS abbr premenstrual syndrome

PMT abbr premenstrual tension

-pnea /ˈpniə/ suffix same as -pnea

pneo- /ˈpiːnəʊ/ prefix relating to breathing
pneumonia and had to be hospitalised. □ She died of pneumonia.  

COMMENT: The symptoms of pneumonia are shivering, pains in the chest, high temperature and sputum brought up by coughing.

pneumonic /'nju:monik/ adjective 1. referring to the lungs 2. referring to pneumonia  
pneumonic plague /'nju:monik 'plejr/ noun a form of bubonic plague which mainly affects the lungs

pneumonis /'nju:monis/ noun inflammation of the lungs

pneumono- /'nju:mona/ prefix referring to the lungs

pneumoperitoneum /'nju:mu:pə'tρtu:n/ noun air or gas in the peritoneal cavity

pneumoradiography /'nju:mu:reidi'grəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of part of the body after air or a gas has been inserted to make the organs show more clearly

pneumothorax /'nju:mu:θɔræks/ noun a condition in which air or gas is in the thorax. Also called collapsed lung

-pneoa /'pa:n/ suffix referring to breathing  
PNS abbr peripheral nervous system

gotch /pɔk/ noun a localised lesion on the skin, due to smallpox or chickenpox

pocket //prokt/ noun a cavity in the body □ pocket of infection place where an infection remains

pockmark //pɔkmɑ:k/ noun a scar left by a pustule, as in smallpox

pockmarked //pɔkmɑ:k't/ adjective referring to a face with scars from smallpox

podagra /'pəυdɔgə/ same as gout

podalic /'pəυdɔ'lɪk/ adjective relating to the feet

podalic version /'pəυdɔ'lɪk 'vɔ('[j]ɔ)n/ noun the procedure of turning a fetus in the uterus by its feet

padorrhitis /'pəυdɔrθətɪs/ noun the swelling of one or more joints of the foot

podiatrist /'pəυdɪətrɪst/ noun US a person who specialises in the care of the foot and its diseases

podiatry /'pəυdɪətrɪ/ noun US the study of minor diseases and disorders of the feet

-poiesis /'pɔɪəsɪs/ suffix referring to something which forms

-poki- /'pɔkɪkələυ/ prefix irregular or varied

-pokilocyte /'pɔkɪləʊsəu/ noun an unusually large red blood cell with an irregular shape

-pokilocytosis /'pɔkɪləʊsɪtəsɪs/ noun a condition in which poikilocytes exist in the blood

point /'pɔɪnt/ noun 1. a sharp end □ She developed a pocket of infection in her temple. 2. the dot used to show the division between whole numbers and parts of numbers □ 3.256: say ‘three point two five six’; his temperature
ous system
devolve into an ovum which is produced from an oocyte but does not
the same virus as poliomyelitis
tion of the grey matter in the brain caused by
Sabin vaccine is formed of live polio virus and is taken orally on a piece of sugar; Salk vac-
cine is given as an injection of dead virus.

polovirus /ˈpəʊliəvərəs noun a virus which causes poliomyelitis

Politzer bag /ˈpɒliətsə bæɡ noun a rubber bag which is used to blow air into the middle ear to unblock a Eustachian tube [Described 1863. After Adam Politzer (1835–1920), Professor of Otology in Vienna, Austria.]

pollen /ˈpɒlən noun a powdery substance consisting of male gametes from plants, produced by the flower stamens, which floats in the air in spring and summer, and which causes hay fever

pollen count /ˈpɒlən kəʊnt noun a figure which shows the amount of pollen in a sample of air

poliex /ˈpəlɪks noun the thumb (technical)

NOTE: The plural is policles.

pollutant /ˈpələtnt noun a substance which causes pollution

pollute /ˈpələt verb to make e.g. the air, a river or the sea dirty, especially with industrial waste (NOTE: polluting – polluted)

pollution /ˈpələʃən noun the act of making dirty, or substances which make e.g. air or water impure

poly- /ˈpɒli adjective with a pole

poliard /ˈpələrd noun 1, the end of an axis 2, the end of a rounded organ, e.g. the end of a lobe in the cerebral hemisphere

pole and canvas stretcher /ˈpələn ˈkænvəs, ˈstretʃər noun a simple stretcher made of a piece of canvas and two poles which slide into tubes at the side of the canvas

poli- /ˈpɒli prefix same as polio- (used before vowels)

polio /ˈpɒliə noun same as poliomyelitis (informal)

poli- /ˈpɒliəs prefix grey matter in the nervous system

polioencephalitis /ˈpɒliəns,kefələtəs noun a type of viral encephalitis, an inflammation of the grey matter in the brain caused by the same virus as poliomyelitis

polioencephalomyelitis /ˌpɒliəns,kefələmeɪlətɪs noun polioencephalitis which also affects the spinal cord

poliomyelitis /ˌpɒliəməˌmeɪlətɪs noun an infection of the anterior horn cells of the spinal cord caused by a virus which attacks the motor neurones and can lead to paralysis. Also called polio, infantile paralysis

COMMENT: Symptoms of poliomyelitis are paralysis of the limbs, fever and stiffness in the neck. The bulbar form may start with difficulty in swallowing. Poliomyelitis can be prevented by immunisation and two vaccines are used. Sabin vaccine is formed of live polio virus and is taken orally on a piece of sugar; Salk vaccine is given as an injection of dead virus.

polycystic kidney disease /ˌpɒlɪˈsɪstɪk noun a condition in which a lot of arteries swell up at the same time

polyarteritis nodosa /ˌpɒliərəˈtɜrɪtɪs ˈnəʊdəsə noun a collagen disease in which the walls of the arteries in various parts of the body become inflamed, leading to asthma, high blood pressure and kidney failure. Also called periarteritis nodosa

polyarthritis /ˌpɒliəˈærθrɪtɪs noun inflammation of several joints, as in rheumatoid arthritis

polar body /ˈpɒlər bɔːdi noun a small cell which is produced from an oocyte but does not develop into an ovum

poly- /ˈpɒli prefix 1, many or much 2, touching many organs

polyarteritis /ˌpɒliəˈrɜːtɪtɪs noun a condition in which multiple cysts on each kidney which grow and multiply over time. Abbr PKD

COMMENT: The diseased kidney finally shuts down in over 60% of cases, and dialysis and transplantation are the only forms of treatment.
disease

The plural is polyneuropathies.

polyneuropathies /poli'njuir'paθeis/ noun a condition in which a person sees several images of one object at the same time. Compare diplopia

polynea /poli'neiə/ noun a fatty acid capable of absorbing more hydrogen than most others, typical of vegetable and fish oils

polyneuritis /poli'njuir'a'tiəs/ noun inflammation of many nerves

polyneuropathy /poli'njuir'a'rəπəθi/ noun any disease which affects several nerves (NOTE: The plural is polyneuropathies.)

polyopia /poli'opəsiə/ noun a disease of the nervous system which affects the roots of the nerves

polyoid /poli'o id/ adjective looking like a poly

polyuria /poli'juəriə/ noun a condition in which a person eats too much

polyvalent /poli'velənt/ adjective having more than one valency

POM abbr prescription-only medicine

polycyclic ovary disease

polycystic ovary disease /polisistik 'səvəristik/ noun same as polycystic ovary syndrome. Abbr PCOD

polycystic ovary syndrome /polisistik 'səvəristik 'səvəristik/ noun a hormonal disorder in which a woman's ovaries are enlarged and contain many small painless cysts, hair growth is excessive, acne develops and infertility may occur. Also called Stein Leventhal syndrome. Abbr PCOS

polycystis /polisistis/ noun a congenital disease in which several cysts form in the kidney at the same time

polycythemia /polis'θiθmə/ noun a type of protein formed of linked amino acids

polyspermia /poli'spərmıə/ noun the practice of prescribing several drugs to be taken at the same time

polyuria /poli'juəriə/ noun a type of carbohydrate made up of a lot of mono- or disaccharides joined together in chains. They include starch and cellulose, are insoluble in water and do not form crystals.

polysomnograph /poli'səsmənɔ'græf/ noun an instrument which records the pulse in several parts of the body at the same time

polytransfusion /poli'trənsfəʃən/ noun unusually frequent menstruations (NOTE: The US spelling is polynorboniae.)

polymerase chain reaction /poli'mərəsiz 'ritəkəntəkʃən/ noun the technique used to amplify genetic material in order to analyse it for genetic disorders, e.g. material from a single cell in an embryo. Abbr PCR

polymer /poli'mər/ noun same as neuropeptide

polyneuritis /poli'njuir'a'tiəs/ noun a disease of elderly people characterised by pain and stiffness in the shoulder and hip muscles making them weak and sensitive

polyunsaturated fat /poli'unsətʃərət/ noun a fatty acid capable of absorbing more hydrogen than most others, typical of vegetable and fish oils

polyuria /poli'juəriə/ noun a condition in which a person passes a large quantity of urine, usually as a result of diabetes insipidus

polyvalent /poli'velənt/ adjective having more than one valency

POM abbr prescription-only medicine
BRAIN

The government has decided to screen the whole population of the area.

2. a tiny hole in the skin 1. a type of eczema with many irritating little blisters on the hands and feet 2. a skin condition with bulbous swellings

pompholyx /ˈpɒmpfɒleɪks/ noun 1. a type of eczema with many irritating little blisters on the hands and feet 2. a skin condition with bulbous swellings

poms /ˈpɒms/ noun a bridge of tissue joining parts of an organ. See illustration at BRAIN in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is pomes)

pons Varoli /ˌpɒns vəˈroʊli/ noun part of the hindbrain, formed of fibres which continue the medulla oblongata. See illustration at BRAIN in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is pontes Varoli) [After Constanze Varolius (1543–75), Italian physician and anatomist, doctor to Pope Gregory XIII]

pontes /ˈpɒntiz/ plural of pons

pointine cistern /ˈpɒintən ˈsɪstərn/ noun a subarachnoid space in front of the pons, containing the basilar artery

porencephaly /ˌpɔrənsˈkɛfəli/ noun a congenital condition in which there are cysts in the cerebral cortex, as a result of unusual development

pores /ˈpɔrəz/ adjective 1. containing pores 2. Porous bone surrounds the Eustachian tubes. 2. referring to tissue which allows fluid to pass through it

porphyria /ˈpɔrfeəriə/ noun a hereditary disease affecting the metabolism of porphyrin pigments

Порфирия. Порфирия - это наследственное заболевание, связанное с метаболизмом порфиринов.

Comment: Porphyria causes abdominal pains and attacks of mental confusion. The skin becomes sensitive to light and the urine becomes coloured and turns dark brown when exposed to the light.

porphyrinuria /ˌpɔrfərɪnəˈjʊəriə/ noun the presence of excess porphyrins in the urine, a sign of porphyria or of metal poisoning

port /ˈpɔrt/ noun an opening which allows blood vessels to pass into an organ (NOTE: The plural is ports)

portable /ˈpɔrtəb(ə)l/ adjective referring to something which can be carried  

Portacath /ˈpɔrtəkæθ/ noun a type of catheter put in place under a person’s skin to make it easier to have chemotherapy, transfusions and blood tests. It is accessed by the use of a special needle and flushed regularly with saline.

Portacath /ˈpɔrtəkæθ/ noun a type of catheter put in place under a person’s skin to make it easier to have chemotherapy, transfusions and blood tests. It is accessed by the use of a special needle and flushed regularly with saline. 

turtle into the operating theatre or moving heavy equipment

popliteal /ˌpɒplɪˈtiːəl/ adjective referring to the back of the knee

popliteal fossa /ˌpɒplɪˈtiːəl ˈfəʊsə/ noun a space behind the knee between the hamstring and the calf muscle. Also called popliteal fossa

popliteal muscle, /ˌpɒplɪˈtiːəl ˈmʌsk(ə)l/ noun same as popliteus

popliteal space /ˌpɒplɪˈtiːəl ˈspeɪs/ noun same as popliteal fossa

popliteus /ˌpɒplɪˈtiːəs/ noun a muscle at the back of the knee. Also called popliteal muscle

population /ˌpɒpjuˈleɪʃn/ noun 1. the number of people living in a country or town  

Population statistics show that the birth rate is slowing down.  

The government has decided to screen the whole population of the area.  

2. the number of patients in hospital  

The hospital population in the area has fallen below 10,000.

pore /ˈpɔr/ noun 1. a tiny hole in the skin through which the sweat passes 2. a small communicating passage between cavities

porencephaly /ˌpɔrənsˈkɛfəli/ noun a congenital condition in which there are cysts in the cerebral cortex, as a result of unusual development

popeyes /pɒpiːz/ noun 1. a popular chain of fried chicken restaurants in the United States 2. a slang term for Popeye the Sailor Man, a cartoon character

POP (informal) popeyes /pɒpiːz/ noun a type of catether put in place under a person’s skin to make it easier to have chemotherapy, transfusions and blood tests. It is accessed by the use of a special needle and flushed regularly with saline.
**portocaval**

/portocaval/ /portəuˈkɛrvəl/ adjective linking the portal vein to the inferior vena cava

**portocaval anastomosis** /portəuˈkɛrvəl/ anəstəˈmɔːrəs/ noun a surgical operation to join the portal vein to the inferior vena cava and divert blood past the liver

**portocaval shunt** /portəuˈkɛrvəl/ ʃənt/ noun an artificial passage made between the portal vein and the inferior vena cava to relieve portal hypertension

**porto-systemic encephalopathy** /pɔrtoʊˈsɪstəmɪk ˌɛnˌkɛfəˈlɒpəθi/ noun a mental disorder and coma caused by liver disease

**port wine stain** /pɔrst/ ˈwɛn stɛn/ noun a purple birthmark

**positive** /pəˈzɪtɪv/ adjective 1, indicating the answer ‘yes’ 2, indicating the presence of something being tested for 3 Her cervical smear was positive. Opposite negative

**positive feedback** /pəˈzɪtɪv ˈfeɪdbæk/ noun the procedure of forcing a person to breathe

**positive pressure ventilation** /pəˈzɪtɪv ˈpɜrsəˈvɛnʃən/ noun a method of scanning the tissues of the brain, chest and abdomen for unusual metabolic activity after injecting a radioactive substance into the body. Abbrev PPV

**post-exposure prophylaxis** /pɔrst ɪkˈprəʊfəˌpləˈlæksɪs/ noun a treatment given to a person who has been exposed to a harmful agent, in an effort to prevent or reduce injury or infection

**postganglionic nerve** /pɔstɡæŋˈɡliːn/ ˈnɜːr/ noun an axon of a nerve cell which starts in a ganglion and extends beyond the ganglion

**posterior** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər/ adjective at the back. Opposite anterior

**posterior fontanelle** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər fɔntəˈnekiə/ noun the place where the parietal bones join the occipital

**posterior to** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər tʃəmˈbə / noun a cartilage at the back of the head where the parietal bones join the occipital

**posterior to** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər ʃəmbə / noun a set of symptoms which sometimes follow a head injury in which a person lost consciousness, including headache, loss of concentration, memory loss, depression and irritability

**post-epileptic** /pəʊˈstɪtriarər əˈprɔut/ adjective taking place after a epileptic fit

**posterior approach** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər əˈprɒʃ/ noun an operation carried out from the back

**postcentral gyrus** /pəʊstˈsɛntəl ˈgɜːrəs/ noun a sensory area of the cerebral cortex which receives impulses from receptor cells and registers sensations such as pain, heat and touch

**post-cibal** /pəʊst ˈsaɪbəl/ adjective after having eaten food

**post cibum** /pəʊst ˈsɪbəm/ noun full form of p.c.

**post-coital** /pəʊst ˈkəʊtiəl/ adjective taking place after sexual intercourse

**postconcussional syndrome** /pəʊstˌkənˈʃənʃəl/ ˌsɜːndərm/ noun a set of symptoms which sometimes follow a head injury in which a person lost consciousness, including headache, loss of concentration, memory loss, depression and irritability

**posterior fontanelle** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər fɔntəˈnekiə/ noun a cartilage at the back of the head where the parietal bones join the occipital

**posterior to** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər ʃəmbə / noun a cartilage at the back of the head where the parietal bones join the occipital

**posterior approach** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər əˈprɒʃ/ noun an operation carried out from the back

**posterior aspect** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər əˈspərkt/ noun a view of the back of the body, or of the back of part of the body. See illustration at

**posterior chamber** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər ˈʃɛmbə / noun a set of symptoms which sometimes follow a head injury in which a person lost consciousness, including headache, loss of concentration, memory loss, depression and irritability

**posterior synechia** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər səˈniːkə/ plural noun same as internal nares

**posterior to** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər ʃəmbə / noun a set of symptoms which sometimes follow a head injury in which a person lost consciousness, including headache, loss of concentration, memory loss, depression and irritability

**posterior to** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər ʃəmbə / noun a set of symptoms which sometimes follow a head injury in which a person lost consciousness, including headache, loss of concentration, memory loss, depression and irritability

**posterior nares** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər ˈnɛriəz/ plural noun same as internal nares

**posterior synchiae** /pəʊˈtɜːrɪər ˈsɪnθiəkə/ plural noun a condition of the eye in which the iris sticks to the anterior surface of the lens

**posteroanterior** /pəʊˈtɛrəənˈtɛriər/ adjecive lying from the back to the front

**post-exposure prophylaxis** /pəʊst tk ˌprəʊfəˌpləˈlæksɪs/ noun a treatment given to a person who has been exposed to a harmful agent, in an effort to prevent or reduce injury or infection
COMMENT: Postganglionic fibres go to the nose, palate, pharynx and larynx.

**Postganglionic neurone** /pəʊst'geɪnlɪk njuːrəʊn/ noun a neurone which starts in a ganglion and ends in a gland or unstriated muscle.

**Postgastrectomy syndrome** /pəʊst ɡeɪstrɛktəmɪ 'sɜːndrəʊm/ noun a group of symptoms which can occur after eating in people who have had stomach operations. It is caused by a lot of food passing into the small intestine too fast and can cause dizziness, nausea, sweating and weakness. Also called dumping syndrome.

**Postgraduate education allowance** /pəʊst ɡrɑːdʒuət ɛdʒuˈkeɪʃən/ noun a payment made to GPs to reward continued education. Abbreviation PGEA.

**Posthepatic jaundice** /pəʊst'hɛpətɪk ˈdʒeɪndɪs/ noun same as obstructive jaundice.

**Post herpetic neuralgia** /pəʊst hɜːˈpɛtɪk ˈnɔrəliːdʒɪə/ noun pain or disorder caused by virus affecting a nerve.

**Postmenopausal** /pəʊstˌmɛnəˈpəʊzəl/ adjective situated behind or coming into effect after the menopause. Abbreviation PM. Also called **postnatal**.

**Postnatal** /pəʊstˈneɪʃəl/ adjective referring to the period after a surgical operation.

**Postmenopausal depression** /pəʊstˌmɛnəˈpəʊzəl dɪˈpreʃən/ noun depression which sometimes affects a woman after childbirth.

**Postmenopausal** /pəʊstˌmɛnəˈpəʊzəl/ adjective referring to the period after the death of the father.

**Post-traumatic amnesia** /pəʊst trəˈmætnɪk əˈmɛniːzə/ noun an amnesia which follows a trauma.
post-traumatic stress disorder

post-traumatic stress disorder /ˌpəʊstrəˈmeɪnəl/ noun a psychological condition affecting people who have suffered severe emotional trauma, e.g. occasioned by war or natural disaster. Its symptoms include chest pain, dizziness, sleep disturbances, flashbacks, anxiety, tiredness, and depression. Abbrev PTSD.

postural /ˈpəʊstrəl/ adjective referring to posture or a study of postural disorders.

postural drainage /ˌpəʊstrəl ˈdreɪndʒ/ noun a procedure for removing matter from inflected lungs by making the person lie down with the head lower than the feet, so that he or she can cough more easily.

postural hypotension /ˌpəʊstrəl hærpəʊtənsɪn/ noun low blood pressure when standing up suddenly, causing dizziness.

posture /ˈpəʊstər/ noun the position in which a body is arranged, or the way a person usually holds his or her body when standing. 

Bad posture can cause pain in the back. She has to do exercises to correct her bad posture.

postviral /ˈpəʊstrvɜːl/ adjective occurring after a viral infection.

postviral fatigue syndrome /ˌpəʊstrvɜːl ˈfætɪlətɪs/ noun same as myalgic encephalomyelitis.

potassium /ˈpɒtsiəm/ noun a metallic element (note: The chemical symbol is K).

potassium permanganate /ˈpɒtsiəm ˈpɜːmæŋɡənæt/ noun a purple-coloured poisonous salt, used as a disinfectant.

potentiate /ˈpəʊtəntɪteɪt/ verb to improve the effectiveness of a drug or treatment, especially by adding another drug or agent (note: potentiation – potentiated).

Pott's disease /ˈpɔts dɪz/ˈzɪzi/ Pott's caries /ˈpɔts kərəzi/ noun tuberculosis of the spine, causing paralysis. [Described 1779. After Sir Percivall Pott (1714–88), London surgeon.]

Pott's fracture /ˈpɔts ˈfʀækt/ noun a fracture of the lower end of the fibula together with displacement of the ankle and foot. [Described 1765. After Sir Percivall Pott (1714–88), London surgeon.]

pouch /ˈpaʊʃ/ noun a small sac or pocket attached to an organ.

poultice /ˈpɔultɪs/ noun a compress made of hot water and flour paste or other substances which is pressed onto an infected part to draw out pus, to relieve pain or to encourage the circulation. Also called fomentation.

pound /ˈpaʊnd/ noun a measure of weight equal to about 450 grams. The baby weighed only four pounds at birth. Abbrev lb (note: with figures, usually written lb: The baby weighs 6 lb.)

Poupart's ligament /ˈpɔʊpɔrtz ˈlɪgəmənt/ noun same as inguinal ligament. [Described 1705. After François Poupart (1616–1708), French surgeon and anatomist.]

powder /ˈpɔʊdər/ noun a medicine in the form of a fine dry dust made from particles of drugs. 

He took a powder to help his indigestion. He took an indigestion powder.

powdered /ˈpɔʊdərd/ adjective crushed so that it forms a fine dry dust. The medicine is available in tablets or in powdered form.

pox /ˈpɒks/ noun 1. a disease with eruption of vesicles or pustules. 2. same as syphilis (old).

poxvirus /ˈpɒks, vɒkərəs/ noun any of a group of viruses which cause cowpox, smallpox and related diseases.

Molluscum contagiosum is a harmless skin infection caused by a poxvirus that affects mainly children and young adults. [British Medical Journal.]


PPD abbr purified protein derivative.

PPH abbr postpartum haemorrhage.

PPV abbr positive pressure ventilation.

PQRST complex noun the set of deflections on an electrocardiogram, labelled P to T, which show ventricular contraction.

p.r. abbrev (of an examination) by the rectum.

Full form per rectum.

practice /ˈpræktɪs/ noun 1. the business, or the premises occupied by, a doctor, dentist, or a group of doctors or dentists working together. 

After qualifying she joined her father's practice. 

In practice doing the work of a doctor or dentist. He has been in practice for six years.

2. the fact of doing something, as opposed to thinking or talking about it. Theory and practice. 

3. a usual way of doing something. Such practices are now regarded as unsafe.

practice nurse /ˈpræktɪs ˈnɜːs/ noun a nurse employed by a GP or primary care trust to work in a GP's practice providing treatment, health promotion, screening and other services to patients of the practice. 

...practice nurses play a major role in the care of patients with chronic disease and they undertake many preventive procedures. [Nursing Times]

practise /ˈpræktɪs/ verb 1. to work as a doctor or He practises in North London. 

She practices homeopathy. 2. to work in a particular branch of medicine. (Note: practising = practised. The US spelling is practice.)

practitioner /ˈpræktɪʃənər/ noun a qualified person who works in the medical profession. 

Nurse practitioner. US 1. a nurse employed by a clinic or doctor's practice who can give advice to patients. 2. a trained nurse who has not been licensed.

praecox /ˈprɛkks/ noun early or at an early age.

praecox /ˈprɛkks/ noun early or at an early age.

praevia /ˈprɛviə/ noun premature birth.

pla...
premature birth /ˈpɹɪmlandʒəm/ noun a birth that takes place before the normal due date, usually before 37 weeks of pregnancy.

premorbid /ˈpɹɪmlərd/ adjective describing a condition or state that existed before a significant event or diagnosis.

prevent /ˈpɹɪˌvɛnt/ verb to stop something from happening or happening again.

prevalence /ˈpɹɪvələns/ noun the extent to which a particular disease or condition is present in a population.

prevention /ˌpɹɪvəˈteɪʃən/ noun measures or actions taken to stop a disease or problem from occurring.

prevention medicine /ˌpɹɪvəˈteɪʃən/ medicine drugs or treatments used to prevent the development or progression of a disease.

prevertebral /ˌpɹɪˌvɜːtrəˈbrəl/ adjective referring to the muscles and connective tissue that lie between the back and spine.

prevertebral space /ˌpɹɪˌvɜːtrəˈbreɪs/ noun the space between the vertebral column and the surrounding muscles and connective tissue.

precipitate /prɪˈsɪpət/ verb to make something separate from a mixture with a chemical reaction. 1. to cause a substance to separate from a solution or mixture. 2. to make something happen suddenly. (NOTE: all verb senses precipitate – precipitated)

precipitately /prɪˈsɪpətələtli/ adverb in a sudden or hasty manner.

precipitation /prɪˈsɪpəˌteɪʃən/ noun the action of forming a precipitate.

precipitator /prɪˈsɪpətər/ noun a device or system used to remove suspended particles from a fluid.

precipitation /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ noun the state or act of precipitation.

precipitation system /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ system a system designed to remove suspended particles from a fluid.

precipitation phenomena /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ phenomena physical processes involving the formation of a precipitate.

precipitation in situ /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ in situ precipitation occurring directly in the liquid phase without the need for a precipitant.

precipitation phase /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ phase a phase of a chemical reaction in which a precipitate is formed.

precipitation product /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ product a substance that is formed as a result of a precipitation reaction.

precipitation reaction /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ reaction a chemical reaction in which a precipitate is formed.

precipitation type /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ type a specific type of precipitation, such as rain, snow, or sleet.

precipitation velocity /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ velocity the speed at which a precipitate forms in a precipitation reaction.

precipitation zone /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ zone a zone where precipitation occurs, such as a rainstorm or snowfall.

precipitous /prɪˈsɪpətəs/ adjective very steep or sudden.

precipitous mountain /prɪˈsɪpətəs/ mountain a mountain with steep slopes.

precipitate /prɪˈsɪpət/ noun a substance that is formed as a result of a precipitation reaction.

precipitate reaction /prɪˈsɪpət/ reaction a chemical reaction in which a precipitate is formed.

precipitate precipitation /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation precipitation that occurs as a result of a precipitation reaction.

precipitate precipitation in situ /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation in situ precipitation that occurs directly in the liquid phase without the need for a precipitant.

precipitate precipitation type /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation type a specific type of precipitation, such as rain, snow, or sleet.

precipitate precipitation velocity /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation velocity the speed at which a precipitate forms in a precipitation reaction.

precipitate precipitation zone /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation zone a zone where precipitation occurs, such as a rainstorm or snowfall.

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precipitate velocity /prɪˈsɪpət/ velocity the speed at which a precipitate forms in a precipitation reaction.

precipitate zone /prɪˈsɪpət/ zone a zone where precipitation occurs, such as a rainstorm or snowfall.

precipitation /ˈpɹɪˌsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ noun the act or process of precipitation.

precipitation processes /ˈpɹɪˌsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ processes the various processes involved in the formation of a precipitate.

precipitation system /ˌpɹɪˌsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ system a system designed to remove suspended particles from a fluid.

precipitation phenomena /ˈpɹɪˌsɪpəˌteɪʃən/ phenomena physical processes involving the formation of a precipitate.

precipitation phenomena type /ˈpɹɪˌsɪpəˌteɪʃən/ phenomena type a specific type of precipitation phenomena, such as rain, snow, or sleet.

precipitation phenomena velocity /ˈpɹɪˌsɪpəˌteɪʃən/ phenomena velocity the speed at which a precipitate forms in a precipitation reaction.

precipitation phenomena zone /ˈpɹɪˌsɪpəˌteɪʃən/ phenomena zone a zone where precipitation phenomena occur, such as a rainstorm or snowfall.

precipitation phenomena type /ˈpɹɪˌsɪpəˌteɪʃən/ phenomena type a specific type of precipitation phenomena, such as rain, snow, or sleet.

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precipitation phenomena zone /ˈpɹɪˌsɪpəˌteɪʃən/ phenomena zone a zone where precipitation phenomena occur, such as a rainstorm or snowfall.

precipitated /prɪˈsɪpətəd/ past participle of precipitate.

precipitated from solution /prɪˈsɪpətət/ from solution precipitated from solution precipitated from a solution.

precipitation reaction /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ reaction a chemical reaction in which a precipitate is formed.

precipitation reaction type /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ reaction type a specific type of precipitation reaction.

precipitation reaction velocity /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ reaction velocity the speed at which a precipitate forms in a precipitation reaction.

precipitation reaction zone /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ reaction zone a zone where precipitation reaction occurs, such as a rainstorm or snowfall.

precipitation of a drug /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ of a drug the precipitation of a drug from a solution.

precipitated drug /prɪˈsɪpətəd/ drug a drug that has been precipitated from a solution.

precipitated drug reaction /prɪˈsɪpətəd/ drug reaction a reaction that occurs when a precipitated drug is administered.

precipitation system /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ system a system designed to remove suspended particles from a fluid.

precipitation system type /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ system type a specific type of precipitation system.

precipitation system velocity /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ system velocity the speed at which a precipitate forms in a precipitation system.

precipitation system zone /prɪˈsɪpəˈteɪʃən/ system zone a zone where precipitation system occurs, such as a rainstorm or snowfall.

precipitated precipitation /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation precipitation that occurs as a result of a precipitation reaction.

precipitated precipitation in situ /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation in situ precipitation that occurs directly in the liquid phase without the need for a precipitant.

precipitated precipitation type /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation type a specific type of precipitation, such as rain, snow, or sleet.

precipitated precipitation velocity /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation velocity the speed at which a precipitate forms in a precipitation reaction.

precipitated precipitation zone /prɪˈsɪpət/ precipitation zone a zone where precipitation occurs, such as a rainstorm or snowfall.

precipitated type /prɪˈsɪpət/ type a specific type of precipitation, such as rain, snow, or sleet.

precipitated velocity /prɪˈsɪpət/ velocity the speed at which a precipitate forms in a precipitation reaction.

precipitated zone /prɪˈsɪpət/ zone a zone where precipitation occurs, such as a rainstorm or snowfall.
prednisolone /pred ‘nisələn/ noun a synthetically produced steroid hormone, similar to cortisone, used especially to control inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis

predominant /prɪdəˈmənənt/ adjective more powerful than others

pre-eclampsia /prɪˈekləmpsia/ noun a condition in pregnant women towards the end of the pregnancy which may lead to eclampsia. Symptoms are high blood pressure, oedema and protein in the urine. Also called pregestational hypertension

premenstrual syndrome /prɪˈmenstrjuəl /noun a condition affecting the front part of the frontal lobe, an area of the brain in the front part of each hemisphere, in front of the frontal lobe, which is concerned with memory and learning

pregestational /prɪˈɡɛstənʃəl/ adjective near to and in front of a ganglion

preganglionic /prɪˈɡæŋglɪənɪk/ adjective referring to the stage in a woman's life when she is not pregnant. Also called premenopausal

pregnancy /ˈprɛgnənsi/ noun 1. same as gestation period 2. the condition of being pregnant. Also called cyesis

pregnancy-associated hypertension /prɛŋˈneɪʃən-əs’siːtʃəd /noun high blood pressure which is associated with pregnancy

pregnancy-induced hypertension /prɛŋˈneɪʃən-ɪndjuˈsd /noun high blood pressure in pregnant women

Abbr: PIH, same as pre-eclampsia

pregnancy test /ˈprɛgnənsi test/ noun a test to see if a woman is pregnant or not

pregnant /ˈprɛgnənt/ adjective with an unborn baby in the uterus. She is six months pregnant.

prehepatic /prɪˈhæptɪk/ adjective in front of or before the liver

prehepatic bilirubin /prɪˈhæptɪk biˈlɪrəbɪn/ noun bilirubin in plasma before it passes through the liver

prehepatic jaundice /prɪˈhæptɪk dʒændɪs/ noun same as haemolytic jaundice

premature /ˈprɛmətʃər/ adjective before the expected or desired time. The baby was five weeks premature.

COMMENT: Babies can survive even if born several weeks premature. Even babies weighing less than one kilo at birth can survive in an incubator, and develop healthily.

premature baby /ˈprɛmətʃər ˈbeɪbi/ noun a baby born earlier than 37 weeks from conception, or weighing less than 2.5 kg, but capable of independent life

premature birth /ˈprɛmətʃər ˈbeəθ/ noun the birth of a baby earlier than 37 weeks from conception

premature ejaculation /ˈprɛmətʃər ɪˌdʒeɪəˈljuːʃən/ noun a situation in which a man ejaculates too early during sexual intercourse

premature labour /ˈprɛmətʃər ˈleɪbɜ/ noun the condition of starting to give birth earlier than 37 weeks from conception

After the accident she went into premature labour.

prematurely /ˈprɛmətʃərli/ adverb before the expected or desirable time. The baby was born two weeks prematurely.

A large number of people die prematurely from ischaemic heart disease.

 prematurity /ˈprɛmətʃərɪˈtri/ noun a situation in which something occurs before the expected or desirable time

premed /ˈprɛmd/ noun a stage of being given premedication (informal). The patient is in premed.

premedication /ˈprɛmdɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun a drug given before an operation in order to block the parasympathetic nervous system and prevent vomiting during the operation, e.g. a sedative

premenopausal /proʊˌmɛnəˈpɔsəl/ adjective referring to the studies that a person must complete before entering medical school

premedication /ˈprɛˌmedɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun a medicant drug given before an operation in order to block the parasympathetic nervous system and prevent vomiting during the operation, e.g. a sedative

premenstrual /prɪˈmenstrjuəl/ adjective referring to the stage in a woman's life just before the start of the menopause

premenstrual syndrome /prɪˈmenstrjuəl ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a period between conception and childbirth

premenstrual tension /prɪˈmenstrjuəl ˈtɛnsən/ noun nervous stress experienced by a woman for one or two weeks before a menstrual period starts. Abbrevations: PM, PMT

premolar /prɪˈmɒlər/ noun a tooth with two points, situated between the canines and the first proper molar. See illustration at TEETH in Supplement

preparation /prɪˈpærəˈteɪʃən/ noun a stage of being given premedication during the period between conception and childbirth

prenatal /prɪˈnetəl/ adjective same as antenatal diagnosis

pre-op /prɪˈɒp/ adjective same as preoperative (informal)
preoperative /prəˈɒpərətɪv/ adjective during the period before a surgical operation
preoperatively /prəˈɒpərətɪvli/ adverb before a surgical operation
preoperative medication /prəˈɒpərətɪv,medɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun a drug given before an operation, e.g. a sedative
preovulatory /prəˈɒvələtərɪ/ adjective referring to the period up to 3 days in the menstrual cycle between menstruation and ovulation
prep /prɛp/ (informal) noun same as preparation
prep 2. /prep/ (noun) The prep is finished, so the patient can be taken to the operating theatre. [verb] same as prepare
prep 2. Has the patient been prepped?
(preparing – prep) PREP abbr post-registration education and practice
preparation /ˈprepərətʃən/ noun 1. the act of getting a person ready for a surgical operation. Also called prep 2. a medicine or liquid containing a drug. He was given a preparation containing an antihistamine
prepare /prɛpər/ verb 1. to get something or someone ready ○ Six rooms in the hospital were prepared for the accident victims. ○ The nurses were preparing him for the operation. 2. to make something ○ He prepared a soothing liniment.
preattendant bursitis /priˈætəntənt/ noun a condition in which the fluid sac at the knee becomes inflamed, caused by kneeling on hard surfaces. Also called housemaid’s knee
prepubertal /prɪˈpjuːbərtəl/ adjective referring to the period before puberty
prepuberty /prɪˈpjuːbərti/ noun the period before puberty
prepubescent /prɪˈpjuːbəsɛnt/ adjective referring to a person at the stage of life just before puberty
prepuce /prɪˈpjuːs/ noun same as foreskin
presby- /ˈpreizbi-/ preﬁx same as presby-
presbyacousis /ˈpreizbiəˈkjuːsɪs/ noun a condition in which an elderly person’s hearing fails gradually, through to degeneration of the internal ear
presby- /ˈpreizbi-/ preﬁx referring to the last stages of the natural life span
presbyopia /prezbiˈɔpjə/ noun a condition in which an elderly person’s sight fails gradually, through hardening of the lens
prescribe /prɪˈskrɪb/ verb to give instructions for a person to get a specific dosage of a drug or a speciﬁc form of therapeutic treatment ○ The doctor prescribed a course of antibiotics. [NOTE: prescribing – prescribed]
prescribed disease /prɪˈskrɪbd dɪˈziːz/ noun an illness caused by the type of work a person does which is on an annually reviewed official list, entitling the person to claim bene-

fit. Examples are deafness, pneumoconiosis and RSI.
prescribed illness /prɪˌskrɪbd ‘ɪlnəs/ noun an illness developing in the workplace from exposure to chemicals, e.g. mercury poisoning, or to dangerous activities, e.g. decompression sickness
prescribing analyses and cost /prɪˌskrɪbɪŋ/ noun an order written by a doctor to a pharmacist asking for a drug to be prepared and given or sold to a person
prescription /prɪˌskrɪpʃən/ noun an order written by a doctor to a pharmacist asking for a drug to be prepared and given or sold to a person
prescription drug /prɪˌskrɪpʃən drʌg/ noun a drug which can only be obtained by having a legally valid prescription
presence /ˈprezəns/ noun the act or fact of being there ○ Tests showed the presence of sugar in the urine.
presenile /prɪˈsɛnɪl/ adjective 1. prematurely showing the effects of advanced age 2. referring to a condition which affects people of early or middle age but has characteristics of a more advanced age
presenile dementia /prɪˈsɛnɪl dɪˈmɛnʃə/ noun mental degeneration affecting adults of around 40–60 years of age (dated) COMMENT: Patients used to be diagnosed with presenile dementia if they showed symptoms of dementia and were under the age of 65, and senile dementia if over 65. However, the terms are no longer often used and instead the type of dementia is used for diagnostic purposes, e.g. Alzheimer’s disease, multi-infarct or vascular
presenility /prɪˈsɛnɪləti/ noun the ageing of the body or brain before the expected time, with a person showing symptoms which are usually associated with people of very advanced years
present verb /ˈpreznt/ 1. (of a patient) to show particular symptoms ○ The patient presented with severe chest pains. 2. (of a symptom) to be present ○ The doctors’ first task is to relieve the presenting symptoms. ○ The condition may also present in a baby. 3. (of a baby) to appear in the vaginal channel [adjective /ˈprezənt/ (of a symptom) currently existing in a place ○ All the symptoms of the disease are present.

‘…chlamydia in the male commonly presents a urethritis characterized by dysuria’ [Journal of American College Health]
‘26 patients were selected from the outpatient department on grounds of doubling breathlessness present for at least five years’ [Lancet]
‘…sickle cell crisis syndrome is a common complication of sickle cell disease, presenting with chest pain, fever and leucocytosis’ [British Medical Journal]
‘…a 24 year-old woman presents with an influenza-like illness of five days’ duration’ [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]
presentation 322

...the presenting symptoms of Crohn’s disease may be extremely variable’ [New Zealand Medical Journal]

presentation /prezəˈteɪʃən/ noun the way in which a baby will be born, in respect of the part of the baby’s body which will appear first in the vaginal channel

presenting part /ˈprɛzɪntɪŋ pɑrt/ noun the part of a baby which appears first during birth

preservation /ˌprɛzərˈveɪʃən/ noun the keeping of a tissue sample or donor organ in good condition

preserve /prɛzərˈveɪ/ verb to keep something from rotting (note: preserving – preserved)

pressure /ˈprɛʃə/ noun 1. the action of squeezing or forcing something 2. the force of something on its surroundings 3. mental or physical stress caused by external events

pressure area /ˈprɛʃər ˈeəriə/ noun an area of the body where a bone is near the surface of the skin, so that if the skin is pressed the circulation will be cut off

pressure bandage /ˈprɛʃər ˈbændidʒ/ noun a bandage which presses on a part of the body

pressure index /ˈprɛʃər ˈɪndeks/ noun a method for determining the extent of obstruction to the artery in the leg by measuring the blood pressure in the arms and legs and then dividing the systolic pressure in the leg by that in the arm. Abbr PI

pressure point /ˈprɛʃər ˈpɔint/ noun a place where an artery crosses over a bone, so that the blood can be cut off by pressing with the finger

presynaptic /prɪsɪˈnæptɪk/ adjective situated in front of a synapse

presynaptic axon /prɪsɪnæptɪk ˈæksɔn/ noun a nerve leading to one side of a synapse

presystole /ˈprɛsɪstəl/ noun the period before systole in the cycle of heartbeats

preterm birth /ˈprɛtrəm ˈbɜːθ/ noun the birth of a baby before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy, which presents a greater risk of serious health problems (note: About 12 per cent of births in the UK are preterm births.)

prevalence /ˈprɛvələns/ noun the number of cases of a disease in a specific place at a specific time 1. the prevalence of malaria in some tropical countries 2. the prevalence of cases of malnutrition in large towns 3. a high prevalence of renal disease

prevalent /ˈprɛvələnt/ adjective common in comparison to something else 1. The disease is prevalent in some African countries. 2. The condition is more prevalent in the cold winter months.

prevent /prɪˈvent/ verb to stop something from happening, or a person from doing something 1. The treatment is given to prevent the patient’s condition from getting worse. 2. Doctors are trying to prevent the spread of the outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease.

preventative /prɪˈventətɪv/ adjective same as preventive

prevention /prɪˈvenʃən/ noun action to stop something happening

preventive /prɪˈventɪv/ adjective referring to an action taken to stop something happening, especially to stop a disease or infection from spreading 1. preventive treatment 2. preventive action

preventive measure /prɪˈventɪv ˈmiːʒər/ noun an action taken to prevent a disease from occurring or spreading

preventive medicine /prɪˈventɪv ˈmɛdɪʃən/ noun action carried out to stop disease from occurring, e.g. by education in health-related issues, immunisation and screening for known diseases

prevertebral /prɪˈvertɪbrəl/ adjective situated in front of the spinal column or a vertebra

priapism /prɪəˈpɜːrəsm/ noun an erection of the penis without sexual stimulus, caused by a blood clot in the tissue of the penis, injury to the spinal cord or stone in the urinary bladder

prick /prɪk/ verb to make a small hole in something with a sharp point 1. The nurse pricked the patient’s finger to take a blood sample.

prickle cell /ˈprɪkl ˈsel/ noun a cell with many processes connecting it to other cells, found in the inner layer of the epidermis

prickly heat /ˈprɪkl ˈhɛt/ noun same as miliaria

pril /ˈprɪl/ suffix used for ACE inhibitors

prilocaine /ˌprɪloʊˈkeɪn/ noun a local anaesthetic used especially in dentistry

primaquine /ˈprɪməkwɪn/ noun a synthetically produced drug used in the treatment of malaria

primary /ˈprɪməri/ adjective 1. happening first, and leading to something else 2. most important 3. referring to a condition which comes first and is followed by another. Compare secondary

primary amenorrhoea /ˈprɪmərɪ, əˈmɒnərə/ noun a condition in which a woman has never had menstrual periods
primary biliary cirrhosis /prəˈmɪriəl bɪlɪəri sɜːrɪˈfɒs/ noun cirrhosis of the liver caused by autoimmune disease
primary bronchi /prəˈmɪriəl ˈbrɒŋki/ plural noun same as main bronchi
primary care /prəˈmɪriəl ˈkeə/ noun in the UK, health services offered directly to individuals by GPs, dentists, opticians and other health professionals who may also refer a patient on to specialists for further treatment. Also called primary health care, primary medical care. Compare secondary care, tertiary care.
primary care group /prəˈmɪriəl ˈkəʊ ɡrʊp/ noun an organisation responsible for overseeing the provision of primary healthcare and the commissioning of secondary care in a district. Key members include GPs, community nurses, social services and lay members. Abbr PCG
primary care team /prəˈmɪriəl ˈtiːm/ noun same as primary health care team
primary care trust /prəˈmɪriəl ˈtrʌst/ noun in the UK, the top level of the primary care group with extra responsibilities such as direct employment of community staff. Abbr PCT
primary cartilaginous joint /prəˈmɪriəl ˈkɑr tlɪˈdʒəm ɡdʒənt/ noun a temporary joint where the intervening cartilage is converted into adult bone
primary complex /prəˈmɪriəl ˈkɒmplɛks/ noun the first lymph node to be infected by tuberculosis
primary dysmenorrhea /prəˈmɪriəl ˌdɪs məˈnɪrə/ noun dysmenorrhoea which occurs at the first menstrual period. Also called essential dysmenorrhoea
primary haemorrhage /prəˈmɪriəl ˈheɪmərərædʒ/ noun bleeding which occurs immediately after an injury has taken place
primary health care /prəˈmɪriəl ˈhelθ keə/ noun same as primary care
primary hæmorrhage /prəˈmɪriəl ˈheɪmərərædʒ/ noun a group of professional medical workers who have first contact with someone needing medical attention and are responsible for delivering a range of health care services. Abbr PHCT
primary medical care /prəˈmɪriəl ˈmɛdɪk(ə)l ˈkeə/ noun same as primary care
primary nurse /prəˈmɪriəl ˈnɜːs/ noun a nurse who is responsible for planning a person’s nursing care in consultation with that person and his or her family. In the absence of the primary nurse, associate nurses provide care based on the plan designed by the primary nurse.
primary nursing /prəˈmɪriəl ˈnɜːsnɪŋ/ noun a model of nursing that involves the delivery of comprehensive, continuous, co-ordinated and individualised patient care through a primary nurse, who has autonomy, accountability and authority in relation to his or her patient’s care
primary peritonitis /prəˈmɪriəl ˈpɜrəˌtɒnɪtɪs/ noun peritonitis caused by direct infection from the blood or the lymph
primary tooth /prəˈmɪriəl tuːθ/ noun any one of the first twenty teeth which develop in children between about six months and two-and-a-half years of age, and are replaced by the permanent teeth at around the age of six. Also called milk tooth, deciduous tooth
primary tubercle /prəˈmɪriəl ˈtɜːbrək(ə)l/ noun the first infected spot where tuberculosis starts to infect a lung
primary tuberculosis /prəˈmɪriəl ˈtʃʊbərkoʊləsɪs/ noun a person’s first infection with tuberculosis
primary tumour /prəˈmɪriəl ˈtjuːmər/ noun a site of the original malignant growth from which cancer spreads
prime /prɑm/ adjective 1. of the greatest importance or the highest rank 2. of the highest quality •noun the best state or period of something, especially the most active and enjoyable period in adult life •verb to make something ready for use, or to become ready for use (note: priming – primed)
prime mover /prɑm ˈmɔrvər/ noun 1. same as agonist 2. somebody or something which has the most influence over the starting of a process or activity
primigravida /ˈprɪmɪgriˌvɛɪdə/ primigravid patient /prəˈmɪriəl ˈɡrɑvɪd ˈpɛr ˈoʊnt/ noun a woman who is pregnant for the first time (note: The plural is primigravidas or primigravidae.)
primipara /prəˈmɪrɪpərə/ noun a woman who has given birth to one child. Also called unipara (note: The plural is primiparas or primiparae.)
primordial /prəˈmɪrɪdʒəl/ adjective in the very first stage of development
primary follicle /prəˈmɪriəl ˈfɒlɪk(ə)l/ noun the first stage of development of an ovarian follicle
principle /ˈprɪnsɪp(ə)l/ noun 1. a rule or theory 2. a standard of ethical behaviour
P-R interval /ˈpiː ˈeər ntəv(ə)l/ noun the time recorded on an electrocardiogram between the start of atrial activity and ventricular activity
prion /ˈpriən/ noun a particle of protein which contains no nucleic acid, does not trigger an immune response and is not destroyed...
by extreme heat or cold. Prions are considered to be the agents responsible for scrapie, BSE, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

**priority despatch** /praɪˈtræti dɪˈspept/ noun the process of talking to people who need medical help on the telephone in order to make sure that ambulances are sent to the most urgent cases first

**priority matrix** /praɪˈtræti mətrɪks/ noun a way of trying to make sure that each community has a fair amount of services for its particular health needs

**private** /praɪvət/ adjective not supported by government or paid for by the National Health Service ○ He runs a private clinic for alcoholics

**private hospital** /praɪvət ˈhɒspɪtl/ noun a hospital which takes only paying patients

**privately** /ˈpraɪvətli/ adverb by a private practitioner or company, not by the National Health Service ○ The hospital has developed some new procedures for treating Parkinson’s disease.

**private parts** /praɪvət pɑːrts/ plural noun the genital area (informal) Also called privates ○ The nurse treated the patient without asking for his consent

**private patient** /praɪvət ˈpleɪʃnt/ noun a patient who is paying for treatment and who is not being treated under the National Health Service

**private practice** /praɪvət ˈprækts/ noun the services of a doctor, surgeon or dentist which are paid for by the patients themselves or by a medical insurance company, but not by the National Health Service

**privates** /praɪvətɪz/ plural noun same as private parts (informal)

**p.r.n.** /prəν/ noun (written on a prescription) as and when required. Full form pro re nata

**probang** /ˈprəʊbæŋ/ noun a surgical instrument like a long rod with a brush at one end, formerly used to test and find strictures in the oesophagus and to push foreign bodies into the stomach

**probe** /prəʊb/ noun 1. an instrument used to explore inside a cavity or wound 2. a device inserted into a medium to obtain information ○ The surgeon probed the wound with a scalpel. [NOTE: probing – probed]

**problem** /ˈprɔbləm/ noun 1. something which is difficult to find an answer to ○ Scientists are trying to find a solution to the problem of drug-related disease. 2. a medical disorder ○ heart problems 3. an addiction to something ○ has a drug problem

**problem child** /ˈprɔbləm tʃaɪld/ noun a child who is difficult to control

**problem drinking** /ˈprɔbləm ˈdrɪŋkɪŋ/ noun alcoholism or heavy drinking which has a bad effect on a person’s behaviour or work

**problem-oriented record** /prəʊˈbləm ˈɒrɪɛntɪd ˈrekər/ noun a record of patient care which links patients’ clinical data with their problems, so that all aspects of the care process are focused on resolving those problems

**problem-solving approach** /ˈprɔbləm səlvɪŋ ə ˈprɔbləm/ noun the provision of nursing care based on assessment, problem identification (nursing diagnosis), planning implementation (nursing intervention) and evaluation

**procedure** /prəˈsɪdʒʊər/ noun 1. a standard way of doing something 2. a type of treatment ○ The hospital has developed some new procedures for treating Parkinson’s disease. 3. a treatment given at one time ○ We are hoping to increase the number of procedures carried out per day.

**proctalgia** /prɒkˈtelɪdʒiə/ noun 1. a condition in which a person has sudden aches or pains in the rectum during the night, usually relieved by eating or drinking○ The blood samples are being processed by the laboratory. 2. the nursing process serves to divide overall patient care into that part performed by nurses and that performed by the other professions [Nursing Times] 3. the electromyograms and CT scans were done as outpatient procedures [Southern Medical Journal]

**prochlorperazine** /ˈprəʊkloʊrˌperəˌziːn/ noun a drug used to control nausea and vomiting, and to reduce the symptoms of Ménière’s disease, migraine and anxiety

**procidentia** /prəsɪˈdɛntiə/ noun movement of an organ downwards

**proctocele** /prɒkˈtəsi/ noun the same as recocoele

**proctalgia fugax** /prɒkˈtelɪdʒiə fəˈɡæks/ noun a condition in which a person has sudden pains in the rectum during the night, usually relieved by eating or drinking

**proctectomy** /prɒkˈtɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the rectum (note: The plural is proctectomies)

**proctitis** /prɒkˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the rectum

**proctocele** /prɒkˈtəsi/ noun the anus or rectum

**proctoscope** /prɒkˈtəskəʊp/ noun the same as recoscope
proctoclysis /prəʊkˈtɒkslɔsɪs/ noun the introduction of a lot of fluid into the rectum slowly
proctocolectomy /prəʊkˈtɒkəlɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the rectum and the colon (NOTE: The plural is proctocolectomies.)
proctocolitis /prəʊkˈtɒkəlɔlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the rectum and part of the colon
proctogram /prəʊkˈtɒkərəɡrəm/ noun an X-ray photograph of the rectum taken after a contrast agent is introduced
(proctoscopy /prəʊkˈtɒskəpi/ noun an examination of the rectum using a proctoscope (NOTE: The plural is proctoscopies.)
proctiditis /prəʊkˈtɒdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the rectum and the sigmoid colon
proctotomy /prəʊkˈtɒtəmɪ/ noun 1. a surgical operation to divide a structure of the rectum or anus 2. an opening of an imperforate anus (NOTE: [all senses] The plural is proctotomies.)
proctorrhaphy /prəʊkˈtɒrərɑːfi/ noun a surgical operation to stitch up a tear in the rectum or anus (NOTE: The plural is proctorrhaphies.)
proctoscope /prəʊkˈtɒskəʊp/ noun a surgical instrument consisting of a long tube with a light in the end, used to examine the rectum
proctoscopy /prəʊkˈtɒskəpi/ noun an examination of the rectum using a proctoscope (NOTE: The plural is proctoscopies.)
proctosigmoiditis /prəʊkˈtɒksɪdʒɪdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the rectum and the sigmoid colon
proctomy /prəʊkˈtɒmɪ/ noun 1. a surgical operation to divide a structure of the rectum or anus 2. an opening of an imperforate anus (NOTE: [all senses] The plural is proctotomies.)
proctosigmoidotomy /prəʊkˈtɒksɪdʒɪdɒtəmɪ/ noun an operation of a lot of fluid into the rectum slowly
proctorrhaphy /prəʊkˈtɒrərɑːfi/ noun a surgical operation to stitch up a tear in the rectum or anus (NOTE: The plural is proctorrhaphies.)
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proctoscopy /prəʊkˈtɒskəpi/ noun an examination of the rectum using a proctoscope (NOTE: The plural is proctoscopies.)
profound /prəʊfəʊnd/ adjective very great or serious ○ a profound impairment of the immune system
profunda /prəʊfʌnda/ adjective referring to blood vessels which lie deep in tissues
profundaplasty /prəʊfʌndəplæstɪs/ noun a surgical operation to widen a junction of the femoral artery, in order to relieve narrowing by athero...
prognathic jaw

pronounced proh-nath'ık jō

noun a jaw which protrudes further than the other

—prognathistic, adjective referring to a prognathic jaw or both jaws protrude

—prognathism /prə'gnotizəm/ noun a condition in which one jaw, especially the lower jaw, or both jaws protrude

prognosis /prə'nəʊsɪs/ noun an opinion of how a disease or disorder will develop. ∙ This cancer has a prognosis of about two years. ∙ The prognosis is not good. (NOTE: The plural is prognoses.)

prognostic /prə'nɒstɪk/ adjective referring to a prognosis

prognostic test /prə'nɒstɪk 'test/ noun a test to suggest how a disease will develop or how long a person will survive after an operation

program /'prəʊɡræm/ noun a series of medical treatments given in a set way at set times. ∙ She took a programme of steroid injections. ∙ She took a programme of steroid treatment. (NOTE: The US spelling is program.)

progress /'prəʊɡres/ 1. development and improvement ∙ Progress has been made in cutting waiting times. 2. the way in which a person is becoming well. ∙ The doctors seem pleased that she has made such good progress since her operation. ∙ verb to move downwards or to continue to do well. ∙ The patient is progressing well.

progression /'prəʊɡres[ə]n/ noun development ∙ The progression of the disease was swift.

progressive /prə'greɪsv/ adjective developing all the time ∙ Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive disorder which sees a gradual decline in intellectual functioning.

progressive deafness /prə,greɪsv 'dɛfnəs/ noun a condition, common in people as they get older, in which a person gradually becomes more and more deaf

progressively /prə'gresɪvli/ adverb more and more ∙ He became progressively more disabled.

progressive muscular atrophy /prə,greɪsvɪ 'mʌskjulaʊ'trofɪ/ noun muscular dystrophy, with progressive weakening of the muscles, particularly in the pelvic and shoulder girdles

proguanil /prə'gwɑːnɪl/ noun a drug used in the prevention and treatment of malaria

proinsulin /prə'ɪnsəlɪn/ noun a substance produced by the pancreas, then converted to insulin

project /prə'dʒekt/ verb to protrude or stick out

—project /prə'dʒekt/ noun 1. a part of the body which sticks out or stands out. Also called prominence. Compare promontory. 2. (in psychology) mental action in which a person blames another person for his or her own faults. Compare projection. 3. a condition, common in people as they get older, in which a person gradually becomes more and more deaf

—projection /prə'dʒektʃən/ noun 1. a movement of the uterus out of its usual position. ∙ A doctor prescribed a programme of steroid treatment. (NOTE: The US spelling is program.)

—projection /prə'dʒektʃən/ verb to produce many similar cells or parts, and so grow. (NOTE: proliferating – proliferated)

—proliferation /prəˌlɪfərətʃən/ noun the process of proliferating

—proliferative /prəˌlɪfərətɪv/ adjective multiplying

—proliferative phase /prəˌlɪfərətɪv feɪz/ noun a period when a disease is spreading fast

—proline /prə'lɪn/ noun an amino acid found in proteins, especially in collagen

—promethazine /prə'miθəˈziːn/ noun an antihistamine drug used in the treatment of allergies and motion sickness

—prominence /prəˈmɪnəns/ noun a part of the body which sticks out or stands out. Also called projection. Compare promontory

—prominent /prəˈmɪnənt/ adjective standing out, very visible. ∙ She had a prominent scar
promonitory /praʊˈmɒntəri/ noun a section of an organ, especially the middle ear and sacrum which stands out above the rest. Compare projection, prominence

promote /praʊˈmeɪt/ verb 1. to help something to take place ○ The drug is used to promote blood clotting, 2. to raise a person to a more senior job or a higher position

pronate /praʊˈneɪt/ verb 1. to lie face downwards 2. to turn the hand so that palm faces downwards (NOTE: pronating – pronated)

pronation /praʊˈneɪʃən/ noun the act of turning the hand round so that the palm faces downwards. Opposite supination. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

pronator /praʊˈneɪtər/ noun a muscle which makes the hand turn face downwards. Opposite supinator 2. referring to the arm with the palm facing downwards

pronounced /praʊˈnaʊnst/ adjective very obvious or marked ○ She has a pronounced limp.

propagate /ˈprɒpəɡeɪt/ verb to multiply something, or cause something to multiply (NOTE: propagating – propagated)

propagation /prəˈpɑːɡəʃən/ noun an act of causing something to spread or multiply

properdin /praʊˈpɜrdrɪn/ noun protein in blood plasma which can destroy Gram-negative bacteria and neutralise viruses when acting together with magnesium

prophase /prəʊfɑːs/ noun the first stage of mitosis when the chromosomes are visible as long thin double threads

prophylactic /prəʊfɪˈlætɪk/ noun a substance which helps to prevent the development of a disease ■ adjective preventive

prophylaxis /prəʊfɪˈlæksɪs/ noun 1. the prevention of disease 2. a preventive treatment (NOTE: [all senses] The plural is prophylaxes.)

proportion /prəʊˈprɪʃən/ noun a quantity of something, especially as compared to the whole ○ A high proportion of cancers can be treated by surgery. ○ The proportion of outpatients to inpatients is increasing.

...the target cells for adult myeloid leukaemia are located in the bone marrow, and there is now evidence that a substantial proportion of childhood leukaemias also arise in the bone marrow’ (British Medical Journal)

propranolol /praʊˈprænələʊl/ noun a drug that slows heart rate and heart output, used in the treatment of angina pectoris, irregular heart rhythms, migraine and high blood pressure

proprietary /praʊˈprɛriətəri/ adjective belonging to a commercial company

proprietary medicine /praʊˈprɛriətəri med(ə)si/ noun, proprietary drug /praʊˈprɛriətəri drəɡ/ noun a drug which is sold under a trade name. ○ patent medicine ○ proprietary name /praʊˈprɛriətəri nɛm/ noun a trade name for a drug

proprionate /praʊˈprɛriətʃən/ noun the reaction of nerves to body movements and the relaying of information about movements to the brain

proprionceptive /praʊˈprɛriətɪkəs/ adjective referring to sensory impulses from the joints, muscles and tendons, which relay information about body movements to the brain

proprionceptron /praʊˈprɛriətʃəpən/ noun the end of a sensory nerve which reacts to stimuli from muscles and tendons as they move

propotein /prəˈtɛəs/ noun forward displacement of the eye-ball

prop up /prəp ̄ əp/ verb to support a person, e.g. with pillows (NOTE: propping up – propped up)

prospective /prəˈspektɪv/ adjective 1. applying to the future. ○ retrospective 2. following what happens to selected patients

prostaglandin /praʊˈstæɡlændɪn/ noun any of a class of unsaturated fatty acids found in all mammals which control smooth muscle contraction, inflammation and body temperature, are associated with the sensation of pain and have an effect on the nervous system, blood pressure and in particular the uterus at menstruation

prostate /prəʊˈstɛt/ noun same as prostate gland (NOTE: Do not confuse with prostrate.) □ prostate trouble inflammation or enlargement of the prostate gland (internal)

prostate cancer /prəʊˈstɛt kənˈseɪn/ noun a malignant tumour of the prostate gland, found especially in men over 55

prostatectomy /prəʊˈstætəktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove all or part of the prostate gland (NOTE: The plural is prostatectomies.)

prostate gland /prəʊˈstɛt gland/ noun an O-shaped gland in males which surrounds the urethra below the bladder and secretes a fluid containing enzymes into the sperm. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (MALE) in Supplement. Also called prostate

COMMENT: As a man grows older, the prostate gland tends to enlarge and constrict the point at which the urethra leaves the bladder, making it difficult to pass urine.

prostatic /prəʊˈstætɪk/ adjective referring to or belonging to the prostate gland

prostatic hypertrophy /prəʊˈstætɪk hətprɪˈtrəfi/ noun an enlargement of the prostate gland

prostatic massage /prəʊˌstætɪk ˈmesəʒ/ noun the removal of fluid from the prostate gland through the rectum.
tiredness of body or mind

thing safe from harm

The US spelling is protamine that blocks or inhibits urine flow

2. splitting the peptide link. Also called protastectomy.

part of the body which has been amputated or removed

Protection of Children Act 1999

The act of Parliament to protect children by restricting the employment of certain nurses, teachers or other workers whose jobs bring them into contact with children, on grounds such as misconduct or health protective isolation

prostatic urethra /ˈprɒstətɪk jʊrɪθrə/ noun a section of the urethra which passes through the prostate gland

prostatic utricle /ˈprɒstətɪk ˈjuːtrɪkl/ noun a sac branching off the urethra as it passes through the prostate gland

prostatism /ˈprɒstətɪzm/ noun a disorder of the prostate gland, especially enlargement that blocks or inhibits urine flow

prostatitis /ˈprɒstətɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the prostate gland

prostatocystitis /ˈprɒstətɒsɪstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the prostatic urethra and the bladder

prostatorrhea /ˈprɒstərərɪə/ noun discharge of fluid from the prostate gland (NOTE: The US spelling is prostatospermia.)

prosthesis /ˈprɒstɪhɪs/ noun a device which is attached to the body to take the place of a part which is missing, e.g. an artificial leg or glass eye (NOTE: The plural is prostheses.)

The average life span of a joint prosthesis is 10–15 years (British Journal of Nursing)

prosthetic /ˈprɒstɪtɪk/ adjective replacing a part of the body which has been amputated or removed

He was fitted with a prosthetic hand.

prosthetic dentistry /ˈprɒstɪtɪk ˈdentɪstri/ noun the branch of dentistry which deals with replacing missing teeth parts of the jaw, and fitting dentures, bridges and crowns. Also called prosthodontics

prosthetics /ˈprɒstɪtɪks/ noun the study and making of prostheses

prosthodontist /ˈprɒsθədnɪst/ noun a qualified person who fits prostheses

prosthodontics /ˈprɒsθədntɪks/ noun same as prosthetic dentistry (NOTE: Takes a singular verb)

prostate /ˈprɒstreɪt/ adjective lying face down (NOTE: Do not confuse with prostate.)

prostration /ˈprɒstrəʃən/ noun extreme tiredness of body or mind

protemine /ˈprɒtrəmɪn/ noun a simple protein found in fish, used with insulin to slow down the insulin absorption rate

protopanopia /ˌprɒтроʊpənəʊpiə/ noun same as Daltonism

protease /ˈprɒtrəs/ noun a digestive enzyme which breaks down protein in food by splitting the peptide link. Also called proteolytic enzyme

protect /ˈprɒtəkt/ verb to keep a person or thing safe from harm  
The population must be protected against the spread of the virus

protection /ˌprɒtəkʃən/ noun 1. the act of keeping a person or thing safe from harm  
2. something which protects  
3. Children are vaccinated as a protection against disease.

Protection of Children Act 1999 /ˌprɔtʃəntʃəl əkt/ noun in the UK, an act of Parliament to protect children by restricting the employment of certain nurses, teachers or other workers whose jobs bring them into contact with children, on grounds such as misconduct or health

protease /ˈprɒtəs/ noun a set of procedures used to protect people who have impaired resistance to infectious disease, e.g. those with leukaemia and lymphoma. Aids and graft patients. Also called reverse isolation

protein /ˈprɔtɪn/ noun a nitrogen compound which is present in and is an essential part of all living cells in the body, formed by the linking of amino acids

COMMENT: Proteins are necessary for growth and repair of the body’s tissues. They are mainly formed of carbon, nitrogen and oxygen in various combinations as amino acids. Foods such as beans, meat, eggs, fish and milk are rich in protein.

protein balance /ˈprɔtɪn bæləns/ noun a situation when the nitrogen intake in protein is equal to the excretion rate in the urine

protein-bound iodine /ˌprɔtɪn bɔːnd ˈaʊdɪn/ noun a compound of thyroxine and iodine

protein-bound iodine test /ˌprɔtɪn bɔːnd ˈaʊdɪn tɛst/ noun a test to measure if the thyroid gland is producing adequate quantities of thyroxine. Abbreviation PBI test

protein deficiency /ˈprɔtɪn dɪˈfɪnsi/ noun a lack of enough proteins in the diet

proteinuria /ˈprɔtɪnərɪərɪə/ noun a condition in which there are proteins in the urine

proteolysis /ˌprɔtɪlɪˈdʒiːs/ noun the breakdown of proteins in food into amino acids by enzymes

proteolytic /ˌprɔtɪlɪˈtɪk/ adjective referring to proteolysis

proteolytic enzyme /ˌprɔtɪlɪˈtɪk ɪnˈzɔm/ noun same as protease

proteose /ˈprɔtəʊs/ noun a water-soluble compound formed during hydrolytic processes such as digestion

Proteus /ˈprɔtəʊs/ noun a genus of bacteria commonly found in the intestines

prothrombin /prɔθrəmbɪn/ noun a protein in blood which helps blood to coagulate and which needs Vitamin K to be effective. Also called Factor II

prothrombin time /prɔθrəmbɪn tɜːm/ noun the time taken in Quick test for clotting to take place

protocol /ˈprɔtəskəl/ noun the set of instructions for the clinical management of a particular condition, including tests, surgery and drug treatments
pseudarthrosis

proton pump /ˈprɑːtən pæmp/ noun an enzyme system within the gastric mucosa that secretes gastric acids. The drug acts on the proton pump mechanism.

proton-pump inhibitor /ˈprɑːtən pæmp inˈhibɪtər/ noun a drug which suppresses the final stage of gastric acid secretion by the proton pump in the gastric mucosa.

protopathic /ˌprɔˈptəθæptɪk/ adjective 1. referring to nerves which are able to sense only strong sensations 2. referring to a first symptom or lesion 3. referring to the first sign of partially restored function in an injured nerve

protocoll /ˈprɔtəkoʊl/ noun a substance like a jelly which makes up the largest part of each cell

protoplasmonic /ˌprɔtəˈpleɪzmnɪk/ adjective referring to protoplasma

protoporphyrin IX /ˌprɔtəˈpɔːrfərɪn ɪks/ noun the commonest form of porphyrin, found in haemoglobin and chlorophyll

protozoa /ˌprɔtəˈzoʊə/ plural of protozoan

protuberance /ˌprɔtəˈbʊərəns/ noun a rounded part of the body which projects above the rest

proud flesh /ˈprɔrd fles/ noun new vessels and young fibrous tissue which form when a wound, incision or lesion is healing

provide /prəˈvaɪd/ verb to supply something. A balanced diet should provide the necessary proteins required by the body. The hospital provides an ambulance service to the whole area. The provider provides secondary care which is paid for by another body such as a PCG or social services.

provider /prəˈvaɪdər/ noun a hospital which provides secondary care which is paid for by another body such as a PCG or social services.

purchaser /prəˈvɜːʃər/ noun 1. the act of providing something 2. the provision of after-care facilities for patients recently discharged from hospital 3. something provided

provisional /prəˈvɪʒənl/ adjective temporary and which may be changed

pseudarthrosis /ˌpjuːˈseɪθərəroʊsɪs/ noun a false joint, as when the two broken ends of a fractured bone do not bind together but heal separately.
Psycho- 330

Psycho- /səudəu/ prefix similar to something but not the same

Psychoanalysis /səudəuənələsə/ noun the degeneration of the upper end of the femur in young boys which prevents the femur from growing properly and can result in a permanent limp. Also called Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease

Psychoactive /səudəuəktiv/ adjective referring to drugs such as LSD which expand a person’s consciousness

Psychoconvulsions /səudəoukənvləʃən/ noun a condition in which polyops are found in many places in the intestine, usually resulting from an earlier infection

Psychoendocrinology /səudəouendəkərinələdʒi/ noun the treatment of mental and behavioural disorders medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of mental and behavioural disorders

Psychotherapy /səudəouθərapi/ noun the treatment of mental and behavioural disorders

Psuedomyxoma /səudəoumiˈkɔmə/ noun a tumour rich in mucus (NOTE: The plural is pseudomyxomas or pseudomyxomata.)
by a mental disorder, e.g. twitching
the mind and mental processes
form of treatment for mental disorders in

a branch of medicine which deals with how emotions af-
fect the immune system

any of a group of mental disorders in which a person has a faulty response to the stresses of
life. (NOTE: The plural is psychone-
uroses.)

a person with a long-term mental disorder characterised by antisocial and often violent behaviour

any branch of medicine concerned with the pa-

any disease of the mind (NOTE: The plural is psychopa-

referring to psychopaths or psychopathy

physiology /sɑːkə,fɪzɪə/ adjective referring to psychophysiology

the physiology of the mind and its func-

tional

plural of psychosis

relating to the mental and emotional aspects of sexuality and sexual development

relating to the interaction of psychological and social factors

redefine nursing have moved away from the traditional medically dominated ap-
proach towards psychosocial care and forming rela-
tionships with patients. "[British Journal of Nursing]"
psychosomatic

psychosomatic /ˌsaɪkəˈsɒmətɪk/ adjective referring to the relationship between body and mind

COMMENT: Many physical disorders, including dental ulcers and high blood pressure, can be caused by mental conditions like worry or stress, and are then termed psychosomatic in order to distinguish them from the same conditions having physical or hereditary causes.

psychosurgery /ˌsaɪkəˈsɜːdʒərɪ/ noun brain surgery, used as a treatment for psychological disorders

psychosurgical /ˌsaɪkəˈsɜːdʒərəkl/ adjective referring to psychosurgery

psychotherapeutic /ˌsaɪkəˈθerəpɪtɪk/ adjective referring to psychotherapy

psychotherapist /ˌsaɪkəˈθerəpɪst/ noun a person trained to give psychotherapy

psychotherapy /ˌsaɪkəˈθerəpi/ noun the treatment of mental disorders by psychological methods, as when a psychotherapist encourages a person to talk about his or her problems. / therapy

psychotic /saɪˈkɒtɪk/ adjective 1. referring to psychosis 2. characterised by mental disorder

psychotropic /ˌsaɪkəˈtrɒpɪk/ adjective referring to a drug such as a stimulant or sedative which affects a person’s mood

Pt abbr punct

pterion /ˈtɛrətʃən/ noun the point on the side of the skull where the frontal, temporal parietal and sphenoid bones meet

pteroylglutamic acid /ˈterəʊəlɡluːtɪk/ noun same as folic acid

pterigium /ˌtɛrərɪdʒiəm/ noun a degenerative condition in which a triangular growth of conjunctiva covers part of the cornea, with its apex towards the pupil

pterogyo- /-tɛrəʊg/ suffix the pterygoid process

pterogyoid plate /-tɛrəʊɡaɪd/ ‘plekt/ noun a small flat bony projection on the pterygoid process

pterogyoid process /-tɛrəʊɡaɪd/ prɔʊsɪz/ noun one of two projecting parts on the sphenoid bone

pterogyomandibular /ˌtɛrəʊgəʊmændɪbələr/ adjective referring to the pterygoid process and the mandible

pterigopalatine fossa /ˌtɛrəʊɡəʊpələtɪn/ fəʊsə/ noun the space between the pterygoid process and the upper jaw

pterigopalatine ganglion /ˌtɛrəʊɡəʊpələtɪn/ ɡæŋˈɡlɪən noun a ganglion in the pterygopalatine fossa associated with the maxillary nerve. Also called sphenopalatine ganglion

ptomaine /ˈptəʊmən/ noun a group of nitrogenous substances produced in rotting food, which gives the food a special smell (note: Ptomaine poisoning was the term formerly used to refer to any form of food poisoning.)

ptosis /ˌptəʊsɪs/ noun 1. prolapse of an organ 2. drooping of the upper eyelid, which makes the eye stay half closed

PTSD abbr post-traumatic stress disorder

ptyal- /ˈptəʊl-/ prefix same as ptyalo- (used before vowel)

ptyalin /ˈptəʊlɪn/ noun an enzyme in saliva which cleanses the mouth and converts starch into sugar

ptyalism /ˈptəʊlɪzm/ noun the production of an excessive amount of saliva

ptyallith /ˈptəʊliθ/ noun same as salolith

ptyalo- /ˈptəʊl-əʊ/ prefix referring to saliva

ptyalography /ˌptəʊləˈɡrəfi/ noun same as sialography

puber
tal /ˈpjuːbər(ə)l, ˈpjuːbərəl/ /ˈpjuːbərəl/ adjective referring to puberty

puberty /ˈpjuːbərəti/ noun 1. the physical and psychological changes which take place when childhood ends and adolescence and sexual maturity begin and the sex glands become active 2. the time when these changes take place, which gives the food a special smell (note: Puberty starts at about the age of 10 in girls, and slightly later in boys.

pubes1 /ˈpjuːbɪz/ noun the part of the body just above the groin, where the pubic bones are found

pubes2 /ˈpjuːbɪzɪ/ plural of pubic

pubescent /ˈpjuːbɪsɛnt/ adjective reaching or having reached puberty

pubic /ˈpjuːbɪk/ adjective referring to the area near the genitals

pubic bone /ˈpjuːbɪk ˈbɔːn/ noun the bone in front of the pelvis. Also called pubis. See illustration at urogenital system (male) in Supplement

pubic hair /ˈpjuːbɪk ˈhɛər/ noun tough hair growing in the genital region

pubic louse /ˈpjuːbɪk ˈloʊs/ noun also called Pediculus pubis

pubic symphysis /ˈpjuːbɪk ˈsɪmфʃɪsɪs/ noun a piece of cartilage which joins the two sections of the pubic bone. Also called symphysis pubis

COMMENT: In a pregnant woman, the pubic symphysis stretches to allow the pelvic girdle to expand so that there is room for the baby to pass through.

pubi
tomy /ˈpjuːbɪtəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to divide the pubic bone during labour, in order to make the pelvis wide enough for the child to be born safely (note: The plural is pubiotomies.)

pubis /ˈpjuːbɪs/ noun a bone forming the front part of the pelvis. See illustration at pelvis in Supplement (note: The plural is pubes.)
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public health / pju:blık 'helθ/ noun the study of health and disease in the community

public health laboratory service / pju:blık 'helθ la'brətorı(ə)r / noun in the UK, a former service of the NHS which detected, diagnosed and monitored suspected cases of infectious disease in a countrywide network of laboratories. Abbr PHLS

public health medicine / pju:blık 'helθ 'med(i)ər(ə)r / noun the branch of medicine concerned with health and disease in populations, with the responsibilities of monitoring health, identification of health needs, development of policies which promote health and evaluation of health services

public health nurse / pju:blık 'helθ 'nərs/ noun a nurse such as a school nurse, health visitor or other community nurse who monitors health and works to prevent illness in community situations

public health physician / pju:blık 'helθ 'fɪʃıən/ noun a consultant who has special training in public health medicine

puberdal / pju:'dendəl/ plural of pubendum

pubendum / pju:'dendəm/ noun an operation to anaesthetise the pudendum during childbirth

puerpera / pju:'zəprə/ noun a woman who has recently given birth, or is giving birth, and whose uterus is still distended (NOTE: The plural is puerperae.)

puerperal / pju:'zəprəl/ adjective 1. referring to the puerperium 2. referring to childbirth 3. occurring after childbirth

puerperal infection / pju:'zəprəl ɪn'fekʃən/ noun an infection of the uterus and genital tract after the birth of a baby, which is more common in women who have had a caesarean section. It causes a high fever, and occasionally sepsis, which can be fatal and was commonly so in the past. Also called postpartum fever

puerperalism / pju:'zəprələzəm/ noun an illness of a baby or its mother resulting from or associated with childbirth

puerperal psychosis / pju:'zəprəl psikəs/ noun a psychiatric disorder that some women may experience in the first two weeks after giving birth

puerperal sepsis / pju:'zəprəl 'sɛpsıs/ noun blood poisoning following childbirth, caused by infection of the placental site

puerperium / pju:'zəprərıəm/ noun a period of about six weeks which follows immediately after the birth of a child, during which the mother’s sexual organs recover from childbirth

puerperous / pju:'zəprəs/ adjective same as puerperal

puke / pju:k/ verb same as vomit (informal)

Pulex / 'pjuːlekz/ noun a genus of human fleas

pull / pʊl/ verb to make a muscle move in a wrong direction ◇ He pulled a muscle in his back. ◇ to pull the plug to switch off life support (informal) ◇ to pull yourself together to become calmer ◇ Although he was very angry he soon pulled himself together.

pulley / pʊl/ noun a device with rings through which wires or cords pass, used in traction to make wires tense

pull through / pʊl 'θruː/ verb to recover from a serious illness (informal) ◇ The doctor says she is strong and should pull through.

pulmonary / pjuːlə'məʊnəl/ cor pulmonary adjective referring to the lungs

pulmonale / pjuːlə'məʊnəli/ noun pulmonary medicine

pulmonary circulation / pjuːlə'məʊnəri 'kɜːrkəleɪʃən/ noun the circulation of blood from the heart through the pulmonary arteries to the lungs for oxygenation and back to the heart through the pulmonary veins. Also called lesser circulation

pulmonary embolism / pjuːlə'məʊnəri 'embəlɪzəm/ noun a blockage of a pulmonary artery by a blood clot. Abbr PE

pulmonary hypertension / pjuːlə'məʊnəri 'hɑːptərəŋju:n/ noun high blood pressure in the blood vessels supplying blood to the lungs

pulmonary incompetence / pjuːlə'məʊnəri 'ɪnsərˈfɪʃənəs/ noun the inability of a pulmonary valve to move in the right direction so blood from the left atrium of the heart flows to the lungs instead of to the body, as occurs in left-sided heart failure

pulmonary stenosis / pjuːlə'məʊnəri stɛnəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the opening to the pulmonary artery in the right ventricle becomes narrow

pulmonary tuberculosis / pjuːlə'məʊnəri tubəkələsɪs/ noun a condition in which the lungs, which makes the person lose weight, cough blood and have a fever

pulmonary valve / pjuːlə'məʊnəri 'valv/ noun a valve at the opening of the pulmonary artery

pulmonary vein / pjuːlə'məʊnəri 'vین/ noun one of the four veins which carry oxygenated blood from the lungs back to the left atrium of the heart}

pulmonary artery / pjuːlə'məʊnəri 'ærɪtərɪ/ noun one of the two arteries which take deoxygenated blood from the heart to the lungs for oxygenation. See illustration at heart in Supplement
pulmonectomy /pəlˈmɒnənktəm/ noun (same as pneumonectomy [note: The plural is pneumonectomies.])
pulmonology /pəlˈmɒnəlɒdʒi/ noun the branch of medicine that deals with the structure, physiology and diseases of the lungs
pulp /pʌlp/ noun soft tissue, especially when surrounded by hard tissue as in the inside of a tooth
pulp cavity /ˈpʌlp ˈkævətɪ/ noun the central part of a tooth containing soft tissue
pulpiness /ˈpʌlpɪsɪ/ noun the condition of being pulpy
pulpy /ˈpʌlpɪ/ adjective made of pulp ○ the pulp tissue inside a tooth
pulsate /ˈpʌlsət/ verb to expand and contract with a strong regular beat (note: pulsating – pulsed)
pulsation /ˈpʌlsəteɪʃən/ noun the action of beating regularly, e.g. the visible pulse which can be seen under the skin in some parts of the body
pulse /pʌls/ noun the regular expansion and contraction of an artery caused by the heart pumping blood through the body, which can be felt with the fingers especially where an artery is near the surface of the body, as in the wrist or neck ○ Her pulse is very irregular. ○ to take or feel a person’s pulse to measure a person’s pulse rate by pressing on the skin above an artery with the fingers ○ Has the patient’s pulse been taken?
  COMMENT: The standard adult pulse is about 72 beats per minute, but it is higher in children. The pulse is usually taken by placing the fingers on the patient’s wrist, at the point where the radial artery passes through the depression just below the thumb.
pulseless /ˈpʌlsliːs/ adjective referring to a person who has no pulse because the heart is beating very weakly
pulse oximetry /ˈpʌls ɒksɪmətri/ noun a method of measuring the oxygen content of arterial blood
pulse point /ˈpʌls ˈpɔɪnt/ noun a place on the body where the pulse can be taken
pulse pressure /ˈpʌls prəˈfɜːr/ noun the difference between the diastolic and systolic pressure ○ Conigan’s pulse
pulse rate /ˈpʌls rɪt/ noun the number of times the pulse beats per minute
pulsus /pʌlˈjuːs/ noun same as pulse
pulsus alternans /pʌlˈjuːs ɔlˈtɜːrnəns/ noun a pulse which is alternately strong and weak
pulsus bigeminus /pʌlˈjuːs bɪˈgɛmɪnəs/ noun a double pulse, with an extra ectopic beat
pulsus paradoxus /pʌlˈjuːs ˈpærədəˈkrɒksəs/ noun a condition in which there is a sharp fall in the pulse when the person breathes
pump /pʌmp/ noun a machine which forces liquids or air into or out of something ○ verb to force liquid or air along a tube ○ The heart pumps blood round the body. ○ The nurses tried to pump the poison out of the stomach.
pumping chamber /ˈpʌmpɪŋ ˈtʃɛməbə/ noun one of the sections of the heart where blood is pumped
punch drunk syndrome /ˈpʌntʃ ˈdrʌŋk ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a condition affecting a person, usually a boxer, who has been hit on the head many times and develops impaired mental faculties, trembling limbs and speech disorders
puncta /ˈpʌŋktə/ plural of punctum
puncta lacrimalia /ˈpʌŋktə lækriˈmeɪliə/ plural noun small openings at the corners of the eyes through which tears drain into the nose
punctate /ˈpʌŋktet/ adjective referring to tissue or a surface which has tiny spots, holes or dents in it
punctum /ˈpʌŋktəm/ noun a point (note: The plural is puncta.)
puncture /ˈpʌŋktʃə/ noun 1. a neat hole made by a sharp instrument 2. the making of a hole in an organ or swelling to take a sample of the contents or to remove fluid ○ verb to make a hole in tissue with a sharp instrument (note: puncturing – punctured)
puncture wound /ˈpʌŋktʃə ˈwʊnd/ noun a wound made by a sharp instrument which makes a hole in the tissue
pupil /ˈpjuːpəl/ noun the central opening in the iris of the eye, through which light enters the eye. See illustration at eye in Supplement
pupillary reaction /ˈpjuːpɪləri riˈækʃən/ noun a reflex of the pupil of the eye which contracts when exposed to bright light. Also called light reflex
purchaser /ˈpɜːtʃər/ noun a pure form of tubing ○ verb to induce evacuation of the bowels ○ noun the use of a drug to cause a bowel movement ○ noun a drug used to empty the bowels ○ laxative
purgation /ˈpɜːrʒəʃən/ noun the use of a drug to cause a bowel movement ○ noun a drug used to empty the bowels ○ noun a pure form of tuberculosis, used in tuberculin tests. Abbreviation PPD
purgative /ˈpɜːrɡətɪv/ noun a drug used to make something pure (note: purifies – purifying – purified)
purine /ˈpjuərən/ noun 1. a nitrogen-containing substance derived from uric acid which is the parent compound of several biologically important substances 2. a derivative of purine, especially either of the bases adenine and guanine, which are found in RNA and DNA

Purkinje cells /ˈpʊəkɪn̩dʒiː ˈsɛlz/ plural noun neurones in the cerebellar cortex [Described 1837. After Johannes Evangelista Purkinje (1787–1869), Professor of Physiology at Breslau, now in Poland, and then Prague, Czech Republic.]

Purkinje fibres /ˈpʊəkɪn̩dʒiː ˈfɜːbəz/ plural noun a bundle of fibres which form the atrioventricular bundle and pass from the atrioventricular node to the septum (Described 1839. After Johannes Evangelista Purkinje (1787–1869), Professor of Physiology at Breslau, now in Poland, and then Prague, Czech Republic.)

purulent /ˈpʊərələnt/ adjective containing or producing pus

pus /ˈpʌs/ noun a yellow liquid composed of blood serum, pieces of dead tissue, white blood cells and the remains of bacteria, formed by the body in reaction to infection (NOTE: For other terms referring to pus, see words beginning with py- or pty-)

pus-tular /ˈpʌs.tjuːlər/ adjective 1. covered with or composed of pustules 2. referring to pustules

pus-tulate /ˈpʌs.tjuːlət/ verb to become covered with pustules, or cause pustules to appear on the skin (NOTE: pus-tulating – pus-tulated)

pus-tule /ˈpʌs.tjuːl/ noun a small pimple filled with pus

put-rescence /ˈpʊt.rɛsəns/ noun the decomposition of organic substances by bacteria, making an unpleasant smell

put-refy /ˈpʊt.rɛfi/ verb to rot or decompose (NOTE: put-refies – put-refying – put-refied)

put-up /ˈpʊt ˈʌp/ verb to arrange something such as a display (NOTE: put-putting – put-up)

PVS abbr persistent vegetative state

PWA /pi:əblɛtʃiə/ ‘ɛt/ noun a person with AIDS

py- /ˈpaɪ/ pyo- /ˈpaɪəʊ/ prefix same as pyo- (used before vowels)

pyaemia /ˈpaɪəmə/ noun invasion of blood with bacteria which then multiply and form many little abscesses in various parts of the body (NOTE: The US spelling is pyemia.)

pyarthrosis /ˈpaɪərθrɔsɪs/ noun a condition in which a joint becomes infected with pyogenic organisms and fills with pus. Also called acute suppurative arthritis

pyel- /ˈpaɪəl/ prefix same as pyelo- (used before vowels)

pyelitis /ˈpaɪələtɪs/ noun inflammation of the central part of the kidney

pyelo-latrise /ˈpaɪələlɔtˈrətəs/ noun inflammation of the pelvis of the kidney

pyelo-cystitis /ˌpaɪəloʊˈsɪstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the pelvis of the kidney and the urinary bladder

pyelogram /ˈpaɪələɡrɑm/ noun an X-ray photograph of a kidney and the urinary tract

pyelography /ˌpaɪələˈɡrɑfi/ noun X-ray examination of a kidney after introduction of a contrast medium

pyelolithotomy /ˌpaɪələlɔθətˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a stone from the pelvis of the kidney (NOTE: The plural is pyelo-lithotomies.)

pyelonephritis /ˌpaɪələnəθrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the kidney and the pelvis of the kidney

pyeloplasty /ˌpaɪələˈplæstɪs/ noun any surgical operation on the pelvis of the kidney (NOTE: The plural is pyelo-plasies.)

pyelotomy /ˌpaɪələˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening in the pelvis of the kidney (NOTE: The plural is pyelotomies.)

pye- /ˈpaɪə/ prefix indicating thickness or density

pykno- /ˈpaɪknoʊ/ prefix

pyknolepsy /ˈpaɪknoʊlɛpsɪ/ noun a former name for a type of frequent attack of petit mal epilepsy affecting children

pyl- /ˈpaɪəl/ pyl- /ˈpaɪəl/ prefix referring to the portal vein

pylephlebitis /ˌpaɪləflɛˈbɪtɪs/ noun thrombosis of the portal vein

pylethrombosis /ˌpaɪləθrəmˈbɒsɪs/ noun a condition in which blood clots are present in the portal vein or any of its branches

pylor- /ˈpaɪlər/ prefix same as pyloro- (used before vowels)

pylorectomy /ˌpaɪlərˈɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the pylorus and the antrum of the stomach (NOTE: The plural is pylorectomies.)

pylo- /ˈpaɪloʊ/ plural of pylorus

pyloric /ˈpaɪlərɪk/ adjective referring to the pylorus
pyloric antrum 336

pyloric antrum /paɪˈlɒrɪkˌæntrəm/ noun a space at the bottom of the stomach, before the pyloric sphincter

pyloric orifice /paɪˈlɒrɪk ˈɔːrɪfɪs/ noun an opening where the stomach joins the duodenum

pyloric sphincter /paɪˈlɒrɪk sˈfɪŋktər/ noun a muscle which surrounds the pylorus, makes it contract and separates it from the duodenum

pyloric stenosis /paɪˈlɒrɪk steˈnəʊsɪs/ noun a blockage of the pylorus, which prevents food from passing from the stomach into the duodenum

pyloro- /paɪˈlɒrəʊ/ prefix the pylorus

pyloroplasty /paɪˈlɒrəʊplaʊstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make the pylorus larger, sometimes combined with treatment for peptic ulcers (note: The plural is pyloroplasties.)

pylorosperm /paɪˈlɒrəsʌmp/ noun a muscle spasm which closes the pylorus so that food cannot pass through into the duodenum

pylorotomy /paɪˈlɒrətəmi/ noun a surgical operation to cut into the muscle surrounding the pylorus to relieve pyloric stenosis. Also called Rammstedt’s operation (note: The plural is pylorotomies.)

pylorus /paɪˈlɒrəs/ noun an opening at the bottom of the stomach leading into the duodenum (note: The plural is pylori)

pyo- /paɪəʊ/ prefix referring to pus

pyocele /paɪˈoʊsəl/ noun an enlargement of a tube or cavity due to accumulation of pus

pyocolpos /paɪˈkoʊloʊps/ noun an accumulation of pus in the vagina

pyoderma /paɪˈdərəmə/ noun an eruption of pus in the skin

pyoderma gangrenosum /paɪˈdərəmə ˈɡæŋgriˌnəʊsəm/ noun a serious ulcerating disease of the skin, especially the legs, usually treated with steroid drugs

pyogenes /paɪˈdʒənɛs/ noun the production or formation of pus

pyogenic /paɪˈdʒənɪk/ adjective producing or forming pus

pyometra /paɪəˌmɪtrə/ noun an accumulation of pus in the uterus

pyomyositis /paɪəˌmɔsɪtəs/ noun inflammation of a muscle caused by staphylococci or streptococci

pyonephrosis /paɪəˌnɛfroʊəs/ noun the distension of the kidney with pus

pyopericarditis /paɪəˌpərɪkɑrˈdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the pericardium due to infection with staphylococci, streptococci or pneumococci

pyopneumothorax /paɪəˌpnoʊˌnoʊˈθɔræks/ noun an accumulation of pus and gas or air in the pleural cavity

pyorrhoea /paɪəˈrɔhɪə/ noun discharge of pus (note: The US spelling is pyorhea.)

pyorrhoea alveolaris /paɪəˈrɔrəˌeələrɪs/ noun suppuration from the supporting tissues round the teeth

pyosalpinx /paɪəˌsəlˈpɪŋks/ noun inflammation and formation of pus in a Fallopian tube

pyothorax /paɪəˈθɔræks/ noun same as empyema

pyr- /paɪər/ prefix same as pyro- (used before vowels)

pyramid /paɪˈræmɪd/ noun a cone-shaped part of the body, especially a cone-shaped projection on the surface of the medulla oblongata or in the medulla of the kidney. See illustration at kidney in Supplement

pyramidal /paɪˈræmɪdəl/ adjective referring to a pyramid

pyramidal cell /paɪˈræmɪdəl ˈsɛl/ noun a cone-shaped cell in the cerebral cortex

pyramidal system /paɪˈræmɪdəl ˈsɪstəm/ noun a group of nerve fibres within the pyramid of the medulla oblongata in the brain. It is thought to be vital in controlling movement and speech.

pyretic /paɪˈrɛtɪk/ adjective referring to fever

pyrexia /paɪˈrɛksiə/ noun same as fever

pyrexic /paɪˈrɛsɪk/ adjective having fever

pyridostigmine /paɪrɪˈdɒstɪɡmɪn/ noun a drug which stops or delays the action of the enzyme cholinesterase, used to treat myasthenia gravis

pyridoxine /paɪrɪˈdɒksɪn/ noun same as Vitamin B6

pyrimidine /paɪrɪˈmɪdɪn/ noun 1. a strong-smelling nitrogenous based compound with a six-sided ring structure that is the parent compound of several biologically important substances 2. a derivative of pyrimidine, especially any of the bases cytosine, thymine, and uracil which are found in RNA and DNA

pyro- /paɪər/ prefix burning or fever

pyrogen /paɪrəˈdʒɛn/ noun a substance which causes a fever

pyrogenic /paɪrəˈdʒɛnɪk/ adjective causing a fever

pyromania /paɪrəˈmæniə/ noun an uncontrollable desire to start fires

pyrophobia /paɪrəˈfoʊbiə/ noun an unusual fear of fire

pyruvic acid /paɪˈrʌvɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun a substance formed from glycogen in the muscles when it is broken down to release energy

pyuria /paɪəˈjʊəriə/ noun pus in the urine
q.d.s. adverb (written on prescriptions) to be taken four times a day. Full form quater in die
sumendus
Q fever /kjuːˈfiəvər/ noun an infectious rick-
ttsial disease of sheep and cows caused by
Coxiella burnetti transmitted to humans
COMMENT: Q fever mainly affects farm workers
and workers in the meat industry. The symp-
toms are fever, cough and headaches.
q.i.d. adverb (written on prescriptions) four
times a day. Full form quater in die
q.l. adverb (written on prescriptions) as much as
you like. Full form quantum libet
q.m. adverb (written on prescriptions) every
morning. Full form quaque mane
q.n. adverb (written on prescriptions) every
night. Full form quaque nocte
QRS complex /ˈkjuːəˌɛsˌkɒmplɛks/ noun the deflections
on an electrocardiogram, labelled Q, R, and S, which show ventricular
contraction. ∆ PQRS complex
q.s. adverb (written on prescriptions) as much
as necessary. Full form quantum sufficit
Q-T interval /ˈkwɛt ˌɪntəvəl/ noun the length of the QRS complex in an electrocardiogram. ∆ PQST complex
quad /kwɒd/ noun same as quadruplet
(informal)
quadrant /ˌkwədərənt/ noun one of four sec-
tors of the body thought of as being divided by
the sagittal plane and the intertubercular plane
○ tenderness in the right lower quadrant
quadrantanopia /ˌkwɔdrəntænəˈnəʊpiə/ noun blindness in a quarter of the field of vi-
sion
quadrate lobe /ˈkwɔdrət ləʊb/ noun a lobe
on the lower side of the liver
quadratus /kwɔdərətəs/ noun any muscle
with four sides
quadratus femoris /ˌkwɔdrətəs ˈfɛmərəs/ noun a muscle at the top of the fe-
mur which rotates the thigh
quadri- /kwɔdri-/ prefix four
quadriceps /ˌkwɔdrikɛps/ noun a large
muscle in the front of the thigh, which extends
to the leg
COMMENT: The quadriceps femoris is divided
into four parts: the rectus femoris, vastus lat-
eralis, vastus medialis and vastus intermedi-
us. It is the sensory receptors in the quadri-
ceps which react to give a knee jerk when the
patellar tendon is tapped.
quadriceps femoris /ˌkwɔdrikɛps ˈfɛmərəs/ noun paralysis of all four limbs, both arms and both legs
quadriceps /ˌkwɔdrikɛps/ adjective
paralysed in both arms and both legs. *noun* a person paralysed in both arms and both legs
quadruple /ˌkwɔdruːpl/ adjective 1, con-
sisting of four times as much 2, having four parts
quadruplet /ˌkwɔdruːplət/ noun one of four
babies born to a mother at the same time. Also
called quad
quadruple vaccine /ˌkwɔdruːpləvəkˈsɪn/ noun a vaccine which immunises
against four diseases, diphtheria, whooping
cough, poliomyelitis and tetanus
quadruped /ˌkwɔdruːpɪd/ noun a walking
stick which ends in four little legs
qualification /ˌkwɔdʒifikˈkeɪʃən/ noun 1, a
quality which makes a person suitable to do
something 2, an official recognition of a stand-
ard of achievement, e.g. a degree or diploma ○
She has a qualification in pharmacy. ○ Are his
qualifications recognised in Great Britain?
qualify /kwɔˈlɪfɪ/ verb 1, to make a person
suitable to do something 2, to pass a course of
study and be accepted as being able to practise ○
He qualified as a doctor two years ago.
(NOTE: [all senses] qualifies – qualifying –
qualified)
qualitative /ˈkwɔlɪtətɪv/ adjective referring
to a study in which descriptive information is
collected. Compare quantitative
quality /kwɔˈlɪti/ noun 1, a characteristic of
somebody or something 2, the general stand-
ard or grade of something 3, the highest or fin-
est standard
quality assurance /ˈkwɔlɪti əˌsɔrəns/ noun a set of criteria which are designed to
check that people in an organisation maintain

### Medical Terms

- **Q fever**: A zoonotic disease caused by *Coxiella burnetti*. Symptoms include fever, cough, and headaches. It is often seen in farm workers and those with contact with infected animals.

- **Quadriceps femoris**: A large muscle in the front of the thigh, divided into four parts: the rectus femoris, vastus lateralis, vastus medialis, and vastus intermedius. It is responsible for extending the knee and plays a role in knee reflexes.

- **Quadruple vaccination**: A vaccine that provides immunity against four diseases: diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, and tetanus.

- **Quadriplegia**: Paralysis of all four limbs, both arms and both legs. It can be a result of conditions like spinal cord injury or stroke.

- **Qualification**: An official recognition of a standard of achievement, such as a degree or diploma. It is a quality that makes a person suitable to do something.

- **Qualify**: To make a person suitable to do something, typically through academic or professional achievements necessary for the role.

- **Quality**: A characteristic of something, which can be measured through standards and benchmarks.

These terms are foundational in understanding physiological and pathological processes, as well as in the administration of healthcare and quality assurance in medical and pharmaceutical fields.
quality circle 338

a high standard in the products or services they supply.

quality circle /ˈkwɒləti/ noun a group of employees from different levels of an organisation who meet regularly to discuss ways of improving the quality of its products or services.

Qualpacs /ˈkwɒlpækz/, Quality Patient Care Scale /ˈkwɒlpət/ /ˈkwɒpʊnt/ /ˈkwɒskəl/ noun a method which guides nurses to evaluate their activity in terms of efficiency of cost, time, use of skill level and workload.

quantitative /ˈkwɒntətɪv/ adjective referring to a study in which numerical information is collected. Compare qualitative.

quantitative digital radiography /ˈkwɒntətɪv ˈdɪdzɪɡəl rəˈdʒɪgrəf/ noun the use of digital X-ray scans to find out whether a person has a bone disease such as osteoporosis. The levels of calcium in the bones are measured, usually in the spine and hip.

quarantine /ˈkwɒrəntən/ noun 1. the situation in which a person, animal or ship just arrived in a country is kept isolated in case it carries a serious disease, to allow the disease time to develop and be detected 2. the period of such isolation to prevent the spread of disease.

six months’ quarantine (NOTE: quarantine – quarantined)

COMMENT: People who are suspected of having an infectious disease can be kept in quarantine for a period which varies according to the incubation period of the disease. The main diseases concerned are cholera, yellow fever and typhus.

quartan /ˈkwɔntən/ adjective referring to a fever which occurs every fourth day, e.g. in some types of malaria.

quartan fever /ˈkwɔntən ˈfɜːvr/ noun a form of malaria caused by Plasmodium malariae in which the fever returns every four days.

tertian fever

queasiness /ˈkwɔzəns/ noun the feeling of being about to vomit.

queasy /ˈkwɔzɪ/ adjective feeling as though about to vomit.

Queckenstedt test /ˈkwəkənstedt tɛst/ noun a test done during a lumbar puncture in which pressure is applied to the jugular veins to see if the cerebrospinal fluid is flowing correctly [Described 1916. After Hans Heinrich George Queckenstedt (1876–1918), German physician.]

quickening /ˈkwɪknɪŋ/ noun the first sign of life in an unborn baby, usually after about four months of pregnancy, when the mother can feel it moving in her uterus.

Quick test /ˈkwɪkt tɛst/; Quick’s test noun a test to identify the clotting factors in a blood sample [Described 1932. After Armand James Quick (1894–1978), Professor of Biochemistry, Marquette University, USA.]

quiescent /kwəˈsiənt/ adjective referring to a disease with symptoms reduced either by treatment or in the usual course of the disease.

quin /kwɪn/ noun same as quintuplet (informal) (NOTE: The US term is quint.)

quinine /kwɪˈnɪn/ noun an alkaloid drug made from the bark of cinchona, a South American tree. COMMENT: Quinine was formerly used to treat the fever symptoms of malaria, but is not often used now because of its side-effects. Small amounts of quinine have a tonic effect and are used in tonic water.

quinine poisoning /kwɪˈnɪn poʊˈziŋ/ noun the condition caused by taking too much quinine, leading to dizziness and noises in the head.

quinolone /kwɪnəˈloʊn/ noun a drug used to treat Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacterial infections of the respiratory and urinary tracts and of the gastro-intestinal system (NOTE: Quinolone drugs have names ending in -oxacin: ciprofloxacin).

COMMENT: Contraindications include use in pregnancy, renal disease and for use in children.

quinsy /kwɪnzi/ noun acute throat inflammation with an abscess round a tonsil. Also called peritonsillar abscess.

quick /kwɪk/ noun US same as quintuplet.

quintan /ˈkwɪntən/ adjective referring to a fever that occurs every fifth day.

quintet /ˈkwɪntət/ noun one of five babies born to a mother at the same time. Also called quint.

quotidian /kwəˈtɪdiən/ adjective recurring daily.

quotidian fever /kwəˈtɪdiən ˈfɜːvr/ noun a violent form of malaria in which the fever returns at daily or even shorter intervals.

quotient /ˈkwəʃənt/ noun the result when one number is divided by another.

Q wave /ˈkwɛv/ noun a negative deflection at the start of the QRS complex on an electrocardiogram, going downwards.
Rachenosis [rə'kenəsɪs] /noun same as rachitis

rachianesthesia [rə'keɪənəθi'zɪərɪəs] /noun (used before vowels)

Rachianesthesia [rə'keɪənəθi'zɪərɪəs] /noun same as spinal anaesthesia

rachis /rə'kɪs/ /noun same as backbone

Rachischisis [rə'kɪs'kɪsɪsɪs] /noun same as spine bifida

Rachitic [rə'kɪtɪk] /adjective referring to rickets

rachitis /rə'kɪtɪsɪs/ /noun same as rickets

Rad /ræd/ /noun a unit of measurement of absorbed radiation dose. 2. Becquerel, gray (NOTE: Gray is now used to mean one hundred rads.)

Radial /rə'dɪəl/ /adjective 1. referring to something which branches 2. referring to the radius bone in the arm

Radial artery /rə'dɪəl ər'tərɪ/ /noun an artery which branches from the brachial artery, running near the radius, from the elbow to the palm of the hand

Radial nerve /rə'dɪəl nɜv/ /noun the main motor nerve in the arm, running down the back of the upper arm and the outer side of the forearm

Radial pulse /rə'dɪəl pʌls/ /noun the main pulse in the wrist, taken near the outer edge of the forearm just above the wrist

Radial recurrent /rə'dɪəl rɪ'kərənt/ /noun an artery in the arm which forms a loop beside the brachial artery

Radial reflex /rə'dɪəl 'rɪflɪks/ /noun a jerk made by the forearm when the insertion in the radius of one of the muscles, the brachioradialis, is hit

Radiate /rə'dɪeɪt/ /verb 1. to spread out in all directions from a central point 2. to send out rays (NOTE: Radiating – radiated)

Radiation /rə'dɪeɪʃən/ /noun waves of energy which are given off by some substances, especially radioactive substances

Radiation burn /rə'dɪeɪʃən bɜrn/ /noun a burn on the skin caused by exposure to large amounts of radiation

Radiation enteritis /rə'dɪeɪʃən ɪ'nərətɪts/ /noun enteritis caused by X-rays

Radiation sickness /rə'dɪeɪʃən sɪ'ʃɪn/ /noun an illness caused by exposure to radiation from radioactive substances

Radiation treatment /rə'dɪeɪʃən trɪ'təmənt/ /noun same as radiotherapy

Radical /rə'dɪk(ə)l/ /adjective 1. aiming to deal with the root of a problem, taking thorough action to remove the source of a disease
radical mastectomy /re dik/əl mæs'tektəm/ noun a surgical operation to remove a breast and the lymph nodes and muscles associated with it.

radical mastoidectomy /re dik/əl mæs'toidətktəm/ noun a surgical operation to remove all of the mastoid process.

radical treatment /re dik/əl ˈtrɪtmənt/ noun treatment which aims at complete eradication of a disease.

radicle /re dik/əl noun 1. a small root or trunk; 2. a tiny fibre which forms the root of a nerve.

radicular /ˈre dik jʊlər/ adjective referring to a radicle or the radicles associated with it.

radiculitis /ˈre dik jʊlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a radicle of a cranial or spinal nerve.

radiation /ˈre diə ʃən/ noun 1. a tiny fibre which forms the root of a nerve; 2. an image taking X-ray photographs or radiographs. Also called radiogram.

radiographer /ˈre diəgra fər/ noun 1. a person specially trained to operate a machine to take X-ray photographs or radiographs. Also called diagnostic radiographer; 2. a person specially trained to use X-rays or radioactive isotopes in the treatment of patients. Also called therapeutic radiographer.

radiology /ˈre diə lədʒi/ noun the work of examining the internal parts of the body by taking X-ray photographs.

radiolmmunoassay /ˈre diə, ləm ə nə sə/ n noun; 1. a test for antibodies in blood samples; 2. a test for the presence of antibodies in blood samples.

radiograph /ˈre diə grof/ noun an image produced on film or another sensitive surface when radiation such as X-rays or gamma rays passes through an object; verb to make a radiograph of something, especially a part of the body.

radiographic /ˈre diə gro fɪk/ adjective referring to radiation or if they are diseased: for example, radioisotopes of iodine are used to investigate thyroid activity.

radiologist /ˈre diə lədʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in radiology.

radiology /ˈre diə lədʒi/ noun the use of X-rays or radioactive tracers, or to treat diseases such as cancer.

radioisotope /ˈre diə ɪsoʊ təp/ noun an isotope of a chemical element which is radioactive.

COMMENT: Radioisotopes are used in medicine to provide radiation for radiation treatment. Radioactive isotopes of various chemicals are used to check the functioning of, or disease in, internal organs.

radioactive /ˈre diə aktɪv/ adjective with a nucleus which disintegrates and gives off energy in the form of radiation which can pass through other substances.

COMMENT: The commonest naturally radioactive substances are radium and uranium. Other substances can be made radioactive for medical purposes by making their nuclei unstable, so forming radioactive isotopes. Radioactive iodine is used to treat conditions such as thyrotoxicosis. Radioactive isotopes of various chemicals are used to check the functioning of, or disease in, internal organs.

radioactive isotope /ˈre diə aktɪv ˈəsətəp/ noun an isotope which emits radiation, used in radiotherapy and scanning.

radioactivity /ˈre diə aktɪv tɪv/ noun energy in the form of radiation emitted by a radioactive substance.

radiobiologist /ˈre diə biə ˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in radiobiology.

radiobiology /ˈre diə biə ˈlɒdʒi/ noun the scientific study of radiation and its effects on living things.

radiocarpal joint /ˈre diə kɑr ˈpɑrləl dʒɔɪnt/ noun the joint where the radius articulates with the scaphoid, one of the carpal bones. Also called wrist joint.

radiodermatitis /ˈre diə dər mə tətɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the skin caused by exposure to radiation.

radiodiagnosis /ˈre diə dɪ oʊ dɪ ə sə sɪs/ noun an X-ray diagnosis.

radiograph /ˈre diə grof/ noun an image produced on film or another sensitive surface when radiation such as X-rays or gamma rays passes through an object; verb to make a radiograph of something, especially a part of the body.

rather than treat its symptoms 2, referring to an operation which removes the whole of a part or of an organ, together with its lymph system and other tissue.

rather than treat its symptoms 2, referring to an operation which removes the whole of a part or of an organ, together with its lymph system and other tissue.

rather than treat its symptoms 2, referring to an operation which removes the whole of a part or of an organ, together with its lymph system and other tissue.
plurality refers to a particular pattern or order but similar things

Three rays part to radioactive rays such as X-rays or gamma rays of the mandible.

Ramstedt's operation

radiotherapist noun a doctor who specialises in radiotherapy

radium noun a radioactive metallic element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Ra.)

radionuclide noun the shorter and outer of the two bones in the forearm between the elbow and the wrist. See illustration at hand in supplement (NOTE: The plural is radii. The other bone in the forearm is the ulna.)

radiologist noun same as root (NOTE: The plural is radiologists.)

radon noun a radioactive gas, formed from the radioactive decay of radium, and used in capsules called radon seeds to treat cancers inside the body (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Rn.)

Radon occurs naturally in soil, in construction materials and even in groundwater. It can seep into houses and causes radiation sickness.

raise verb 1. to lift something. Lie with your legs raised above the level of your head. 2. to increase something. Anaemia causes a raised level of white blood cells in the body.

rally verb to recover after a period of illness

surgical instrument like a file, which is used to scrape the surface of a bone

Ranlucus a small cyst under the tongue, on the floor of the mouth, which forms when a salivary duct is blocked

ranvier noun a node of Ranvier

rapin noun the crime of forcing somebody to have sexual intercourse

raphe noun a long thin fold which runs along a midline such as on the dorsal face of the tongue

rapid adjective fast

rapid eye movement sleep noun REM sleep

rappor noun an emotional bond or friendly relationship between people

rarity noun referring to something such as a disease of which there are very few cases

rarefaction verb to make something less dense

rash noun a mass of small spots which stays on the skin for a period of time, and then disappears

rash noun a sudden recovery after a period of illness

Ramsay's operation noun pyloromyotomy [Described 1912. After William Conrad Ramsay (1867–1963), German surgeon.]

ramus noun a branch of a nerve, artery or vein

randomised adjective involving subjects which have been selected without a prearranged plan and in no particular pattern or order

range noun 1. a series of different but similar things. The drug offers protection against a wide range of diseases. 2. the difference between lowest and highest values in a series of data

ranitidine noun a drug which reduces the amount of acid released by the stomach. It is used to treat peptic ulcers and gastritis.

ranula noun a small cyst under the tongue, on the floor of the mouth, which forms when a salivary duct is blocked

rapip.ru noun a node of Ranvier

rapine noun the crime of forcing somebody to have sexual intercourse

rarefaction noun a condition in which bone tissue becomes more porous and less dense because of a lack of calcium

rare adjective referring to something such as a disease of which there are very few cases

ratios ratio noun the difference between lowest and highest values in a series of data

ratite factor noun 1. the amount or proportion of something compared with something else. The number of times something happens in a set time. 2. the number of times something happens at a rate of only 59 per minute.

ratio noun a number which shows a proportion or which is the result of one number divided by another. An IQ is the ratio...
of the person's mental age to his or her chronological age.

rattle ˈrät(ə)l noun a harsh noise made in the throat, caused by a blockage to breathing and heard especially near death.

Rauwolfia ˈrəʊwʊlfiə noun a tranquillising drug extracted from the plant Rauwolfia serpentina, sometimes used to treat high blood pressure.

raw ˈrɔː adjective 1. not cooked 2. sensitive □ The scab came off leaving the raw wound exposed to the air.

Raynaud's disease ˈreɪnəʊzd diˌziːzi noun a condition with various possible causes in which the blood supply to the fingers and toes is restricted and they become cold, white and numb. Also called dead man's fingers, vasosospasm [Described 1862. After Maurice Raynaud (1834–81), French physician.]

RCN abbr Royal College of Nursing

RCOG abbr Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

RCP abbr Royal College of Physicians

RCT abbr randomised controlled trial

RCS abbr Royal College of Surgeons

reach ˈriːtʃ noun 1. the distance which one can stretch to get hold of or touch something □ Glucose is reabsorbed by the tubules of the kidney.

read ˈriːd noun the process of being reabsorbed □ Some substances which are filtered into the tubules of the kidney, then pass into the bloodstream by tubular reabsorption.

reader ˈriːdər noun a note taken of figures, especially of those which are recorded.

reading ˈriːdɪŋ noun a note taken of figures, especially of those which are recorded.

reapearance ˈriːərəpən noun an event which reappears.

react ˈriːakt verb 1. □ to react to something to act because of something else, to act in response to something □ The tissues reacted to the cortisone injection.

reactive ˈriːaktɪv adjective same as reactionary.
recall /rɛkˈkɔːl/ noun the act of remembering something that happened in the past
recanalisation /rɪˈkænələs/ noun surgery to unblock a vessel within the body or reconnect a tube or duct
receive /riːˈsiːv/ verb to get something, especially a transplanted organ
receptor /rɪˈseptər/ noun a cell that senses a change such as cold or heat in the surrounding environment or in the body and reacts to it by sending an impulse to the central nervous system
recess /rɪˈses/ noun a hollow part in an organ
recessive /rɪˈsesɪv/ adjective (of an allele) having the characteristic that leads to the trait which controls being suppressed by the presence of the corresponding dominant allele.
Compare dominant
COMMENT: Since each physical characteristic is governed by two genes, if one is dominant and the other recessive, the resulting trait will be that of the dominant gene. Traits governed by recessive genes will appear if both genes are recessive.
recipient /rɪˈsəpiənt/ noun a person who receives something such as a transplant or a blood transfusion from a donor
reconstruct /rɪkənˈstrʌkt/ verb to repair and rebuild a damaged part of the body
reconstruction /rɪkənˈstrʌkʃən/ noun the process of repairing and rebuilding a damaged part of the body
reconstructive surgery /rɪkənˈstrʌktɪv ˌsɜːdʒəri/ noun surgery which rebuilds a damaged part of the body.
rectal /ˈrektəl/ adjective referring to the rectum
rectally /ˈrektəli/ adverb through the rectum
rectal bleeding /ˈrektəl ˈblɛdɪŋ/ noun blood which has been lost by the rectum usually as a result of a disease.
rectal prolapse

rectal prolapse /rɛktəl prələps/ noun a condition in which part of the rectum moves downwards and passes through the anus

rectal temperature /rɛktəl ˈtemprɪtʃər/ noun the temperature in the rectum, taken with a rectal thermometer

rectal thermometer /rɛktəl ˈθɛrmətər/ noun a thermometer which is inserted into the rectum to take the person’s temperature

rectal triangle /rɛktəl ˈtraɪəŋgəl/ noun same as anal triangle

recti /rɛkti/ plural of rectus

rectocoele /rɛktəˌkəʊəl/ noun a condition associated with prolapse of the uterus, in which the rectum protrudes into the vagina. Also called proctocele

rectocele /rɛktəˌsɛpl/ noun an operation to attach a rectum which has prolapsed

rectoscope /rɛktəskəʊp/ noun an instrument for looking into the rectum

rectosigmoid /rɛktəˌsɪdˌməʊd/ noun the part of the large intestine where the sigmoid colon joins the rectum

rectosigmoidectomy /rɛktəˌsɪdˌməʊdˌɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the sigmoid colon and the rectum

rectovaginal /rɛktəˌvæɡənəl/ adjective relating to both the rectum and the vagina

rectovaginal examination /rɛktəˌvæɡənəlˌɪkˈmænɪʃən/ noun an examination of the rectum and vagina

rectovesical /rɛktəˌvɛsɪkəl/ adjective referring to the rectum and the bladder

rectum /rɛktəm/ noun the end part of the large intestine leading from the sigmoid colon to the anus. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement, UROGENITAL SYSTEM (MALE) in Supplement (NOTE: For other terms referring to the rectum, see words beginning with proct-, procto-)

rectus /rɛktəs/ noun a straight muscle (NOTE: The plural is recti.)

...there are four recti muscles and two oblique muscles in each eye, which coordinate the movement of the eyes and enable them to work as a pair. [Nursing Times]

rectus abdominis /rɛktəs ˈæbˌdɒmənɪs/ noun a long straight muscle which runs down the front of the abdomen

rectus femoris /rɛktəs ˈfɛmərɪs/ noun a flexor muscle in the front of the thigh, one of the four parts of the quadriceps femoris. Of medial rectum.

rectum /rɛktəm/ noun a part of the large intestine where the colon joins the rectum...

rectal prolapse

recovery /rɪˈkʌvərɪ/ noun the process of getting better after an illness ○ His recovery will take several months.

recur /rɪˈkɜːr/ verb to return ○ The headaches recur frequently, but usually after the patient had eaten chocolate.

recurrence /rɪˈkɜːrnəns/ noun an act of returning ○ He had a recurrence of a fever which he had caught in the tropics.

recurrent /rɪˈkɜːrənt/ adjective 1. occurring in the same way many times 2. referring to a vein, artery or nerve which forms a loop

recurrent abortion /rɪˈkɜːrənt əˈbɔːrteɪʃən/ noun a condition in which a woman has abortions with one pregnancy after another

recurrent fever /rɪˈkɜːrənt ˈfiəvər/ noun a fever like malaria which returns at regular intervals

red /rɛd/ adjective 1. of a similar colour to blood ○ Blood in an artery is bright red, but venous blood is darker. 2. (of an area of skin) with an increased blood flow because of heat or infection ○ noun a colour similar to that of blood

red blood cell /rɛd bluːd ˈsɛl/ noun a blood cell which contains haemoglobin and carries oxygen to the tissues and takes carbon dioxide from them. Abbr RBC. Also called erythrocyte

red corpuscle /rɛd ˈkɔrpiːskəl/ noun same as red blood cell

Red Crescent /rɛd ˈkresənt/ noun in Islamic countries, an international organisation dedicated to the medical care of the sick and wounded in wars and natural disasters (NOTE: It is known as the Red Cross elsewhere.)

Red Cross /rɛd ˈkrɒs/ noun an international organisation dedicated to the medical care of the sick and wounded in wars and natural disasters (NOTE: It is known as the Red Crescent in Islamic countries.)

red—green colourblindness /red grɪn ˈkɔrplɪndəzn/ noun same as deuteranopia

Redivac drain /ˈrɛdɪvæk ˈdreɪn/ trademark a tube which drains fluid away from the inside of a wound into a bottle, used mainly after operations on the abdomen

red marrow /red ˈmɑːrəʊ/ noun the type of bone marrow where red blood cells and some white blood cells are formed

redness /rɛdˈnɪs/ noun 1. an area of skin to which the blood flow is increased because of heat or infection ○ The redness showed where the skin had reacted to the injection. 2. a red colour

reduce /rɪˈdʒuːs/ verb 1. to make something smaller or lower ○ They used ice packs to try to reduce the patient’s temperature. 2. to put something such as a dislocated or fractured
bone, a displaced organ or part or a hernia back into its proper position so that it can heal
‘...blood pressure control reduces the incidence of first stroke and aspirin appears to reduce the risk of stroke after transient ischaemic attacks by some 15%’ [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]

**reducible** /rɪˈdjuːsɪb(ə)l/ adjective capable of being reduced

**reducible hernia** /rɪ,diˈjuːsɪb(ə)l hərˈniə/ noun a hernia where the organ can be pushed back into place without an operation

**reduction** /rɪˈdʌkʃən/ noun 1. the lessening of something, the process of becoming less 2. They noted a reduction in body temperature. 3. the action of putting a hernia, a dislocated joint or a broken bone back into the correct position 4. reduction division /rɪˈdʌkʃən diˈvɪʒən/ noun same as meiosis

**re-emerge** /rɪˈemərɪdʒ/ verb to come out again

**re-emergence** /rɪˈemərɪdʒəns/ noun an act of coming out again

**refer** /rɪˈfɛr/ verb 1. to mention or to talk about something 2. The doctor referred to the patient’s history of sinus problems. 3. to suggest that someone should consult something 4. For method of use, please refer to the manufacturer’s instructions. 5. The user is referred to the page giving the results of the tests. 6. to pass on information about a patient to someone else 7. They referred her case to a gynaecologist. 8. The GP referred the patient to a consultant he or she passed details about the patient’s case to the consultant so that the consultant could examine them 9. 27 adult patients admitted to hospital with acute abdominal pains were referred for study because their attending clinicians were uncertain whether to advise an urgent laparotomy [Lancet] 10. many patients from outside districts were referred to London hospitals by their GPs [Nursing Times]

**referral** /rɪˈfɛrəl/ noun the act of sending someone to a specialist 1. She asked for a referral to a gynaecologist. 2. …he subsequently developed colicky abdominal pain and tenderness which caused his referral [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]

**referred pain** /rɪˈfɛrt/ noun same as synaesthesia

**reflection** /rɪˈfleks/ noun 1. the image of somebody or something which is seen in a mirror or still water 2. the process of reflecting something, especially light, sound or heat 3. careful thought 4. a situation in which an anatomical structure bends back upon itself 5. **reflective practice** /rɪˈflektɪv ˈpræktɪs/ noun the process of improving professional skills by monitoring your own actions while they are being carried out, and by then later evaluating them by talking or writing about them and asking other professionals to give their assessments of you

**refrigerator** /ˈrɪfriɡərətər/ noun a machine which cools and keeps things cold
register

re·gister (rē′jĭn′) verb to get back something which was lost: He has regained the use of his left arm. She went into a coma and never regained consciousness.

re·gen·er·ate (rē′jən′ər-ət) verb to grow again, or grow something again

re·gen·er·a·tion (rē′jən′ər-a-shən) noun the process where tissue that has been destroyed grows again

re·gen·er·a·tive (rē′jən′ər-ə-tiv) adjective"
reject /ˈrɛdʒekt/ verb 1. to refuse to accept something 2. to be unable to tolerate tissue or an organ transplanted from another body because it is immunologically incompatible. ○ The new heart was rejected by the body. ○ They gave the patient drugs to prevent the transplant being rejected. 3. to be unable to keep food down and vomit it up again
relapse /ˈreləps/ noun a situation in which someone gets worse after seeming to be getting better, or where a disease appears again after seeming to be cured. ◁ verb to return to an earlier and worse state, especially to get ill again after getting better. ◁ She relapsed into a coma.
relapsing fever /ˌreləpsɪŋ ˈfəvər/ noun a disease caused by a bacterium, where attacks of fever recur from time to time
relapsing pancreatitis /ˌreləpsɪŋ ˈpænkrətɪtɪs/ noun a form of pancreatitis where the symptoms recur, but in a less painful form
relate /ˈreɪlɪt/ verb to connect something to something else. ◁ The disease is related to the weakness of the heart muscles. -related /ˈreɪlɪtd/ suffix connected to drug-related diseases
relationship /ˈreɪləʃənʃɪp/ noun a way in which someone or something is connected to another. ◁ The incidence of the disease has a close relationship to the environment. ○ He became withdrawn and broke off all relationships with his family.
relative density /ˈrelətɪv ˈdɛnstɪti/ noun the ratio of the density of a substance to the density of a standard substance at the same temperature and pressure. For liquids and solids the standard substance is usually water, and for gases, it is air.
relative risk /ˌrelətɪv ˈrɪsk/ noun a measure of the likelihood of developing a disease for people who are exposed to a particular risk, relative to people who are not exposed to the same risk. For example, the relative risk of myocardial infarction for oral contraceptive users is 1.6 times that of non-users. Abbreviation RR
relax /ˈrelæks/ verb to become less tense, or cause someone or something to become less tense. ○ He was given a drug to relax the muscles. ○ The muscle should be fully relaxed.
relaxant /ˈrelæksənt/ noun a drug which reduces stress
relaxation /ˈrelæksəʃən/ noun 1. the process of reducing stress in a muscle 2. the reduction of stress in a person
relaxation therapy /ˈrelæksəʃən ˈθerəpi/ noun a treatment in which people are encouraged to relax their muscles to reduce stress
relaxative /ˈrelæksətɪv/ noun US a drug which reduces stress
relaxin /ˈrelæksɪn/ noun a hormone which is secreted by the placenta to make the cervix relax and open fully in the final stages of pregnancy before childbirth
release /ˈrɛliːs/ noun the process of allowing something to go out. ◁ The slow release of the drug into the bloodstream. ◁ verb to let something out. ◁ Hormones are released into the body by glands.
releasing factor /ˌrɛliːsɪŋ ˈfæktər/ noun a substance produced in the hypothalamus which encourages the release of hormones
releasing hormone /ˌrɛliːsɪŋ ˈhɑːməʊn/ noun a hormone secreted by the hypothalamus which makes the pituitary gland release particular hormones. Also called hypothalamic hormone
relief /ˈrɛlifl/ noun the process of making something better or easier. ◁ The drug provides rapid relief to patients with bronchial spasms. ‘…complete relief of angina is experienced by 85% of patients subjected to coronary artery bypass surgery’ [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]
relieve /ˈrɛliːv/ verb to make something better or easier. ◁ Nasal congestion can be relieved by antihistamines. ○ The patient was given an injection of morphine to relieve the pain. ○ The condition is relieved by applying cold compresses.
rem /rem/ noun a unit for measuring amounts of radiation, equal to the effect that one roentgen of X-rays or gamma-rays would produce in a human being. It is used in radiation protection and monitoring.
REM /ˈriːem/ abbr rapid eye movement. ◁ REM sleep
remedial /ˈrɛmɪdɪəl/ adjective acting as a cure
remedy /ˈrɛmədi/ noun a cure, a drug which will cure. ◁ Honey and glycerine is an old remedy for sore throats.
remember /ˈrɛməmbər/ verb to bring back into the mind something which has been seen or heard before. ◁ He remembers nothing or he can’t remember anything about the accident.
remission /ˈrɛmɪʃən/ noun a period when an illness or fever is less severe
remittance /ˈrɛmiʃənt/ noun payment
remit /rɛmɪt/ verb to stop paying or to pay something off
remittent fever /ˌrɛmiˈtent ˈfəvər/ noun fever which goes down for a period each day, like typhoid fever
remove /ri'mu:v/ verb to take something away. He will have an operation to remove an overflowing toenail.

REM sleep /rem slip/ noun a stage of sleep which happens several times each night and is characterised by dreaming, rapid eye movement and increased pulse rate and brain activity. Also called rapid eye movement sleep.

COMMENT: During REM sleep, a person dreams, breathes lightly and has a raised blood pressure and an increased rate of heartbeat. The eyes may be half-open, and the sleeper may make facial movements.

ren-/riti/n prefix same as reno- (used before vowels)

renal /riti:n/ adjective referring to the kidneys

renal artery /riti:n/āt'jɔr/ noun one of two arteries running from the abdominal aorta to the kidneys

renal calcification /riti:n/ kalkjulaz/ noun a small hard mineral mass called a stone in the kidney

renal capsule /riti:n/ 'kæpsju:l/ noun same as fibrous capsule

renal clearance /riti:n/ kliərəns/ noun the measurement of the rate at which kidneys filter impurities from blood

renal colic /riti:n/ kəlɪk/ noun a sudden pain caused by a kidney stone or stones in the ureter

renal corpuscle /riti:n/ kərpu:s/əl/ noun part of a nephron in the cortex of a kidney. Also called Malpighian body

renal cortex /riti:n/ kɔr'teks/ noun the outer covering of the kidney, immediately beneath the capsule. See illustration at KIDNEY in Supplement

renal dialysis /riti:n/ də'ziːləs/ noun a method of artificially maintaining the chemical balance of the blood when the kidneys have failed, or the process of using this method. Also called dialysis

renal hypertension /riti:n/ ˈhæŋprəʊtə/hentətʃənjən/ noun high blood pressure linked to kidney disease

renal medulla /riti:n/ meduˈlə/ noun the inner part of a kidney containing no glomeruli. See illustration at KIDNEY in Supplement

renal pelvis /riti:n/ pelˈvɪs/ noun the upper and wider part of the ureter leading from the kidney where urine is collected before passing down the ureter into the bladder. Also called pelvis of the kidney. See illustration at KIDNEY in Supplement

renal rickets /riti:n/ rɪkətɪs/ noun a form of rickets caused by kidneys which do not function properly

renal sinus /,riti:n/ˈsainəs/ noun a cavity in which the renal pelvis and other tubes leading into the kidney fit

renal transplant /riti:n/ˈtrænspɔːlt/ noun a kidney transplant

renal tubule /riti:n/ tjuˈbul/ noun a tiny tube which is part of a nephron. Also called ureterovesical tube

renew /ri'nu:/ verb to renew a prescription to get a new prescription for the same drug as before

reni-/riti/n prefix referring to the kidneys

renin /ˈri:ni:n/ noun an enzyme secreted by the kidney to prevent loss of sodium, and which also affects blood pressure

rennin /ˈri:nin/ noun an enzyme which makes milk coagulate in the stomach, so as to slow down the passage of the milk through the digestive system

reno-/riti/n prefix referring to the kidneys

renogram /ˈri:nəʊɡræm/ noun 1. an X-ray image of a kidney 2. a visual record of kidney function that shows how quickly a radioactive substance introduced into the bloodstream is removed by the kidneys

renography /ˈri:nəʊgrəfi/ noun an examination of a kidney after injection of a radioactive substance, using a gamma camera

renovascular /ˈri:nəʊˈvæskjʊlər/ adjective relating to the blood vessels of the kidneys

renovascular system /ˈri:nəʊˈvæskjʊlər/ ˈsɪstəm/ noun the blood vessels associated with the kidney

reorganisation /ˌriːəɡənəˈzeiʃən/ noun 1. a change in the way something is organised or done 2. the process of changing the way something is organised or done 3. an occasion when a business or organisation is given a completely new structure

reovirus /ˌriːəvərəs/ noun a virus which affects both the intestine and the respiratory system, but does not cause serious illness. Compare echovirus

rep /rep/ verb (written on a prescription) to repeat. Full form repetatur

repeat /riˈpet/ verb to make something that is damaged good again. Surgeries operated to repair a hernia.

repeat prescription /ˌriːpetrɪˈskrɪpjən/ noun a prescription which is exactly the same as the previous one, and is often given without examination of the person by the doctor and may sometimes be requested by telephone

repel /riˈpel/ verb to make something go away. If you spread this cream on your skin it will repel insects.

repetitive strain injury /ˌreɪˈpetɪtɪv 'streɪn/ noun repetitive stress injury /ˌreɪˈpetɪtɪv
349 resection

**reproduce** /ˈrɪprəˈdʒʌst/ **verb** 1. to produce children 2. (of microorganisms) to produce new cells 3. to do a test again in exactly the same way

**reproduction** /ˈrɪprəˈdʌkʃən/ **noun** the process of making new living beings by existing ones, e.g. producing children or derived other descendants

**reproductive** /ˈrɪprəˈdʌkтив/ **adjective** referring to reproduction

**reproductive organs** /ˈrɪprəˈdʌkтив ˈɔrɡənz/ **plural noun** parts of the bodies of men and women which are involved in the conception and development of a fetus

**reproductive system** /ˈrɪprəˈdʌkтив ˈsɪstəm/ **noun** the arrangement of organs and ducts in the bodies of men and women which produce spermatozoa or ova

**COMMENT:** In the human male, the testes produce the spermatozoa which pass through the vasa efferentia and the vasa deferentia where they receive liquid from the seminal vesicles, then out of the body through the urethra and penis on ejaculation. In the female, an ovum, produced by one of the two ovaries, passes through the Fallopian tube where it is fertilised by a spermatozoon from the male. The fertilised ovum moves down into the uterus where it develops into an embryo.

**reproductive tract** /ˈrɪprəˈdʌkтив ˈtrækt/ **noun** the series of tubes and ducts which carry spermatozoa or ova from one part of the body to another

**require** /rɪˈkwər/ **verb** to need something 1. His condition may require surgery. 2. Is it a condition which requires immediate treatment? 3. required effect **effect** which a drug is expected to have 4. If the drug does not produce the required effect, the dose should be increased.

**requirement** /rɪˈkwərəmənt/ **noun** something which is necessary 5. One of the requirements of the position is a qualification in pharmacy.

**RES** abbr reticuloendothelial system

**research** /rɪˈsekr/ **noun** a scientific study which investigates something new 1. He is the director of a medical research unit. 2. She is doing research into finding a cure for leprosy. 3. Research workers or Research teams are trying to find a vaccine against AIDS. 4. **verb** to carry out scientific study 5. He is researching the origins of cancer.

**research and development** /rɪˈsekr ənˈdɛvələpmənt/ **noun** the process by which pharmaceutical companies find new drugs and test their suitability. **Abbr R & D**

**resect** /rɪˈsɛkt/ **verb** to remove any part of the body by surgery

**resection** /rɪˈsektʃən/ **noun** the surgical removal of any part of the body
resedation of the prostate

resection of the prostate /ri'sek'tʃən/ noun same as transurethral prostatectomy

resectoscope /ri'sektəskəʊp/ noun a surgical instrument used to carry out a transurethral resection

reservoir /'rezərˌvɔːr/ noun 1, a cavity in an organ or group of tissues in which fluids collect and are stored 2, an organism in which a parasite lives and develops without damaging it, but from which the parasite then passes to another species which is damaged by it 3, a part of a machine or piece of equipment where liquid is stored for it to use

reset /ri'sɛt/ verb to break a badly set bone and set it again correctly ○ His arm had to be reset.

residency /'rezɪdənsi/ noun US a period when a doctor is receiving specialist training in a hospital

resident /'rezɪdənt/ noun 1, someone who lives in a place ○ All the residents of the old people’s home were tested for food poisoning. 2, US a qualified doctor who is employed by a hospital and sometimes lives in the hospital. Compare intern  adjective living in a place

resident doctor /'rezɪdənt doktər/ noun a doctor who lives in a building such as an old people’s home

residential /'rezɪdɪənʃəl/ adjective 1, living in a hospital 2, living at home

residential care /'rezɪdɪənʃəl kɛə/ noun the care of patients either in a hospital or at home, but not as outpatients

residual /'riːzɪdjuəl/ adjective remaining, which is left behind

residual air /'riːzɪdjuəl æə/ residual volume /'riːzɪdjuəl 'vɒljuːm/ noun air left in the lungs after a person has breathed out as much air as possible

residual urine /'riːzɪdjuəl 'juːərɪn/ noun urine left in the bladder after a person has passed as much urine as possible

resin /'rezɪn/ noun a sticky sap or liquid which comes from some types of tree

resist /'rezɪst/ verb to be strong enough to avoid being killed or attacked by a disease ○ A healthy body can resist some infections.

resistance /'rezɪstəns/ noun 1, the ability of a person not to get a disease 2, the ability of bacteria or a virus to remain unaffected by a drug ○ The bacteria have developed a resistance to certain antibiotics. 3, opposition to a force

resistant /'rezɪst(ə)nt/ adjective able not to be affected by something ○ The bacteria are resistant to some antibiotics.

resistant strain /'rezɪstənt strɛɪn/ noun a strain of bacterium which is not affected by antibiotics

resolution /'rezəljuːʃən/ noun 1, the amount of detail which can be seen in a microscope or on a computer monitor 2, a point in the development of a disease where the inflammation begins to disappear

resolve /'rezəlv/ verb (of inflammation) to begin to disappear ○ Valve fluttering disappears as the pneumothorax resolves. Always confirm resolution with a physical examination and X-ray’ [American Journal of Nursing]

resolvent /'rezəlvənt/ adjective able to reduce inflammation or swelling

resonance /'rezənəns/ noun a sound made by a hollow part of the body when hit. ○ magnetic resorption /'rezərpən/ noun the process of absorbing a substance produced by the body back into the body

respiration /'rezəpʃən/ noun the act of taking air into the lungs and blowing it out again through the mouth or nose. Also called breathing

respirator /'rezɪpətər/ noun a machine which forces air into the lungs and helps people breathe.

respiratory allergy /'rezɪpətɑːri ələdʒi/ noun an allergy caused by a substance which is inhaled. ○ alveolitis, food allergy

respiratory bronchiolitis /'rezɪpətɑːri 'brɒŋkʃəlɪtɪs/ noun a condition of newborn babies, and especially common in premature babies, in which the lungs do not expand properly, due to lack of surfactant. Also called hyaline membrane disease

respiratory failure /'rezɪpətɑːri 'fɛlər/ noun the failure of the lungs to oxygenate the blood correctly

resection of the prostate
families can have a rest from the daily routine

ous conditions or terminal illness, so that their
jects a transplant

thing

RSV
serious bronchiolitis in children. Abbr

for something bad which has happened

thing else

responsiveness

responsiveness

responsibility

responsibility

rest

rest/ noun a period of time spent relaxing

or sleeping ○ What you need is a good

night’s rest. ■ verb 1. to spend time relaxing

or sleeping 2. to use a body part less for a period

of time ○ Rest your arm for a week.

restenosis /ˈrestənəs/ noun an occasion

when something becomes narrow again, e.g. a

coronary artery which has previously been

widened by balloon angioplasty (NOTE: The

plural is restenoses.)

restless /ˈrestəl̩s/ adjective not able to relax

or be still ○ restless sleep ○ She had a restless

night.

restless leg syndrome /ˈrestəl ˈlegˌˌsni-

ˈdrəʊm/ noun painful discomfort in the legs

when not active that can lead to interrupted

sleep and fatigue

restore /ˈrestər/ verb to give something back

○ She needs vitamins to restore her strength.

○ The physiotherapy should restore the strength

of the muscles. ○ A salpingostomy was performed

to restore the patency of the Fallopian tube

restrict /ˈrɪstrɪkt/ verb 1. to make something

less or smaller ○ The blood supply is restricted

by the tight bandage. 2. to set limits to some-

thing ○ The doctor suggested she should re-

strict her intake of alcohol.

restrictive /ˈrɪstrɪktɪv/ adjective restricting,

making something smaller

result /ˈrɪzəlt/ noun figures at the end of a

calculation, at the end of a test ○ What was the

result of the test? ○ The doctor told the patient

the result of the pregnancy test. ○ The result

of the operation will not be known for some

weeks.

resuscitate /ˈrɛsəsɪtət/ verb to make some-

one who appears to be dead start breathing

again, and to restart the circulation of blood

resuscitation /ˌrɛsəsɪˈteɪʃən/ noun the act

of reviving someone who seems to be dead, by

making him or her breathe again and restarting

the heart

COMMENT: The commonest methods of re-

uscitation are artificial respiration and cardiac

massage.

retain /ˈrɛtɪn/ verb to keep or hold something

○ He was incontinent and unable to retain

urine in his bladder. ○ retention

retard /ˈrɛtrərd/ verb to make something slow-

er, e.g. to slow down the action of a drug ○ The

drug will retard the onset of the fever. ○ The

injections retard the effect of the anaesthetic.

retardation /ˌrɛtrəˈdeɪʃən/ noun the pro-

cess of making something slower

retch /rɛtʃ/ verb to try to vomit without bring-

ing any food up from the stomach

retching /ˈrɛtʃɪŋ/ noun the fact of attempting
to vomit without being able to do so

rete /ˈrɛtə/ noun a network of veins, arteries

or nerve fibres in the body. ○ reticular (NOTE:
The plural is retia.)
malignant tumours grow large and form usually ineral conditions where cells in the reticuloen-
ana is partly detached from the choroid referting to the retina
rétinitis pigmentosa /rét/natı̄s pigmen tı̄s/ prefix referring to the retina
retinoscopy /rét/nų̄skų̄p/ noun an instrument with various lenses, used to measure the refraction of the eye
retinoscope /rét/nų̄skų̄p/ noun a method of measuring refractive errors in the eye using a retinoscope
retract /rét/nı̄ur/vb/ to stop work at a particular age Most men retire at 65, but women only go on working until they are 60. Although she has retired, she still does voluntary work at the clinic.
retirement /rét/nı̄namı̄nt noun 1. the act of retiring. The retirement age for men is 65. 2. the act of being retired
retraction /rét/nı̄kʃən rı̄ŋ/ noun the fact of moving backwards or becoming shorter. There is retraction of the overlying skin.
retraction ring /rét/nı̄kʃən rı̄ŋ/ noun a surgical instrument which pulls and holds back the edge of the incision in an operation
retractor /rét/nı̄ktrak/ noun a surgical instrument which pulls and holds back the edge of the incision in an operation
retro- /rĕtrou/ prefix at the back, behind
retrobulbar /rĕtrou/bu̇lba/ adjective behind the eyeball
retrobulbar neuritis /rĕtrou,bu̇lba ju̇rĭtis/ noun inflammation of the optic nerve
which makes objects appear blurred. Also called optic neuritis.

retroflexion /ˌrɛtrəˈfleksən/ noun the fact of being bent backwards or retroflexion of the uterus a condition in which the uterus bends backwards away from its usual position.

drewgrade /ˌrɛtrəɡrid/ adjective going backwards or deteriorating, getting worse.

revascularisation /ˌrɛvəˈsərkjuːərəzən/ noun the act of restoring an adequate blood supply to an organ or tissue, especially in a surgical operation using a blood vessel graft, the condition of having an adequate blood supply restored.

reveal /rɪˈvɪl/ verb to show something. Also called digital palpation revealed a growth in the breast.

reversal /rɪˈvɜːsl/ noun the procedure to change something back or reversal of sterilisation.

reverse isolation /rɪˈvɜːz, ˈrɛvəriz/ noun an examination of a surgical operation after it has been carried out or a revision of a radical mastoidectomy.

revive /rɪˈvaɪv/ verb to bring someone back to life or to consciousness. Also called They tried to revive him with artificial respiration.

Retina /rɪˈtɪnə/ noun a form of brain disease affecting young children, which is possibly due to viral infection and has a suspected link with aspirin.

RGN abbr Registered General Nurse.

Rh abbr rhesus.

RHA abbr Regional Health Authority.

rhabdomyosarcoma /ˌræbdəˈmiəsəˈkɔːmə/ noun a malignant tumour of striated muscle tissue. It occurs mostly in children.

rhabdovirus /ˌræbdəˈvɜːrəs/ noun any of a group of viruses containing RNA, one of which causes rabies.

rachio-/rækiəʊ/ prefix referring to the spine.

rhabdomyosarcoma /ˌræbdəˌmiəsəˈkɔːmə/ noun the procedure to show something.

Rheo-/rɪˈθiːo- prefix referring to the flow of liquids.

rheometer /rɪˈθiːəmətər/ noun a device that measures the flow of thick liquids such as blood.

Rhesus a noun that measures the flow of electrical current.

Rhesus factor /rɪˈθiːsəsˈfæktaʊ/ noun an antigen in red blood cells, which is an element in blood grouping. Also called Rh factor.

rheostat /rɪˈθiːoʊstæt/ noun a rheostat is a device that measures the flow of electrical current.
rhesus factor disease

of the fetus and may cause erythroblastosis fetalis.

rhesus factor disease /ˈrɪsəs ˈfæktr di ˈzɪzd/ noun a disease which occurs when the blood of a fetus has a different rhesus factor from that of the mother. Also called Rh disease.

rheumatic /ˈruːˈmætɪk/ adjective referring to rheumatism.

rheumatic fever /ˈruːˈmætɪk ˈfiːvə/ noun a collagen disease of young people and children, caused by haemolytic streptococci, where the joints and also the valves and lining of the heart become inflamed. Also called acute rheumatism.

Comment: Rheumatic fever often follows another streptococcal infection such as a strep throat or tonsillitis. Symptoms are high fever, pains in the joints, which become red, formation of nodules on the ends of bones and difficulty in breathing. Although recovery can be complete, rheumatic fever can recur and damage the heart permanently.

rheumatism /ˈruːmətɪzəm/ noun pains and stiffness in the joints and muscles (informal) She has rheumatism in her hips. He complained of rheumatism in the knees.

rheumatoid /ˈruːmətɔɪd/ adjective relating to rheumatism.

rheumatoid arthritis /ˈruːmətɔɪd əˈrɪθrətɪs/ noun a general painful disabling collagen disease affecting any joint, but especially the hands, feet and hips, making them swollen and inflamed. Osteoarthritis...

rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease which can affect many systems of the body, but mainly the joints. 70% of sufferers develop the condition in the metacarpophalangeal joints.

[Running Times]

rheumatoid erosion /ˈruːmətɔɪd ɪˌrəʊʊməˈəʊnsən/ noun erosion of bone and cartilage in the joints caused by rheumatoid arthritis.

rheumatoid factor /ˈruːmətɔɪd ˈfæktər/ noun an antibody found in the blood serum of many people who have rheumatoid arthritis.

rheumatologist /ˈruːməˈtɔλədʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in rheumatology.

rheumatology /ˈruːməˈtɔlədʒi/ noun a branch of medicine dealing with rheumatic disease of muscles and joints.

Rh factor /ˈrɑː/ ˈetʃ/ ˈfæktər/ noun same as rhesus factor.

rhin- /ˈrɪn-/ prefix same as rhino- (used before vowels).

rhinal /rɪnəl/ adjective referring to the nose.

rhinencephalon /rɪnəns ˈkɛfələn/ noun the area of the forebrain that controls the sense of smell.

rhinitis /rɪˈnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the mucous membrane in the nose, which makes the nose run, caused, e.g., by a virus infection or an allergic reaction to dust or flowers.

rhino- /ˈrɪnəʊ/ prefix referring to the nose.

rhinology /rɪnəˈnɒlədʒi/ noun a branch of medicine dealing with diseases of the nose and the nasal passages.

rhinomycosis /ˌrɪnəməˈsəʊkəsɪs/ noun an infection of the nasal passages by a fungus.

rhinopharyngitis /ˌrɪnəˈfærən(d)ʒɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the mucous membranes in the nose and pharynx.

rhinophyma /ˌrɪnəˈfaɪmə/ noun a condition caused by rosacea, in which the nose becomes permanently red and swollen.

rhinoplasty /ˌrɪnəˈplʌstɪ/ noun plastic surgery to correct the appearance of the nose.

rhinorrhea /ˌrɪnəˈrɪə/ noun a watery discharge from the nose.

rhinoscope /ˌrɪnəˈskʌp/ noun an instrument for examining the inside of the nose.

rhinoscopy /ˌrɪnəˈskɒpɪ/ noun an examination of the inside of the nose.

rhinosinusitis /ˌrɪnəˌsʌnəˈsɪtəs/ noun swelling of the lining of the nose and paranasal sinuses, as a result of either a viral infection or allergic rhinitis. It is usually treated with antibiotics, antihistamines or steroids.

rhinosporidiosis /ˌrɪnəˌspɔrɪdɪˈsɪəs/ noun an infection of the nose, eyes, larynx and genital organs by the fungus Rhinosporidium seeberi.

rhinovirus /ˌrɪnəˌvɜːrəs/ noun a group of viruses containing RNA, which cause infection of the nose and include the virus which causes the common cold.

rhiz- /rɪz/ /rz-/ prefix referring to a root.

rhizotomy /rɪzəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut or divide the roots of a nerve to relieve severe pain.

Rh-negative /ˈrɛ/ etʃ ˈnɛɡətɪv/ adjective who does not have the rhesus factor in his or her blood.

rhodopsin /ˈroʊdəpsɪn/ noun a light-sensitive purple pigment in the rods of the retina, which makes it possible to see in dim light. Also called visual purple.

rhombencephalon /ˌrəʊmˌbɛnˈkɛfələn/ noun the hindbrain, the part of the brain which contains the cerebellum, the medulla oblongata and the pons.

rhomboid /ˌrɒmbɔɪd/ noun one of two muscles in the top part of the back which move the shoulder blades.

rhonchus /ˈrɒŋkəs/ noun an unusual sound in the chest, heard through a stethoscope, caused by a partial blockage in the bronchi. (Note: The plural is rhonchi.)

Rh-positive /ˈrɛ/ etʃ ˈpɒzɪtɪv/ adjective who has the rhesus factor in his or her blood.

rhythm /rɪˈθɒm/ noun a regular movement or beat.
zymes and proteins.

in a cell, containing RNA and protein, where

cannot be accurately calculated if a woman
does not have regular periods.

rib /rib/ noun one of twenty-four curved bones
which protect the chest. For other terms
referring to the ribs, see words beginning with

rachitia

rickets

ricin

rich

ricewater stools

ribosomal

ribose

riboflavine

ribonuclease

ribonucleic acid

ribozyme /ˈrɪbəˌzaɪm/ noun a method of birth control
where sexual intercourse should take place only
during the safe periods when conception is least likely to
occur, i.e. at the beginning and at the end of the
menstrual cycle.

Comment: This method is not as safe or reliable
as other methods of contraception because
the time when ovulation takes place cannot
be accurately calculated if a woman
does not have regular periods.

rib /rib/ noun one of twenty-four curved bones
which protect the chest. For other terms
referring to the ribs, see words beginning with
cost, i.e. at the beginning and at the end of the
periods when conception is least likely to oc-
cur. (Note: For other terms referring to the ribs, see words beginning with
cost, i.e. at the beginning and at the end of the period when conception is least likely to occur.)

ribavirin /ˈrɪbaˌvɜːrɪn/ noun a synthetic drug which helps to prevent the synthesis of viral DNA and RNA, used in the treatment of viral diseases

rib cage /ˈrɪb kæʤ/ noun the ribs and the space enclosed by them

Comment: The rib cage is formed of twelve pairs of curved bones. The top seven pairs, the true ribs, are joined to the breastbone in front by costal cartilage. The other five pairs of ribs, the false ribs, are not attached to the breastbone, though the 8th, 9th and 10th pairs are each attached to the rib above. The bottom two pairs, which are not attached to the breastbone at all, are called the floating ribs.

riboflavin /ˈrɪbəflævɪn/ same as vitamin B2.
(Nota: The US spelling is riboflavin.)

ribonucleic acid /ˌrɪbəˈnjuːkəlɪs/ noun an enzyme which breaks down RNA

ribosomal /ˌrɪbəˈsɒməl/ adjective referring to ribosomes

ribosome /ˌrɪbəˈsɒm/ noun a tiny particle in a cell, containing RNA and protein, where protein is synthesised

ricewater stools /ˈraɪswɔːtə stʊlz/ plural noun watery faeces that are typically passed by people who have cholera

rich /rɪʃ/ adjective 1. well supplied 2. referring to food which has a high calorific value 3. the sublingual gland has a rich blood supply derived from the carotid artery. (Nursing Times)

ricin /ˈraɪsɪn/ noun a highly toxic albumin found in the seeds of the castor oil plant

rick /rɪk/ noun a slight injury to a joint caused by wrenching or straining it. verb to wrench or strain a joint of the body slightly

rickets /ˈrɪktəs/ noun a disease of children, where the bones are soft and do not develop properly due to lack of Vitamin D. Also called rachitis.

Comment: Initial treatment for rickets in children is a vitamin-rich diet, together with exposure to sunshine which causes vitamin D to form in the skin.

Rickettsia /ˈrɪkətʃiə/ noun a genus of micro-organisms which causes several diseases including Q fever and typhus

rickettsial /ˈrɪkətʃiəl/ adjective referring to Rickettsia

rickettsial pox /ˌrɪkətʃiəl pɒks/ noun a disease found in North America, caused by Rickettsia akari passed to humans by bites from mites which live on mice.

rid /rɪd/ verb to get rid of something to make something go away. He can’t get rid of his cold – he’s had it for weeks. to be rid of something not to have something unpleasant any more. I’m very glad to be rid of my flu.

ridge /rɪdʒ/ noun a long raised part on the surface of a bone or organ

rifampicin /ˈrɪfəmˌpɪsɪn/ noun an antibiotic which works by interfering with RNA synthesis in the infecting bacteria, used in the treatment of tuberculosis, leprosy and other bacterial infections

right /rɪt/ noun the fact of being legally entitled to do or have something. You always have the right to ask for a second opinion.

right colic /ˈrɪt kɒlɪk/ noun an artery which leads from the superior mesenteric artery to the right hand more often than the left. He’s right-handed. Most people are right-handed.

right-left shunt /ˈrɪt lɛft/ noun a malformation in the heart, allowing blood to flow from the pulmonary artery to the aorta

right lymphatic duct /ˈrɪt ˈlɪmpətɪk dʌkt/ noun one of the main terminal channels for carrying lymph, draining the right side of the head and neck and entering the junction of the right subclavian and internal jugular veins. It is the smaller of the two main discharge points of the lymphatic system into the venous system, the large being the thoracic duct.

rigid /ˈrɪdʒid/ adjective stiff, not moving

rigidity /ˈrɪdʒɪtɪs/ noun the fact of being rigid, bent or not able to be moved. Spasticity

rigor /ˈrɪgər/ noun an attack of shivering, often with fever

rigor mortis /ˈrɪgər ˈmɔrtɪs/ noun a condition in which the muscles of a dead body become stiff after death and then become relaxed again.

Comment: Rigor mortis starts about eight hours after death, and begins to disappear several hours later. Environment and temperature play a large part in the timing.

rima /ˈrɪmə/ noun a narrow crack or cleft

rima glottidis /ˌrɪmə ˈɡlɒtɪdɪs/ noun a space between the vocal cords
rose sharply.

Ring finger /ˈrɪŋ frɪŋg/ noun the third finger, the finger between the little finger and the middle finger.

Rinse /rɪn/s verb to lightly wash the inside of something to make it clean, e.g. to get rid of soap. She rinsed out the measuring jar.

Rinse out /rɪnz ˈaut/ verb to lightly wash the inside of something to make it clean, e.g. to get rid of soap. She rinsed out the measuring jar. Rinse your mouth out with mouthwash.

Ring block /ˈrɪŋ bλɔk/ noun the process of inserting local anaesthetic all the way round a point. It is very contagious and difficult to get rid of. Also called tinea

Rinne's test /ˈrɪnɪz tɛst/ noun a hearing test in which a tuning fork is hit and its handle placed near the ear, to test for air conduction, and then on the mastoid process, to test for bone conduction. It is then possible to determine the type of lesion which exists by finding if the sound is heard for a longer period by air or by bone conduction. [Described 1855. After Friedrich Heinrich Rinne (1819–68), otologist at Göttingen, Germany.]

Ripple bed /ˈrɪp(ə)l/ bed/ noun a type of bed with an air-filled mattress divided into sections, in which the pressure is continuously being changed so that the body can be massaged and bedsores can be avoided.

Ringworm /ˈrɪŋwɜːm/ noun any of various infections of the skin by a fungus, in which the infection spreads out in a circle from a central point. It is very contagious and difficult to get rid of. Also called tinea

Rocky Mountain spotted fever /ˈrɒkiˌmuːntɔnˈspɔttɪd fɛvə/ noun a type of typhus caused by Rickettsia rickettsii, transmitted to humans by ticks

Rod /rəʊd/ noun 1. a stick shape with rounded ends Some bacteria are shaped like rods or are rod-shaped. 2. one of two types of light-sensitive cell in the retina of the eye. Rods are sensitive to dim light, but not to colour. One of two types of light-sensitive cell in the retina of the eye. Rods are sensitive to dim light, but not to colour. Rods are sensitive to dim light, but not to colour.

Roden ulcer /rəʊdənˈʌltər/ noun a malignant tumour on the face

Romeo /rəʊməʊ/ noun 1. a twisted smile which is a symptom of tetanus

Romeo and Juliet /ˈrəʊməʊ ənd ˈdʒuːlɪt/ noun two fictional characters from Shakespeare's play.

Romeo and Juliet /ˈrəʊməʊ ənd ˈdʒuːlɪt/ noun two fictional characters from Shakespeare's play.
role playing /ˈroʊl ˈpleɪɪŋ/ noun the act of pretending to be somebody else in a situation, so that you have to imagine how that person feels and thinks. It usually involves several people. It is used in many training exercises and psychiatric evaluations.

rolled bandage /ˈrəʊld bændɪdʒ/ noun a bandage in the form of a long strip of cloth which is rolled up from one or both ends

Romberg's sign /ˈrɒmberkz sain/ noun a swaying of the body or falling when standing with the feet close together and the eyes closed, the result of loss of the joint position sense [Described 1846. After Mortiz Heinrich Romberg (1795–1873), German physician and pioneer neurologist.] COM: If a patient cannot stand upright when his or her eyes are closed, this shows that nerves in the lower limbs which transmit joint position sense to the brain are damaged.

rongeur /ˈrɒngər/ noun a strong surgical instrument like a pair of pliers, used for cutting bone

root /rʊt/ noun 1. a point from which a part of the body grows 2. root of hair or hair root 3. root of nerve or nerve root 2. part of a tooth which is connected to a socket in the jaw ≥ also called radix

root canal /ˈrʊt kəˈnel/ noun a canal in the root of a tooth through which the nerves and blood vessels pass

rooting reflex /ˈrʊtɪŋ rɪˈfleks/ noun the instinct in new babies to turn their heads towards a touch on the cheek or mouth, which is important for breastfeeding

Roper, Logan and Tierney model /ˌrɒper ləˈɡɔn æn tɪrni miˈdʒəl/ noun an important model of nursing developed in the UK in 1980. Various factors such as necessary daily tasks, lifespan and health status are used to assess the relative independence of an individual, which the nurse will help them to increase.

Rorschach test /ˈrɔrʃək tɛst/ noun the ink blot test, used in psychological diagnosis, where someone is shown a series of blots of ink on paper and is asked to say what each blot reminds him or her of. The answers give information about the person’s psychological state. [Described 1921. After Hermann Rorschach (1884–1922), German-born psychiatrist who worked in Bern, Switzerland.]

roseola infantum /rəʊˈzoʊə ɪnfəntəm/ noun a sudden infection of small children, with fever, swelling of the lymph glands and a rash. It is caused by herpesvirus 6. Also called exanthem subitum.

rostral /ˈroʊstrəl/ adjective like the beak of a bird

rostrum /ˈroʊstrəm/ noun a projecting part of a bone or structure shaped like a beak (Note: The plural is rostra.)

rot /rɒt/ verb to decay, to become putrefied ∘ The flesh was rotting round the wound as gangrene set in. ∘ The fingers can not rot away in leprosy.

rotate /rəʊˈteɪt/ verb to move in a circle, or make something move in a circle

rotation /rəʊˈteɪʃən/ noun the act of moving in a circle. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement □ lateral and medial rotation turning part of the body to the side, towards the midline

rotator /rəʊˈteɪtər/ noun a muscle which makes a limb rotate

rotavirus /ˈrɒtəvərəs/ noun any of a group of viruses associated with gastroenteritis in children

...rotavirus is now widely accepted as an important cause of childhood diarrhoea in many different parts of the world’ [East African Medical Journal]

Rothera’s test /ˈrʌðərəz tɛst/ noun a test to see if acetone is present in urine, a sign of ketosis which is a complication of diabetes mellitus [After Arthur Cecil Hamel Rothera (1880–1915), biochemist in Melbourne, Australia]

Roth spot /rəʊθ spɔt/ noun a pale spot which sometimes occurs on the retina of a person who has leukanemia or some other diseases. [After Arthur Roth (1839–1915), Swiss pathologist and physician]

rotunda /ˈrɔtʊndə/ noun a circular building or structure

rouleau /ruˈloʊ/ noun a roll of red blood cells which have stuck together like a column of coins (Note: The plural is rouleaux.)

round /rʊnd/ adjective shaped like a circle ∘ a regular visit □ to do the rounds of the wards to visit various wards in a hospital and talk to the nurses and check on patients' progress or condition □ a health visitor’s rounds regular series of visits made by a health visitor

round ligament /rʊnd ˈlɪɡəmənt/ noun a band of muscle which stretches from the uterus to the labia

round window /rʊnd ˈwɪndəʊ/ noun a round opening between the middle ear and the
roundworm noun any of several common types of parasitic worms with round bodies, such as hookworms. Compare flatworm

Rovsing’s sign noun pain in the right iliac fossa when the left iliac fossa is pressed, which is a sign of acute appendicitis [Described 1907. After Niels Thorkild Rovsing (1862–1927), Professor of Surgery at Copenhagen, Denmark.]

Royal College of General Practitioners noun a professional association which represents family doctors. Abbreviation: RCGP

Royal College of Nursing noun a professional association which represents nurses. Abbreviation: RCN

Ronald’s model noun a model for nursing developed in the US in the 1970s. It describes a person's health as being a state of wellness results from an inability to adapt to such stimuli, so nurses should help patients to overcome this.

rubbing alcohol noun US same as surgical spirit

rubefacient noun a substance which makes the skin warm, and pink or red adjective causing the skin to become red

rubella noun a common infectious viral disease of children with mild fever, swollen lymph nodes and rash. Also called German measles

Rubin’s test noun a test to see if the Fallopian tubes are free from obstruction [After Isador Clinton Rubin (b. 1883), US gynaecologist]

rubor noun redness of the skin or tissue

rudimentary adjective existing in a small form, or not developed fully

Ruffini corpuscles plural noun branching nerve endings

ruge noun a fold or ridge, especially a con-traction in which someone has constant irrational thoughts which they cannot control

rubbing alcohol /ˈrʌbɪŋ_ əlkəsl/ noun US same as surgical spirit

rubefacient /ˈrʌbɪfəʃ(ə)n/ noun a substance which makes the skin warm, and pink or red adjective causing the skin to become red

rubella /ˈrʌbələ/ noun a common infectious viral disease of children with mild fever, swollen lymph nodes and rash. Also called German measles

Rubin’s test /ˈrʌbɪnz_ ɪst/ noun a test to see if the Fallopian tubes are free from obstruction [After Isador Clinton Rubin (b. 1883), US gynaecologist]

rubor /ˈrʌbər/ noun redness of the skin or tissue

rudimentary /ˈrʌdɪmənt(ə)r/ adjective existing in a small form, or not developed fully

Ruffini nerve endings /ˈrʌfɪni_ _ˈnɜrvi_ _ˈɛndɪŋz/ plural noun branching nerve endings in the skin, which are thought to be sensitive to heat

rug /ˈrʌg/ noun a fold or ridge, especially in a mucous membrane such as the lining of the stomach [NOTE: The plural is rugae]

rule out /ˈrʌl_ ˈaʊt/ verb to state that someone does not have a specific disease OR We can rule out shingles.

rumbling /ˈrʌmblɪŋ/ noun borborygmus, noise in the abdomen, caused by gas in the intestines

rumination /ˈrʌmɪneɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. a condition in which someone has constant irrational thoughts which they cannot control 2. the re-gurgitation of food from the stomach which is then swallowed again

run /ˈrʌn/ verb (of the nose) to drip with liquid secreted from the mucous membrane in the nasal passage OR His nose is running. OR If your nose is running, blow it on a handkerchief. OR One of the symptoms of a cold is a running nose.

run-down /ˈrʌn_ ˈdaʊn/ adjective exhausted and unwell

running /ˈrʌnɪŋ/ adjective from which liquid is flowing OR running eyes

running sore /ˈrʌnɪŋ_ ˈsɔːr/ noun a sore which is discharging pus

runny nose /ˈrʌnɪ_ _ˈnəʊz/ noun a nose which is dripping with liquid from the mucous membrane

runs /ˈrʌnz/ noun the runs same as diarrhoea (informal) OR I’ve got the runs again. (NOTE: Takes a singular or plural verb.)
rupture /rəptʃə/ noun 1. the breaking or tearing of an organ such as the appendix 2. same as hernia ■ verb to break or tear something
ruptured spleen /rəptʃəd 'spliːn/ noun a spleen which has been torn by piercing or by a blow
Russell traction /ˈrʌslə trækʃ(ə)n/ noun a type of traction with weights and slings used to straighten a femur which has been fractured [Described 1924. After R. Hamilton Russell (1860–1933), Australian surgeon.]
Ryle’s tube /ˈraɪlz ˈtjuːb/ noun a thin tube which is passed into the stomach through either the nose or mouth, used to pump out the contents of the stomach or to introduce a barium meal in the stomach [Described 1921. After John Alfred Ryle (1882–1950), physician at London, Cambridge and Oxford, UK.]
Sabin vaccine /seɪbɪn/ əˈvækʃən/ noun an oral vaccine against poliomyelitis, consisting of weak live polio virus. Compare Salk vaccine (NOTE: This is the vaccine used in the UK) [Developed 1955. After Albert Bruce Sabin (1906–93), Russian-born New York bacteriologist].
sac /seɪk/ noun a part of the body shaped like a bag
saccades /əˈkeɪdɪz/ plural noun controlled rapid movements of the eyes made when a person is changing the direction in which they are focusing, e.g. when they are reading
saccharide /əˈsækərəd/ noun a form of carbohydrate
saccharin /ˈsækərɪn/ noun a white crystalline substance, used in place of sugar because, although it is nearly 500 times sweeter than sugar, it contains no carbohydrates
saccharine /ˈsækərən/ adjective relating to, resembling or containing sugar
saccule /ˈsækjʊlə, səˈkʌls/ noun the smaller of two sacs in the vestibule of the inner ear which is part of the mechanism which relates information about the position of the head in space
sacra /ˈseɪkrə/ plural of sacrum
sacral /ˈseɪkrəl/ adjective referring to the sacrum
sacral foramen /ˈseɪkrəl fɔrəmən/ noun one of the openings in the sacrum through which the sacral nerves pass. See illustration at PELVIS in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is sacral foramina.)
sacralisation /ˈseɪkrələrəˌzɪʃən/ noun a condition in which the lowest lumbar vertebrae fuses with the sacrum
sacral nerve /ˈseɪkrəl ˈnɜːr/ noun one of the nerves which branch from the spinal cord in the sacrum and govern the legs, the arms and the genital area
sacral plexus /ˈseɪkrəl ˈpleksəs/ noun a group of nerves inside the pelvis near the sacrum which lead to nerves in the buttocks, back of the thigh and lower leg and foot
sacral vertebrae /ˈseɪkrəl ˈvɜːtbrəz/ plural noun the five vertebrae in the lower part of the spine which are fused together to form the sacrum
sacro-/seɪkrəʊ/ prefix referring to the sacrum
sacroccocygeal /ˌseɪkrəʊkəʊˈsɪskəʊdʒ/ adjective referring to the sacrum and the coccyx
sacroiliac /ˌseɪkrəʊˈlɪkeɪ/ adjective referring to the sacrum and the ilium
sacroiliac joint /ˌseɪkrəʊˈlɪkeɪ ˈdʒɒnts/ noun a joint where the sacrum joins the ilium
sacroiliitis /ˌseɪkrəʊˈlɪtəs/ noun inflammation of the sacroiliac joint
sacro-tuberos ligament /ˌseɪkrəʊˈtjuːbərəs ˈlɪgəment/ noun the large ligament passing on each side of the rectum between the iliac spine, the sacrum, the coccyx and the ischial tuberosity
sacro-uterine ligament /ˌseɪkrəʊˈjuːturən ˈlɪgəment/ noun a ligament which goes from the neck of the uterus to the sacrum, passing on each side of the rectum
sacrum /ˈseɪkrəm/ noun the large bone, formed of five sacral vertebrae fused together, located between the lumbar vertebrae and the coccyx. It articulates with the coccyx and also with the hip bones. See illustration at PELVIS in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is sacra.)
SAD abbr seasonal affective disorder
saddle /seɪdəl/ noun a deep bridge of the nose, usually a sign of injury but sometimes a sign of tertiary syphilis
sadism /ˈseɪdɪzəm/ noun a sexual condition in which a person finds sexual pleasure in hurting others
sadist /ˈseɪdɪst/ noun a person whose sexual urge is linked to sadism
sadistic /ˈseɪdiːstɪk/ adjective referring to sadism. Compare masochism
SADS abbr seasonal affective disorder syndrome
safe /sef/ adjective 1. not likely to cause harm
○ Is it safe to use this drug on someone who is diabetic? 2. in a protected place or situation and not likely to be harmed or lost ○ Keep the drugs in a safe place. ○ He’s safe in hospital being looked after by the doctors and nurses.
  (Note: safer – safest)
  ‘… a good collateral blood supply makes occlusion of a single branch of the coeliac axis safe’ [British Medical Journal]
safe dose /sef/ noun the amount of a drug which can be given without being harmful
safely /sefl/ adverb without danger, without being hurt ○ You can safely take six tablets a day without any risk of side-effects.
safe period /sef/ noun the time during the menstrual cycle, when conception is not likely to occur, and sexual intercourse can take place, used as a method of contraception.
  (Note: rhythmic method)
safe sex /sef/ noun the use of measures such as a contraceptive sheath and having only one sexual partner to reduce the possibility of catching a sexually transmitted disease safely /sefl/ noun the fact of being safe ○ to take safety precautions to do things which make your actions or condition safe
safety pin /sefl/ noun a special type of bent pin with a guard which protects the point, used for attaching nappies or bandages
sagittal /sædʒɪt(ə)l/ adjective going from the front of the body to the back, dividing it into right and left
sagittal plane /sædʒɪt(ə)l/ noun the division of the body along the midline, at right angles to the coronal plane, dividing the body into right and left parts. Also called median plane. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement.
sagittal section /sædʒɪt(ə)l/ noun any section or cut through the body, going from the front to the back along the length of the body
sagittal suture /sædʒɪt(ə)l/ noun a joint along the top of the head where the two parietal bones are fused
StHA abbr Strategic Health Authority
St John Ambulance Association and Brigade /æˌbɛmpljʊələs, əˌbɛmpljʊələs/ noun a voluntary organisation which gives training in first aid and whose members provide first aid at public events such as football matches and demonstrations
St Louis encephalitis /sɛnt/ noun a sometimes fatal form of encephalitis, transmitted by the ordinary house mosquito Culex pipiens [After St Louis, Missouri, USA, where it was first diagnosed]

St Vitus’s dance /sænt/ noun a former name for Sydenham’s chorea
salbutamol /sælˈbjuːtəməl/ noun a drug which relaxes and dilates the bronchi, used in the relief of asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis
salicylate /sælˈɪkslət/ noun one of various pain-killing substances derived from salicylic acid, e.g. aspirin
salicylic acid /sælˈsɪlɪk/ noun a white antiseptic substance which destroys bacteria and fungi and which is used in ointments to treat corns, warts and other skin disorders
salicylism /sælˈsɪklɪzəm/ noun the effects of poisoning due to too much salicylic acid. Symptoms include headache, tinnitus, faintness and vomiting.
saline /sɛlɪn/ adjective referring to or containing salt ○ The patient was given a saline transfusion. ○ noun same as saline solution
saline drip /sɛlɪn/ noun a drip containing a saline solution
saline solution /sɛlɪn/ noun a solution made of distilled water and sodium chloride, which is introduced into the body intravenously through a drip
saliva /sæˈlɪvə/ noun a fluid in the mouth, secreted by the salivary glands, which starts the process of digesting food (Note: For terms referring to saliva, see words beginning with ptyalo- or sia-, sialo-)
  COMMENT: Saliva is a mixture of a large quantity of water and a small amount of mucus, secreted by the salivary glands. Saliva acts to keep the mouth and throat moist, allowing food to be swallowed easily. It also contains the enzyme ptyalin, which begins the digestive process of converting starch into sugar while food is still in the mouth. Because of this association with food, the salivary glands produce saliva automatically when food is seen, smelt or even simply talked about.
  salivary /ˈsælvəri/ adjective referring to saliva
salivary calculus /ˈsælvərɪkələs/ noun a stone which forms in a salivary gland
salivary gland /ˈsælvərɪ/ noun a gland which secretes saliva, situated under the tongue (the sublingual gland), beneath the lower jaw (the submandibular gland) and in the neck at the back of the lower jaw joint (the parotid gland)
salivate /ˈsælvət/ verb to produce saliva
salivation /ˈsælvəʃən/ noun the production of saliva
salix /ˈsælɪks/ noun an injected vaccine against poliomyelitis, consisting of inactivated polio virus. Compare Sabin vaccine [Developed 1954. After Jonas Edward Salk (1914–95), virologist in Pittsburgh, USA.]
salmeterol /sælˈmɛtərəl/ noun a drug which relaxes and widens the airways, used to treat severe asthma
Salmonella

Salmonella /ˌsælməˈnɛlə/ noun a genus of pathogenic bacteria which live in the intestines and are usually acquired by eating contaminated food, responsible for many cases of gastroenteritis and for typhoid or paratyphoid fever (NOTE: The plural is Salmonellae.)

Salmonella poisoning /ˌsælməˈnɛləˌpəʊˈzɪŋ/ noun poisoning caused by Salmonellae which develop in the intestines. Five people were taken to hospital with Salmonella poisoning.

salmonellosis /ˌsælməˈnɛləˌlɒsɪs/ noun food poisoning caused by Salmonella in the digestive system.

salping- /ˈsælpɪŋ-/ prefix same as salpingo- (used before vowels). 

salpingectomy /ˌsælpɪŋˈdʒɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove or cut a Fallopian tube, used as a method of contraception.

salpingitis /ˌsælpɪŋˈdʒɛtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation, usually of a Fallopian tube.

salpingo- /ˈsælpɪŋɡ-/ prefix 1. referring to the Fallopian tubes. 2. referring to the auditory meatus.

salpingography /ˌsælpɪŋˈgrəʊfɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the Fallopian tubes.

salpingolysis /ˌsælpɪŋˈɡɒlɪsɪs/ noun a surgical operation to open up blocked Fallopian tubes by removing any adhesions near the ovaries.

salpingo-oophorectomy /ˌsælpɪŋˌɒfərəktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a Fallopian tube and ovary.

salpingo-oophoritis /ˌsælpɪŋˌɒfərəˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a Fallopian tube and the ovary connected to it.

salpingo-oophorecele /ˌsælpɪŋˌɒfərəˈsɛlə/ noun a hole in the fascia of the thigh through which the saphenous vein passes.

sali- /ˈsælɪ-, ˈsæli-/ prefix relating to blood.

sanguineous /ˈsæŋwɪˈnjuːs/ adjective referring to blood.

sandflea /ˈsændflɪə/ noun the jigger, a tropical insect which enters the skin between the toes and digs under the skin, causing intense irritation.

sandfly fever /ˌsændflɪˌfɪvə/ noun a virus infection like influenza, which is transmitted by the bite of the sandfly Phlebotomus papatasii and is common in the Middle East.

salt depletion /ˈsɔlt dɪˈpliʃən/ noun loss of salt from the body, by sweating or vomiting, which causes cramp.

salt-free diet /ˌsɔlt friˌdɛt/ noun a diet in which no salt is allowed.

salve /ˈsɔlv/ noun an ointment.

sample /ˈsæmpl/ noun a small quantity of something used for testing. Blood samples were taken from all the staff in the hospital.

sanatorium /ˌsænəˈtɔriəm/ noun an institution, similar to a hospital, which treats particular types of disorder such as tuberculosis, or offers special treatment such as hot baths or massage (NOTE: The plural is sanatoriums.)

sandflies /ˌsændflɪz/ noun Sandflies, a tropical insect which enters the skin between the toes and digs under the skin, causing intense irritation.

San base /ˈsæn bɪs/ noun a virus infection like influenza, which is transmitted by the bite of the sandfly Phlebotomus papatasii and is common in the Middle East.

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sandflies /ˌsændflɪz/ noun Sandflies, a tropical insect which enters the skin between the toes and digs under the skin, causing intense irritation.

sanitary /ˌsænəˈtɜːrɪ/ adjective referring to hygiene or to health.

sanitary towel /ˌsænəˈtɜːrɪˌtɔʊl/ noun a disposable pad of absorbent material worn by women to absorb the blood flow during menstruation.

sanitation /ˌsænəˈteɪʃən/ noun the practice of being hygienic, especially referring to public hygiene. Poor sanitation in crowded conditions can result in the spread of disease.

SA node /ˌsɛː əˈnɔd/, S-A node noun same as sinoatrial node.

saphena /ˈsæfənə/ noun same as saphenous vein (NOTE: The plural is saphenae.)

saphenous /ˌsæfəˈnjuːs/ adjective relating to the saphenous veins.

saphenous nerve /ˌsæfəˈnjuːs/ noun a branch of the femoral nerve which connects with the sensory nerves in the skin of the lower leg.

saphenous opening /ˌsæfəˈnjuːs/ noun a hole in the fascia of the thigh through which the saphenous vein passes.
saphenous vein /saˈfɛnəs veɪn/ noun one of two veins which take blood from the foot up the leg. Also called saphena
coment: The long (internal) saphenous vein, the longest vein in the body, runs from the foot up the inside of the leg and joins the femoral vein. The short (posterior) saphenous vein runs up the back of the lower leg and joins the popliteal vein.
sapphism /sæfɪzəm/ noun same as lebianism
sapaemia /sæprɪəmiə/ noun blood poisoning by saprophytes
saprophyte /sæprəfɪt/ noun a microorganism which lives on dead or decaying tissue
saprophytic /sæprəˈfɪtɪk/ adjective referring to an organism which lives on dead or decaying tissue
sarc-/sɑ/, sarco- /sɑrkəʊ/ preffx 1. referring to flesh 2. referring to muscle
sarcoid /sɑrˈkɔɪd/ noun a tumour which is like a sarcoma, (adjective like a sarcoma
sarcoidosis /sɑrˈkɔɪdəsɪs/ noun a disease causing enlargement of the lymph nodes, where small nodules or granulomas form in certain tissues, especially in the lungs or liver and other parts of the body. Also called Boeck’s disease, Boeck’s sarcoid (note: The Kveim test confirms the presence of sarcoido-sis.)
sarcolemma /sɑrkəˈlɛmə/ noun a membrane surrounding a muscle fibre
sarcoma /sɑrkəʊmə/ noun a cancer of connective tissue such as bone, muscle or cartilage
sarcomatosis /sɑrˈkɔmətəsɪs/ noun a condition in which a sarcoma has spread through the bloodstream to many parts of the body
sarcomatous /sɑrˈkɔmətəs/ adjective referring to a sarcoma
sarcomere /sɑrkəˈmərə/ noun a filament in myofibril
sarcoplasma /sɑrˈkɔplæzəm/ noun semi-liquid cytoplasm in muscle membrane. Also called myoplasm
sarcoplasminic /sɑrkəˈplæzəmi nik/ adjective referring to sarcoplasmin
sarcoplastic reticulum /sɑrˈkɔklɛkˈtɪk jʊlmə/ noun a network in the cytoplasm of striated muscle fibres
sarcoplates /sɑrkəˈkɑptɪtəz/ noun a type of fibre which causes scabies
sardonicus /sɑrˈdɔnɪks/ a risus sardonicus
SARS /sɑrəs/ noun a serious, sometimes fatal, infection affecting the respiratory system, first seen in China. Suspected cases of SARS must be isolated with full barrier nursing precautions. Full form severe acute respiratory syndrome
sartorius /sɑrˈtoʊriəs/ noun a very long muscle, the longest muscle in the body, which runs from the anterior iliac spine, across the thigh down to the tibia
saturated fat /ˈsætʃərətət fɑt/ noun a fat which has the largest amount of hydrogen possible
COMMENT: Animal fats such as butter and fat meat are saturated fatty acids. It is thought that increasing the amount of unsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, mainly vegetable fats and oils, and fish oil, and reducing saturated fats in the food intake helps reduce the level of cholesterol in the blood, and so lessens the risk of atherosclerosis.
saturnism /ˈsɑrəntərəzəm/ noun lead poisoning
satyriasis /ˈsætərəriəsɪs/ noun an obsessive sexual urge in a man (note: A similar condition in a woman is called nymphomania.)
saucerisation /səˈsɔəriəzəʃən/ noun a surgical operation in which the bone is cut out in the form of a saucer-like depression, usually in order to help material drain away from infected areas of bone 2. The shallow saucer-like appearance of the upper surface of a vertebra after a compression fracture
save /sɛv/ verb 1. to stop someone from being hurt or killed (NOTE: The doctors saved the little boy from dying of cancer. The surgeons saved her life) they stopped the patient from dying 2. to stop something from being damaged (the surgeons were unable to save the sight of their patient.
saw /sɔ/ noun a tool with a long metal blade with teeth along its edge, used for cutting noun verb to cut something with a saw (note: sawing — sawed — sawn)
Sayre’s jacket /ˈseɪrəz ˈdʒækɪt/ noun a plaster cast which supports the spine when vertebral have been deformed by tuberculosis or spinal disease (after Lewis Albert Sayre [1820– 1901], US surgeon) s.c. abbr subcutaneous
scab /skeb/ noun a crust of dry blood which forms over a wound and protects it
scabicide /ˈskebɪsʌd/ noun a solution which kills mites adjective killing mites
scabies /ˈskæbɪz/ noun a very irritating infection of the skin caused by a mite which lives under the skin
scala /ˈskɛləs/ noun a spiral canal in the cochlea
COMMENT: The cochlea is formed of three spiral canals: the scala vestibuli which is filled with perilymph and connects with the oval window; the scala media which is filled with endolymph and transmits vibrations from the scala vestibuli through the basilar membrane to the scala tympani, which in turn transmits the sound vibrations to the round window.
scald /sɔːld/ noun an injury to the skin caused by touching a very hot liquid or steam. Also called wet burn noun verb to injure the skin with a very hot liquid or steam

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scald
scalding /skɔːldɪŋ/ adjective 1. referring to a liquid which is very hot 2. referring to urine which gives a burning sensation when passed

scale /skeɪl/ noun 1. a thin flat piece of something such as dead skin 2. same as tartar 3. a system of measurement or valuation based on a series of marks or levels with regular intervals between them 4. a pay scale

calculus /skæpjuˈləs/ adjective referring to the shoulder blade

scapulohumeral /skæpjuˈlərəʊˌhjuːˈmɜːrəl/ adjective referring to the scapula and humerus

scar /skɔːr/ noun the mark left on the skin after a wound or surgical incision has healed 1. He still has the scar of his appendicectomy. 2. Patients were given special clothes to reduce hypertrophic scarring. 3. One of the carpal bones

scarification /skærɪˈfɪkʃən/ noun scratching, making minute cuts on the surface of the skin, e.g. for a smallpox vaccination

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scarification /skærɪˈfɪkʃən/ noun scratching, making minute cuts on the surface of the skin, e.g. for a smallpox vaccination

scapula /skæpˈjʊlə/ noun one of two large flat bones covering the top part of the back. Also called shoulder blade

Scheuermann's disease /ʃəʊərˈmənz dɪˈziːn/ noun inflammation of the bones and cartilage in the spine, usually affecting adolescents [Described 1920. After Holger Werfel Scheuermann (1877–1960), Danish orthopaedic surgeon and radiologist]

Schick test /skɪk tɛst/ noun a test to see if a person is immune to diphtheria [Described 1908. After Bela Schick (1877–1967), paediatrician in Vienna, Austria, and New York, USA]
of injection becomes inflamed it shows the person is not immune to the disease (a positive reaction).

Schilling test /ˈʃɪlɪŋ tɛst/ noun a test to see if someone can absorb Vitamin B₁₂ through the intestines, to determine cases of pernicious anaemia [After Robert Frederick Schilling (b. 1819), US physician.]

-schis- /skəs-/ suffix referring to a fissure or split

schis- /skəs-/ prefix referring to something which is split

schisostoma /ˌskɪstəʊˈsɒməʊə/ schistosomias /ˌskɪstəʊˈsɒmɪəs/ noun same as bilharzia

schistosomiasis /ˌskɪstəʊˈsɒmɪəsɪs/ noun same as bilharziasis

schiz/-skiz-/ schizo-/skɪzəʊ/ prefix referring to something which is split

schizoid /ˈskɪzəʊd/ adjective referring to schizophrenia noun a person who has a less severe form of schizophrenia

schizoid personality /ˈskɪzəʊd ˈpeɪsəlɪti/ noun a disorder in which someone is cold towards other people, thinks mainly about himself or herself and behaves in an odd way. Also called split personality

schizophrenia /ˈskɪzəʊˈfɪəriə/ noun a mental disorder in which someone withdraws from contact with other people, has delusions and seems to lose contact with the real world

schizophrenic /ˌskɪzəˈfɪərɪk/ noun someone who has schizophrenia adjective having schizophrenia

schizotypal personality disorder /ˌskɪzəˈtɑːpəl ˈpeɪsəlɪti dɪzəriə/ noun a schizoid personality type disorder

Schlatter’s disease /ˈʃlætərz dɪz/ noun inflammation in the bones and cartilage at the top of injection [Described 1903. After Carl Schlatter (1864–1934), Professor of Surgery at Zürich, Switzerland.]

Schlemm’s canal /ˈʃlɛmz ˈkeɪnl/ noun a circular canal in the sclera of the eye, which drains the aqueous humour [Described 1830. After Friedrich Schlemm (1795–1858), Professor of Anatomy in Berlin, Germany.]

Schönlein–Henoch purpura /səʊnləin ˈhenəʊk ˈpɜːrpjʊra/ Schönlein’s purpura /səʊnləinˈz ˈpɜːrpjʊra/ noun a blood disorder of children, in which the skin becomes purple on the buttocks and lower legs, the joints are swollen and painful and there are gastrointestinal problems

school /skjuːl/ noun 1. a place where children are taught 2. a specialised section of a university

school health service /skjuːl hɛlθ ˈsɜːvɪs/ noun a special service, part of the local health authority, which looks after the health of children in school

school nurse /ˈskjuːl ˈnɜːs/ noun a nurse who works in a school, treating health problems and promoting health and safety

Schwann cells /ˈʃvɒn ˈsɛlz/ plural noun the cells which form the myelin sheath around a nerve fibre. See illustration at NEURONE in Supplement [Described 1839. After Friedrich Theodor Schwann (1810–82), German anatomist.]

schwannoma /ˈʃvɒn ˈnɒməʊ/ noun a neurofibroma, a benign tumour of a peripheral nerve

Schwartz’s operation /ˈʃvɔːrts ə ˈpɛərəʃ(ə)n/ noun the original surgical operation to drain fluid and remove infected tissue from the mastoid process [After Hermann Schwartze (1837–1910), German otoologist]

scleratic /ˈsɜːlətɪk/ adjective 1. referring to the lisp 2. referring to the sciatic nerve

sclactica /ˈsɜːlətɪkə/ noun pain along the sciatic nerve, usually at the back of the thighs and legs

COMMENT: Sclatica can be caused by a slipped disc which presses on a spinal nerve, or can simply be caused by straining a muscle in the back.

sclatic nerve /ˈsɜːlətɪk nɜːv/ noun one of two main nerves which run from the sacral plexus into each of the thighs, dividing into a series of nerves in the lower legs and feet. They are the largest nerves in the body.

SCID abbr severe combined immunodeficiency

science /ˈsɛnsɪs/ noun a study based on looking at and recording facts, especially facts arranged into a system

scientific /ˈsɛnsɪtɪfɪk/ adjective referring to science ○ He carried out scientific experiments

scientist /ˈsɛnəstɪst/ noun a person who specialises in scientific studies

scintigram /ˈsɪntɪɡrəm/ noun an image recording radiation from radioactive isotopes injected into the body

scintillation /ˈsɪntɪləʃ(ə)n/ noun an instrument which produces a scintigram

scintillator /ˈsɪntɪltər/ noun a substance which produces a flash of light when struck by radiation

scintiscan /ˈsɪntɪskən/ noun a scintigram which shows the variations in radiation from one part of the body to another

scirrhous /ˈsɪrəʊs/ adjective hard ○ a scirrhus tumour

scirrhous /ˈsɪrəʊs/ noun a hard malignant tumour, especially in the breast

scissor leg /ˈsɪzər leg/ noun a condition in which someone walks with one leg crossing over the other, usually as a result of spasticity of the leg’s adductor muscles

scissor legs /ˈsɪzər lɛgz/ plural noun malformed legs, where one leg is permanently crossed over in front of the other
scissors /ˈskɪəz/ plural noun an instrument for cutting, made of two blades and two handles fastened together

scissura /ˈsfɪərə/ noun an opening in something or a splitting of something

scler- /ˈsklɛər-/ prefix same as sclero- (used before vowels)

sclera /ˈsklɛərə/ noun the hard white outer covering of the eyeball. See illustration at eye in Supplement. Also called sclerotic, sclerotic coat, albicornea oculi

comment: The front part of the sclera is the transparent cornea, through which the light enters the eye. The conjunctiva, or inner skin of the eyelids, connects with the sclera and covers the front of the eyeball.

scleral /ˈsklɛərl/ adjective referring to the sclera

scleral lens /ˈsklɛərəl lɛnz/ noun a large contact lens which covers most of the front of the eye

scleritis /ˈsklɛərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the sclera

sclero- /ˈsklɛərəʊ-/ prefix 1. hard, thick 2. referring to the sclera

scleroderma /ˈsklɛərəʊdərəmə/ noun a collagen disease which thickens connective tissue and produces a hard thick skin

scleroma /ˈsklɛərəʊmə/ noun a patch of hard skin or hard mucous membrane

scleromalacia /ˈsklɛərəʊmələsəkəʊʃənə/ noun a condition of the sclera in which holes appear in it

sclerosant agent /ˈsklɛərəʊsənt əˌgɛnt/ noun an irritating liquid injected into tissue to harden it

sclerosing /ˈsklɛərəʊsɪŋ/ adjective becoming hard, or making tissue hard

sclerosing agent /ˈsklɛərəʊsɪŋ əˌgɛnt/ noun a sclerosant agent

sclerotic /ˈsklɛərətɪk/ adjective referring to sclerosis, or having sclerosis

sclerotic coat /ˈsklɛərətɪk kəʊt/ noun same as sclera

sclerotomy /ˈsklɛərətəmə/ noun a sharp knife used in sclerotomy

sclerotomy /ˈsklɛərətəmə/ noun a surgical operation to cut into the sclera

scolex /ˈskɔləks/ noun the head of a tape-worm, with hooks which attach it to the wall of the intestine (note: The plural is scolices or scoleces.)
screening /ˈskrɪnɪŋ/ noun the process of testing large numbers of people to see if any of them have a particular type of disease.  

 Genetic screening /ˈdʒenətɪk/ noun 1. the process of looking for early signs of a genetic disorder in people who are at risk of it 2. See illustration at  

 screening test /ˈskrɪnɪŋ tɛst/ noun a test for a particular disease which is given to people who have no symptoms in order to identify how many of them have that disease or are showing early signs of it  

 scrimp /ˈskrɪmp/ noun a doctor’s prescription (informal)  

 scrotal /ˈskroʊtəl/ adjective referring to the scrotum  

 scrototomy /ˈskroʊtətɒmi/ noun a surgical operation to open up and examine the scrotum (NOTE: The plural is scrototomies.)  

 scrotum /ˈskroʊtəm/ noun a bag of skin hanging from behind the penis, containing the testes, epididymides and part of the spermatic cord. See illustration at  

 UROGENITAL SYSTEM  

 scruft /ˈskrʌft/ noun same as  

 scurvy /ˈskɜri/ noun a disease caused by lack of vitamin C or ascorbic acid which is found in fruit and vegetables. Also called scurbutus  

 scybalum /ˈskɪbələm/ noun very hard faeces  

 seasick /ˈsiːsɪk/ adjective feeling sick because of the movement of a ship. As soon as the ferry started to move she felt seasick.  

 secondary amenorrhoea /ˈsɛkərdəri əˈmɛnərəʊə/ noun a situation in which a person is menstruating less than 12 times a year.  

 seasonal affective disorder /ˈsɛznəl əˈfɛktɪv disˈɔrdər/ noun a condition in which a person becomes depressed and anxious during the winter when there are fewer hours of daylight. Its precise cause is not known, but it is thought that the shortage of daylight may provoke a reaction between various hormones and neurotransmitters in the brain. Abbreviated SAD, SADS  

 seat-belt syndrome /ˈsiːt ˈbɛlt ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a physical reaction to using a lap belt or shoulder belt incorrectly. It may cause chest and neck pains and may make breathing difficult.  

 seborrhoea /ˈsebərəˈhiːə/ noun an excessive secretion of oil by the sebaceous glands, which lie under the skin. It is more common in young people at puberty, and sometimes linked to seborrhoeic dermatitis (NOTE: The US spelling is seborrhea.)  

 seborrhoeic /ˈsebərəˈhiːək/ adjective 1. caused by seborrhoea 2. having an oily secretion  

 seborrhoeic dermatitis /ˈsebərəˈhiːək ˈdɛrəˌmɪtɪs/ noun a type of eczema where scales form on the skin  

 second /ˈsɛkənd/ noun a unit of time equal to 1/60 of a minute. Abbreviated sec or s.  

 secondary /ˈsɛkərdəri/ adjective 1. occurring after the first stage 2. less important than something else 3. referring to a condition which develops from another condition  

 secondary amenorrhoea /ˈsɛkərdəri əˈmɛnərəʊə/ noun a condition in which a person stops menstruating for a particular length of time. It can be caused by something other than pregnancy.
secondary biliary cirrhosis

Menopausal woman’s menstrual periods have stopped

Secondary biliary cirrhosis /se'kənd'brai/ noun cirrhosis of the liver caused by an obstruction of the bile ducts.

Secondary bronchi /se'kənd bra'ni/ noun same as lobar bronchi.

Secondary care /se'kənd'keə/ noun treatment provided by the professional team in a hospital, rather than by a GP or other primary care provider and the primary health care team. Compare primary care, tertiary care. Also called secondary health care.

Secondary cartilaginous joint /se'kənd'kɑtar'iləgo'ns/ noun a joint where the surfaces of the two bones are connected by a piece of cartilage so that they cannot move, e.g., the pubic symphysis.

Secondary dysmenorrhoea /se'kənd'di'menəro'riə/ noun dysmenorrhoea which starts at some time after the first menstruation.

Secondary growth /se'kənd'groʊθ/ noun same as metastasis.

Secondary haemorrhage /se'kənd'hemərɔd/ noun a haemorrhage which occurs some time after an injury, usually due to infection of the wound.

Secondary health care /se'kənd'helθ keə/ noun same as secondary care.

Secondary infection /se'kənd'enʃən/ noun an infection which affects a person while he or she is weakened through having another infection.

Secondary medical care /se'kənd'med'iʃəl/ noun specialised treatment provided by a hospital.

Secondary peritonitis /se'kənd'perə'təni'tis/ noun peritonitis caused by infection from an adjoining tissue, e.g., from the rupturing of the appendix.

Secondary prevention /se'kənd'pri'ventən/ noun the use of methods such as screening tests which avoid a serious disease by detecting it early.

Secondary sexual characteristic /se'kənd'si'seuk'ʃəl seksə'kərəktərətik'lis/ noun a sexual characteristic which develops after puberty, e.g., pubic hair or breasts.

Second-degree burn /se'kənd də'burn/ noun a burn where the skin becomes very red and blisters.

Second-degree haemorrhoids /se'kənd də'heəmərɔd/ noun haemorrhoids which protrude into the anus but return into the rectum automatically.

Second intention /se'kənd in'tenʃən/ noun healing of an infected wound or ulcer, which takes place slowly and leaves a prominent scar.

Second-level nurse /se'kənd'levəl/ noun, second-level registered nurse /se'kənd levəl'redʒəstəd 'levəl/ noun a trained person who delivers nursing care under the direction and supervision of a first-level nurse. Compare first-level nurse.

Second molar /se'kənd'moʊlər/ noun any of the molars at the back of the jaw, before the wisdom teeth, erupting at about 12 years of age.

Second opinion /se'kənd'əp'nən/ noun a diagnosis or opinion on treatment from a second doctor, often a hospital specialist.

Secret /si'krit/ verb (of a gland) to produce a substance such as hormone, oil or enzyme.

(Note: secreting – secreted)

Secretin /si'kritən/ noun a hormone secreted by the duodenum which encourages the production of pancreatic juice.

Secretion /si'kritʃən/ noun 1. the process by which a substance is produced by a gland.

The pituitary gland stimulates the secretion of hormones by the adrenal gland.

2. a substance produced by a gland.

Sex hormones are bodily secretions.

Secretor /si'kritər/ noun a person who secretes substances indicating ABO blood group into mucous fluids such as semen or saliva.

Secretary /si'kri'teəri/ adjective referring to, accompanied by or producing a secretion.

Secretary otitis media /si'kritəri'otə'ti'tis/ noun an infection of the middle part of a document such as an Act or a person who secrete.

Section 47 /si'keftʃən 47/ noun a part of something.

The middle section of the aorta.

Section 5 of the Mental Health Act.

Section 47 /si'keftʃən 47/ noun a UK law under which a local authority has the power to seek an order from a magistrate’s court authorising the removal of a person at severe risk from their home. The authority must have a doctor’s certificate that the person is either suffering from a grave and chronic disease or is unable to look after himself or herself and is not receiving proper care and attention from other people.

Security blanket /si'kjʊərətɪ 'blæŋkət/ noun a familiar blanket, toy or other object which a child carries around because it makes him or her feel safe.

Sedate /si'deit/ verb to calm a person by giving them a drug which acts on the nervous system and relieves stress or pain, and in larger doses makes the person sleep.

Sedative /si'deitɪv/ noun any of the minor tranquillizers used to calm or sedate patients.

Sedation /si'deɪʃən/ noun the act of calming someone using a sedative.

Sedation having been given a sedative.

He was...
sedative /ˌsedətɪv/ noun an anxiolytic or hypnotic drug such as benzodiazepine, which acts on the nervous system to help a person sleep or to relieve stress (dated) ○ She was prescribed sedatives by the doctor. ■ adjective acting to help a person sleep or to relieve stress sedentary /ˌsedənt(ə)rI/ adjective involving a lot of sitting and little exercise... changes in lifestyle factors have been related to the decline in mortality from ischaemic heart disease. [Journal of the American Medical Association]

sedentary occupation /ˌsedənt(ə)rI əkˈjuːmənt/ noun a job where the workers sit down for most of the time

sediment /ˈsedɪmənt/ noun solid particles, usually insoluble, which fall to the bottom of a liquid

sedimentation /ˌsedɪməntəˈtef(ə)n/ noun the action of solid particles falling to the bottom of a liquid

sedimentation rate /ˌsedɪməntəˈtef(ə)n rıt/ noun the rate at which solid particles are deposited from a solution, measured especially in a centrifuge

segment /ˈsegmənt/ noun a part of an organ or piece of tissue which is clearly separate from other parts

segmental /ˈsegməntəl/ adjective formed of segments

segmental ablation /ˈsegməntəl əˈbrɐŋkʃən/ noun a surgical operation to remove part of a nail, e.g. treatment for an ingrowing toenail

segmental bronchi /ˈsegməntəl ˈbrɒŋkʃən/ plural noun air passages supplying a segment of a lung. Also called tertiary bronchi

segmentation /ˌsegməntəˈtef(ə)n/ noun the movement of separate segments of the wall of the intestine to mix digestive juice with the food before it is passed along by the action of peristalsis

segmented /ˌsegməntəd/ adjective formed of segments

segregation /ˌsegriˈɡɛf(ə)n/ noun 1. the act of separating one person, group or thing from others, or of dividing people or things into separate groups which are kept apart from each other 2. the separation of the alleles of each gene and their distribution to separate sex cells during the formation of these cells in organisms with paired chromosomes

seizure /ˈziːzər/ noun a fit, convulsion or sudden contraction of the muscles, especially in a heart attack, stroke or epileptic fit

select /ˈsɛkt/ verb to choose one person, thing or group, but not others ○ She was selected to go on a midwifery course

selection /ˈsɛklʃən/ noun an act of choosing one person, thing or group, but not others ○ The selection of a suitable donor for a bone marrow transplant ○ The candidates for the post have to go through a selection process.

selective /ˌsɛktɪv/ adjective choosing only one person, thing or group, and not others

selective oestrogen receptor modulator /ˌsɛktɪv ˌoʊstrəˈdʒən rɪˈseptər ˈmədʒəˌlər/ selective estrogen receptor modulator noun a drug which acts on specific oestrogen receptors to prevent bone loss without affecting other oestrogen receptors, e.g. raloxifene hydrochloride. Abbreviation SERM

selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor /ˌsɛktɪv ˌsərəˈtəroʊn ˈriːˈʌptək /noun a drug which causes a selective accumulation of serotonin in the central nervous system, and is used in the treatment of depression, e.g. fluoxetine. Abbreviation SSRI

COMMENT: The drug should not be started immediately after stopping an MAOI and should be withdrawn slowly.

selenium /ˌsɛliˈmən/ noun a non-metallic trace element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Se.)

self- /self/ prefix yourself

self-abuse /ˌself əˈbjuːs/ noun same as self-harm

self-actualisation /ˌself əkˈtʃuəlɪʒəˈtef(ə)n/, self-actualization noun the successful development and use of personal talents and abilities

self-admitted /ˌself ədˈmɪtɪd/ adjective referring to a patient who has admitted himself or herself to hospital without being sent by a doctor

self-care /ˌself ˈkeər/ noun the act of looking after yourself properly, so that you remain healthy

self-catheterisation /ˌself ˈkefɪtərəˈzeʃən/, self-catheterization noun a procedure in which a person puts a catheter through the urethra into his or her own bladder to empty out the urine

self-defence /ˌself ˈdɛfens/ noun the act of defending yourself when someone is attacking you

self-examination /ˌself ˈself əkˈzæməˈtef(ə)n/ noun the regular examination of parts of your own body for signs of disease

self-governing hospital /ˌself ˌgəvərˈnɪŋ ˈhɒspət(ə)n/ noun in the UK, a hospital which earns its revenue from services provided to the District Health Authorities and family doctors. Also called hospital trust

self-harm /ˌself ˈhɑrzm/ noun a deliberate act by which someone injures part of their body as the result of a personal trauma. Cutting and burning are two of the most common forms of self-harm. Also called self-abuse, self-injury, self-mutilation, self-wounding
self-image

self-image /self 'smıdʒ/ noun the opinion which a person has about how worthwhile, attractive, or intelligent he or she is

self-injury /self 'indyˌeri/ self-mutilation /self 'muˌtaʃən/ noun same as self-harm

self-retaining catheter /self rıˌtɛnıŋ 'kæθərə/ noun a catheter which remains in place until it is deliberately removed

self-wounding noun same as self-harm

sella turcica /sela 'tasᵊka/ noun a hollow in the upper surface of the sphenoid bone in which the pituitary gland sits. Also called pituitary fossa

semiology /ˌsiˌməˈnələdʒi/ noun same as symptomatology

semen /ˈseɪmən/ noun a thick pale fluid containing spermatozoa, produced by the testes and seminal vessels and ejaculated from the penis

semi- /'semə/ prefix half

semicircular /ˌsemᵊˈsərkjələr/ adjective shaped like half a circle

semicircular canal /ˌsemᵊˈsərkjələr ˈkænəl/ noun any one of three tubes in the inner ear which are partly filled with fluid and help to maintain balance. See illustration at EAR in Supplement

COMMENT: The three semicircular canals are on different planes. When a person's head moves, as when he or she bends down, the fluid in the canals moves and this movement is communicated to the brain through the vestibular section of the auditory nerve.

semicircular duct /ˌsemᵊˈsərkjələr ˈdʌkt/ noun a duct in the semicircular canals in the ear

semicomatose /ˌsemiˈkɑmətəs/ adjective almost unconscious or half asleep, but capable of being woken up

semi-conscious /ˌsemi ˈkənˌkɔn/ adjective half conscious, only partly aware of what is going on ○ She was semi-conscious for most of the operation.

semi-liquid /ˌsemi ˈlɪkwɪd/ adjective half liquid and half solid

semilunar /ˌsemiˈluːnər/ adjective shaped like half a moon

semilunar cartilage /ˌsemiˈluːnər ˈkɑrtɪdʒ/ noun same as meniscus

semilunar valve /ˌsemiˌluːnər ˈvælv/ noun either of two valves in the heart, the pulmonary valve and the aortic valve, through which blood flows out of the ventricles

seminal /ˌsemiˈnəl/ adjective referring to semen

seminal fluid /ˌsemiˈnəl ˈfljuːd/ noun the fluid part of semen, formed in the epididymis and seminal vesicles

seminal vesicle /ˌsemiˈnəl ˈvesɪkl/ noun one of two glands at the end of the vas deferens which secrete the fluid part of semen.

See illustration at urogenital system (male) in Supplement

seminiferous tubule /ˌsemiˈnɪfərəs ˈtjuːbəl/ noun a tube in the testis which carries semen

seminoma /ˌsemiˈnəʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour in the testis (NOTE: The plural is seminomas or seminomata.)

semipermeable /ˌsemiˈpɜrnəbəl/ adjective allowing some types of particle to pass through but not others

semipermeable membrane /ˌsemiˈpɜrnəbəl ˈmembrən/ noun a membrane which allows some substances in liquid solution to pass through but not others

semiprone /ˌsemiˈprəʊn/ adjective referring to a position in which someone lies face downwards, with one knee and one arm bent forward and the face turned to one side

semi-solid /ˌsemi ˈsɔld/ adjective half solid and half liquid

SEN abbr State Enrolled Nurse

senescence /ˌsenəˈsesns/ noun the ageing process

senescent /ˌsenəˈsent/ adjective approaching the last stages of the natural life span

Sengstaken tube /ˌsɛŋstəkən ˈtjuːb/ noun a tube with a balloon, which is passed through the mouth into the oesophagus to stop oesophageal bleeding [after Robert William Sengstaken (b. 1923), US surgeon]

senile /ˈsiˌnəl/ adjective 1. referring to the last stages of the natural life span or to the medical conditions associated with it 2. referring to someone whose mental faculties have become weak because of age

senile cataract /ˈsiˌnɪl ˈkeɪtərækt/ noun a cataract which occurs in an elderly person

senile dementia /ˈsiˌnɪl ˈdɛmənʃiə/ noun mental degeneration affecting elderly people (dated)

senile plaque /ˈsiˌnɪl plæk/ noun a sphericial deposit of beta amyloid in brain areas in Alzheimer's disease

senilis /saˈnɪlis/ noun a senior person

senility /ˌsaˈnɪləti/ noun the deterioration of mental activity associated with the last stages of the natural life span

senior /ˈseniər/ adjective 1. older than another person or other people 2. holding a more important position than others ○ He is the senior anaesthetist in the hospital. ○ Senior members of staff are allowed to consult the staff records.

senior noun a senior person

senna /ˈsenə/ noun a laxative made from the dried fruit and leaves of a tropical tree

sensation /ˈsenˌʃen/ noun a feeling or information about something which has been sensed by a sensory nerve and is passed to the brain
sense /sɛnsə/ noun 1. one of the five faculties by which a person notices things in the outside world: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch ○ When she had a cold, she lost her sense of smell.
2. the ability to discern or judge something  ■ verb to notice something by means other than sight ○ Teeth can sense changes in temperature.
sense of balance /ˈbæləns/ noun a feeling that keeps a person upright, governed by the fluid in the inner ear balance mechanism
sense organ /ˈsɛnsərɪ əˈɡərɪn/ noun an organ in which there are various sensory nerves which can detect environmental stimuli such as scent, heat or pain, and transmit information about them to the central nervous system, e.g. the nose or the skin
sensibility /ˈsɛnsɪbɪlɪtɪ/ noun the ability to detect and interpret sensations
sensible /ˈsɛnsəbəl/ adjective 1. showing common sense or good judgment 2. able to be detected by the senses
sensitisation /ˌsɛnsɪtɪˈzeɪʃən/, sensitization noun 1. the process of making a person sensitive to something 2. an unexpected reaction to an allergen or to a drug, caused by the presence of antibodies which were created when the person was exposed to the drug or allergen in the past
sensitise /ˈsɛnsɪtɪziː/; sensitize verb to make someone sensitive to a drug or allergen (NOTE: sensitising – sensitised)
sensitised person /ˌsɛnsɪtɪˈzaɪd(ə)n/, sensitized person noun a person who is allergic to a drug
sensitising agent /ˈsɛnsɪtɪˈzaɪnɪŋ əˈdʒɛnt/, sensitizing agent noun a substance which, by acting as an antigen, makes the body form antibodies
sensitive /ˈsɛnsɪtɪv/ adjective 1. able to detect and respond to an outside stimulus 2. having an unexpected reaction to an allergen or to a drug, caused by the presence of antibodies which were created when the person was exposed to the drug or allergen in the past
sensitivity /ˈsɛnsɪtɪvɪtɪ/ noun 1. the fact of being able to detect and respond to an outside stimulus 2. the rate of positive responses in a test from persons with a specific disease. A high rate of sensitivity means a low rate of people being incorrectly classed as negative.
compare specificity
sensorineural deafness /ˌsɛnsərɪ ˈnjuərəl ˈdɛfnəs/, sensorineural hearing loss /ˌsɛnsərɪ ˈnjuərəl ˈhɑːrɪŋ lɑs/ noun deafness caused by a disorder in the auditory nerves or the brain centres which receive impulses from the nerves. Also called perceptive deafness
sensory /ˈsɛnsərɪ/ adjective referring to the detection of sensations by nerve cells
sensory cortex /ˈsɛnsərɪ kərˈtɛks/ noun the area of the cerebral cortex which receives information from nerves in all parts of the body (dated)
sensory deprivation /ˌsɛnsərɪ ˌdɪprəˈveɪʃən/ noun a condition in which a person becomes confused because they lack sensations
sensory nerve /ˈsɛnsərɪ ˈnɜːrv/ noun a nerve which registers a sensation such as heat, taste or smell and carries impulses to the brain and spinal cord. Also called afferent nerve
sensory neuron /ˈsɛnsərɪ ˈnjʊərən/ noun a nerve cell which transmits impulses relating to sensations from the receptor to the central nervous system
sensory receptor /ˌsɛnsərɪ riˈsɛptə/ noun a cell which senses a change in the surrounding environment, e.g. cold or pressure, and reacts to it by sending out an impulse through the nervous system. Also called nerve ending
septal defect /ˈsɛptəl ˈdɛfekt/ noun a congenital condition in which a hole exists in the wall between the left and right sides of the heart allowing an excessive amount of blood to flow through the lungs, leading in severe cases to pulmonary hypertension and sometimes heart failure
separate verb /ˈsɛpərət/ to move two or more people or things apart ○ The surgeons believe it may be possible to separate the conjoined twins. ○ The retina has become separated from the back of the eye. (NOTE: separating – separated)  ■ adjective /ˈsɛpərət/ 1. not touching, together or in the same place 2. distinct and not related or the same
separation /ˌsɛpəˈreɪʃən/ noun the act of separating or divide two or more people or things, or the state of being separated
separation anxiety /ˌsɛpərəˈreɪʃən ənˈjɪərɪəni/ noun a state of anxiety caused in someone, especially a young child, by the thought or fact of being separated from his or her mother or primary caregiver
sepsis /ˌsepsɪs/ noun the presence of bacteria and their toxins in the body, which kill tissue and produce gas, usually following the infection of a wound
septal /ˈsɛptəl/ plural of septum
septal /ˈsɛptəl/ adjective referring to a septum
septal defect /ˈsɛptəl ˈdɪfekt/ noun a congenital condition in which a hole exists in the wall between the left and right sides of the heart allowing an excessive amount of blood to flow through the lungs, leading in severe cases to pulmonary hypertension and sometimes heart failure
septate /ˈsɛptət/ adjective divided by a septum
septi- /ˈsɛptɪ/ prefix referring to sepsis
septic /'sɛptɪk/ adjective referring to or produced by sepsis
septicemia /ˌsɛptɪkəˈmiə/ noun a condition in which bacteria or their toxins are present in the blood, multiply rapidly and destroy tissue. (NOTE: The US spelling is septicemia.)
septicemic /ˌsɛptɪkəˈmiːk/ adjective caused by septicemia, associated with septicemia (NOTE: The US spelling is septicemic.)
septicemic plague /ˌsɛptɪkəˈmiːmɪk ˈpleɪg/ noun a disease or disorder caused by bacterial toxins in the blood as a result of infection. There is a dramatic drop in circulating volume. It can occur in a number of forms, including septicemia, associated with septicemia (NOTE: The US spelling is septicemic.)
septum /ˈsɛptəm/ noun a wall between two parts of an organ, e.g. between two parts of the heart or between the two nostrils in the nose. See illustration at HEART in Supplement. (NOTE: The plural is septa.)
septum defect /ˌsɛptəm ˈdɛfɛkt/ noun a condition in which a hole exists in a septum, usually the septum of the heart.
sequela /ˈsɛkwələ/ noun a disease or disorder that is caused by a disease or injury which the person had previously. ▪ a case of osteomyelitis as a sequela of multiple fractures of the mandible. ▪ a biochemical and hormonal sequela of the eating disorders. ▪ Kapoor's sarcoma can be a sequela of Aids. (NOTE: The plural is sequelae.)
sequence /ˌsɛkwəns/ noun a series of things, numbers etc., which follow each other in order. ▪ verb 1. to put things in order 2. to show how amino acids are linked together in chains to form protein. (NOTE: sequences – sequenced – sequencing – sequenced.)
sequestra /ˈsɛkwəstrə/ plural of sequestrum
sequestration /ˌsɛkwəˈstrɪʃən/ noun 1. the act of putting somatostatin in an isolated place 2. the loss of blood into spaces in the body, reducing the circulating volume. It can occur naturally or can be produced artificially by applying tourniquets. ▪ pulmonary sequestration ▪ A dry hacking cough can cause sequestration of the peritoneum in the upper abdomen. 3. the formation of a sequestrum.
sequestrectomy /ˌsɛkwəstrəkˈtɛmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a sequestrum. (NOTE: The plural is sequestrectomies.)
sequestrum /ˌsɛkwəˈstrəm/ noun a piece of dead bone which is separated from whole bone. (NOTE: The plural is sequestra.)
ser- /sɛr-/ prefix same as sero- (used before verbs)
sera /ˈsɛrə/ plural noun plural of serum
serine /ˈsɛrɪn/ noun an amino acid produced in the hydrolysis of protein
serious /ˈsɛriəs/ adjective 1. having very bad consequences ▪ He’s had a serious illness. ▪ There was a serious accident on the motorway. ▪ There is a serious shortage of plasma. 2. thoughtful and not superficial or humorous ▪ a serious discussion on the appropriateness of the treatment. ▪ serious about becoming a GP. ▪ She is seriously ill.
SERM abbr selective (o)estrogen receptor modulator
sero- /ˈsɛrəʊ-/ prefix 1. referring to blood serum 2. referring to the serous membrane
seroconvert /ˌsɛrəʊkənˈvɜːt/ verb to produce specific antibodies in response to the presence of an antigen such as a bacterium or virus
serological /ˌsɛrəʊləˈdʒɪkəl/ adjective referring to serology
serological diagnosis /ˌsɛrəʊləˈdʒɪskəl ˌdɪznəsi/ noun a diagnostic test which comes from testing serum
serological type /ˌsɛrəʊləˈdʒɪskəl ˌtaɪp/ noun same as serotype
serology /ˌsɛrəʊləˈdʒi/ noun the scientific study of serum and the antibodies contained in it
seronegative /ˌsɛrəʊnɛɡətɪv/ adjective referring to someone who gives a negative reaction to a serological test
seropositive /ˌsɛrəʊpəˈzɪtɪv/ adjective referring to someone who gives a positive reaction to a serological test
seropositive /ˌsɛrəʊpəˈzɪtɪv/ adjective referring to someone who gives a positive reaction to a serological test
serosity /ˌsɛrəsətɪ/ noun a mixture of serum and pus
serous /sɜːrəs/ noun same as serous membrane (NOTE: The plural is serosas or serosae.)
serositis /ˌsɛrəʊsəˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a serous membrane
serotherapy /ˌsɛrəʊθəˈrɛpi/ noun treatment of a disease using serum from immune people or immunised animals
serotonin /ˌsɛrəʊtəˈrəʊn/ noun a compound which is a neurotransmitter and exists mainly in blood platelets. It is released after tissue is injured and is important in sleep, mood and vasocostriction.
serotype /ˌsɛrəʊtəˈtaɪp/ noun 1. a category of microorganisms or bacteria which have some antigens in common 2. a series of common antigens which exists in microorganisms and bacteria. ▪ also called serological type. ▪ verb to group microorganisms and bacteria according-
serous /'sɛrəs/ adjective referring to, producing, or like serum
serous membrane /'sɛrəs 'membrən/ noun membrane which both lines an internal cavity and covers the organs in the cavity, e.g. the peritoneum lining the abdominal cavity or pleura lining the chest cavity. Also called serosa
serous pericardium /'sɛrəs ,peri 'kærdoʊm/ noun the inner part of the pericardium, forming a double sac which contains fluid to prevent the two parts of the pericardium from rubbing together
serpens /'sɛrpəns/ erythema serpens
serpiginous /'sɛrpɪdʒənəs/ adjective 1. referring to an ulcer or eruption which creeps across the skin 2. referring to a wound or ulcer with a wavy edge
serrated /'sɛrɪtɪd/ adjective with a zigzag or saw-like edge
serration /'sɛriʃən/ noun one of the points in a zigzag or serrated edge
Sertoli cells /'sɛrtoʊlə/ plural noun cells which support the seminiferous tubules in the testis [Described 1865. After Enrico Sertoli (1842–1910), Italian histologist, Professor of Experimental Physiology at Milan, Italy.]
sertraline /'sɛtrəlɪn/ noun an antidepressant drug which extends the action of the neurotransmitter serotonin. It is also used in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder
serum /'sɜrəm/ noun 1. a fluid which separates from clotted blood and is similar to plasma except that it has no clotting agents. Also called blood serum 2. blood serum taken from the body of a person who has had a heart attack
serum albumin /ˌsɜrəm ἁ'lbjʊmin/ noun a major protein in blood serum
serum bilirubin /ˌsɜrəm 'bɪlərubɪn/ noun bilirubin in serum, converted from haemoglobin as red cells are destroyed
serum globulin /ˌsɜrəm 'globljʊlin/ noun a major protein in blood serum that is an antibody
serum glutamic–pyruvic transaminase /ˌsɜrəm 'gljʊ,ˌtɛmək pərə'vɪk ˌtrænzməˈneɪz/ noun an enzyme secreted by the parenchymal cells of the liver, occurring in increased amounts in the blood of people with infectious hepatitis. Abbreviation SGPT
serum hepatitis /ˌsɜrəm ˌhepə'tɪtɪs/ noun a serious form of hepatitis transmitted by infected blood, unsterilised surgical instruments, shared needles or sexual intercourse. Also called hepatitis B, viral hepatitis
serum sickness /ˌsɜrəm ˈsɪkməs/ noun an allergic reaction to serum therapy which was formerly used as a way of boosting passive immunity
serum therapy noun the administration of treated serum, often from horses, formerly used as a way of boosting passive immunity
serve verb 1. to give a person food or drink ○ Lunch is served in the ward at 12:30. 2. to be useful or helpful to a person or group ○ The clinic serves the local community well. 3. to have a particular effect or result ○ The letter serves to remind you of your outpatient's appointment. (NOTE: [all senses] serves → serving → served)
service /'sɜrvɪs/ noun 1. the act or fact of serving a person or group 2. a group of people working together
sesamoid /ˌsɛsəmɔɪd/ noun forming a small bony nodule in a tendon, the largest being the kneecap
sesamoid bone /ˌsɛsəmɔɪd bəʊn/ noun any small bony nodule in a tendon
sesamoiditis /ˌsɛsəmɔɪd ɪtəs/ noun a disease where the sesamoid bone and tendons are damaged
session /'sɛʃən/ noun a visit to a therapist for treatment ○ She has two sessions a week of physiotherapy. ○ The evening session had to be cancelled because the therapist was ill
set /set/ verb 1. to put the parts of a broken bone back into their proper places and keep the bone fixed until it has mended ○ The doctor set the man's broken arm. 2. (of a sediment) to fall to the bottom of a liquid 3. (of a parasite) to attach itself, to stay in a part of the body ○ The fluke settles in the liver. (NOTE: set = settled) 4. (of a new treatment) to be effective ○ This new treatment has set very quickly. 5. Her broken wrist is setting very well. ○ reset (NOTE: setting → set)
settle /'set(ə)l/ verb 1. to begin to feel comfortable or at ease, or to make a person feel comfortable or at ease (NOTE: settles → settling → settled) 2. (of a sediment) to fall to the bottom of a liquid 3. (of a parasite) to attach itself, to stay in a part of the body ○ The fluke settles in the liver. (NOTE: settles → settling → settled) 4. (of a new treatment) to be effective ○ His hand was severed at the wrist. ○ Surgeons tried to sew the severed finger back onto the patient's hand.
severe /ˈsɜrvər/ adjective very bad or dangerous ○ The patient experienced severe bleeding ○ A severe outbreak of whooping cough occurred during the winter.
severely

severe acute respiratory disorder /ˈsɪvr əkt rɪˈspɔrət(ə)rɪ dɪsˈeɪ/ noun full form of SARS
severely /ˈsɪvrli/ adverb very badly or dangerously ○ Her breathing was severely affected.

...many severely confused patients, particularly those in advanced stages of Alzheimer’s disease, do not respond to verbal communication’ [Nursing Times]

severity /ˈsɪvrteɪ/ noun the degree to which something is bad or dangerous ○ Treatment depends on the severity of the attack.

sex /seks/ noun 1. one of two groups, male and female, into which animals and plants can be divided ○ The sex of a baby can be identified before birth. 2. same as sexual intercourse

sex act /ˈseks əkt/ noun an act of sexual intercourse

sex change /ˈseks tʃeɪndʒ/ noun a surgical operation accompanied by hormone treatment to change someone’s physical sex-linked characteristics from female to male or from male to female

sex chromosome /ˈseks kɹəməˌməʊn/ noun a chromosome which determines if a person is male or female

sex determination /ˈseks dəˈtərmiˈneɪʃn/ noun the way in which the sex of an individual organism is fixed by the number of chromosomes which make up its cell structure

sex hormone /ˈseks hɔrˈməʊn/ noun an oestrogen or androgen which promotes the growth of secondary sexual characteristics

sex-linkage /ˈseks ˈliŋktʃədʒ/ noun the existence of characteristics which are transmitted through the X chromosomes

sex-linked /ˈseks ˈliŋkt/ adjective 1. referring to genes which are linked to X chromosomes 2. referring to characteristics such as colour-blindness which are transmitted through the X chromosomes

sexology /ˈseks ˈɒlɒdʒi/ noun the study of sex and sexual behaviour

sex organ /ˈseks ˈɔrɡən/ noun an organ which is associated with reproduction and sexual intercourse, e.g. the testes and penis in men, and the ovaries, uterus, vagina and vulva in women

sex selection /ˈseks ˈsɛkʃən/ noun the determination of a baby’s sex before conception by separating the spermatozoa carrying Y chromosomes from those carrying X chromosomes

sexuplet /ˈseksjuˈplət/ noun one of six babies born to a mother at the same time

sexual /ˈseksjuəl/ adjective referring to sex

sexual act /ˈseksjuəl əkt/ noun an act of sexual intercourse

sexual attraction /ˈseksjuəl əˈtrakʃən/ noun a feeling of wanting to have sexual intercourse with someone

sexual deviation /ˈseksjuəl diˈveiʒən/ noun any sexual behaviour which is not accepted as usual in the society in which you live. Examples in Western society are sadism and voyeurism.

sexual intercourse /ˈseksjuəl ɪnˈtɜːrŋsəs/ noun physical contact between people which involves stimulation of the genitals, especially the insertion of a man’s erect penis into a woman’s vagina with release of spermatozoa from the penis by ejaculation, which may fertilise ova from the woman’s ovaries. Also called sex, coitus, copulation

sexually transmitted disease /ˈseksjuəli tɜːnˈmɪtɪd ˈdiːzəs/ noun any disease or infection transmitted from an infected person to another person during sexual intercourse. Abbr STD, STI

COMMENT: Among the commonest STDs are non-specific urethritis, genital herpes, hepatitis B and gonorrhoea; AIDS is also a sexually transmitted disease. The spread of sexually transmitted diseases can be limited by use of condoms. Other forms of contraception offer no protection against the spread of disease.

sexual reproduction /ˈseksjuəl ˌrɪtrɪˌpəˈsefɪk/ noun reproduction in which gametes from two individuals fuse together

SFD abbr small for dates

SGOT abbr serum glutamic-oxalacetic transaminase

SGPT abbr serum glutamic-pyruvic transaminase

shaking /ˈʃeɪkɪŋ/ verb to move, or make something move, with short quick movements (NOTE: shaking – shok – shaken)

shaken baby syndrome /ˈʃeɪkən ˈbeɪbi ˌsɪndrəm/ noun

shaken infant syndrome /ˈʃeɪkən ˈɪnfənt ˌsɪndrəm/ noun
shaky /ʃeɪki/ adjective feeling weak and unsteady

shared care /ʃeəd/ noun antenatal care given jointly by an obstetrician in an hospital together with a general practitioner or a midwife working in the community

sharp /ʃɑr/ adjective 1. able to cut easily 2. hurting sharply during the night.

sharply /ʃɑrpli/ adverb suddenly and to a significant extent

sharps /ʃɑrps/ plural noun objects with points, e.g. syringes (informal)

shave /ʃeɪv/ noun the removal of hair by cutting it off at skin level with a razor 1. verb to remove hair with a razor (NOTE: shaving - sheath)

sheath /ʃeəθ/ noun 1. a layer of tissue which surrounds a muscle or a bundle of nerve fibres 2. same as condom

sheet /ʃi/ noun a large piece of cloth which is put on a bed 1. The sheets must be changed each day. 2. The soiled sheets were sent to the hospital laundry. 3. adj draw-sheets

sheet operation /ʃeft/ noun a surgical operation to treat congenital dislocation of the hip in children, in which bone tissue is grafted onto the acetabulum

sheltered accommodation /ʃeltraʊd/ noun a type of housing for elderly people, with a resident supervisor or nurse

shiatsu /ʃiətsu/ noun a form of healing massage in which the hands are used to apply pressure at acupuncture points on the body in order to stimulate and redistribute energy

shift /ʃift/ noun 1. a way of working in which one group of workers work for a period and are then replaced by another group 2. She is working on the night shift. 3. The day shift comes on duty at 6.30 in the morning. 4. The period of time worked by a group of workers 5. a movement

shigellosis /ʃɪɡələsɪs/ noun an infestation of the digestive tract with Shigella, causing bacillary dysentery

shinery /ʃaɪnə/ noun same as black eye (informal)

shin bone /ʃaɪnbəʊn/ noun the front part of the lower leg

shin splints /ʃɪŋ splɪnts/ plural noun extremely sharp pains in the front of the lower leg, felt by athletes

Shirodkar’s operation /ʃɪroʊdkaʊz/ noun a surgical operation to narrow the cervix of the uterus in a woman who experiences habitual abortion in order to prevent another miscarriage, the suture being removed before labour starts. Also called pursestring operation [After N. V. Shirodkar (1900–71), Indian obstetrician.]

shivering /ʃɪvɪnɪŋ/ adjective trembling caused by cold, fear or a medical condition

shock /ʃɒk/ noun a state of weakness caused by illness or injury that suddenly reduces the blood pressure and rapid and irregular pulse, sometimes accompanied by cold sweat, fainting, and loss of consciousness

Shigella /ʃɪ'gɛlə/ genus of bacteria which causes dysentery

Shigella flexneri /ʃɪɡələ fɪlksnəri/ synonym of Shigella sonnei

shock syndrome /ʃɒk / noun a group of symptoms, a pale face, cold skin, low blood pressure and rapid and irregular pulse, which show that someone is in a state of shock

shock therapy /ʃɒk /noun a method of treat-
shooting /ʃuːtnɪŋ/ noun a condition in which some of the deoxygenated blood in the lungs does not come into contact with air, and full gas exchange does not take place.

SI abbreviation for the international system of metric measurements. Full form Système International.

sial- /siːəl-/ prefix same as sialo- (used before vowels)

sialadenitis /ˌsaɪələdɛnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a salivary gland. Also called sialoadenitis, sialitis.

sialagogue /sɪələˈɡɒɡ/ noun a substance which increases the production of saliva.

sialitis /ˌsaɪələˈlɪtɪs/ noun same as sialadenitis.

sialo- /ˌsaɪələʊ-/ prefix 1. referring to saliva.

sialoadenitis /ˌsaɪələˈdɛnɪtɪs/ noun same as sialadenitis.

sialagogue /sɪələˈɡɒɡ/ noun same as sialagogue.

sialography /ˌsaɪələˈɡɒɡrəfi/ noun X-ray examination of a salivary gland. Also called ptyalography.

sialolith /ˌsaɪəˈlɒlɪθ/ noun a stone in a salivary gland. Also called ptyalith.

sialorrhea /ˌsaɪəˈlɒrəhɪə/ noun the production of an excessive amount of saliva.

siamese twins /ˌsaɪəməsi/ noun same as conjoined twins.

sib /sɪb/ noun same as sibling (informal).

sibilant /ˈsɪbɪlənt/ adjective referring to a sound which whistles.

sibling /ˈsɪblɪŋ/ noun a brother or sister.

Sichuan flu /ˌsaɪˈkwæn/ noun a virulent type of flu which has the same symptoms as those of ordinary flu (e.g. fever, sore throat and aching muscles) but they are more pronounced (informal). (note: The virus was first discovered in 1987 in Sichuan, a southwestern province of China.)

sick /sɪk/ adjective 1. having an illness. He was sick for two weeks. 2. to report or call in sick to say officially that you are unwell and cannot work. 3. about to vomit. The patient got up this morning and felt sick. 4. to be sick to vomit. 5. The child was sick all over the floor. 6. to make someone sick to cause someone to vomit. 7. He was given something to make him sick.

sickbay /ˈsɪkbi/ noun a room in a factory or on a ship where people can visit a doctor for treatment.

sickbed /ˈsɪkbɛd/ noun a bed where a person is lying sick. She sat for hours beside her daughter’s sickbed.
2. Sickness: motion sickness is a feeling of nausea that arises when the body detects a mismatch between visual and vestibular cues. It is commonly experienced during travel by car, boat, or airplane, where the motion of the vehicle causes the inner ear to signal a different sensation of movement than what the eyes perceive.

3. Sickle-cell disease: Sickle-cell disease is a genetic disorder characterized by the production of abnormal red blood cells. These cells are shaped like a sickle, which can cause abnormalities in the way blood flows through the body. It is inherited as an autosomal dominant trait and is prevalent in certain populations, such as those of African descent. The main effects of sickle-cell disease include pain crises, organ damage, and complications from infections.

4. Sick building syndrome: Sick building syndrome (SBS) is a condition where occupants of a building suffer symptoms of illness, such as respiratory problems, headaches, and fatigue, that appear to be related to time spent in the building. The symptoms are thought to be caused by a combination of factors, such as mold, dust, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are released from building materials or cleaning products.
sign language

sign language /ˌsɪɡn ˈlɛŋkwɪdʒ/ noun a set of agreed signs made with the fingers and hands, used to indicate words by or for people who cannot hear or speak

silicon dioxide /sɪˈlɪkən oʊˈdɔɪd/ noun a non-metallic chemical element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Si)

silver nitrate /ˈsɪlvər nɪˈtræt/ noun a white-coloured metallic element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Ag)

sign language 378

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silver /ˈsɪlvər/ noun a white-coloured metallic element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Ag)

simvastatin /ˈsɪmˈvæstətin/ noun a drug which lowers lipid levels in the blood, used in the treatment of high cholesterol

single photon emission computed tomography /ˌsɪŋɡəl ˈfənʌtʃən ɪˈmɪʃən kəmˈpjuːtəd təˈmɑːɡrəfi/ noun a scan to study brain blood flow in conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease

singer’s nodule /ˈsɪŋɡərz nəʊldʒ/ noun same as laryngeal polyp which can develop in the larynx of people who use their voice too much or too loudly

single parent family /ˈsɪŋɡəl ˈpærent ˈfæməli/ noun a family which consists of a child or children and only one parent, e.g. because of death, divorce or separation

sinusoid /ˈsaɪnəsɔɪd/ noun a specially shaped small blood vessel in the liver, adrenal glands and other organs

sinus node /ˈsaɪnəs ˈnəʊd/ noun the part of the heart which controls the heartbeat

singer’s nodule /ˈsɪŋɡərz nəʊldʒ/ noun a small white polyp which can develop in the larynx of people who use their voice too much or too loudly

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silver /ˈsɪlvər/ noun a white-coloured metallic element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Ag)

simple epithelium /sɪmpl ˈɛpɪlɪθəm/ noun an epithelium formed of a single layer of cells

simple fracture /sɪmpl ˈfræktʃər/ noun a fracture where the skin surface around the damaged bone has not been broken and the broken ends of the bone are close together. Also called closed fracture

sinusoid /ˈsaɪnəs ˈnəʊd/ noun a specially shaped small blood vessel in the liver, adrenal glands and other organs

singer’s nodule /ˈsɪŋɡərz nəʊldʒ/ noun a small white polyp which can develop in the larynx of people who use their voice too much or too loudly

simple tachycardia /ˈsɪmpl təˈkeɪdrə/ noun same as sinus tachycardia

simplex /ˈsɪmplɛks/ noun a drug which lowers lipid levels in the blood, used in the treatment of high cholesterol

sincut /ˈsɪnskʌt/ noun the part of the skull that includes the forehead and the area above it

sim erect /ˈsɪm ɜːrɛkt/ noun same as tendon
senior nurse in charge of a hospital ward

Sippy diet /ˈspiːdi/ /ˈsɪpədi/ noun US an alkaline diet of milk and dry biscuits as a treatment for peptic ulcers [After Bertram Welton Sippy (1866–1924), physician in Chicago, USA]

situs inversus /ˈsɪtəs ɪnˈvɜːsəs/ /ˈsɪtəs inˈvɜːsəs/ noun a particular place, or be in a particular place

situs /ˈsɪtəs/ /ˈsɪtəs/ noun 1. a female who has the same father and mother as someone (1866–1924), Scottish-born New York gynaecologist.

sister /ˈsɪstər/ /ˈsɪstər/ noun 1. a senior nurse and surgeon began the process of cleaning up

site /ˈsaɪt/ /ˈsaɪt/ noun 1. the position of something /ˈsaɪt/ /ˈsaɪt/ verb 1. to sit with your back largely supported by the buttocks 2. to cause a person to sit somewhere (NOTE: all senses sitting – sat)

sitting – sited

skull /ˈskʌl/ /ˈskʌl/ noun the skeletal system, including the bones of the head, face, and neck

skin graft /ˈskɪn ɡrɑːft/ /ˈskɪn ɡrɑːft/ noun a layer of skin transplanted from one part of the body to cover an area where the skin has been destroyed (NOTE: After the operation she had to have a skin graft.

skia- /ˈskɪə/ prefix referring to shadow

skigram /ˈskɪəgræm/ /ˈskɪəgræm/ noun an old term for X-ray photograph

skier's thumb /ˈskɪəz ˈθʌm/ /ˈskɪəz ˈθʌm/ noun an injury to the thumb caused by falling directly onto it when it is outstretched, resulting in tearing or stretching of the ligaments of the main thumb joint

skeletal /ˈskeɪltəl/ /ˈskeɪltəl/ adjective referring to the skeleton

skeletal muscle /ˈskeɪltəl ˈmʌsəl/ /ˈskeɪltəl ˈmʌsəl/ noun a muscle attached to a bone, which makes a limb move

skeletal muscle /ˈskeɪltəl ˈmʌsəl/ /ˈskeɪltəl ˈmʌsəl/ noun all the bones which make up a body


sit /sɪt/ /sɪt/ verb 1. to rest with your weight largely supported by the buttocks 2. to cause a person to sit somewhere (NOTE: all senses sitting – sat)

sit up /sɪt ʌp/ /sɪt ʌp/ verb 1. to sit with your back straight 2. to move from a lying to a sitting position (NOTE: sitting up – sat up)

situs /ˈsɪtəs/ /ˈsɪtəs/ noun the position of an organ or part of the body, especially the usual position (NOTE: The plural is situs)
along with the fourteen bones which form the face. Also called cranium or skull fracture a condition in which one of the bones in the skull has been fractured

**slash** /slɑʃ/ noun a long cut with a knife ○ He had bruises on his face and slashes on his hands. ○ The slash on her leg needs three stitches. □ verb 1. to cut something with a knife or sharp edge ○ to slash your wrists to try to kill yourself by cutting the blood vessels in the wrists 2. to cut costs or spending sharply (informal)  

**SLE** /abbr/ system lupus erythematosus  

**sleep** /slɛp/ noun the state or a period of resting, usually at night, when the eyes are closed and you are not conscious of what is happening ○ You need to get a good night’s sleep if you have a lot of work to do tomorrow. ○ He had a short sleep in the middle of the afternoon. ○ to get to sleep or go to sleep to start sleeping □ verb to be in a state of sleep (NOTE: sleeping – slept)  

**COMMENT:** Sleep is a period when the body rests and rebuilds tissue, especially protein. Most adults need eight hours’ sleep each night. Children require more (ten to twelve hours) but older people need less, possibly only four to six hours. Sleep forms a regular pattern of stages: during the first stage the person is still conscious of his or her surroundings, and will wake on hearing a noise; afterwards the sleeper goes into very deep sleep (slow-wave sleep), where the eyes are tightly closed; the pulse is regular and the sleeper breathes deeply. During this stage the pituitary gland produces the growth hormone somatotrophin. It is difficult to wake someone from deep sleep. This stage is followed by rapid eye movement sleep (REM sleep), in which the sleeper’s eyes are half open and move about, he or she makes facial movements, the blood pressure rises and he or she has dreams. After this the sleeper regresses into the first sleep stage again.  

**sleep apnoea** /ˈslɪp əp.nəʊə/ noun a condition related to heavy snoring, with prolonged respiratory pauses leading to cerebral hypoxia and subsequent daytime drowsiness.  

**sleeping pill** /ˈslɪpɪŋ pɪl/ noun a pill containing a drug, usually a barbiturate, which makes a person sleep ○ She died of an overdose of sleeping pills.  

**sleeping sickness** /ˈslɪpɪŋ sɪknəs/ noun an African disease, spread by the tsetse fly, where trypanosomes infest the blood. Also called African trypanosomiasis  

**COMMENT:** Symptoms are headaches, lethargy and long periods of sleep. The disease is fatal if not treated.  

**sleeping tablet** noun a tablet containing a drug, usually a barbiturate, which makes a person sleep  

**sleeplessness** /ˈslɪppləsnəs/ noun insomnia  

**sleep off** /ˈslɪp əf/ verb to recover from a mild illness or hangover by sleeping (NOTE: sleeping off – slept off)  

**sleep terror disorder** /ˈslɪp tər dɪs,ˌsloʊ/ noun a condition in which a person regularly wakes from sleep in a state of terror and confusion but remembers nothing about it in the morning  

**somnambulist** /ˈsʌmnəmbʊlɪst/ noun same as sleepwalker  

**sleepwalking** /ˈsʌmnəmbʊlɪŋ/ noun same as somnambulism  

**sleepy** /ˈslɪp/ adjective feeling ready to go to sleep (NOTE: sleeper – sleepiest)  

**sleepy sickness** /ˈslɪpɪ,ˌsɪknəs/ noun same as lethargic encephalitis  

**slice** /slɛs/ noun a thin flat piece of tissue which has been cut off ○ He examined the slice of brain tissue under the microscope.  

**slim** /slɪm/ adjective pleasantly thin ○ She has become slim again after being pregnant. □ verb to try to become thinner or weigh less ○ She is trying to slim before she goes on holiday. (NOTE: slimming – slimmed)  

**slimming** /ˈslɪmɪŋ/ noun the use of a special diet or special food which is low in calories and which is supposed to stop a person getting fat  

**slip** /slɪp/ noun a triangular bandage attached round the neck, used to support an injured arm and prevent it from moving ○ She had her left arm in a sling.  

**slipped disc** /ˈslɪpt ˈdɪsk/ noun same as displaced intervertebral disc, prolapsed intervertebral disc  

**slit lamp** /ˈslɪt lɛmp/ noun a piece of equipment which provides a narrow beam of light and is connected to a special microscope, used to examine the eye  

**slough** /ˈslʌ/ noun dead tissue, especially dead skin, which has separated from healthy tissue ○ to seep loose dead skin which falls off  

**slow-release vitamin tablet** noun a vitamin tablet which will dissolve slowly in the body and give a longer and more constant effect.  

**slow-wave sleep** /ˈsləʊ ˈwɔːv/ noun a period of sleep during which the sleeper sleeps deeply and the eyes do not move  

**COMMENT:** During slow-wave sleep, the pituitary gland secretes the hormone somatotrophin.
small /smɔl/ adjective 1. not large ○ His chest was covered with small red spots. ○ She has a small cyst in the colon. 2. young ○ He had chickenpox when he was small.

small children /smɔl tʃildrən/ noun young children, between about 1 and 10 years of age

small for dates /smɔl for dɛts/ adjective referring to an unborn baby which is small in comparison to the average size for that number of weeks. Abbrev SFD

small intestine /smɔl ɪnˈtestɪn/ noun a section of the intestine from the stomach to the caecum, consisting of the duodenum, the jejunum and the ileum

small of the back /smɔl av də ’baɪk/ noun the middle part of the back between and below the shoulder blades

smallpox /’smɔlplɔks/ noun a very serious, usually fatal, contagious disease caused by the pox virus, with a severe rash, leaving masses of small scars on the skin. Also called variola

COMMENT: It is more than 200 years since the first smallpox vaccine experiments and vaccination has proved effective in eradicating smallpox.

small stomach /smɔl ’stæmək/ noun a stomach which is reduced in size after an operation, making the person unable to eat large meals

smear /smɛər/ noun a sample of soft tissue, e.g. blood or mucus, taken from a person and spread over a glass slide to be examined under a microscope

smear test /’smɛər test/ noun same as Papanicolaou test

smegma /’smɛɡmə/ noun an oily secretion with an unpleasant smell which collects on and under the foreskin of the penis

smell /smɛl/ noun one of the five senses, the sense which is experienced through the nose. 1. to notice the smell of something through the nose ○ I can smell smoke. ○ He can’t smell anything because he’s got a cold. 2. to produce a smell ○ The room smells of disinfectant. (NOTE: smelling — smelled or smell)

COMMENT: The senses of smell and taste are closely connected, and together give the real taste of food. Smells are sensed by receptors in the nasal cavity which transmit impulses to the brain. When food is eaten, the smell is sensed at the same time as the taste is sensed by the taste buds, and most of what we think of as taste is in fact smell, which explains why food loses its taste when someone who has fainted

smelling salts /’smɛlɪŋ ’sɛltz/ noun crystals of an ammonia compound which give off a strong smell and can revive someone who has fainted

Smith-Petersen nail /’smɪθ ’pɪtəz(ə)n/ noun a metal nail used to attach the fractured neck of a femur. (Described 1831. After Marius Nygaard Smith-Petersen (1886–1953), Norwegian-born Boston orthopaedic surgeon.)

Smith’s fracture /’smɪθz ’fræktʃaʊn/ noun a fracture of the radius just above the wrist

smog /’smɒɡ/ noun pollution of the atmosphere in towns, caused by warm damp air combining with smoke and exhaust fumes from cars

smoke /’smɔʊk/ noun a white, grey or black product made of small particles, given off by something which is burning. Verb to breathe in smoke from a cigarette, cigar or pipe which is held in the lips. ○ Doctors are trying to persuade people to stop smoking. (NOTE: smoking — smoked)

COMMENT: The connection between smoking tobacco, especially cigarettes, and lung cancer has been proved to the satisfaction of the British government, which prints a health warning on all packets of cigarettes. Smoke from burning tobacco contains nicotine and other substances which stick in the lungs, and can in the long run cause cancer and heart disease.

smoke inhalation /’smɔʊk in’haləʃən/ noun the breathing in of smoke, as in a fire

smoker /’smɔʊkə/ noun a person who smokes cigarettes

smoker’s cough /’smɔʊkəz ’kɒf/ noun a dry asthmatic cough, often found in people who smoke large numbers of cigarettes

smoking /’smɔʊkɪŋ/ noun the action of smoking a cigarette, pipe or cigar. ○ Smoking can injure your health.

1. three quarters of patients aged 35-64 on GP’s lists have at least one major risk factor: high cholesterol, high blood pressure or addiction to tobacco. Of the three risk factors, smoking causes a greater proportion of heart disease deaths. (Health Services Journal)

smooth /’smuθ/ adjective flat, not rough. Verb to make something smooth. ○ She smoothed down the sheets on the bed.

smooth muscle /’smuθmɔs/ noun a type of muscle found in involuntary muscles. Also called unstriated muscle

SMR after submucous resection

snare /’sneə/ noun a surgical instrument made of a loop of wire, used to remove growths without the need of an incision

sneeze /’snɛiz/ noun a reflex action to blow air suddenly out of the nose and mouth because of irritation in the nasal passages. ○ She gave a loud sneeze. Verb to blow air suddenly out of the nose and mouth because of irritation in the nasal passages. ○ The smell of flowers makes her sneeze. ○ He was coughing and sneezing and decided to stay in bed. (NOTE: sneezing — sneezed)

COMMENT: A sneeze sends out a spray of droplets of liquid, which, if infectious, can then infect anyone who happens to inhale them.

sneezing fit /’snɛizɪŋ / fit/ noun a sudden attack when someone sneezes many times
**Snellen chart**

Snellen chart /ˈsnɛlən tʃɑrt/ noun a chart commonly used by opticians to test eyesight. [Described 1862. After Hermann Snellen (1834–1908), Dutch ophthalmologist.]

**Comment:** The Snellen chart has rows of letters, the top row being very large, and the bottom very small, with the result that the more rows a person can read, the better his or her eyesight.

**Snellen type** /ˈsnɛlən tɑp/ noun different type sizes used on a Snellen chart

**Sniff** /snɪf/ verb an act of breathing in air or smelling through the nose. ▬ verb to breathe in air or to smell through the nose. ▬ He was sniffing because he had a cold. ▬ She sniffed and said that she could smell smoke.

**Sniffle** /snɪfl/ noun a slight head cold, or an allergy that causes a running nose.

**Snow blindness** /ˌsnoʊˈblændəs/ noun the condi-
tion of breathing noisily through a nose which is blocked with mucus, which is usually a symptom of the common cold, but can sometimes be a sign of congenital syphilis. (informal; used to children) ▬ Don’t go out into the cold when you have the sniffles.

**Snow** /ˈsnoʊ/ noun a loud noise produced in the nose and throat when a person is asleep. ▬ A snore is produced by the vibration of the soft palate at the back of the mouth, and occurs when a sleeping person breathes through both mouth and nose.

**Snoring** /ˈsnɔːrɪŋ/ noun noisy breathing while asleep

**Snow blindness** /ˌsnoʊˈblændəs/ noun temporary painful blindness caused by bright sunlight shining on snow.

**Snow stings** /ˌsnoʊˈstɪŋz/ plural noun the condition of breathing noisily through a nose which is blocked with mucus, which is usually a symptom of the common cold, but can sometimes be a sign of congenital syphilis. (informal; used to children)

**Snow** /ˈsnoʊ/ noun mucus in the nose (informal; used to children) ▬ Don’t go out into the cold when you have the sniffles.

**Snow blindness** /ˌsnoʊˈblændəs/ noun temporary painful blindness caused by bright sunlight shining on snow.

**Snowing** /ˈsnoʊɪŋ/ noun the condition of breathing noisily through a nose which is blocked with mucus, which is usually a symptom of the common cold, but can sometimes be a sign of congenital syphilis. (informal; used to children)

**Snow** /ˈsnoʊ/ verb to put something in liquid so that it absorbs some of it. ▬ Use a compress to relieve a swelling in the face.

**Snout** /snʌt/ noun mucus in the nose (informal; used to children) ▬ Don’t go out into the cold when you have the sniffles.

**Snow blindness** /ˌsnoʊˈblændəs/ noun temporary painful blindness caused by bright sunlight shining on snow.

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soft tissue /soft ‘tʃjuː/ noun skin, muscles, ligaments or tendons
soil /sɔɪl/ noun the earth in which plants grow
■ verb to make something dirty ○ He soiled his sheets. ○ Soiled bedclothes are sent to the hospital laundry.
solar plexus /ˈsəʊlər pˈlɛksəs/ noun a nerve network situated at the back of the abdomen between the adrenal glands
solitary retinopathy /ˈsəʊlətəri rɪˈtɪnəpəθi/ noun irreversible damage to the most sensitive part of the retina, the macula, caused by looking at the sun with no protection or inadequate protection, as when looking at an eclipse of the sun
sole /sɔːl/ noun the part under the foot ○ The soles of the feet are very sensitive.
solids /ˈsɔlɪdz/ noun a solid substance which is dissolved in a solvent to make a solution ○ a tablet of soluble aspirin
soluble /ˈsɔljuːbəl/ adjective able to dissolve ○ a mixture of a solubile substance in a liquid solvent ○ solv(ə)l noun a liquid in which a solid substance can be dissolved
solvent abuse /ˈsəlvənt əˈbjuːs/ noun a type of drug abuse in which someone inhales the toxic fumes given off by particular types of volatile chemical. Also called glue-sniffing... deaths among teenagers caused by solvent abuse have reached record levels [Health Visitor]
soma /ˈsəʊmə/ noun the body, as opposed to the mind (NOTE: The plural is somata or somas.)
somat- /ˈsəʊmət-/ prefix same as somato-

Sonnet dysentery

somata /ˈsəʊmətə/ plural of soma
somatic /ˈsəʊmətɪk/ adjective referring to the body, either as opposed to the mind, or as opposed to the intestines and inner organs. Compare psychosomatic
somatic nerve /ˈsəʊmətɪk nɜːr/ noun any of the sensory and motor nerves which control skeletal muscles
somatic nervous system /ˈsəʊmətɪk nɜːrəs ˈsɪstəm/ noun the part of the nervous system that serves the sense organs and muscles of the body wall and limbs, and brings about activity in the voluntary muscles
somat- /ˈsəʊmət-/ prefix 1. referring to the body 2. somatic
somatology /ˈsəʊmətəlɒdʒi/ noun the study of both the physiology and anatomy of the body
somatostatin /ˈsəʊmətəstətən/ noun a hormone produced in the hypothalamus which helps to prevent the release of the growth hormone
somatotrophic hormone /ˈsəʊmətətrɒfɪk hərˈməʊn/ noun a hormone, somatotrophin /ˈsəʊmətətrɒfɪn/ noun a growth hormone, secreted by the pituitary gland, which stimulates the growth of long bones (NOTE: The US term for somatotrophin is somatotropin.)
somatotropin /ˈsəʊmətətrɒpɪn/ noun same as growth hormone
-some /ˈsəʊm/ suffix tiny cell bodies
sonnambulism /ˈsɒmənəmbjuːlɪzəm/ noun a condition especially affecting children where the person gets up and walks about while still asleep. Also called sleepwalking
sonnambulist /ˈsɒmənəmbjʊlist/ noun a person who walks in his or her sleep. Also called sleepwalker
sonnambulistic /ˈsɒmənəmbjʊlistɪk/ adjective referring to sonnambulism
sonnambulent /ˈsɒmənəmbjʊlənt/ adjective sleepy
sonnolism /ˈsɒnnəlɪzəm/ noun a trance which is induced by hypnotism
Somogyi effect /soʊˈmɒdʒi ɪˌfɛkt/ noun counter insulin reaction during the night. It is caused by the release of stress hormones to counter low glucose levels.
-somy /ˈsəʊm/ suffix the presence of chromosomes
son /son/ noun a male child of a parent ○ They have two sons and one daughter.
sonne dysentery /ˈsəʊnə diˌsɒntri/ noun a common form of mild dysentery in the UK, caused by Shigella sonnei [Described 1915. After Carl Olaf Sonne (1882–1948), Danish bacteriologist and physician.]
sonogram /ˈsʌnəgram/ noun a chart produced using ultrasound waves to find where something is situated in the body

sonography /ˈsʌŋəgrəfi/ noun same as ultrasound

sonoplacentography /ˌsɔnəˈplæsəntəˈɡrəfɪ/ noun the use of ultrasound waves to find how the placenta is placed in a pregnant woman

sonotopography /ˌsɔnəˈtɒpəˈɡrəfɪ/ noun the use of ultrasound waves to produce a sonogram

sooth /soʊθ/ verb to relieve pain or irritation or make a person less tense. The calamine lotion will soothe the rash. (NOTE: soothing ≠ soothed)

soothing /soʊθɪŋ/ adjective relieving pain or irritation or making someone less tense. They played soothing music in the dentist’s waiting room.

sopor /ˈsɒpə/ noun deep sleep or unconsciousness

soporific /ˈsɒpəˈrɪfɪk/ noun a drug which makes a person go to sleep.

sorbitol /ˈsɔrbɪtəl/ noun a white crystalline sweet alcohol which is used as a sweetener and a moisturiser, and in the manufacture of Vitamins C.

sordes /ˈsɔrdəz/ plural noun dry deposits round the lips of someone who has a fever.

sore /sɔr/ noun a small wound on any part of the skin, usually with a discharge of pus. A sore patch on the skin. Painful. My ankle still feels very sore.

sore throat /ˈsɔr ˈθreʊt/ noun a condition in which the mucous membrane in the throat is inflamed, sometimes because the person has been talking too much, but usually because of an infection (informal)

S.O.S. /ˈsəʊ əs/ adverb (on prescriptions) if necessary. Full form si opus sit (NOTE: it means that the dose should be taken once).

sotalol /ˈsɔtələl/ noun a drug used to treat an arrhythmia caused by the neck muscles and rapid movements of the head and at the same time has spasms in the neck muscles and rapid movements of the eyes.

souffle /ˈsoʊfl/ noun a soft breathing sound, heard through a stethoscope.

sound /sɔund/ noun 1. something which can be heard. The doctor listened to the sounds of the patient’s lungs. His breathing made a whistling sound. A long rod, used to examine or to dilate the inside of a cavity in the body. Adjective strong and healthy. He has a sound constitution. Her heart is sound, but her lungs are congested. A verbal noise. Her lungs sounded as if she had pneumonia. 2. to examine the inside of a cavity using a rod.

sour /ˈsɔːr/ adjective not bitter, salt or sweet. (NOTE: it is one of the basic tastes.)

source /ˈsɔrs/ noun 1. the substance which produces something. Sugar is a source of energy. Vegetables are important sources of vitamins. 2. the place where something comes from. The source of the allergy has been identified. The medical team has isolated the source of the infection.

space /spɛs/ noun a place, empty area between things. An abscess formed in the space between the bone and the cartilage.

spasim /ˈspæsɪm/ noun a drug in the form of a capsule which is specially designed to release its contents slowly in the stomach.

spare /spɛr/ adjective extra or only used in emergencies. We have no spare beds in the hospital at the moment. The doctor carries a spare set of instruments in her car. To be able to give or spend something. Can you spare the time to see the next patient? We have only one bed to spare at the moment.

spare part surgery /ˈspɛr ˈpɑr ˈsɑːtʃəri/ noun surgery in which parts of the body such as bones or joints are replaced by artificial pieces.

sparganosis /ˌspærɡəˈnɒsɪs/ noun a condition caused by the larvae of the worm Sparganum under the skin. It is widespread in East Asia.

spasm /ˈspæz(ə)m/ noun a sudden, usually painful, involuntary contraction of a muscle, as in cramp. The muscles in his leg went into spasm. She had painful spasms in her stomach.

spasmon /ˌspæzəˈmɒn/ prefix referring to a spasm.

spasmodic /ˈspæzəˌmɒdɪk/ adjective 1. occurring in spasms. 2. happening from time to time.

spasmyotic /ˌspæzəˌmətɪk/ noun a drug which relieves muscle spasms.

spasmus nutans /ˌspæzəˈmən tænz/ noun a condition in which someone nods his or her head and at the same time has spasms in the neck muscles and rapid movements of the eyes.

spastic /ˈspæstɪk/ adjective with spasms or sudden contractions of muscles. A person affected with cerebral palsy. (NOTE: the noun sense is now considered to be offensive.)

spastic colon /ˈspæstɪk ˈkələn/ noun same as mucous colitis.

spastic diplegia /ˈspæstɪk ˈdaɪplɪdʒə/ noun a congenital form of cerebral palsy which affects mainly the legs. Also called Little’s disease.

spastic gait /ˈspæstɪk ˈgeɪt/ noun a way of walking where the legs are stiff and the feet not lifted off the ground.
2. a particular branch of medicine

spasticity /speɪˈstæstɪk/ noun a condition in which a limb resists passive movement. ☑ rigidity

spastic paralysis /speɪˈstæstɪk pəˈreləsɪs/ noun same as cerebral palsy

spastic paraplegia /speɪˈstæstɪk pərəˈplɪdʒɪə/ noun paralysis of one side of the body after a stroke

spatula /ˈspeɪtjʊlə/ noun 1. a flat flexible tool with a handle, used to scoop, lift, spread or mix things 2. a flat wooden stick used to press the tongue down when the mouth or throat is being examined

speak /spik/ verb to say words or articulate sounds with the voice ☑ He is learning to speak again after a laryngectomy. (NOTE: speaking – spoke – spoken)

speak up /spik, əp/ verb to speak more loudly ☑ Speak up, please – I can’t hear you!

special /ˈspleɪʃəl/ adjective not ordinary, or for a specific purpose ☑ He has been given a special diet to cure his allergy. ☑ She wore special shoes to correct a problem in her ankles.

special care baby unit /ˈspeɪʃəl keəˈbeɪtuː/ noun a unit in a hospital which deals with premature babies or babies with serious disorders

special health authority /ˈspeɪʃəl həlθ ɔːrˈθɒrəti/ noun a health authority which has unique national functions, or covers various regions. An example is UK Transplant, which manages the National Transplant Database and provides a 24-hour service for the matching and allocation of donor organs.

special hospital /ˈspeɪʃəl ˈhɒspɪtlə/ noun a hospital for people whose mental condition makes them a potential danger to themselves and/or others

specialisation /speɪˈʃæləˈzeɪʃən/, specialization noun 1. the act of specialising in a particular branch of medicine 2. a particular branch of medicine which a doctor specialises in

specialise /speɪˈzælaɪz/, specialize verb 1. to concentrate on a specific subject or activity 2. to be an expert in a specific subject or area of knowledge (NOTE: specialisation – specialised)

specialised /speɪˈzælaɪzd/, specialized adjective 1. designed for a particular purpose 2. concentrating on a particular activity or subject ☑ specialised skills

specialise in /speɪˈzælaɪz ɪn/, specialize in verb to study or to treat one particular disease or one particular type of patient ☑ He specialises in children with breathing problems. ☑ She decided to specialise in haematology.

specialism /speɪˈzælistɪzəm/ noun same as speciality

specialist /speɪˈzælist/ noun a doctor who specialises in a particular branch of medicine

specimen /ˈspeɪsmən/ noun 1. a small quantity of something given for testing ☑ He was asked to bring a urine specimen. 2. one item out of a group ☑ We keep specimens of diseased organs for students to examine.

spectacles /ˈspektəklz/ plural noun glasses which are worn in front of the eyes to help correct problems in vision

COMMENT: Spectacles can correct problems in the focusing of the eye, such as shortsightedness, longsightedness and astigmatism. Where different lenses are required for reading, an optician may prescribe two pairs of spectacles, one for standard use and the other for reading. Otherwise, spectacles can be fitted with a divided lens (bifocals or varifocals).

spectra /ˈspektərə/ plural of spectrum

sicurogaphy /spektˈtrɒgrəfi/ noun the recording of a spectrum on photographic film

spectroscope /spektˈskrɒskəʊ/ noun an instrument used to analyse a spectrum

spectrum /ˈspektrəm/ noun 1. the range of colours, from red to violet, into which white light can be split when it is passed through something (NOTE: Different substances in solution have different spectra) 2. the range of organisms that an antibiotic or chemical can kill (NOTE: The plural is spectra or spectrums.)

specula /ˈspekjuːlə/ plural of speculum

specular

speculatively /spekʃələtɪvli/ /spekˈʃælətɪvli/ adverb speculatively

speculatively /spekʃələtɪvli/ /spekˈʃælətɪvli/ adverb speculatively

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speculatively /pe...
speculum /spekju:ləm/ noun a surgical instrument which is inserted into an opening in the body such as a nostril or the vagina to keep it open in order to allow a doctor to examine the inside (NOTE: The plural is specula or speculums.)
speech /spéftʃ/ noun 1. the ability to make intelligible sounds with the vocal cords 2. a talk given to an audience
speech block /spéftʃ blothk/ noun a temporary inability to speak, caused by the effect of nervous stress on the mental processes
speech impediment /spéftʃ impédmant/ noun an inability to speak easily or in the usual way because of the physical structure of the mouth or other disorders
speech therapist /spéftʃθérəpist/ noun a qualified person who practices speech therapy
speech therapy /spéftʃθerəpi/ noun treatment for a speech disorder such as stammering or one which results from a stroke or physical malformation
spell /spel/ noun a short period ○ She has been having dizzy spells. ○ He had two spells in hospital during the winter.
sperm /spérm/ noun same as spermatozoon (NOTE: The plural is sperm.)
spermatic /spérmətɪk/ adjective referring to sperm
spermatic artery /spérmətɪk 'a:təri/ noun an artery which leads into the testes. Also called testicular artery
spermatic cord /spérmətɪk'kɔrd/ noun a cord running from the testes to the abdomen carrying the vas deferens, the blood vessels, nerves and lymphatics of the testes
spermatic /spérmətɪk/ noun same as spermat- (used before vowels)
spermatic sexual /spérmətɪkˈseksəl/ adjective referring to sperm
spermatocele /spérməto'sel/ noun a cyst in the scrotum
spermatoctye /spérməto'saiti/ noun an early stage in the development of a spermatozoon
spermatogenesis /spérmə'tədʒenəsi/ noun the formation and development of spermatozoa in the testes
spermatogonium /spérmə'təgaonəm/ noun a cell which forms a spermatoocyte (NOTE: The plural is spermatogonia.)
spermatorrhoea /spérmətɔ'rəʊə/ noun the discharge of a large amount of semen frequently and without an orgasm (NOTE: The US spelling is spermatorhea.)
spermatozoon /spérmə'təζoʊn/ noun a mature male sex cell, which is ejaculated from the penis and is capable of fertilising an ovum. Also called sperm (NOTE: The plural is spermatozoa.)

COMMENT: A human spermatozoon is very small and is formed of a head, neck and very long tail. A spermatozoon can swim by moving its tail from side to side. The sperm are formed in the testes and ejaculated through the penis. Each ejaculation may contain millions of sperm. Once a sperm has entered the female uterus, it remains viable for about three days.
spermaturia /spérmə'tjʊərɪə/ noun sperm in the urine
sperm bank /spérm bæŋk/ noun a place where sperm can be stored for use in artificial insemination
sperm count /spérm kaunt/ noun a calculation of the number of sperm in a quantity of semen
sperm donor /spérm'dɔənər/ noun a male who gives sperm, for a fee, to allow a childless woman to bear a child
spermicidal /spérmə'said(ə)l/ adjective killing or able to kill sperm
spermicidal jelly /spérmə'said(ə)l dʒelɪ/ noun a jelly-like product which acts as a contraceptive
spermicide /spérmə'said/ noun a substance which kills sperm
spermia /spérməˈjʊə/ prefix referring to sperm
spermia bisexual /spérməˈjʊəsɪˈbjuːəl/ adjective referring to sperm
spermia gonitis /spérməˈgənɪtɪs/ noun the stage of spermatogenesis during which a spermatid changes into a spermatozoon
spheno- /spfɪnəʊ/ prefix referring to the sphenoid bone
sphenoic /spfɪnəʊ/ adjective 1. relating to the sphenoid bone 2. shaped like a wedge
sphenoid bone /spfɪnəʊ bɔːn/ noun one of two bones in the skull which form the side of the socket of the eye. Also called sphenoid sinus /spfɪnəʊ ˈsʌnəs/ noun one of the sinuses in the skull behind the nasal passage
sphenopalatine ganglion /spfɪnəʊˌpælətən ˈɡæŋglɪən/ noun same as pterygopalatine ganglion
spherocyte /spfɪrəkəʊt/ noun a red blood cell that is rounded rather than the usual disc shape
spherocytosis /spfɪrəˈkɔtəsɪs/ noun a condition in which someone has spherocytes in the blood, causing anaemia, enlarged spleen and gallstones, as in acholic jaundice
spincter /ˈspɪŋktər/ noun a muscle or band of muscle which surrounds an opening or passage in the body, especially the anus, and can...
narrow or close the opening or passage by contracting

sphincterectomy /ˈsfɪŋktərɛktəmi/ noun 1. a surgical operation to remove a sphincter 2. a surgical operation to remove part of the edge of the iris in the eye (note: the plural is sphincterectomies.)
sphincteroplasty /ˈsfɪŋktərɒplæstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to relieve a tightened sphincter (note: the plural is sphincteroplasties.)
sphincterotomy /ˈsfɪŋktərɔtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to make an incision into a sphincter (note: the plural is sphincterotomies.)
sphincter pupillae muscle /ˈsfɪŋktɪr pʌpɪlɪə ˈmʌskəl/ noun an annular muscle in the iris which constricts the pupil

sphygmomanometer /ˈsfɪŋgməʊnəməˈter/ (informal) noun an instrument which measures blood pressure in the arteries.

COMMENTS: the sphygmomanometer is a rubber sleeve connected to a scale with a column of mercury, allowing the nurse to take a reading. the rubber sleeve is usually wrapped round the arm and inflated until the blood flow is stopped. the blood pressure is determined by listening to the pulse with a stethoscope placed over an artery as the pressure in the rubber sleeve is slowly reduced, and by the reading on the scale.

sphygmographic /ˈsfɪŋgməʊˈgræfɪk/ noun a device which records heartbeats and pulse rate

sphygmo- /ˈsfɪŋgmo/ prefix referring to the pulse of an artery

sphygmograph /ˈsfɪŋgməʊɡrɑːf/ noun a device which records the pulse

sphygmonanometer /ˈsfɪŋgməʊnəˈmætə/ noun an instrument which measures blood pressure in the arteries.

COMMENTS: the sphygmonanometer is a rubber sleeve connected to a scale with a column of mercury, allowing the nurse to take a reading. the rubber sleeve is usually wrapped round the arm and inflated until the blood flow is stopped. the blood pressure is determined by listening to the pulse with a stethoscope placed over an artery as the pressure in the rubber sleeve is slowly reduced, and by the reading on the scale.

spica /ˈspɪkə/ noun a way of bandaging a joint where the bandage crosses over itself like the figure 8 on the inside of the bend of the joint (note: the plural is spicas or spicæ.)

spicule /ˈspɪkjʊl/ noun a small splinter of bone

spigot /ˈspɪɡɔt/ noun the end of a pipe which is joined by insertion into the enlarged end of another pipe

spina /ˈspɪnə/ noun 1. a thin sharp piece of bone 2. the vertebral column

spina bifida /ˈspɪnə bɪˈfɪdə/ noun a serious condition in which part of the spinal cord protrudes through the spinal column. also called rachischisis

COMMENTS: Spina bifida takes two forms: a mild form, spina bifida occulta, where only the bone is affected, and there are no visible signs of the condition; and the serious spina bifida cystica where part of the meninges or spinal cord passes through the gap; it may result in paralysis of the legs, and mental impair-

ment is often present where the condition is associated with hydrocephalus.

spinal /ˈspɪnəl/ adjective referring to the spine © She suffered spinal injuries in the crash.

spinal accessory nerve /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈseksərɪ ˈnɜːv/ noun the eleventh cranial nerve which supplies the muscles in the neck and shoulders

spinal anaesthesia /ˈspɪnəl/ əˈnæsɪs/ noun local anaesthesia in which an anaesthetic is injected into the cerebrospinal fluid

spinal anaesthetic /ˈspɪnəl/ əˈnæsɪtɪk/ noun an anaesthetic given by injection into the spine, which results in large parts of the body losing the sense of feeling

spinal block /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈblɒk/ noun anaesthesia produced by injecting the spinal cord with an anaesthetic

spinal canal /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈkænl/ noun the hollow channel running down the back of the vertebræ, containing the spinal cord. also called vertebral canal

spinal column /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈkʌlmən/ noun same as spine

spinal cord /ˈspɪnəl/ kɔrd/ noun part of the central nervous system, running from the medulla oblongata to the filum terminale, in the vertebral canal of the spine (note: for other terms referring to the spinal cord, see words beginning with myel- myelo-)

spinal curvature /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈkɜːrveɪʃən/ noun an abnormal bending of the spinal column

spinal fusion /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈfjuːʒən/ noun a surgical operation to join two vertebræ together to make the spine more rigid. also called spondylosynthesis

spinal ganglion /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈɡæŋɡlɪən/ noun a cone-shaped mass of cells on the posterior root, the main axons of which form the posterior root of the spinal nerve

spinal meningitis /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈmɛnɪŋɡɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the membranes around the spinal cord, which particularly affects young children

spinal nerve /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈnɜːv/ noun one of the 31 pairs of nerves which lead from the spinal cord and govern mainly the trunk and limbs

spinal puncture /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈpʌŋktʃə/ noun same as lumbar puncture (note: the US term is spinal tap.)

spinal shock /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈʃɒk/ noun a loss of feeling in the lower part of the body below a point at which the spine has been injured

spindle /ˈspɪndl/ noun 1. a long thin structure 2. a structure formed in cells during division to which the chromosomes are attached by their centromeres

spine /ˈspɪn/ noun 1. the series of bones, the vertebræ, linked together to form a flexible
**Spinhaler**

supporting column running from the pelvis to the skull. She injured her spine in the crash.

Also called backbone, spinal column, vertebral column 2. any sharp projecting part of a bone

**COMMENT:** The spine is made up of twenty-four ring-shaped vertebrae, with the sacrum and coccyx, separated by discs of cartilage. The hollow canal of the spine (the spinal canal) contains the spinal cord. See also note at vertebra.

Spinhaler® is a trade name for a device from which a person with breathing problems can inhale a preset dose of a drug.

**spinnbarkeit** noun a thread of mucus formed in the cervix which is used in determining the time of ovulation. At this time mucus becomes a most slippery substance, the cervix begins to open and a thread of mucus becomes visible.

The hollow canal of the spine (the spinal canal) contains the spinal cord. See also note at vertebra.

Spinhaler® is a trade name for a device from which a person with breathing problems can inhale a preset dose of a drug.

**spirogram** noun a record of someone’s breathing made by a spirometer

**spirometry** noun a measurement of the vital capacity of the lungs by use of a spirometer

**spirometrie** noun an instrument which measures the amount of air a person inhales or exhales

**spirotmatri** noun a measurement of the vital capacity of the lungs by use of a spirometer

**spironolactone** noun a steroid which helps the body produce urine, used in the treatment of oedema and hypertension

**spit** noun saliva which is sent out of the mouth

**Spitz-Holter valve** noun a valve with a one-way system, surgically placed in the skull and used to drain excess fluid from the brain in hydrocephalus

**splanchnic** adjective referring to viscera

**splanchnic nerve** noun any sympathetic nerve which supplies organs in the abdominal cavity

**splanchnology** noun the study of the organs in the abdominal cavity

**spleen** noun an organ in the top part of the abdominal cavity behind the stomach and below the diaphragm, which helps to destroy old red blood cells, form lymphocytes and store blood. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement

**COMMENT:** The spleen, which is the largest endocrine (ductless) gland, appears to act to remove dead blood cells and fight infection, but its functions are not fully understood and an adult can live healthily after his or her spleen has been removed.

**split** verb same as **splen-** (used before vowels)

**splenectomy** noun a surgical operation to remove the spleen (NOTE: The plural is **splenectomies**)

**splenic** adjective referring to the spleen

**splenic anaemia** noun a type of anaemia, caused by cirrhosis of the liver, in which the person has portal hypertension, an enlarged spleen and haemorrhages. Also called Banti’s syndrome

**splenic flexure** noun a bend in the colon where the transverse colon joins the descending colon

**splenitis** noun inflammation of the spleen

**splenius** noun either of two muscles on each side of the neck that reach from the base of the skull to the upper back and rotate and extend the head and neck (NOTE: The plural is **splenii**)

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**spit** noun saliva which is sent out of the mouth
spongy bone /ˈspɔndʒi bōn/ noun cancellous bone, light bone tissue which forms the inner core of a bone and also the ends of long bones. See illustration at Bone Structure in Supplement.

spontaneous /ˈspɔntən/ adjective happening without any particular outside cause

spontaneous abortion /ˈspɔntən əˈbɔr·toʃən/ noun a movement of a fetus to take up another position in the uterus, caused by the contractions of the uterus during childbirth or by the movements of the baby itself before birth

spoon /ˈspuːn/ noun an instrument with a long handle at one end and a small bowl at the other, used for taking liquid medicine

spoonful /ˈspuːnfʊl/ noun a quantity which a spoon can hold. Take two 5 ml spoonfuls of the medicine twice a day.

sporadic /ˈspɔrədɪk/ adjective referring to outbreaks of disease that occur as separate cases, not in epidemics

spore /ˈspɔr/ noun a reproductive body of particular bacteria and fungi which can survive in extremely hot or cold conditions for a long time

sporicidal /ˈspɔrɪsɪdəl/ adjective killing spores

sporicide /ˈspɔrɪsɪd/ noun a substance which kills bacterial spores

sporotrichosis /ˈspɔrətɹɪkɒsɪs/ noun a fungus infection of the skin which causes abscesses

sporozoa /ˈspɔrəzoʊə/ noun a type of parasitic Protozoa which includes Plasmodium, the cause of malaria

sport /ˈspɔrt/ noun 1. the playing of competitive physical games 2. a competitive physical game

sports injury /ˈspɔrts ɪnˈjury/ noun an injury caused by playing a sport, e.g. a sprained ankle or tennis elbow

sports medicine /ˈspɔrts ˈmedɪsɪn/ noun the study of the treatment of sports injuries

spot /ˈspɒt/ noun a small round mark or pimple. The disease is marked by red spots on the chest. to break out in spots or to come out in spots to have a sudden rash

spotted fever /ˈspɔtɪd ˈfɜrvə/ noun same as meningococcal meningitis
bloodstained sputum.

The eyes focus on different points. Also called strabismus • verb to have one eye or both eyes looking towards the nose • Babies often appear to squint, but it is corrected as they grow older.

spray /sprei/ noun 1. a mass of tiny drops • An aerosol sends out a liquid in a fine spray. 2. a special liquid for applying to an infection in a mass of tiny drops • throat spray or nasal spray • verb 1. to send out a liquid in a mass of tiny drops • They sprayed disinfectant everywhere. 2. to spray an area with liquid • They sprayed the room with disinfectant.

spud/spud/ noun a needle used to get a piece of dust or other foreign body out of the eye.

sprue /spru/ noun a sharp projecting part of a bone.

stadium /stædɪəm/ noun a particular stage of a disease (NOTE: The plural is stadia.)

stabilise /stɪbləzɪ/ verb to make a condition stable • We have succeeded in stabilising his blood sugar level. (NOTE: stabilising – stabilised)

stable /steɪbəl/ adjective not changing • Her condition is stable.

stabilise /stɪbləzɪ/ verb to make a condition stable • We have succeeded in stabilising his blood sugar level. (NOTE: stabilising – stabilised)

stable angina /stɛbəl æŋˈdʒɪnə/ noun angina which has not changed for a long time

staging /ˈsteɪdɪŋ/ verb to move unsteadily from side to side while walking

staggers /ˈsteɪpər/ noun the process of performing tests to learn the extent of a disease within the body, in order to decide the best treatment for someone
stagnant loop syndrome /sten⁰lænt plu⁰/ noun a condition which occurs in cases of diverticulitis or of Crohn’s disease, with steatorrhoea, abdominal pain and megaloblastic anaemia.

stain /stin/ noun a substance used to give colour to tissues which are going to be examined under the microscope. □ verb to treat a piece of tissue with a dye to increase contrast before it is examined under the microscope. 

COMMENT: Some stains are designed to have an affinity only with those chemical, cellular or bacterial elements in a specimen that are of interest to a microbiologist; thus the concentration or uptake of a stain, as well as the overall picture, can be diagnostic.

staining /stiniŋ/ noun the process of colouring tissue, bacterial samples or other materials to make it possible to examine them and to identify them under the microscope.

stalk /stɔk/ noun a piece of tissue which attaches a growth to the main tissue.

Stamey procedure /steɪmi proʊdərors/ noun a surgical operation to cure stress incontinence in women. A minor abdominal incision is made as well as a vaginal incision, and the neck of the bladder is stitched to the abdominal wall.

stammer /stəmər/ noun a speech difficulty in which someone repeats parts of a word or the whole word several times or stops to try to pronounce a word. □ He has a bad stammer. □ verb to speak with a stammer.

stammerer /stəmərə/ noun a person who stammers.

stammering /stəmərɪŋ/ noun difficulty in speaking, in which the person repeats parts of a word or the whole word several times or stops to try to pronounce a word. Also called dysphemia.

stamp out /stæmp ‘aut/ verb to remove something completely. □ International organisations have succeeded in stamping out smallpox. □ The government is trying to stamp out waste in the hospital service.

stand /stænd/ verb 1. to be in an upright position with your bodyweight resting on your feet, or to put a person in this position. 2. to get to your feet from a sitting position. (NOTE: stood).

standard /stændərd/ adjective usual, recommended or established. □ It is standard practice to take the patient’s temperature twice a day. □ noun 1. something which has been agreed upon and is used to measure other things by. 2. a level of quality achieved by someone or something. □ The standard of care in hospitals has increased over the last years. □ The report criticised the standards of hygiene in the clinic.

standardise /stændərdədaɪz/ verb to make all things of the same type follow the same standard.

starch /stɑr/ noun the usual form in which carbohydrates exist in food, especially in bread, rice and potatoes. It is broken down by the digestive process into forms of sugar.

Standard Precautions /stændəd prəkəruzn/ plural noun the most recent set of guidelines for health care workers on dealing with blood, all body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat), non-intact skin and mucus membranes. They are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms. The Standard Precautions are implemented automatically for everyone, as all patients are presumed to be potentially infectious.

stand up /stænd ‘ʌp/ verb 1. to get up from being on a seat. □ He tried to stand up, but did not have the strength. 2. to hold yourself upright. □ She still stands up straight at the age of ninety-two. (NOTE: standing up – stood up).

stapedectomy /stɛpədiɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the stapes. (NOTE: The plural is stapedectomies.)

stapedial mobilisation /stɛpədiəl ,məʊbɪləz/ noun the process of colouring tissue, bacterial samples or other materials to make it possible to examine them and to identify them under the microscope.

staple /stɛpl/ noun a piece of tissue which attaches a growth to the main tissue.

stapling /stɛplɪŋ/ noun the process of colouring tissue, bacterial samples or other materials to make it possible to examine them and to identify them under the microscope.

staph /stæf/ abbr Staphylococcus.

staphylectomy /stɛfɪlɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the uvula. (NOTE: The plural is staphylectomies.)

staphylococcal poisoning /stɛfɪləʊkəl ,pəʊznɪŋ/ noun poisoning by Staphylococci in food.

staphylococcus /stɛfɪləʊkəs/ noun a bacterium which grows in a bunch like a bunch of grapes, and causes boils and food poisoning. (NOTE: The plural is Staphylococci.)

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staphyloxalate /stɛfɪləʊkət/ noun a condition which occurs in cases of diverticulitis or of Crohn’s disease, with steatorrhoea, abdominal pain and megaloblastic anaemia.

stapled /stɛpəd/ verb to attach tissues together.

stapler /stɛplə/ noun a device used in surgery to attach tissues with staples, instead of suturing.

starch /stɑr/ noun the usual form in which carbohydrates exist in food, especially in bread, rice and potatoes. It is broken down by the digestive process into forms of sugar.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>starchy</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><strong>/ˈstɑrtəl ˈrɛflex/ noun the usual response of a young baby to a sudden loud noise or a sudden fall through the air, by contracting the limb and neck muscles</strong></td>
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<td><strong>/ˌstætəˈstæs əˈstæmətɪkəs/ noun an attack of bronchial asthma which lasts for a long time and results in exhaustion and collapse</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
steno- /stēⁿəʊs/ prefix narrow or constricted
steno- /steⁿəʊs/ verb to make something narrow
stenosed valve /steⁿəʊzd 'valv/ noun a valve which has become narrow or constricted
stenosis /steⁿəʊsɪs/ noun a condition which makes a passage narrow
stenosis /steⁿəʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which a passage becomes narrow
stenostomia /steⁿəʊstəmɪə/ stenostomy /steⁿəstəmɪə/ noun the narrowing of an opening
Stensen's duct /stɛnɛnζ ˈdʌkt/ noun a duct which carries saliva from the parotid glands (Described 1661. After Niels Stensen (1638–86), Danish physician and priest, anatomist, physiologist and theologian.)
stenstent /stɛnsten/ noun a support of artificial material often inserted in a tube or vessel which has been sutured
step /stɛp/ noun a movement of the foot and the leg as in walking. He took two steps forward. The doctor has stepped up the dosage.
step up /stɛp ʰap/ verb to increase something (informal) The doctor has stepped up the dosage.
stercobilin /stɛrkoˌbɪlɪn/ noun a brown pigment which colours the faeces
stercobilinogen /stɛrkoˌbɪlɪnəˈdʒen/ noun a substance which is broken down from bilirubin and produces stercobilin
stercolith /stɛrkələθ/ noun a hard ball of dried faeces in the bowel
stercorous /stɛrkərəs/ adjective relating to faeces
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stercobilinogen /stɛrkoˌbɪlɪnəˈdʒen/ noun a substance which is broken down from bilirubin and produces stercobilin
stercolith /stɛrkələθ/ noun a hard ball of dried faeces similar to faeces in the bowel
stereocereous /stɛrkəˌsɛriəs/ adjective 1. made of or containing faeces 2. similar to faeces
stereognosis /stɛrəˌnəʊsɪs/ noun the ability to tell the shape of an object in three dimensions by means of touch
stereoscopic vision /stɛrəˌskəʊspɪk /ˈvɪʒən/ noun the ability to judge the distance and depth of an object by binocular vision
stereotactic /stɛrəˌtæktɪk/ adjective referring to procedures which use coordinates put into a computer or scanner in order to locate and operate upon tumours precisely. Examples are biopsies, surgery or radiation therapy.
stereotaxia /stɛrəˈtaksɪə/ stereotoxic surgery /stɛrəˈtaksɪk 'sɜːzdʒərɪə/ noun a surgical procedure to identify a point in the interior of the brain, before an operation can begin, to locate exactly the area to be operated on
stereotypy /stɛrəˌtɔpɪ/ noun the repetition of the same action or word again and again
Sterets /sterets/ a trademark for a type of swab used for cleaning the skin before an injection
sterile /stɜˈrɛl/ adjective 1. with no harmful microorganisms present 2. a sterile environment 2. not able to produce children
sterile dressing /stɜˈrɛl dɹˈsɪŋ/ noun a dressing which is sold in a sterile pack, ready for use
sterilisation /stɛrɪləˈzeɪʃən/ sterilization noun 1. the action of making instruments or areas completely free from microorganisms which might cause infection 2. a procedure which makes someone unable to have children
sterilising /stɛrɪˈlɪznɪŋ/ adjective able to kill microorganisms Wipe the surface with sterilising fluid.
sterility /stɛrɪˈlɪtɪ/ noun 1. the state of being free from microorganisms 2. the state of being unable to have children
Steri-Strip /stɛrɪ strɪp/ a trademark for thin paper strips which are placed over an incision in the skin. They help its edges to come together and form a scar.
sternal /stɛrnəl/ adjective referring to the breastbone
sternal angle /stɛrnəl ˈæŋɡəl/ noun the angle between the breastbone and the clavicle
sternal puncture /stɛrnəl ˈpʌŋktʃə/ noun a surgical operation to remove a sample of bone marrow from the breastbone for testing
sterno- /stɛrnəʊ/ prefix relating to the breastbone
sternoclavicular /stɛrnəˌklaʊəklər/ adjective referring to the sternum and the clavicle
sternoclavicular angle /stɛrnəˌklaʊəklər ˈæŋɡəl/ noun the angle between the sternum and the clavicle
sternocleidomastoid muscle /stɛrnəˌkliˌdəʊˈmaʊstɔɪd/ noun a muscle in the neck, running from the breastbone to the mastoid process
sternocostal /stɛrnəˌkɔstəl/ adjective referring to the sternum and ribs
sternocostal joint /stɛrnəˌkɔstəl dʒɔint/ noun a joint where the breastbone joins a rib
sternohyoid /stɛrnəˌhaɪəd/ adjective relating to the sternum and the hyoid bone
sternohyoid muscle

Sternohyoid muscle, /stərˈnəʊɔɪd/ noun a muscle in the neck which runs from the breastbone into the hyoid bone

Sternomastoid /stərˈnəʊməstɔɪd/ adjective referring to the breastbone and the mastoid bone

Sternomastoid tumour /stərˈnəʊməstɔɪd/ noun a benign tumour which appears in the sternomastoid muscle in newborn babies

Sternotomy /stɛrtəˈnɒtəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut through the breastbone, so as to be able to operate on the heart

Sternum /stɛrtəm/ noun same as breastbone

COMMENT: The sternum runs from the neck to the bottom of the diaphragm. It is formed of the manubrium (the top section), the body of the sternum and the xiphoid process. The upper seven pairs of ribs are attached to the sternum.

Sternutatory /stɛrˈnəʊtərərɪ/ noun any of several chemical compounds, including the sex hormones, which have characteristic ring systems and which affect the body and its functions

COMMENT: The word steroid is usually used to refer to corticosteroids. Synthetic steroids are used in steroid therapy, to treat arthritis, asthma and some blood disorders. They are also used by some athletes to improve their physiological strength, but these are banned by athletic organisations and can have serious side-effects.

Steroidal /stɛrˈɔɪdəl/ adjective containing steroids. Opposite non-steroidal

Sterol /stɛrəʊl/ noun an insoluble substance which belongs to the steroid alcohols, e.g. cholesterol

Stertor /stɛrtər/ noun noisy breathing sounds in someone unconscious

Stertorous /stɛrtəˈrərəs/ adjective characterised by heavy snoring

Steth-/stɛθ-/ stetho- /stɛθə/ prefix referring to the chest

Stethograph /stɛθəˈɡrɑf/ noun an instrument which records breathing movements of the chest

Stethography stɛθəˈɡrɑfɪ/ noun the process of recording movements of the chest

Stethrometer /stɛθəˈmətr/ noun an instrument which records how far the chest expands when a person breathes in

Stethoscope /stɛθəˈskəʊp/ noun a surgical instrument with two earpieces connected to a tube and a metal disc, used by doctors to listen to sounds made inside the body, e.g. the sounds of the heart or lungs

Stevens-Johnson syndrome /stɛvrənsˈdʒɒnənˌsɪndrəm/ noun a severe form of erythema multiforme affecting the face and genitals, caused by an allergic reaction to drugs (Described 1922. After Albert Mason Stevens, 1884–1945; Frank Chambliss Johnson 1894–1934, physicians in New York, USA.)

Sthenia /stɛnəriə/ noun a condition of great strength or vitality

STI sexually transmitted infection

Stick /stɪk/ verb to attach something, to fix things together, e.g. with glue or In bad cases of conjunctivitis the eyelids can stick together

Sticking plaster /stɪkɪŋˈplɑːstər/ noun an adhesive plaster or tape used to cover a small wound or to attach a pad of dressing to the skin

Sticky /stɪkɪ/ adjective able to become easily attached like glue

Sticky eye /stɪkɪ ˈeɪ/ noun a condition in babies in which the eyes remain closed because of conjunctivitis

Stiff /stɪf/ adjective not able to be bent or moved easily ○ My knee is still after playing football.

Stiffly /stɪflɪ/ adverb in a stiff way ○ He is walking stiffly because of the pain in his hip.

Stiff neck /stɪf ˈneɪk/ noun a condition in which moving the neck is painful, usually caused by a strained muscle or by sitting in a cold wind

Stiffness /stɪfnəs/ noun the fact of being stiff ○ arthritis accompanied by stiffness in the joints

Stigma /stɪˈmɪɡə/ noun a visible symptom which shows that someone has a particular disease (note: The plural is stigmas or stigmata.)

Stilet /stɪlɛt/ noun 1. a fine wire used as a probe in surgery 2. a wire inserted in a catheter to give it rigidity

Stillbirth /stɪlbɜːθ/ noun the birth of a dead fetus, more than 28 weeks after conception (informal)

Stillborn /stɪlbɜːrn/ adjective referring to a baby born dead ○ Her first child was stillborn.

Still’s disease /stɪlz ˈdɪs/ noun arthritis affecting children, similar to rheumatoid arthritis in adults (Described 1896. After Sir George Frederic Still (1868–1941), British paediatrician and physician to the king.)

Stimulant /stɪˈmjuːlənt/ noun a substance which makes part of the body function faster ○ Caffeine is a stimulant. □ adjective increasing body function

COMMENT: Natural stimulants include some hormones, and drugs such as digitalis which encourage a weak heart. Drinks such as tea and coffee contain stimulants.

Stimulate /stɪˈmjuːleɪt/ verb to make a person or organ react, respond or function ○ The therapy should stimulate the patient into attempting to walk unaided. ○ The drug stimulates the heart.

Stimulation /stɪˈmjuːleɪʃən/ noun the action of stimulating something

Stimulus /stɪˈmjuːlus/ noun something which has an effect on a person or a part of the body.
and makes them react (NOTE: The plural is stim-uli.)

**sting (stīn)** /noun the piercing of the skin by an insect which passes a toxic substance into the bloodstream /verb (of an insect) to make a hole in the skin and pass a toxic substance into the blood ○ He was stung by a wasp.

COMMENT: Stings by some insects such as tsetse flies can transmit a bacterial infection to a person. Other insects such as bees pass toxic substances into the bloodstream of the affected person, causing irritating swellings. Some people are strongly allergic to insect stings.

**stinging (stīnj) /adjective referring to a sharp unpleasant feeling of pricking or burning ○ a sudden stinging sensation in the back of her leg**

**stirrup /stıərp** /noun same as **stapes**

**stirrup bone /stıərp boun** /noun same as stapes

**stitch (stıch)** /noun 1. same as suture ○ He had three stitches in his head. ○ The doctor told her to come back in ten days’ time to have the stitches taken out. 2. pain caused by cramp in the side of the body after running ○ He had to stop running because he developed a stitch. /verb same as suture ○ They tried to stitch back the finger which had been cut off in an accident.

**stitch abscess /stıch əbses** /noun an abscess which forms at the site of a stitch or suture

**stock culture /stık̑ kəltʃər** /noun the basic culture of bacteria, from which other cultures can be taken

**stocking /stık̑ nıŋ** /noun a close-fitting piece of clothing to cover the leg

**Stokes–Adams syndrome /ˈstouks-ədəmz, -ədərm/ noun a loss of consciousness due to the stopping of the action of the heart because of asystole or fibrillation [After William Stokes (1804–78), Irish physician; Robert Adams (1791–1878), Irish surgeon]

**stoma /ˈstoumə/ noun 1. any opening into a cavity in the body 2. the mouth 3. a colostomy (informal) (NOTE: All senses) The plural is stoma-

**stomach /ˈstoumək/ noun 1. the part of the body shaped like a bag, into which food passes after being swallowed and where the process of digestion continues ○ She complained of pains in the stomach or of stomach pains. ○ He has had stomach trouble for some time. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement 2. the abdomen (informal) ○ He had been kicked in the stomach. (NOTE: For other terms referring to the stomach, see words beginning with gastr-, gastro-)**

COMMENT: The stomach is situated in the top of the abdomen, and on the left side of the body between the oesophagus and the duodenum. Food is partly broken down by hydro-

**chloric acid and other gastric juices secreted by the walls of the stomach and is mixed and squeezed by the action of the muscles of the stomach, before being passed on into the duodenum. The stomach continues the digestive process started in the mouth, but few substances, except alcohol and honey, are actually absorbed into the bloodstream in the stomach.**

**stomach ache /ˈstoumək ək/ noun pain in the abdomen or stomach, caused by eating too much food or by an infection**

**stomach cramp /ˈstoumək kræmp/ noun a sharp spasm of the stomach muscles**

**stomach hernia noun same as gastrocele**

**stomach pump /ˈstoumək pæmp/ noun an instrument for sucking out the contents of the stomach, e.g. to extract a poison that has been swallowed**

**stomach tube /ˈstoumək tjʊər/ noun a tube passed into the stomach to wash it out or to take samples of the contents**

**stomach upset /ˈstoumək əˈspet/ noun a slight infection of the stomach ○ She is in bed with a stomach upset. Also called upset stomach**

**stomach washout /ˈstoumək ˈwɔʃaʊt/ noun same as gastric lavage**

**stomal ulcer /ˈstouməl ələr/ noun an ulcer in the region of the jejunum ○ The basic branch of medicine which studies diseases of the mouth**

**stomatology /ˈstoumətələdʒi/ noun inflammation of the inside of the mouth**

**stomato- /ˈstoumatə/ prefix same as stomato-(used before vowels)**

**stomatitis /ˈstoumətɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the mouth**

**stomato- /ˈstoumatə/ prefix referring to the mouth**

**stomatology /ˈstoumatələdʒi/ noun a branch of medicine which studies diseases of the mouth**

**-stomy /ˈstoumə/ suffix meaning an operation to make an opening**

**stone /ˈstoun/ noun 1. same as calculus (informal) (NOTE: For other terms referring to stones, see words beginning with lith-, litho-, or ending with -lith.) 2. a measure of weight equal to 14 pounds or 6.35 kilograms ○ He tried to lose weight and lost three stone. ○ She weighs eight stone ten (i.e. 8 stone 10 pounds).**

**stone-deaf /ˈstoun ˈdeft/ adjective totally deaf**

**stool /ˈstʊl/ noun 1. an act of emptying the bowels 2. a piece of solid waste matter which is passed out of the bowels ○ an abnormal stool ○ loose stools ○ a stool test (NOTE: Often used in the plural) /verb to pass a piece of solid matter out of the bowels**

**stoop /ˈstʊp/ noun a position where especial-

**-liness/steinləs/ adjective referring to a position where especial-

**-ness/inentləs/ adjective referring to a position where especial-
stop needle

stop needle /stop ˌnid(ə)n/ noun a needle with a ring round it, so that it can only be pushed a specific distance into the body

stoppage /ˈstopɪdʒ/ noun an act of stopping the function of an organ

storage disease /ˈstɔrɪdʒ ˈdrɑːzɪz/ noun a disease in which unusual amounts of a substance accumulate in a part of the body

stove-in chest /ˈstʊv in ˈtʃest/ noun an injury resulting from an accident, where several ribs are broken and pushed towards the inside

strabismal /strəˈbizməl/ adjective with the eyes focusing on different points

strabismus /strəˈbizməs/ noun a condition in which the eyes focus on different points. Also called squint, heterotropia

strabotomy /strəˈbotəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to divide the muscles of the eye in order to correct a squint

straight /stræt/ adjective with no irregularities such as bends, curves or angles

straighten /stræt(ə)n/ verb to make something straight, or become straight ○ Her arthritis is so bad that she cannot straighten her knees.

strain /strɛn/ noun 1. a condition in which a muscle has been stretched or torn by a strong or sudden movement. 2. a group of microorganisms which are different from others of the same type ○ a new strain of influenza virus

sterile /stɛrɪl/ adjective referring to an area or an object which is free from bacteria or other microorganisms

steriliser /stɛrɪlɪsər/ noun a device for sterilising objects, usually by subjecting them to steam or heat

sterilisation /stɛrɪlɪˈzeɪʃən/ noun the process of making something sterile

sterilising /stɛrɪlɪsɪŋ/ adjective referring to a device or a process which makes something sterile

sterility /stɛrɪˈlɪti/ noun the state of being sterile

straining /stræn(ɪ)n/ verb to try to bear or do something with great effort ○ The effort of running upstairs strained his heart.

stray /strɛi/ verb to wander off ○ The dog was wandering about in the street.

strawberry mark /strəˈbɛrmɑrk/ noun a red birthmark in children, which will often disappear in later life

strength /streŋθ/ noun the fact of being strong ○ After her illness she had no strength in her limbs.

strengthen /streŋθ(ə)n/ verb to make something strong

strenuous /strenjuəs/ adjective referring to exercise which involves using a lot of force ○ Avoid doing any strenuous exercise for some time while the wound heals.

strep throat /strep ˈθrəʊt/ noun an infection of the throat by a streptococcus (influenza)

strept- /strɛpt-/ prefix referring to organisms which grow in chains

streptococcus /strɛptəˈkɒkəs/ noun a genus of bacteria which grows in long chains, and causes fevers such as scarlet fever, tonsillitis and rheumatic fever (note: The plural is streptococci.)

streptodornase /strɛptəˈdɔrnəs/ noun an enzyme formed by streptococci which can break down blood clots and is therefore used in the treatment of myocardial infarction
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>streptolyisin</td>
<td>/streptˈtəʊləsɪn/ noun a toxin produced by <em>Streptococcus</em> in rheumatic fever, which acts to destroy red blood cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptomyces</td>
<td>/streptˈmɔːrəsɪz/ noun a genus of bacteria used to produce antibiotics</td>
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<td>streptomycin</td>
<td>/streptəˈmɔːrəsɪn/ noun an antibacterial drug used mainly for the treatment of tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stress</td>
<td>/stres/ noun 1. physical pressure on an object or part of the body 2. a factor or combination of factors in a person’s life which make him or her feel tired and anxious 3. a condition in which an outside influence such as overwork or a mental or emotional state such as anxiety changes the working of the body and can affect the hormone balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stress disorder</td>
<td>/stres dɪˈsoʊr/ noun a disorder caused by stress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stretch fracture</td>
<td>/stretʃ ˈfræktʃə/ noun a fracture of a bone caused by excessive force, as in some types of sport. Also called fatigue fracture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stress incontinence</td>
<td>/stres ɪnˌkənˈtɪnəns/ noun a condition in women in which the muscles in the floor of the pelvis become incapable of retaining urine when the intra-abdominal pressure is raised by coughing or laughing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stricture</td>
<td>/ˈstrɪktʃər/ noun the narrowing of a passage in the body</td>
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<td>streptolysin</td>
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<tr>
<td>string sign</td>
<td>/ˈstrɪŋ ˈsæn/ noun a thin line which appears on the ileum, a sign of regional ileitis or Crohn’s disease</td>
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<td>stript</td>
<td>/strɪpt/ verb to pull something out, or make something longer</td>
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<td>/strɛtʃər bɪˈɛər/ noun a person who helps to carry a stretcher</td>
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<td>stretcher case</td>
<td>/strɛtʃər kəs/ noun a person who is so ill that he or she has to be carried on a stretcher</td>
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<td>/strɛtʃər ˈpɑːrti/ noun a group of people who carry a stretcher and look after the person on it</td>
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### Other medical terms

- **stroke patient**: a person who has had a stroke
- **striated muscle**: a type of muscle found in skeletal muscles whose movements are controlled by the central nervous system. Also called striated muscle
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- **striated muscle**: a type of muscle found in skeletal muscles whose movements are controlled by the central nervous system. Also called striated muscle

### Additional medical concepts

- **systolic and diastolic blood pressure**: a measure of the pressure exerted by the heart while it beats and relaxes
- **fatigue**: a sense of tiredness or exhaustion
- **fracture**: a break in a bone caused by excessive force, as in some types of sport. Also called fatigue fracture
- **striated muscle**: a type of muscle found in skeletal muscles whose movements are controlled by the central nervous system. Also called striated muscle
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stroke volume

stroke volume /ˌstreɪk,vəˈljuː/ noun the amount of blood pumped out of the ventricle at each heartbeat

stroma /ˈstrɔːmə/ noun tissue which supports an organ, as opposed to the parenchyma or functioning tissues in the organ

Strongyloides /ˈstrɒŋdʒlɔɪdɪz/ noun a parasitic worm which infects the intestines

strongyloidiasis /ˌstrɒŋdʒlɔɪdɪˈəsɪs/ noun the fact of being infested with Strongyloides which enters the skin and then travels to the lungs and the intestines

stromium /ˈstrɔːmiəm/ noun a metallic element (note: The chemical symbol is Sr.)

stromium-90 /ˈstrɔːmiəm ˈnɛmti/ noun an isotope of strontium which is formed in nuclear reactions and, because it is part of the fallout of nuclear explosions, can enter the food chain, attacking in particular the bones of humans and animals

structure /ˈstrʌktʃər/ noun the way in which an organ or muscle is formed

struma /ˈstrʊmə/ noun a goitre

strychnine /ˈstrɪkznɪn/ noun a poisonous alkaloid drug, made from the seeds of a tropical tree, and formerly used in small doses as a tonic

Stryker frame /ˈstrɪkər frɛm/ noun a special piece of equipment on which a patient can easily be rotated by a nurse, used for patients with spinal injuries

ST segment /ˈes,tʃiˌsɛməntənt/, S-T segment noun the part of an electrocardiogram between the points labelled S and T, immediately before the last phase of the cardiac cycle

student /ˈstjuːdənt/ noun a person who is studying at a college or university

student nurse /ˈstjuːdənt ˈnɜːs/ noun a person who is studying to become a nurse

study /ˈstʌdɪ/ noun the act of examining something to learn about it

Study /ˈstʌdi/ noun a piece of the screening programme

stuffy /ˈstaʊfi/; stuffed up /ˈstaʊft ˈʌp/ adjective referring to a nose which is blocked with inflamed mucous membrane and mucus (informal)

stump /stʌmp/ noun a short piece of a limb which is left after the rest has been amputated

stun /stʌn/ verb to knock someone out by a blow to the head

stunt /stʌnt/ verb to stop something growing

The children’s development was stunted by disease.

stupe /stjuːp/ noun a wet medicated dressing used as a compress

stupor /ˈstjuːpər/ noun a state of being semi-conscious

Sturge-Weber syndrome /ˈstɜːrdʒ, ˈwɛbər/ noun a dark red mark on the skin above the eye, together with similar marks inside the brain, possibly causing epileptic fits

stutter /ˈstʌtər/ noun a speech problem where someone repeats the sound at the beginning of a word several times

stuttering /ˈstʌtərɪŋ/ noun same as stammering

stye /ˈsteɪ/ noun same as hordeolum

stylet /ˈstʌlət/ noun 1. a very thin piece of wire which is put into a catheter or hollow needle so that it will not become blocked when it is not being used 2. any long thin pointed instrument

stylet /ˈstʌlət/ noun 1. a very thin piece of wire which is put into a catheter or hollow needle so that it will not become blocked when it is not being used 2. any long thin pointed instrument

styloid /ˈstʌlɔɪd/ adjective pointed

styloid process /ˈstʌlɔɪd prəˈsiːs/ noun a piece of bone which projects from the bottom of the temporal bone

styptic /ˈstʌptɪk/ noun a substance which stops bleeding

styptic pencil /ˈstʌptɪk ˈpens(ə)l/ noun a stick of alum, used to stop bleeding from small cuts

sub-/ˈsʌb/ prefix underneath or below

subabdominal /ˌsʌbəˈdəmɪnl/ adjective beneath the abdomen

subacute /ˈsʌbəkjuːt/ adjective referring to a condition which is not acute but may become chronic

subacute bacterial endocarditis /ˌsʌbəˈkjuːt bəˈkærɪəl ˈendəkɑrdeɪtɪs/; subacute infective endocarditis /ˌsʌbəˈkjuːt ɪnˈfɛktɪv ˈendəkɑrdeɪtɪs/ noun an infection of the membrane covering the inner surfaces of the heart caused by bacteria

subacute combined degeneration of the spinal cord /ˌsʌbəˈkjuːt kɔrd,ˈbækˌtiərɪəl ˈendəkɔrd/; subacute combined degeneration of the spinal cord caused by Vitamin B12 deficiency, in which the sensory and motor nerves in the spinal cord become damaged and the person has difficulty in moving

subacute sclerosing panencephalitis /ˌsʌbəˈkjuːt ˈskleərəʊsɪŋ ˈpænɛnsɛfəlɪtɪs/
subcutaneous oedema /ɪˌsʌb.kjuː.ˈdɛmə/ noun a fluid collecting under the skin, usually at the ankles

subcutaneous tissue /ɪˌsʌb.kjuː.ˈtɪsə/ noun fatty tissue under the skin

subdural /ˌsʌb.ˈdjʊərəl/ adjective between the dura mater and the arachnoid

subdural haematoma /ˌsʌb.ˈdjʊərəl ˌheɪməˈteɪmə/ noun a haematoma between the dura mater and the arachnoid which displaces the brain, caused by a blow on the head

subglottis /ˌsʌb ˈɡlɒtɪs/ noun the lowest part of the laryngeal cavity, below the vocal folds

subinvolution /ˌsʌbɪnˈvɒljuːʃ(ə)n/ noun a condition in which a part of the body does not go back to its former size and shape after having swollen or stretched, as in the case of the uterus after childbirth

subject /ˈsʌbdʒɪk(t)ɪ/ noun 1. a patient, a person who has a particular disease 2. The hospital has developed a new treatment for arthritic subjects. 2. something which is being studied or written about

The subject of the article is ‘Rh-negative babies’.

subjective /ˈsʌb.dʒɪktɪv/ adjective representing the views or feelings of the person concerned and not impartial The psychiatrist gave a subjective opinion on the patient’s problem.

subjective to /ˈsʌb.dʒɪktɪv tə/ verb likely to experience After returning from the tropics she was subject to attacks of malaria.

sublimate /ˈsʌblɪmeɪt/ noun a deposit left when a vapour condenses ■ sublimate to convert violent emotion into action which is not antisocial

sublimation /ˈsʌblɪmeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a psychological process in which violent emotions which would otherwise be expressed in antisocial behaviour are directed into actions which are socially acceptable

subliminal /ˌsʌb.lɪˈmɪn(ə)l/ adjective too slight to be noticed by the senses

sublingual /ˈsʌblɪŋˈɡwel/ adjective under the tongue . . . the sublingual region has a rich blood supply derived from the carotid artery and indicates changes in central body temperature more rapidly than the rectum [Nursing Times]

sublingual gland /ˈsʌblɪŋˈɡwel ɡlænd/ noun a salivary gland under the tongue

subluxation /ˌsʌblʌksəˈʃ(ə)n/ noun a condition in which a joint is partially dislocated

submandibular /ˌsʌb.mæn.ˈdɪbjuːlər/ adjective under the lower jaw

submandibular gland /ˌsʌb.mæn.ˈdɪbjuːlər ɡlænd/ noun a ganglion associated with the lingual nerve, relaying impulses to the submandibular and sublingual salivary glands

submandibular /ˌsʌb.mæn.ˈdɪbjuːlər/ adjective below the chin. • the submandibular region has a rich blood supply derived from the carotid artery and indicates changes in central body temperature more rapidly than the rectum [Nursing Times]
submental noun a salivary gland on each side of the lower jaw

submucosa /ab′njus′kəs/ noun tissue under a mucous membrane

submucous /ab′njus′kəs/ adjective under a mucous membrane

submucous resection /ab′njus′kəs ri ′sæk′jən/ noun the removal of a bent cartilage from the septum in the nose. Abbr SMR

subnormal /ab′nor′nal/ adjective with a mind which has not developed fully (Note: This term is regarded as offensive.)

subnormality /ab′nor′nal i tei/ noun a condition in which someone’s mind has not developed fully (Note: This term is regarded as offensive.)

suboccipital /əb′sək′pi təl/ adjective beneath the back of the head

suborbital /əb′sər′bə təl/ adjective beneath the eye socket

subperiosteal /əb′sə pə ri′ə stəl/ adjective immediately beneath the connective tissue around bones

subphrenic /əb′fren′ikk/ adjective under the diaphragm

subphrenic abscess /əb′fren′ikk ′æ bses/ noun an abscess which forms between the diaphragm and the liver

subside /əb′said/ verb to go down or become less violent (Note: After being given the antibiotics, her fever subsided)

substance /əb′stə nz/ noun a chemical material, e.g. a drug or toxic substances released into the bloodstream (Note: He became addicted to certain substances.

substance abuse /əb′stə nz ′ə bə sə nz/ noun the misuse or excessive use of drugs, alcohol or other substances for pleasure or to satisfy addiction, which often causes health, emotional or social problems for the user

substance /ə b′stə nz/ pi: /ə b′stə nz/ noun a neurotransmitter involved in pain pathways

substitution /ə b′stə tju′ʃən/ noun the act of replacing one thing with another

substitution therapy /ə b′stə tju′ʃə n ′θerəpi/ noun a way of treating a condition by using a different drug from the one used before

substrate /əb′strə tət/ noun a substance which is acted on by an enzyme

subthreshold /′sə bθrə ′θrəuld/ adjective describing a stimulus that is not strong enough to have an effect

subtotal /′sə b′tə ul/ adjective referring to an operation to remove most of an organ

subtotal gastrectomy /′sə b′tə ul ′gæ ′strek′tə mə/ noun the surgical removal of all but the top part of the stomach in contact with the diaphragm

subtotal hysterectomy /′sə b′tə ul ′hı s′tər′ektə mə/ noun the surgical removal of the uterus, but not the cervix

subtotal pancreatectomy /′sə b′tə ul ′pæ n′kret′ə kte mə/ noun the surgical removal of most of the pancreas

subtotal thyroidectomy /′sə b′tə ul ′θı r′ə dθ′ektə mə/ noun the surgical removal of most of the thyroid gland

subungual /′sə b′əng′gwəl/ adjective under a nail

succeed /sə kˈsid/ verb to do well at what one was trying to do (Note: Scientists have succeeded in identifying the new influenza virus. (Note: They succeeded in stopping the flow of blood.

success /sə kˈsəs/ noun 1. the fact of doing something well, doing what one was trying to do (Note: They tried to isolate the virus but without success. 2. something which goes well (Note: The operation was a complete success.

successful /sə kˈsə səl/ adjective working well (Note: The operation was completely successful.

succession /sə kˈsə sən/ noun a line of happenings, one after the other (Note: She had a succession of miscarriages.

successive /sə kˈsə səv/ adjective following one after the other (Note: She had a miscarriage with each successive pregnancy.

succus /sə kəs/ noun juice secreted by an organ

succus entericus /sə kəs en′tər′ikkəs/ noun juice formed of enzymes, produced in the intestine to help the digestive process

succession /sə kˈsə sən/ noun a splashing sound made when there is a large amount of liquid inside a cavity in the body, e.g. the stomach

suck /sək/ verb to pull liquid or air into the mouth or into a tube

sucrase /sək′rə sə/ noun an enzyme in the intestine which breaks down sucrose into glucose and fructose

sucrose /sək′rəsworth/ noun a sugar, formed of glucose and fructose, found in plants, especially in sugar cane, beet and maple syrup

suction /sə kˈʃən/ noun a force created by the action of sucking (Note: The dentist hooked a suction tube into the patient’s mouth.)
1900. After Paul Hermann Martin Sudeck’s atrophy (Sudeck’s osteoporosis in the hand or foot) [Described by Paul Hermann Martin Sudeck (1866–1938), German surgeon.]

sudamen /ˈsuːdəmən/ noun a little blister caused by sweat (NOTE: The plural is sudamina.)
sudden /ˈsʌd(ə)n/ adjective happening quickly.
sudden death /ˈsʌd(ə)n ˈdeθ/ noun death without any identifiable cause, not preceded by an illness.
sudden infant death syndrome /ˈsʌd(ə)n ˈɪnfənt ˈdeθˌ ˈsʌndrəʊm/ noun the sudden death of a baby under the age of about twelve months in bed, without any identifiable cause. (Abbr SIDS. Also called cot death)

Sudeck’s atrophy /ˈsʌdɛks ˌætrofi/ noun osteoporosis in the hand or foot [Described by Paul Hermann Martin Sudeck (1866–1938), German surgeon.]
dsudor /ˈsʊdər/ noun sweat
sudoriferous /ˈsʊdərɪfərəs/ adjective producing sweat
sudorific /ˈsʊdərɪfɪk/ noun a drug which makes someone sweat
suffer /ˈsʌfər/ verb 1. to have an illness for a long period of time (I suffered from headaches). 2. to feel pain (I didn’t suffer much). 3. to receive an injury (He suffered multiple injuries in the accident).
sufferer /ˈsʌfərər/ noun a person who has a particular disease (a drug to help asthma sufferers or sufferers from asthma
suffering /ˈsʌfərɪŋ/ noun the experiencing of pain over a long period of time
suffocate /ˈsʌfəkət/ verb to make someone stop breathing by cutting off the supply of air to his or her nose and mouth
suffocation /ˈsʌfəˈkeɪʃən/ noun the act of making someone become unconscious by cutting off his or her supply of air
suffuse /ˈsʌf jʊz/ verb to spread over or through something
suffusion /ˈsʌf jʊʃən/ noun the spreading of a red flush over the skin
sugar /ˈʃʊgər/ noun any of several sweet carbohydrates (NOTE: For other terms referring to sugar, see words beginning with glyco-, glyco-.)
COMMENT: There are several natural forms of sugar: sucrose (in plants), lactose (in milk), fructose (in fruit), glucose and dextrose (in fruit and in body tissue). Edible sugar used in the home is a form of refined sucrose. All sugars are useful sources of energy, though excessive amounts of sugar can increase weight and cause tooth decay. Diabetes mellitus is a condition in which the body is incapable of absorbing sugar from food.
sugar intolerance /ˈʃʊgər ɪnˈtərəlɪns/ noun diarrhoea caused by sugar which has not been absorbed
suggest /ˈsɪdʒəst/ verb to mention an idea (The doctor suggested that she should stop smoking.

suggested daily intake /ˈsɪdʒəstɪd ˈdeili ˈɪntək/ noun the amount of a substance which it is recommended a person should take in each day

suggestibility /ˈsɪdʒəstɪˈbɪlɪtɪ/ noun a mental state in which somebody just accepts other people’s ideas, attitudes or instructions, without questioning them. It is usually increased under hypnosis.

sugestive /ˈsɪdʒəstɪv/ adjective easily influenced by other people

sugestion /ˈsɪdʒəʃən/ noun, 1. an idea which has been mentioned (The doctor didn’t agree with the suggestion that the disease had been caught in the hospital. 2. (in psychiatry) the process of making a person’s ideas change, by suggesting different ideas which the person can accept, such as that he or she is in fact cured

suicidal /ˈsjuːsɪd(ə)l/ adjective referring to someone who wants to kill himself (He has suicidal tendencies.

suicide /ˈsjuːsɪd/ noun the act of killing oneself (to commit suicide to kill yourself (After his wife died he committed suicide.

sulcus /ˈsʌlks/ noun a groove or fold, especially between the gyri in the brain (lateral sulcus and central sulcus two grooves which divide a cerebral hemisphere into lobes

sulfa drug /ˈsʌlfeɪdʒə/ noun any of several sweet car-bohydrates (NOTE: For other terms referring to sugar, see words beginning with glyco-, glyco-.)

sulfasalazine /sʌlˈfeɪsələˌzen/ noun a drug belonging to the sulfonamide group of antibacterial drugs. It is used in the treatment of ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease, and also of severe rheumatoid arthritis.

sulfate /ˈsʌlfət/ noun any of a group of drugs which lower blood sugar, used in the treatment of diabetes

sulfur /ˈsʌlfər/ noun another spelling of sulphur

sulphate /ˈsʌlfət/ noun a salt of sulphuric acid

sulphur /ˈsʌlfər/ noun a yellow non-metallic chemical element which is contained in some amino acids and is used in creams to treat some skin disorders (NOTE: The chemical symbol is S. Note also that words beginning sulphur are spelt sult- in US English.)

sulphuric acid /ˈsʌlfjʊərɪk ˈəsɪd/ noun a strong colourless oily corrosive acid which has many uses

sumatriptan /ˈsʌmətrɪptən/ noun a drug which helps to narrow the blood vessels, used in the treatment of acute migraine
reduce the risk of sunburn by excessive exposure to sunlight

body comes dizzy and has a high body temperature

sunscreen a cream for rubbing into the skin that acts as a block against the harmful rays of the sun, used to reduce the risk of sunburn

sun stroke a serious condition caused by excessive exposure to the sun or to hot conditions, in which the person becomes dizzy and has a high body temperature but does not perspire

sun screen

sunlight the light from the sun

comment sunlight is essential to give the body vitamin D, but excessive exposure to sunlight will not simply turn the skin brown, but also may burn the surface of the skin so badly that it dies and pus forms beneath. Constant exposure to the sun can cause cancer of the skin.

superego the part of the mind which is a person's conscience, which is concerned with right and wrong

superciliaries the part of the eye in which a person's supercilium, which is concerned with right and wrong

superfetation a condition in which two or more ova produced at the same time are fertilised by different males

superinefection a second infection which affects the treatment of the first infection, because it is resistant to the drug used to treat the first

supervise to manage or organise something

supernumerary extra, more than the usual number

supernumerary students to clinical areas is for their educational needs and not for service requirements

sunscreen

sunlight

superior aspect a view of the body from above

superior ganglion a small collection of cells in the jugular foramen

superiority the fact of being better than something or someone else

superiority complex a condition in which a person feels he or she is better and more important than others and pays little attention to them

superior mesenteric artery one of the arteries which supply the small intestine

superior vena cava a branch of the large vein into the heart, carrying blood from the head and the top part of the body. See illustration at HEART in Supplement

supervision to turn the hand so that the palm faces upwards

supinate to turn the hand so that the palm faces upwards

supination a muscle which turns the hand so that the palm faces upwards

supine lying on the back

supine patients need constant supervision.

supervisory staff is under the supervision of a full-time nurse.
supply /ˈsəpl/ noun something which is provided ○ The arteries provide a continuous supply of oxygenated blood to the tissues. ○ The hospital service needs a constant supply of blood for transfusion. ○ The government sent medical supplies to the disaster area. ■ verb to provide or give something which is needed ○ A balanced diet will supply the body with all the vitamins and trace elements it needs. ○ The brachial artery supplies the arm and hand.

support /ˈsəpərt/ noun 1. help to keep something in place ○ The bandage provides some support for the knee. ○ He was so weak that he had to hold onto a chair for support. 2. a handle, a metal rail which a person can hold ○ There are supports at the side of the bed. ○ The bath is provided with metal supports. ■ verb 1. to hold something ○ He wore a truss to support a hernia. 2. to keep something in place

support hose /ˈsəpərt hɔːz/ plural noun stockings that fit tightly to the legs, worn to help the flow of blood

supportive /ˈsəpərtɪv/ adjective helping or comforting someone in trouble ○ Her family was very supportive when she was in hospital. ○ The local health authority has been very supportive of the hospital management.

support stocking /ˈsəpərt ˈstəʊkɪŋ/ noun a stocking worn to prevent postural hypotension and peripheral oedema

supporter /ˈsəpərtər/ noun someone who assists registered health service professionals as part of a team, e.g. as a nursing auxiliary or assistant, or in specialist areas such as mental health, speech therapy or physiotherapy

suppository /ˈsəpəznəri/ noun a piece of a soluble material such as glycerine jelly containing a drug, which is placed in the rectum to act as lubricant, or in the vagina, to treat disorders such as vaginitis, and is dissolved by the body’s fluids

suppress /ˈsəpres/ verb to reduce the action of something completely, e.g. to remove a symptom or to stop the release of a hormone ○ a course of treatment which suppresses the painful irritation ○ The drug suppresses the body’s natural instinct to reject the transplant-ed tissue. ○ The release of adrenaline from the adrenal cortex is suppressed.

suppression /ˈsəpresʃən/ noun the act of suppressing something ○ the suppression of allergic responses ○ the suppression of a hormone

suppressor T-cell /ˈsəpra ˈtʃiːl/ noun a T-cell which stops or reduces the immune response to an antigen of B-cells and other T-cells

suppurate /ˈsəpjuərɪt/ verb to form and discharge pus

suppurating /ˈsəpjuərɪtɪŋ/ adjective purulent, containing or discharging pus

supputation /ˈsəpjuətəʃən/ noun the formation and discharge of pus

supra- /ˈsəprə/ prefix above or over

supraglottis /ˈsəprəɡlɒtɪs/ plural noun the part of the larynx above the vocal folds, including the epiglottis

supraoptic nucleus /ˌsəprəʊˈɒptɪk ˈnjuːkliəs/ noun a nucleus in the hypothalamus from which nerve fibres run to the posterior pituitary gland

supraorbital /ˌsəprəˈɔrbiːtəl/ adjective above the orbit of the eye

supraorbital ridge /ˌsəprəˈɔrbiːtəl ˈridʒ/ noun the ridge of bone above the eye, covered by the eyebrow

suprapublic /ˌsəprəˈpjuːbɪˈklar/ adjective above the pubic bone or pubic area

suprarenal /ˌsəprəˈrɛnəl/ adjective above the kidneys ○ noun same as suprarenal gland

supra renal area /ˌsəprərɛnəl ˈɛriə/ noun the area of the body above the kidneys

suprarenal cortical hormone /ˌsəprəˈrɛnəl kɔrˈtɪkl ˈhɔrmiːn/ noun a hormone secreted by the cortex of the adrenal glands, e.g. cortisone

suprarenal gland /ˌsəprəˈrɛnəl ˈɡlænd/ noun one of two endocrine glands at the top of the kidneys, which secrete adrenaline and other hormones

suprarenal medulla /ˌsəprərɛnəl ˈmedjuːlə/ noun same as adrenal medulla

suprasternal /ˌsəprəˈstrɛnəl/ adjective above the sternum

supraventricular tachycardia /ˌsəprəvɛnˈtrɪskjuəl ˈtæksɪkɑːriə/ noun tachycardia coming from the upper chambers of the heart

surface /ˈsɜːfɪs/ noun the top layer of something ○ The surfaces of the two membranes may rub together.

surfactant /ˈsɜːfæktənt/ noun a substance in the alveoli of the lungs which keeps the surfaces of the lungs wet and prevents lung collapse

surgeon /ˈsɜːdʒən/ noun a doctor who specialises in surgery (note: Although surgeons are doctors, in the UK they are traditionally called ‘Dr’ and not ‘Dr’, so ‘Dr Smith’ may be a GP, but ‘Mr Smith’ is a surgeon.)

surgeon general /ˈsɜːdʒən ˈdʒɛnerəl/ noun US a government official responsible for all aspects of public health

surgery /ˈsɜːdʒəri/ noun 1. the treatment of diseases or disorders by procedures which require an operation to cut into, to remove or to
surgical

manipulate tissue, organs or parts ○ The patient will need plastic surgery to remove the scars he received in the accident. ○ The surgical ward is for patients waiting for surgery. ○ Two of our patients had to have surgery. ○ She will have to undergo surgery. 2. a room where a doctor or dentist sees and examines patients ○ There are ten patients waiting in the surgery. ○ Surgery hours are from 8.30 in the morning to 6.00 at night.

surgical [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)] adjective 1. referring to surgery ○ All surgical instruments must be sterilised. 2. referring to a disease which can be treated by surgery ○ We manage to carry out six surgical operations in an hour.

surgical boot [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l bʊt] noun a fitted covering, worn to support part of the back, chest or abdomen

surgical care [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l kɛə] noun looking after patients who have had surgery

surgical diathermy [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l dæθəˈθɛrəmi] noun a procedure which uses a knife or electrode which is heated by a strong electric current until it coagulates tissue

surgical emphysema [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l ɪmˈfɪzəmə] noun air bubbles in tissue, not in the lungs

surgical fixation [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l fɪkˈʃɛnʃən] noun a method of immobilising something such as a bone either externally by the use of a splint or internally by a metal plate and screws

surgical gloves [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l ɡlʌvz] plural noun thin plastic gloves worn by surgeons

surgical hose [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l həʊz] noun a strong elastic stocking worn to support a weak joint in a knee or to relieve varicose veins. Also called surgical stocking

surgical intervention [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l ɪntrəˈvɛnʃən] noun the treatment of disease or other condition by surgery

surgically [ˈsaːdʒɪkli] adverb using surgery ○ The growth can be treated surgically.

surgical neck [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l nɛk] noun the narrow part at the top of the humerus, where the arm can easily be broken

surgical needle [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l ˈnɪdəl] noun a needle for sewing up surgical incisions

surgical procedure [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l prəˈsɪdʒər] noun a surgical operation

surgical shoe [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l ʃuː] noun a specially made boot for a person who has an unusually shaped foot, to support or correct it

surgical spirit [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l ˈspɪrɪt] noun ethyl alcohol with an additive giving it an unpleasant taste, used as a disinfectant or for cleansing the skin. Also called rubbing alcohol

surgical stocking [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l ˈstɒŋkɪŋ] noun a surgical hose

surgical ward [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l wɜːd] noun a ward for patients who have undergone surgery

surgical wound [ˈsaːdʒɪk(ə)l wʊnd] noun an incision made during a surgical operation

surrogate [ˈsaːrəɡət] adjective taking the place of noun someone or something that takes the place of another person or thing ○ surrogate mother 1. a woman who has a child by artificial insemination for a woman who cannot become pregnant, with the intention of handing the child over to her when it is born. 2. a person who takes the place of a natural mother for someone

surround [səˈraʊnd] verb to be all around something ○ The wound is several millimetres deep and the surrounding flesh is inflamed.

survival [səˈvaɪvəl] noun the act of continuing to live ○ The survival rate of newborn babies has begun to fall.

survive [səˈvaɪv] verb to continue to live ○ He survived two attacks of pneumonia. ○ The baby only survived for two hours.

susceptibility [səˈsɛptɪbɪlɪtɪ] noun a person who survives ○ She is susceptible to colds or to throat infections.

suspect [səˈspekt] noun ○ a person who doctors believe may have a disease ○ They are screening all typhoid suspects. ○ verb [səˈspekt] to think that someone may have a disease ○ He is a suspected diphtheria carrier. ○ Several cases of suspected meningitis have been reported.

...those affected are being nursed in five isolation wards and about forty suspected sufferers are being barer nursed in other wards" [Nursing Times]

suspension [səˈspɛnʃən] noun a liquid with solid particles in it

suspensory [səˈspeŋsərɪ] adjective hanging down

suspensory bandage [sə,speŋsərɪ ˈbændɪdʒ] noun a bandage to hold a part of the body which hangs

suspensory ligament [sə,speŋsərɪ ˈlɪgəmənt] noun a ligament which holds a part of the body in position. See illustration at EYE in Supplement

sustain [səˈsteɪn] verb 1. to keep, to support, to maintain something ○ These bones can sustain quite heavy weights. ○ He is not eating
sweat /swet/noun a salty liquid produced by the sweat glands to cool the body as the liquid evaporates from the skin. ○ Sweat was running off the end of his nose. ○ Her hands were covered with sweat. Also called perspiration. noun verb to produce moisture through the sweat glands and onto the skin. ○ She sweats in her sleep.

sweat duct /swet dakt/noun a thin tube connecting the sweat gland with the surface of the skin.

sweat gland /swet glænd/noun a gland which produces sweat, situated beneath the dermis and connected to the skin surface by a sweat duct.

sweat pore /swet pɔ/noun a hole in the skin through which the sweat comes out.

drown /drʌn/noun one of the basic tastes, not bitter, sour or salt. ○ Sagar is sweet, lemons are sour.

sweat duct /noun a part of the body which supports another part of the body which supports another part. ○ He sustained a severe head injury.

sweat gland /noun a drug similar to acetylcholine in structure, used as a muscle relaxant during surgery.

sweat pore /noun a hole in the skin through which the sweat comes out.

sweat /verb to become larger, or cause something to become larger. ○ The disease affects the lymph glands, making them swell. ○ The doctor noticed that the patient had swollen ankles. painfu. (Note: swelling – swollen – swollen)

swelling /noun a condition in which fluid accumulates in tissue, making the tissue become large. ○ They applied a cold compress to try to reduce the swelling.

swimmer’s cramp /noun spasms in arteries and muscles caused by cold water, or by swimming soon after a meal.

sycosis /noun an infection of hair follicles.

sycosis barbae /noun an infection of hair follicles on the sides of the face and chin. Also called barber’s itch, barber’s rash.

Sydenham’s chorea /noun temporary chorea affecting children, frequently associated with endocarditis and rheumatism. [Described 1686. After Thomas Sydenham (1624–99), English physician.]

symbool /noun a sign or letter which means something.

Syme’s amputation /noun a surgical operation to amputate the foot above the ankle. [Described 1842. After James Syme (1799–1870), Edinburgh surgeon and teacher; one of the first to adopt antisepsis (Joseph Lister was his son-in-law), and also among the early users of anaesthesia.]

symmetry /noun the regularity of structure and distribution of parts of the body, each side of the body being structurally similar to the other.

sympathetic nervous system /noun a surgical operation to cut part of the sympathetic nervous system, as a treatment of high blood pressure.

sympathetic /noun feeling or showing shared feelings, pity or compassion. ○ relating to or belonging to the sympathetic nervous system, or to one of its parts.

sympathetic nervous system /noun part of the autonomic nervous system, which leaves the spinal cord from the thoracic and lumbar regions to go to various important organs such as the heart, the lungs and the sweat glands, and which prepares the body for emergencies and vigorous muscular activity.

swab /noun a cotton wool pad, often attached to a small stick, used, e.g., to clean a wound, to apply ointment or to take a specimen.

swallow /noun to make liquid, food and sometimes air go down from the mouth to the stomach. ○ Patients suffering from nosebleeds should try not to swallow the blood.

swallowing /noun same as deglutition.
sympatholytic

sympatholytic /sɪm'paθəlɪtɪk/ noun a drug which stops the sympathetic nervous system working

sympathomietric /sɪm'paθəmətɪk/ adjective referring to a drug such as dopamine hydrochloride which stimulates the activity of the sympathetic nervous system and is used in cardiac shock following myocardial infarction and in cardiac surgery

sympathy /sɪm'paθɪ/ noun 1. the feeling or expression of pity or sorrow for the pain or distress of somebody else 2. the relationship between people which causes one of them to provoke a similar condition to their own in the other one. For example, when the first person yawns, the second feels an urge to yawn too. 3. the influence produced on any part of the body by disease or change in another part

sympathectomy /sɪm'fæθɪk'təmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove part of the pubic symphysis to make childbirth easier

sympatholysis /sɪm'fæθəlɪsɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an incision in the pubic symphysis to make the passage for a fetus wider

sympathetic /sɪm'paθətɪk/ adjective referring to a synapse

sympathetic connection /sɪm'paθətɪk kə'nekʃən/ noun a link between the dendrites of one neuron with another neuron

synarthrosis /'sɪnərθrəsɪs/ noun a joint, e.g. in the skull, where the bones have fused together

synchondrosis /sɪn'kɔndrəsɪs/ noun a joint, as in children, where the bones are linked by cartilage, before the cartilage has changed to bone

synchysis /sɪn'kəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the vitreous humour at the eye becomes soft

syncope /sɪn'kəpi/ noun a condition in which someone becomes unconscious for a short time because of reduced flow of blood to the brain. Also called fainting fit

synctium /sɪn'sɪtjəm/ noun a continuous length of tissue in muscle fibres

syndactyl /sɪn'dæktɪl/ adjective having two or more fingers or toes joined together when born

syndactyly /sɪn'dæktɪlɪ/ noun a continuous length of tissue in muscle fibres

syndactylism /sɪn'dæktɪlɪzəm/ noun a condition in which two toes or fingers are joined together with tissue

syndesm- /sɪn'dɛz-/ prefix referring to ligaments

syndesmosis /sɪn'dɛzmoʊsɪs/ noun a joint where the bones are tightly linked by ligaments

syndrome /sɪn'droʊm/ noun a group of symptoms and other changes in the body's functions which, when taken together, show that a particular disease is present.

synechia /sɪn'nekiə/ noun a condition in which the iris sticks to another part of the eye

syncytium /sɪn'sɪtjəm/ noun the releasing of fluid as in a blood clot when it becomes harder

synergism /sɪn'ɜrgəzm/ noun a situation in which two or more things are acting together in such a way that both are more effective. Also called synergy

synergist /sɪn'ɜrgɪst/ noun a muscle or drug which acts with another and increases the effectiveness of both

synergistic /sɪn'ɜrgəstɪk/ adjective referring to individuals or tissues that have an identical or closely similar genetic make-up, especially one that will allow the transplanting of tissue without provoking an immune response

syngraft /sɪn'graft/ noun same as isograft

synoptophore /sɪn'ɒptəfoʊr/ noun an instrument used to correct a squint

synostosed /sɪn'stəstəd/ adjective (of bones) fused together with new bone tissue
**synostosis** /sɪnɒˈstɒsɪs/ noun the fusing of two bones together by the formation of new bone tissue

**synovectomy** /sɪnəʊˈvɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the synovial membrane of a joint

**synovia** /sənəʊˈvɪə/ noun same as synovial fluid

**synovial cavity** /sənəʊˈvɪəl ˈkævɪti/ noun a space inside a synovial joint. See illustration at synovial joint in Supplement

**synovial fluid** /sənəʊˈvɪəl ˈflʌɪd/ noun a fluid secreted by a synovial membrane to lubricate a joint. See illustration at synovial joint in Supplement

**synovial joint** /sənəʊˈvɪəl ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint where the two bones are separated by a space filled with synovial fluid which nourishes and lubricates the surfaces of the bones. Also called diarthrosis

**synovial membrane** /sənəʊˈvɪəl ˈmɛmbrən/ noun a smooth membrane which forms the inner lining of the capsule covering a joint and secretes the fluid which lubricates the joint. See illustration at synovial joint in Supplement

**synovia** /sənəʊˈvɪə/ noun same as synovial membrane

"70% of rheumatoid arthritis sufferers develop the condition in the metacarpophalangeal joints. The synovium produces an excess of synovial fluid which is abnormal and becomes thickened." [Nursing Times]

**synthesis** /sɪnˈθɛsɪs/ noun 1. the process of combining different ideas or objects into a new whole 2. a new unified whole resulting from the combination of different ideas or objects 3. the formation of compounds through chemical reactions involving simpler compounds or elements 4. in psychiatry, the fusing together of all the various elements of the personality (note: The plural is syntheses.)

**synthesize** /sɪnˈθɛsɪz/ verb to make a chemical compound from its separate components. ○ Essential amino acids cannot be synthesised. ○ The body cannot synthesise essential fatty acids and has to absorb them from food.

**synthetic** /sɪnˈθɛtɪk/ adjective made by humans, made artificially

**synthetically** /sɪnˈθɛtɪkli/ adverb made artificially ○ Synthetically produced hormones are used in hormone therapy.

**syphilide** /sɪfilɪd/ noun a rash or open sore which is a symptom of the second stage of syphilis

**syphilis** /sɪfɪlɪs/ noun a sexually transmitted disease caused by a spirochaete Treponema pallidum

**systematic desensitisation**

**COMMENT: Syphilis is a serious sexually transmitted disease, but it is curable with penicillin injections if the treatment is started early. Syphilis has three stages: in the first, or primary, stage, a hard sore (chancre) appears on the genitals or sometimes on the mouth; in the second, or secondary, stage about two or three months later, a rash appears, with sores round the mouth and genitals. It is at this stage that the disease is particularly infectious. After this stage, symptoms disappear for a long time, sometimes many years. The disease reappears in the third, or tertiary, stage in many different forms: blindness, brain disorders, ruptured aorta or general paralysis leading to mental disorder and death. The tests for syphilis are the Wassermann test and the less reliable Kahn test.

**syringe** /sɜrɪndʒ/ noun a medical instrument made of a tube with a plunger which either slides up the tube, allowing a liquid to be sucked into it; or slides down through the tube, forcing the contents out through a needle as in an injection, or data used for phobia and other anxiety disorders in which patients are gradually given longer and longer exposures to the object of their fears.

**syringomyelitis** /sɜrɪŋəʊˈmɪliːtɪs/ noun a severe form of spina bifida where the spinal cord pushes through a hole in the spine

**syringomyelia** /sɜrɪŋəʊˈmelɪə/ noun a disease which forms cavities in the neck section of the spinal cord, affecting the nerves so that the person loses the sense of touch and pain

**syringomyelocele** /sɜrɪŋəʊˌmɪləʊˈkɛl/ noun a swelling of the spinal cord, which results in the formation of cavities in it

**syringobulbia** /sɜrɪŋəʊˈbʊlbiə/ noun a benign tumour in sweat glands and ducts

**syringocystadenoma** /sɜrɪŋəʊˈkjʊstədəmə/ noun a tumour in sweat glands

**syringocystadenitis** /sɜrɪŋəʊˈkjʊstədənɪtɪs/ noun an inflammation of the synovial membrane

**syringomyelitis** /sɜrɪŋəʊˈmɪelɪtɪs/ noun a swelling of the spinal cord, which results in the formation of cavities in it

**syringomyelocele** /sɜrɪŋəʊˌmɪləʊˈkɛl/ noun a severe form of spina bifida where the spinal cord pushes through a hole in the spine

**systematic desensitisation** /sɪstəmətɪk ˌdesənˈsɛtɪzəʃən/ noun a therapy for phobia and other anxiety disorders in which patients are gradually given longer and longer exposures to the object of their fears.

**Système International d’Unités** /sɪstəm ənˈtəmɔ̃sje anˈty ˈdʊnɪtɛ/ noun the International System of units.
**systemic** /sɪˈstɪmɪk/ adjective referring to or affecting the whole body. *Septicaemia is a systemic infection.*

**systemic circulation** /sɪˈstɪmɪk ˌsɜːrkjʊˈleɪʃən/ noun the circulation of blood around the whole body, except the lungs, starting with the aorta and returning through the veins.

**systemic lupus erythematosus** /sɪˈstɪmɪk ˈljuːpəs ˌɛrɪθəˈmætəsəs/ noun one of several collagen diseases which are forms of lupus, where red patches form on the skin and spread throughout the body. Abbr *SLE*

**systole** /ˈsɪstəli/ noun a phase in the beating of the heart when it contracts as it pumps blood out. Opposite *diastole*; the heart is contracting and pumping.

**systolic** /sɪˈstɒlɪk/ adjective referring to the systole; the heart is contracting and pumping.

**systolic murmur** /sɪˈstɒlɪk ˈmɜːrmɜː/ noun a sound produced during systole which indicates an unusual condition of a heart valve.

**systolic pressure** /sɪˈstɒlɪk ˈpreʃər/ noun the high point of blood pressure which occurs during the systole. Systolic pressure is always higher than diastolic pressure.
deterioration

nal stage of syphilis in which the person has

ability to coordinate movements of the legs,

sense of feeling, control of the bladder and the

advanced syphilis, in which the person loses the

effect of a drug or neurotransmitter which be-

tachyphyl(l)axis

tachyphrasia

tachycardia

tachycardia

tachyarrhythmia

tachyarrhythmia

tachy-

tachy-

tabes dorsalis

tabes dorsalis

tabes mesenterica

tabes mesenterica

tabetic

tabetic

tabes

tabes

symptom/term-

TAB abbr typhoid-paratyphoid A and B ○ He

was given a TAB injection. ○ TAB injections
give only temporary immunity against paraty-

phoid. ○ TAB vaccine
tables /ˈteɪbəlz/ noun a condition in which

someone is wasting away
tabes dorsalis /ˈteɪbɪtɪs ˈsɛrlɪs/ noun a
disease of the nervous system, caused by ad-

vanced syphilis, in which the person loses the

sense of feeling, control of the bladder and the

ability to coordinate movements of the legs,

and has severe pains. Also called locomotor

ataxia
tabes mesenterica /ˈteɪbɪtɪs ˈmesɛntərɪkə/ noun
the wasting of glands in the ab-

domen
tabetic /tæˈbetɪk/ adjective wasting away or

affected by tabes dorsalis
tablet /ˈteɪblt/ noun 1. a small flat round ob-

ject containing medicine that is taken by swal-

lowing ○ a bottle of aspirin tablets ○ Take two
tablets three times a day. 2. any tablet, pill or
capsule taken by swallowing (internal)
taboparesis /teɪˈbɒpərərɪsɪs/ noun the fi-

nal stage of syphilis in which the person has

locomotor ataxia, general paralysis and mental
deterioration

TAB vaccine /ˈteɪbɪtɪs ˈvɛsɪkə/ noun a vaccine
which immunises against typhoid fe-

ver and paratyphoid A and B
tachy- /tækɪ/ prefix fast
tachyarrhythmia /tækɪəˈrɑːθmɪə/ noun a fast
irregular heartbeat
tachycardia /tækɪˈkɑːrdɪə/ noun a rapid
beating of the heart
tachyphasia /tækɪˈfeɪzəsɪə/ tachyphasia /ˈtækɪˌfeɪziə/ noun a particularly rapid way of

speaking, as occurs with some people with

mental disorders
tachyphylaxis /tækɪˌfɪlɪkˈsɪzɪs/ noun an effect of a drug or neurotransmitter which be-

comes less with repeated doses
tachyphoea /tækɪˈfeɪniə/ noun very fast

breathing
tacrolimus /ˈtækrolɪməs/ noun a powerful

immunosuppressant drug used to reduce the

risk of organ transplant rejection
tactile /ˈtæktɪkl/ adjective able to be sensed

by touch
tactile anaesthesia /ˈtæktɪkl ˌænəˈθesɪə/ noun
the loss of the sensation of touch
taenia /ˈteɪniə/ noun 1. a long ribbon-like part

of the body 2. a large tapeworm of the genus

Taenia

COMMENT: The various species of Taenia

which affect humans are taken into the body

from eating meat which has not been properly

cooked. The most obvious symptom of tape-

worm infestation is a sharply increased appe-

tite, together with a loss of weight. The most

common infestations are with Taenia solium,

found in pork, where the larvae develop in the

body and can form hydatid cysts, and Taenia

saginata, the adult form of which grows to be-

tween four and eight metres long in the hu-

man intestine.
taeniocide /ˈteɪniəsɪd/ noun a substance

which kills tapeworms
taenia coli /ˈteɪniə ˈkɒli/ noun the outer

band of muscle running along the large inte-

testine
taeniocide /ˈteɪniəsɪd/ noun a substance

which makes tapeworms leave the body
taeniasis /ˈteɪniəsɪs/ noun infestation of the

intestines with tapeworms

Tagamet /ˈteɪgəmɛt/ a trade name for a prep-

aration of cimetidine
tai chi /ˈtɑː tʃi/ ‘t’ai chi noun an ancient Chi-

nese system of exercises designed for health,

self-defence and spiritual development

take /teɪk/ verb 1. to swallow a medicine ○

She has to take her tablets three times a day. ○

The medicine should be taken in a glass of wa-

ter. 2. to do particular actions ○ The dentist

took an X-ray of his teeth. ○ The patient has

been allowed to take a bath. 3. (of graft) to be

accepted by the body ○ The skin graft hasn’t

taken. ○ The kidney transplant took easily.

(note: taking – took – taken)
take after /ˈteɪkəfə/ verb to be like one or

other parent ○ He takes after his father.
take care of /ˈteɪk ˈkeər/ verb to look after someone.
The nurses will take care of the accident victims.

take off /ˈteɪk ˈɒf/ verb to remove something, especially clothes. The doctor asked him to take off his shirt. The doctor asked him to take his shirt off.

talc /ˈteɪlk/ noun a soft white powder used to dust on irritated skin.

talcum powder /ˈteɪlkəm, ˈpauðə/ noun a scented talc.

tall /ˈteɪl/ plural of talus

talipes /ˈteɪlipz/ noun a foot with a shape that does not allow usual walking, a congenital condition. Also called cleft foot, club foot.

COMMENT: The most usual form of talipes (talipes equinovarus) is where the person walks on the toes because the foot is permanently bent forward. In other forms, the foot either turns towards the inside (talipes varus), towards the outside (talipes valgus) or upwards at the ankle (talipes calcaneus) so that the person cannot walk on the sole of the foot.

tall /ˈteɪl/ adjective high, usually higher than other people.

He’s the tallest in the family.

talipes calcaneus

wards at the ankle.

talipes varus

turns towards the inside.

talipes valgus

upwards at the ankle.

talis

talipod

talipes

tall

for the ankle bone.

talus /ˈteɪləs/ noun the top bone in the tarsus which articulates with the tibia and fibula in the leg, and with the calcaneus in the heel. Also called ankle bone. See illustration at root in Supplement (note: The plural is talus.)

tamoxifen /ˈteɪmɒksəfɪn/ noun a drug which helps to prevent the actions of oestrogen, used especially in the treatment of breast cancer and some types of infertility.

tampon /ˈteɪmpən/ noun 1. a wad of absorbent material put into a wound to soak up blood during an operation. 2. a cylindrical plug of soft material put into the vagina to absorb blood during menstruation.

tamponade /ˈteɪmpənəd/ noun 1. the action of putting a tampon into a wound, abnormal pressure on part of the body.

tan /ˈteɪn/ verb (of skin) to become brown in sunlight.

He tans easily.

She is using a tannin lotion.

tannin /ˈteɪnin/ tannic acid /ˈteɪnik ˈeɪsid/ noun a substance found in the bark of trees and in tea and other liquids, which stains brown.

tantalum /ˈteɪnələm/ noun a rare metal, used to repair damaged bones (note: The chemical symbol is Ta.)

tantalum mesh /ˈteɪnələm meʃ/ noun a type of net made of tantalum wire, used to repair cranial conditions.

tantrum /ˈteɪntrəm/ noun a sudden episode of bad behaviour, usually in a child, where the child throws things or lies on the floor and screams.

tap /ˈteɪp/ noun 1. a surgical procedure to drain off body fluid with a hollow needle or a tube. 2. a pipe with a closing valve and a handle which can be turned to make a liquid or gas come out of a container. 3. a verb, to remove or drain liquid from part of the body. 4. spinal 2. to hit someone or something lightly.

The doctor tapped his chest with his fingers.

tape /ˈteɪp/ noun a long thin flat piece of material.

tapeworm /ˈteɪpwɜːrm/ noun a parasitic worm with a small head and long body like a ribbon. Tapeworms enter the intestine when a person eats raw meat or fish. The worms attach themselves with hooks to the side of the intestine and grow longer by adding sections to their bodies.

tapotement /ˈteɪpoʊtɒmənt/ noun a type of massage where the therapist taps the person with his or her hands.

tapping /ˈteɪpɪŋ/ noun same as paracentesis.

target /ˈteɪrɡət/ noun a place which is to be hit by something. target cell, target organ 1. cell or organ which is affected by a drug, by a hormone or by a disease. 2. large red blood cell which shows a red spot in the middle when stained.

...the target cells for adult myeloid leukaemia are located in the bone marrow [British Medical Journal].

tarry stool /ˈteɪri ˈstʊl/ noun dark and sticky solid matter which is passed out of the bowels.

tars- /ˈteɪrs/ prefix referring to the ankle bone.

tarsal /ˈteɪrseɪl/ noun a connective tissue which supports an ankle bone.

tarsalgia /ˈteɪrsældʒɪə/ noun a pain in the ankle.

tarsal gland /ˈteɪrsəl ɡlænd/ noun same as melobman gland.

tarsal semilunar cartilage /ˈteɪrseklənər/ noun 1. a surgical operation to remove one of the tarsal bones in the ankle 2. a surgical operation to remove the tarsus of the eyelid.

tarsalis /ˈteɪrsəlɪs/ noun an inflammation of the edge of the eyelid.

tarsorrhaphy /ˈteɪsrəˈræfi/ noun an operation to join the two eyelids together to protect the eye after an operation.

tarsotomy /ˈteɪrsoʊtəmɪ/ noun an incision of the tarsus of the eyelid.

tarsus /ˈteɪrsəs/ noun 1. the seven small bones of the ankle. See illustration at root in Supplement 2. a connective tissue which supports an eyelid (note: The plural is tarsi.)
COMMENT: The seven bones of the tarsus are: calcaneus, cuboid, the three cuneiforms, navicular and talus.
tartar /ˈtɑːtər/ noun a hard deposit of calcium which forms on teeth, and has to be removed by scaling. Also called scale

tartrazine /ˈtɑːtrəzən/ noun a yellow substance (E102) added to food to give it an attractive colour. Although widely used, tartrazine provokes reactions in hypersensitive people and is banned in some countries.
task allocation /ˈtɑːsk əˈleɪʃən/ noun a system in which patient care is divided into tasks which are given to different nurses with specific skills
taste /tæst/ noun one of the five senses, where food or substances in the mouth are noticed through the tongue. She doesn't like the taste of onions. He has a cold, so food seems to have lost all taste or seems to have no taste.
taste bud /ˈtæst bʌd/ noun a tiny sensory receptor in the vallate and fungiform papillae of the tongue and in part of the back of the mouth. The taste buds can tell the difference between salt, sour, bitter and sweet tastes. The buds on the tip of the tongue identify salt and sweet tastes, those on the sides of the tongue identify sour, and those at the back of the mouth the bitter tastes. Note that most of what we think of as taste is in fact smell, and this is why when someone has a cold and a blocked nose, food seems to lose its taste. The impulses from the taste buds are received by the taste cortex in the temporal lobe of the cerebral hemisphere.
taurine /ˈtoʊrən/ noun an amino acid which forms bile salts
taxis /ˈtæksɪs/ noun the procedure of pushing or massage dislocated bones or hernias to make them return to their usual position

taxonomy /ˌtɑːkəˈnoməni/ noun 1. the practice or principles of classification generally. Any diagnostic task can be aided by a taxonomy of symptoms and a taxonomy of causes together with connections between them. 2. the science of classifying plants, animals and microorganisms into increasingly broader categories based on shared features. Traditionally, organisms were grouped by physical resemblances, but recently other criteria such as genetic matching have also been used.

Tay-Sachs disease /ˈteɪ sékz ˈdɑːzi/ noun an inherited condition affecting the metabolism, characterised by progressive paralysis of the legs, blindness and learning disabilities [Described 1881. After Warren Tay (1843–1927), British ophthalmologist; Bernard Sachs (1858–1944), US neurologist.]

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technique /tekˈnɪk/ noun a way of doing scientific or medical work.

New laboratory technique.

...few parts of the body are inaccessible to modern catheter techniques, which are all performed under local anaesthesia [British Medical Journal]

...the technique used to treat aortic stenosis is similar to that for any cardiac catheterisation' [Journal of the American Medical Association]

...cardiac resuscitation techniques by which half the nurses in a recent study described as 'completely ineffective' [Nursing Times]

tectorial membrane /tekˈtɔrɪəl 'membrən/ noun a membrane in the inner ear which contains the hair cells which transmit impulses to the auditory nerve.

tectospinal tract /tekˈtɔspɪnəl 'trækt/ noun a tract which takes nerve impulses from the mesencephalon to the spinal cord.

TED (trademark) a thrombo-embolic deterrent stocking.

teleceptor /teləˈsɛptə/ noun a sensory receptor which receives sensations from a distance. These occur in the eyes, ears and nose.

Telemedicine /ˈteləˌmiːdɪsi/ noun the provision of diagnosis and health care from a distance using media such as interactive computer programs or off-site advisers.

Telencephalon /ˈteləˌsɛnkləʊn/ noun same as cerebrum.

telepathy /ˈteləˌpæθi/ noun the apparent communication directly from one person’s mind to another person’s, without the use of speech, writing or other signs or symbols.
small pieces of tissue during an operation

**Instrument shaped like a hook, used to pick up**

**Comment:** The temporal bone is in two parts: the petrous part forms the base of the skull and the inner and middle ears, while the squamous part forms the side of the skull. The lower back part of the temporal bone is the mastoid process, while the part between the ear and the cheek is the zygomatic arch.

**Temporary** /tempərəυ/ adjective referring to the jaw and the skull, in front of the ear

**Tendon** /tendən/ noun a feel of pain when touched

**Tendinitis** /tendənəυtə/s noun an inflammation of a tendon, especially after playing sport, and often associated with tendosynovitis

**Tendo calcaneus** /tendʊ kəlˈkɛnəs/ noun the Achilles tendon, the tendon at the back of the ankle which connects the calf muscles to the heel and which acts to pull up the heel when the calf muscle is contracted

**Tendon sheath** /tendən ʃi/ noun a tube of membrane which covers and protects a tendon

**Tendovaginitis** /tendoʊvəʒənə/s noun an inflammation of a tendon sheath, especially in the thumb

**Tenesmus** /tenəsəməs/ noun a condition in which someone feels the need to pass faeces, or sometimes urine, but is unable to do so and experiences pain

**Tennis elbow** /tenəs ˈelbəʊ/ noun an inflammation of the tendons of the extensor muscles in the hand which are attached to the bone near the elbow. Also called lateral epicondylitis

**Tenoplasty** /təˈnɒplæstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to repair a torn tendon

**Tensynovitis** /tɛnəʊˌsʌnəˈvətɪs/ noun a surgical operation to stitch pieces of a torn tendon together

**Tenovasculitis** /tɛnəʊˌvæsˈkjuːlətɪs/ noun a painful inflammation of the tendon sheath and the tendon inside. Also called peritendinitis
tenotomy /ˈtenətəm/ noun a surgical operation to cut through a tendon.

tenovaginitis /ˈtenəvæɡədʒɪteɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the tendon sheath, especially in the thumb.

TENS /ˈtenɛs/ abbreviation a method of treating pain by applying electrodes to the skin. Small electric currents are passed through sensory nerves and the spinal cord. This suppresses the transmission of pain signals. a TENS unit or machine

Full form transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation

tense /ˈtɛns/ adjective 1. (of a muscle) contracted

2. nervous and worried The patient was very tense while she waited for the report from the laboratory.

tension /ˈtenʃən/ noun 1. the act of stretching or the state of being stretched, an emotional strain or stress

tension headache /ˈtenʃənˌhedɛık/ noun a headache all over the head, caused by worry and stress

tension pneumothorax /ˈtenʃən ˈpjuːməˌθɔːræks/ noun a condition of the pneumothorax in which rupture of the pleura forms an opening like a valve, through which air is forced during coughing but cannot escape

tensor /ˈtensər/ noun a muscle which makes a joint stretch out

tent /ˈtent/ noun a small shelter put up over and around someone’s bed so that gas or vapor can be passed inside

tentorium cerebelli /ˈtentəriəm ˌserəˈbelli/ noun a part of the dura mater which separates the cerebellum from the cerebral hemispheres.

tera-/ˈterə/ prefix T

terat- /ˈterət-, ˌterəto-/ prefix congenitally unusual

teratocarcinoma /ˌterətəˈkɑrskərəmə/ noun a malignant teratoma, usually in the testes.

teratogen /ˌterətəˈdʒen/ noun a substance which causes the usual development of an embryo or fetus to be disrupted, e.g. the German measles virus

teratogenesis /ˌterətəˈdʒenɪskəsi/ noun an unusual pattern of development in an embryo and fetus

teratogenic /ˌterətəˈdʒenɪk/ adjective 1. having the tendency to produce physical disorders in an embryo or fetus 2. relating to the production of physical disorders in an embryo or fetus

teratology /ˌterətəˈlɒdʒi/ noun the study of the unhealthy development of embryos and fetuses

teratoma /ˌterətəˈtəmə/ noun a tumour, especially an ovary or testis, which is formed of tissue not usually found in that part of the body

terbutaline /ˈterbəˈtɔːlɪn/ noun a drug which relaxes muscles, used in the treatment of respiratory disorders and to control premature labour

terest /ˈtɛrɪst/ noun one of two shoulder muscles running from the shoulder blade to the top of the humerus. The larger of the two muscles, the teres major, makes the arm turn towards the inside, and the smaller, the teres minor, makes it turn towards the outside.

terfenadine /ˈtɛrfaˌnədɪn/ noun an antihista-
mine used in the treatment of hay fever and urticaria

term /ˈtɛrm/ noun 1. a limited period of time, especially the period from conception to childbirth, or a point in time determined for an event if she was coming near to term she was near the time when she would give birth 2. part of a college or school year The anatomy exams are at the beginning of the third term. 3. a name or word for a particular thing

terminal /ˈtɛrmɪnəl/ adjective 1. referring to the last stage of a fatal illness if the disease is in its terminal stages. 2. referring to the end, being at the end of something He is suffering from terminal cancer. a noun an ending, a part at the end of an electrode or nerve

terminal branch /ˈtɛrmɪnəlˌbrɔŋk/ noun the end part of a neurone which is linked to a muscle. See illustration at neurone in Supplement.

terminate /ˈtɛrmɪneɪt/ verb terminate (of pregnancy) abortion

-terol /ˈtɛrəl/ suffix used in names of bronchodilators

tertian /ˈtɜːrʃən/ adjective referring to a fever with symptoms which appear every other day He is suffering from tertian fever. a noun a type of malaria where the fever returns every two days.

-quantan fever /ˈkwɔrtən/ noun

tertiary /ˈtɜːrʃəri/ adjective third, coming after secondary and primary

tertiary bronchi /ˈtɜːrʃəri ˈbrɒŋkɪ/ plural noun 1. bronchi 2. Same as segmental bronchi

tertiary care /ˈtɜːrʃəri kɛr/ noun highly specialised treatment given in a health care centre, often using very advanced technology. Compare primary care, secondary care

test /tɛst/ noun a short examination to see if a sample is healthy or if part of the body is working well He had an eye test this morning. Laboratory tests showed that she was a meningitis carrier. Tests are being carried out on
swabs taken from the operating theatre. ○ the urine test was positive the examination of the urine sample showed the presence of an infection or a diagnostic substance ■ verb to examine a sample of tissue to see if it is healthy or an organ to see if it is working well ○ They sent the urine sample away for testing. ○ I must have my eyes tested.

**testes** /ˈtestiːz/ plural of **testis**

**testicle** /ˈtestik(ə)l/ noun same as **testis**

**testicular** /ˈtestɪkjuːlər/ adjective referring to the testes ○ Testicular cancer comprises only 1% of all malignant neoplasms in the male.

**testicular artery** /ˈtestɪkjuːlər ˈærətəri/ noun same as **spermatic artery**

**testicular hormone** /ˈtestɪkjuːlər ˈhɔrˌmən/ noun testosterone

tests /ˈtests/ noun one of two male sex glands in the scrotum. See illustration in URO-GENITAL SYSTEM (MALE) in Supplement. Also called **testicle**. (NOTE: The plural is **testes**. For other terms referring to the testes, see words beginning with orchi-.)

COMMENT: The testes produce both spermatozoa and the sex hormone, testosterone. Spermatozoa are formed in the testes, and passed into the epididymis to be stored. From the epididymis they pass along the vas deferens through the prostate gland which secretes the seminal fluid, and are ejaculated through the penis.

**test meal** /ˈtest mil/ noun a test to check the secretion of gastric juices, no longer much used

**testosterone** /ˈtestəstərəʊn/ noun a male sex hormone, secreted by the Leydig cells in the testes, which causes physical changes, e.g. the development of body hair and a deep voice, to take place in males as they become sexually mature

**test tube** /ˈtest ˈtjuːb/ noun a small glass tube with a rounded bottom, used in laboratories to hold samples of liquids

**test-tube baby** /ˈtest ˈtjuːb bɛb/ noun a baby conceived through in vitro fertilisation in which the mother’s ova are removed from the ovaries, fertilised with a man’s spermatozoa in a laboratory, and returned to the mother’s uterus to continue developing in the usual way

**tetanic** /ˈtetənɪk/ adjective referring to tetanus

**tetanus** /ˈtetənəs/ prefix 1. relating to tetanus 2. relating to tetany

**tetanus** /ˈtetənəs/ noun 1. the continuous contraction of a muscle, under repeated stimuli from a motor nerve 2. an infection caused by Clostridium tetani in the soil, which affects the spinal cord and causes spasms in the muscles which occur first in the jaw. Also called **lockjaw**

COMMENT: People who are liable to infection with tetanus, such as farm workers, should be immunised against it, and booster injections are needed from time to time.

**tetany** /ˈtetənɪ/ noun spasms of the muscles in the feet and hands, caused by a reduction in the level of calcium in the blood or by lack of carbon dioxide

**tetra-** /ˈtɛtrə/ prefix four

**tetracycline** /ˌtɛtrəsækˈklɪn/ noun an antibiotic of a group used to treat a wide range of bacterial diseases such as chlamydia. However, they are deposited in bones and teeth and cause a permanent yellow stain in teeth if given to children.

COMMENT: Because of its side-effects tetracycline should not be given to children. Many bacteria are now resistant to tetracycline.

**tetradactyl** /ˌtɛtrəˈdektɪl/ noun a congenital condition in which a child has only four fingers or toes

**tetralogy of Fallot** /ˌtɛtrələˈgei əv ˈfæləʊ/ noun a disorder of the heart which makes a child’s skin blue. Also called **Fallot’s tetralogy**. ○ Blalock’s operation, Waterston’s operation

COMMENT: The condition is formed of four conditions occurring together: the artery leading to the lungs is narrow, the right ventricle is enlarged, there is a disorder in the membrane between the ventricles and the aorta is not correctly placed.

**tetraplegia** /ˌtɛtrəˈplɪdʒə/ same as **quadriplegia**

**textbook** /ˈtekstbʊk/ noun a book which is used by students ○ a haematology textbook or a textbook on haematology

**textbook case** /ˈtekstbʊk ˈkeɪs/ noun a case which shows symptoms which are exactly like those described in a textbook, a very typical case

**thalam-** /θəˈlæm-/ prefix same as **thalamo-** (used before vowels)

**thalamencephalon** /θəˌlæmənˈkɛfələn/ noun a group of structures in the brain linked to the brain stem, formed of the epithalamus, hypothalamus and thalamus

**thalamic syndrome** /θəˈlæmɪk ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a condition in which someone is extremely sensitive to pain, caused by a disorder of the thalamus

**thalamo-** /θəˈlæməʊ/ prefix referring to the thalamus

**thalamocortical tract** /θəˌlæməkoʊrˈtɛkl/ noun a tract containing nerve fibres, running from the thalamus to the sensory cortex

**thalamotomy** /θəˌlæməˈmɒtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to make an incision into the thalamus to treat intractable pain

**thalamus** /θəˈlæməs/ noun one of two masses of grey matter situated beneath the cerebrum where impulses from the sensory neurons are transmitted to the cerebral cortex.
thalassaemia

See illustration at brain in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is thalami.)

thalassaemia /ˈθeɪləsəmiə/ noun a hereditary disorder of which there are several forms caused by an anomaly in the protein component of the haemoglobin, leading to severe anaemia. It is found especially in people from Mediterranean countries, the Middle East and East Asia. Also called Cooley’s anaemia.

thalidomide /θəˈlɪdəmɪd/ noun a synthetic drug given to pregnant women for morning sickness in the 1960s which caused babies to be born with stunted limbs. It is now used in the treatment of leprosy.

thallium scan /ˈθeɪliəm skæn/ noun a method of finding out how the blood supply to the heart muscle by scanning to see how the radioactive element thallium moves when injected into the bloodstream and where it attaches itself to the heart wall.

thanatology /ˈθeɪnətələdʒi/ noun the study of the medical, psychological and sociological aspects of death and the ways in which people deal with it.

thaw /θɔː/ verb to bring something which is frozen back to usual temperature.

theatre /ˈθeɪtər/ noun a operating theatre.

While waiting to go to theatre, parents should be encouraged to participate in play with their children.

[British Journal of Nursing]

theatre gown /ˈθeɪtər gaʊn/ noun 1. a loose piece of clothing worn by a person having an operation 2. a long green robe worn over other clothes by a surgeon or nurse in an operating theatre.

theatre nurse /ˈθeɪtər nɜːs/ noun a nurse who is specially trained to assist a surgeon during an operation.

theca /ˈθɛkə/ noun tissue shaped like a sheath.

theiarch /ˈθiərək/ noun the beginning of the process of breast development in young women.

thenar /ˈθiːnər/ adjective referring to the palm of the hand.

Compare hypothenar.

thenar eminence /ˈθiːnər ˈɛmɪnəns/ noun the ball of the thumb, the lump of flesh in the palm of the hand below the thumb.

theophylline /θiːˈfɪlɪn/ noun a compound made synthetically or extracted from tea leaves which helps to widen blood vessels and airways, and to stimulate the central nervous system and heart. It is used in the treatment of breathing disorders.

theory /ˈθiːrɪə/ noun an argument which explains a scientific fact.

therapeutic /θəˈræpiʃuːtɪk/ adjective given in order to cure a disorder or disease.

therapeutic abortion /θəˈræpiʃuːtɪk əˈbɔːrəʃən/ noun an abortion which is carried out because the health of the mother is in danger.

therapeutic index /θəˈræpiʃuːtɪk ˈɪndɪks/ noun the ratio of the dose of a drug which causes cell damage to the dose of that drug which is typically needed to effect a cure, by which the safety of the drug is decided.

therapeutic radiographer /θəˈræpiʃuːtɪk ˈreɪdɪəɡrəfər/ noun someone specially trained to use X-rays or radioactive isotopes in the treatment of patients.

therapeutics /θəˈræpiʃuːtɪks/ noun the study of various types of treatment and their effect on patients.

therapist /θəˈræpiʃt/ noun a person specially trained to give therapy or an occupational therapist.

therapy /θəˈræpi/ noun the treatment of a person to help cure a disease or disorder.

therm /θɜːm/ noun a unit of heat equal to 100,000 British thermal units or 1.055 x 10^6 joules.

thermal /θɜːməl/ adjective referring to heat.

thermal anaesthesia /θɜːməl ˈænæsθiə/ noun the loss of the feeling of heat.

thermo-/ θερμ- prefix referring to heat or temperature.

thermoanaesthesia /θɜːməˈneɪsθiə/ noun a condition in which someone cannot tell the difference between hot and cold.

thermocautery /θɜːməˈkɔrətiər/ noun the procedure of removing dead tissue by heat.

thermocoagulation /θɜːməˈkɔɹələjən/ noun the procedure of removing tissue and coagulating blood by heat.

thermogram /θɜːməˈɡrɑːm/ noun an infra-red photograph of part of the body.

thermograph /θɜːməˈɡrɑːf/ noun a device that shows patterns of heat radiated from a body, used in diagnosis.

thermography /θɜːməˈɡrɑːfɪ/ noun a technique, used especially in screening for breast cancer, where part of the body is photographed using infrared rays which record the heat given off by the skin and show variations in the blood circulating beneath the skin.

thermolysis /θɜːrməˈlaɪsɪs/ noun a loss of body temperature, e.g. by sweating.

thermometer /θɜːməˈmɔːtər/ noun an instrument for measuring temperature.

thermophilic /θɜːrməˈfɪlɪk/ adjective referring to an organism which needs a high temperature to grow.

thermocoeceptor /θɜːməˈkɔˌsɛptər/ noun a sensory nerve which registers heat.

thermotaxis /θɜːməˈtæksɪs/ noun an automatic regulation of the body’s temperature.

thermotherapy /θɜːməˈθɛrəpi/ noun treatment using heat, e.g. from hot water or infrared lamps, to treat conditions such as arthritis and bad circulation. Also called heat therapy.

thiamine /θɪəˈmeɪn/ noun same as Vitamin B1.
thicken /θɪkən/ verb 1. to become wider or larger, or cause something to become wider or larger ○ The walls of the arteries thicken under deposits of fat. 2. (of liquid) to become more dense and viscous and flow less easily ○ The liquid thickens as its cools.

Thiersch's graft /θɪəʃ/ grafft/ Thiersch's graft /θɪəʃ/ same as split-skin graft

thigh /θaɪ/ noun the top part of the leg from the knee to the groin

thighbone /θaɪbɒun/ noun the femur, the bone in the top part of the leg, which joins the acetabulum at the hip and the tibia at the knee (note: for other terms referring to the thigh, see femoral.)

thin /θɪn/ adjective 1. not fat ○ His arms are very thin. ○ She's getting too thin – she should eat more. ○ He became quite thin after his illness. 2. not thick ○ They cut a thin slice of tissue for examination under the microscope. 3. referring to blood which is watery (note: thinnest – thinnest)

thiopental sodium /θaɪpəpentnəl/ noun a barbiturate drug used as a rapid-acting intravenous general anaesthetic. Also called thiopentone

thiopentone /θaɪpəpentn/ noun, thiopentone sodium /θaɪpəpentnən/ noun same as thiopental sodium (note: its chemical formula is C₁₁H₁₇N₂O₂SNa)

thioridazine /θaɪərədəziən/ noun a synthetic compound used as a tranquilliser for people who are suffering from a psychosis

third-degree burn /θɜːd diˈɡri: ˈbɜːn/ noun a burn in which the skin and the tissues beneath it are severely damaged

third-degree haemorrhoids /θɜːd diˈɡriː ˈhrɛmərɔhˌɔıdz/ plural noun haemorrhoids which protrude into the anus permanently

third molar /θɜːd mɔːlər/ noun one of the four molars at the back of the jaw, which only appears at about the age of 20 and sometimes does not appear at all. Same as wisdom tooth

thirst /θɜːst/ noun a feeling of wanting to drink ○ If the patient is thirsty, give her a glass of water. (note: thirstier – thirstiest)

thirsty /θɜːstɪ/ adjective wanting to drink ○ If the patient is thirsty, give her a glass of water. (note: thirstier – thirstiest)

Thomas's splint /θəʊməz splɪnt/ Thomas splint /θəʊməz splɪnt/ noun a metal splint used to keep a fractured leg still. It has a padded ring at the hip attached to rods to which bandages are bound and a bar under the foot at the lower end. (Described 1875. After Hugh Owen Thomas (1834–91), British surgeon and bone-setter.)

thoraco- /θərəkəʊ/ prefix same as thoraco- (used before vowels)

thoracectomy /θərəʊˈsektəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove one or more ribs

thoracentesis /θərəsɛntɪˈsɪs/ noun same as thoracocentesis

thoraces /θərəsɛz/ plural of thorax

thoracic /θərəsɪk/ adjective referring to the chest or thorax

thoracic aorta /θərəsɪk ˈærətə/ noun part of the aorta which crosses the thorax

thoracic cavity /θərəsɪk ˈkeɪvɪtɪ/ noun the chest cavity, containing the diaphragm, heart and lungs

thoracic duct /θərəsɪk ˈdʌkt/ noun one of the main terminal ducts carrying lymph, on the left side of the neck

thoracic inlet /θərəsɪk ˈɪnlt/ noun a small opening at the top of the thorax

thoracic outlet /θərəsɪk ˈaʊltət/ noun a large opening at the bottom of the thorax

thoracic outlet syndrome /θərəsɪk ˈaʊltət ˈsɪndrəm/ noun same as scalenus syndrome

thoracic vertebrae /θərəsɪk ˈvɜːrtebriː/ plural noun the twelve vertebrae in the spine behind the chest, to which the ribs are attached

thoraco- /θərəkəʊ/ prefix relating to the thorax

thoracocentesis /θərəkənˈtɛsɪs/ noun an operation in which a hollow needle is inserted into the pleura to drain fluid

thoracolumbar /θərəkəlʊmˈbær/ adjective referring to the thoracic and lumbar areas of the body

thoracoplasty /θərəkəˈpleɪstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut through the ribs to allow the lungs to collapse, formerly a treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis

thoracoscope /θərəkəˈskɒp/ noun a surgical instrument, like a tube with a light at the end, used to examine the inside of the chest

thoracoscopic /θərəkəˈskɒpɪk/ noun an examination of the inside of the chest, using a thoracoscope

thoracotomy /θərəkəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make a hole in the wall of the chest

thorax /θərəks/ noun the cavity in the top part of the front of the body above the abdomen, containing the diaphragm, heart and lungs, and surrounded by the ribs
described /θɜːd/ noun a thin piece of cotton, suede, etc. ○ The surgeon used strong thread to make the suture. verb to insert a thin piece of cotton, suede, etc. through the eye of a needle

thread vein /θɜːd vɪn/ noun a fine vein that is visible through the skin

threadworm /θɜːdˈwɜːm/ noun a thin parasitic worm, Enterobius vermicularis, which infects the large intestine and causes itching round the anus. Also called pinworm

thready /θred/ adjective referring to a pulse which is very weak and can hardly be felt
thready pulse

threatened abortion

threshold

thrill

thrive

thromboarteritis

thromboembolic deterrent stocking

thrombocytopenia

thrombotic

thromboplastin

thrombolytic

thrombophlebitis

thrombosis

thrombosis

thrombosis

thrombus

thrombus

thrombus

thrombus

thrombus

thrombus
or the vagina with the bacterium
chemicals in DNA
phocyte formed in the thymus gland
the thymus gland
other four fingers on the hand
thumb-sucking /θæm ˈsʌktɪŋ/ noun the action of sucking a thumb ○ Thumb-sucking
tends to push the teeth forward.
thym- /θæm/ prefix referring to the thymus
gland
thymectomy /θæmˈektəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the thymus gland
-thymia /θæmiə/ suffix referring to a state of mind
thymic /θæmˈɪk/ adjective referring to the thymus gland
thymine /θæmˈɪn/ noun one of the four basic chemicals in DNA
thymitis /θæmˈɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the thymus gland
thymocyte /θæmˈsɒsɪt/ noun a lymphocyte formed in the thymus gland
thymol /θæməʊl/ noun a colourless compound which is made synthetically or extracted from thyme oil, used as an antiseptic
thymoma /θæmˈɒmə/ noun a tumour in the thymus gland
thymus /θæməs/, thymus gland /θæməs ɡlænd/ noun an endocrine gland in the front part of the top of the thorax, behind the breastbone
COMMENT: The thymus gland produces lymphocytes and is responsible for developing the system of natural immunity in children. It grows less active as the person becomes an adult. Lymphocytes produced by the thymus are known as T-lymphocytes or T-cells.
thyro- /θaɪrəʊ/ prefix referring to the thyroid gland
thyrocalditonin /θərəʊkɔldəˈtɒnɪn/ noun same as calcitonin
thyreofe /θaɪrəʊsɪl/ noun swelling of the thyroid gland
thyroglobulin /θaɪrəʊɡˈlɒbjʊlɪn/ noun protein stored in the thyroid gland which is broken down into thyroxine
thyroglossal /θaɪrəʊɡˈlɒs(ə)l/ adjective referring to the thyroid gland and the throat
thyroglossal cyst /θaɪrəʊɡˈlɒs(ə)l sɪst/ noun a cyst in the front of the neck
thyroid /θaɪrəʊd, thryʊrd/ gland /θaɪrəʊd glænd/ an endocrine gland in the neck, which is activated by the pituitary gland and secretes a hormone which regulates the body’s metabolism (note: the US term is thyroid)
COMMENT: The thyroid gland needs a supply of iodine in order to produce thyroxine. If the thyroid gland malfunctions, it can result in hyperthyroidism (producing too much thyroxine) leading to goitre, or in hypothyroidism (producing too little thyroxine). Hyperthyroidism can be treated with carbimazole.
thyroid cartilage /θaɪrəʊd ˈkɑːrtɪlɪdʒ/ noun a large cartilage in the larynx, part of which forms the Adam’s apple. See illustration at larynx in Supplement
thyroid depressant /θaɪrəʊd diˈpres(ə)nt/ noun a drug which reduces the activity of the thyroid gland
thyroid dysfunction /θaɪrəʊd dɪˈfʌŋkʃn/ noun malfunction of the thyroid gland
thyroidectomy /θaɪrəʊˈdɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove all or part of the thyroid gland
thyroid extract /θaɪrəʊd ɪkˈstrækt/ noun a substance extracted from thyroid glands of animals and used to treat hypothyroidism
thyroid gland /θaɪrəʊd glænd/ noun same as thyroid
thyroid hormone /θaɪrəʊd, ˈhɔrəʊməʊn/ noun a hormone produced by the thyroid gland
thyroiditis /θaɪrəʊˈdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the thyroid gland
thyroid-stimulating hormone /θaɪrəʊd ˈstɪmjuˌleɪtɪŋ, ˈhɔrəʊməʊn/ noun a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland which stimulates the thyroid gland. Abbreviation TSH. Also called thyrotropin
thyroparathyroidectomy /θaɪrəʊˌpærəˌθaɪrəʊˈdɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the thyroid and parathyroid glands
thyroplasty /θaɪrəʊˈplæstɪ/ noun a surgical procedure performed on the cartilages of the larynx to improve the quality of the voice
thyrotomy /θaɪrəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical opening made in the thyroid cartilage or the thyroid gland
thyrotoxic /θaɪrəˈtɒksɪk/ adjective referring to severe hyperthyroidism
thyrotoxic crisis /θaɪrəˈtɒksɪk ˈkrɪsɪs/ noun a sudden illness caused by hyperthyroidism
thyrotoxic goitre /θaɪrəˈtɒksɪk ˈɡəʊtə/ noun overactivity of the thyroid gland, as in hyperthyroidism
thyrotoxicosis /θaɪrəˈtɒksɪs/ noun same as hyperthyroidism
thyrotrophin /θaɪrəˈtrɒfɪn/ noun the same as thyroid-stimulating hormone (note: the US term is thyrotropin)
thyrotrophin-releasing hormone /θaɪrəˈtrɒfɪn rɪˈlɪsɪŋ, ˈhɔrəʊməʊn/ noun a hormone secreted by the hypothalamus, which makes the pituitary gland release thyrotrophin, which in turn stimulates the thyroid gland. Abbreviation TRH
thyroxine /θaɪrəˈrɒksɪn/ noun a hormone produced by the thyroid gland which regulates the
TIATemporary Ischaemic Attack

(body’s metabolism and the conversion of food into heat, as well as in the treatment of hypothyroidism)

TIA transient ischaemic attack

‘blood pressure control reduces the incidence of first stroke and aspirin appears to reduce the risk of stroke after TIA by some 15%’ [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]

Tibia tibia/noun the larger of the two long bones in the lower leg between the knee and the ankle. Also called shinbone. Compare fibula.

tibial/tib[ial]/ adjective referring to the tibia

tibial artery/tib[ial _artery]/noun one of two arteries which run down the front and back of the lower leg

tibialis/tib[ialis]/noun one of two muscles in the lower leg running from the tibia to the foot

tibial torsion/tib[ial torsion]/noun a persistent slight twist in the tibia, caused by a cramped position in the uterus. It makes the feet of young children point inwards for up to a year after they begin to walk on their own, but it corrects itself as the leg grows.

Tic tic/noun an involuntary twitch of the muscles usually in the face (informal)

tic douloureux/ti[douloureux]/noun the same as trigeminal neuralgia

tick/ti[k]/noun a tiny parasite which sucks blood from the skin

tick fever/ti[k _fi[ver]/noun an infectious disease transmitted by bites from ticks

t.i.d., TID adjective (used on prescriptions) three times a day. Full form ter in die

Tidal Air/ti[dal _air]/noun, tidal volume /ti[dal _vol[ume]/noun the amount of air that passes in and out of the body in breathing

-tidine/ti[din]/ suffix used for antihistamine drugs

tie/ta[i]/verb to attach a thread with a knot ○ The surgeon quickly tied up the stitches. ○ The nurse had tied the bandage too tight. (NOTE: Tying – tied)

timolol/ti[molol]/noun a beta-blocker used in the treatment of migraine, high blood pressure and glaucoma

tinct. abbr tincture

tincture/ti[nkturas]/noun a medicinal substance dissolved in alcohol

tincture of iodine/ti[nkturas _of _iodine]/noun a weak solution of iodine in alcohol, used as an antiseptic

tinea/ti[nia]/noun ringworm

tinea barbae/ti[nia _barbae]/noun a fungal infection in the beard

tinea capitis/ti[nia _capitis]/noun a fungal infection on the scalp

tinea cruris/ti[nia _cruris]/noun a fungal infection of the groin area, especially in hot climates

tinea pedis/ti[nia _pedis]/noun same as athlete’s foot

tingling/ti[ngling]/noun a feeling of pricking or stinging in a body part ○ an unpleasant tingling down her arm

tinnitus/ti[nitus]/noun a condition in which someone hears a ringing sound in the ears

Comment: Tinnitus can sound like bells, or buzzing, or a loud roaring sound. In some cases it is caused by wax blocking the auditory canal, but it is also associated with Ménière’s disease, infections of the middle ear and acoustic nerve conditions.

Tired/taired/adjective feeling a need to rest

tiredness/tairedness/noun the condition of being tired

tissue/ti[su]/noun a group of cells that carries out a specific function (NOTE: For other terms referring to tissue, see words beginning with hist-, histo-)

Comment: Most of the body is made up of soft tissue, with the exception of the bones and cartilage. The main types of body tissue are connective, epithelial, muscular and nerve tissue.

Tissue Culture/ti[su _kult[u]/noun tissue grown in a culture medium in a laboratory

Tissue Plasminogen Activator/ti[su _plaz[m]_minad[ʒʊn _æktrəvə]/noun an agent given to cause fibrinolysis in blood clots. Abbr TPA

Tissue Type/ti[su _tai[p]/noun the immunological characteristics of a tissue that determines whether or not it can be successfully transplanted into another person

Tissue Typing/ti[su _tai[p]/noun the process of identifying various elements in tissue from a donor and comparing them to those of the recipient to see if a transplant is likely to be rejected

titanium/ti[taəniəm]/noun a light metallic element which does not corrode (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Ti)

titration/tai[træʃən]/noun the process of measuring the strength of a solution

titre/ti[tre]/noun a measurement of the quantity of antibodies in a serum

T-lymphocyte/ti [ti₅m]fás[æt]/noun a lymphocyte formed in the thymus gland. Also called T-cell

TNM Classification/ti [ti₅m] _kla[sif]iʃn / _klasif(ə)n/ noun an internationally agreed
standard which is the most widely used means for classifying the extent of cancer. T refers to the size of the tumour, N to the lymph node involvement and M to the presence or absence of metastasis.

toco- /təʊkoʊ/ prefix referring to childbirth

tocography /təʊˈkɒɡrəfi/ noun the process of recording the contractions of the uterus during childbirth

tocopherol /təʊˈkɒfərəl/ noun one of a group of fat-soluble compounds which make up vitamin E, found in vegetable oils and leafy greens
	vegetables

toddler's diarrhoea /ˈtɒdlər dərəʊhiə/ noun a condition in which recurrent loose stools are produced, often containing partially digested food. It usually occurs in children between the ages of one and three years.

toddler's paralysis /ˈtɒdlər pəˈræliəz/ Todd's paralysis /ˈtɒdlərz pəˈræliəz/ noun a temporary paralysis of part of the body which has been the starting point of focal epilepsy

toe /təʊ/ one of the five separate parts at the end of the foot. Each toe is formed of three bones or phalanges, except the big toe, which only has two.

toenail /ˈtəʊneɪl/ noun a thin hard growth covering the end of a toe

toileting /ˈtəʊlɪtɪŋ/ noun the act of helping someone to perform the actions of urinating or opening their bowels, including helping them to do so if they are unable to get out of bed or are incontinent

toilet training /ˈtəʊlɪt trenɪŋ/ noun the process of teaching a small child to pass urine or faeces in a toilet, so that he or she no longer requires nappies

tolbutamide /ˈtɒlbutəməd/ noun a drug which lowers blood-glucose levels by stimulating the pancreas to produce more insulin. It is used in the treatment of Type II diabetes.

tolerance /ˈtəʊlərəns/ noun the ability of the body to tolerate a substance or an action. Ω He has been taking the drug for so long that he has developed a tolerance to it.

'26 patients were selected from the outpatient department on grounds of disabling breathlessness, severely limiting exercise tolerance and the performance of activities of normal daily living' (Lancet).

tolerate /ˈtəʊlərət/ verb 1. not to be affected by the unpleasant effects of something, especially not to experience bad effects from being exposed to something harmful. 2. not to react to a drug through having developed a resistance to it

-tome /-təʊm/ suffix 1. a cutting instrument 2. a segment of a dermatome
tomo- /təʊmoʊ/ prefix referring to cutting or a section
tomogram /təʊˈmɑɡrəm/ noun a picture of part of the body taken by tomography

tomography /təʊˈmɑɡrəfi/ noun the scanning of a particular part of the body using X-rays or ultrasound

-tomy /-təʊmɪ/ suffix referring to a surgical operation

tone /təʊn/ noun the slightly tense state of a healthy muscle when it is not fully relaxed. Also called tonicity, tonus

tongue depressor /ˈtɒŋg diˈpresə/ noun an instrument, usually a thin piece of wood, used by a doctor to hold someone’s tongue down while the throat is being examined

tongue depressor /ˈtɒŋg diˈpresə/ noun the condition of being unable to move your tongue with the usual amount of freedom, because the small membrane which attaches the tongue to the floor of the mouth is unusually short

tonic /ˈtɒnɪk/ adjective referring to a muscle which is contracted. Ω noun a substance which improves the someone’s general health or which makes a tired person more energetic. Ω He is taking a course of iron tonic tablets. Ω She asked the doctor to prescribe a tonic for her anaemia.

-tonicity /-tɒnɪsɪti/ noun same as tone

-tono- /-təʊnəʊ/ prefix referring to pressure

tonometry /tɒnɒˈmətri/ noun a measurement of the pressure inside an eyeball

tonometer /tɒnɒˈmətər/ noun an instrument which measures the pressure inside an organ, especially the eye.

tonometer /tɒnɒˈmətər/ noun a measurement of pressure inside an organ, especially the eye.

tonsil /ˈtɒnsəl/ noun an area of lymphoid tissue at the back of the throat in which lymph circulates and protects the body against germs entering through the mouth. Also called palate tonsil

tonsillitis /tɒnˈsɪlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the tonsils

tonsillotomy /tɒnˈsɪlˈtəʊmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the tonsils

tonsillotomy /tɒnˈsɪlˈtəʊmɪ/ noun a surgical instrument used in cutting into or removing the tonsils
tunus /ˈtʌnəs/ noun same as tone

tooth /tɔːθ/ noun one of a set of bones in the mouth which are used to chew food (NOTE: The plural is teeth. For other terms relating to the teeth, see words beginning with dent-)

COMMENT: A tooth is formed of a soft core of pulp, covered with a layer of hard dentine. The top part of the tooth, the crown, which can be seen above the gum, is covered with hard shiny enamel which is very hard-wearing. The lower part of the tooth, the root, which attaches the tooth to the jaw, is covered with cement, also a hard substance, but which is slightly rough and holds the periodontal membrane which links the tooth to the jaw. The milk teeth in a child appear over the first two years of childhood and consist of incisors, canines and molars. The permanent teeth which replace them are formed of eight incisors, four canines, eight premolars and twelve molars. The last four molars (the third molars or wisdom teeth) are not always present, and do not appear much before the age of twenty. Permanent teeth start to appear about the age of five to six. The order of eruption of the permanent teeth is: first molars, incisors, premolars, canines, second molars, wisdom teeth.

toothache /ˈtuːθefk/ noun a pain in a tooth. Also called odontalgia.

topagnosia /ˌtɒpəˈɡnɔsiə/ noun an inability to tell which part of your body has been touched, caused by a disorder of the brain.

tophus /ˈtɒfəs/ noun a deposit of solid crystals in the skin or in the joints, especially in someone with gout (NOTE: The plural is tophi.)

topical /ˈtɒpɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to a specific area of the external surface of the body. Suitable for topical application

'...one of the most common routes of neonatal poisoning is percutaneous absorption following topical administration' [Southern Medical Journal]

topical drug /ˈtɒpɪk(ə)l d्रəʊ/ noun a drug which is applied to a specific external part of the body only.

topically /ˈtɒpɪkli/ adverb by putting on a specific external part of the body only. The cream is applied topically.

top-o /ˈtɒpəʊ/ prefix a place or region

topographical /ˌtɒpəˌɡræfiəl/ adjective referring to topography

topography /ˈtɒpəɡrɑːfiə/ noun the description of each particular part of the body.

tormenta /ˈtɔrmentə/ noun same as colic

torpid /ˈtɔrpid/ adjective describing a part of the body that has lost the ability to move or feel

torpor /ˈtɔrpor/ noun a condition in which someone seems sleepy or slow to react

torsion /ˈtɔrsʃən/ noun 1. the twisting of something, or a twisted state. 2. the stress placed on an object which has been twisted

torso /ˈtɔrsəʊ/ noun the main part of the body, not including the arms, legs and head. Also called trunk.

torticollis /ˌtɔrtɪˈkɔlɪs/ noun a condition of the neck, where the head is twisted to one side by contraction of the sternocleidomastoid muscle. Also called wry neck.

total /ˈtɔut(ə)l/ adjective 1. complete. He has total paralysis of the lower part of the body. 2. throughout the whole body.

total body irradiation /ˈtɔut(ə)l ˈbɔdɪ ɪˈreɪdʒərən/ noun treating the whole body with radiation.

total deafness /ˈtɔut(ə)l ˈdefnəs/ noun being unable to hear any sound at all. Hearing loss.

total hip arthroplasty /ˈtɔut(ə)l ˈhɪp əˌθrəʊpəˈplestɪ/ noun replacement of the hip joint, replacing the whole hip joint and acetabulum with an artificial joint.

total hysterectomy /ˈtɔut(ə)l ˈhistərɛkˈtɒmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the whole uterus.

total pancrecreatectomy /ˈtɔut(ə)l ˈpærıkriətɛkˈtɒmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the whole pancreas together with part of the duodenum. Also called Whipple's operation

total recall /ˈtɔut(ə)l ˈrɛkˈɔl/ noun the fact of being able to remember something in complete detail.

touch /tʌtʃ/ noun one of the five senses, where sensations are felt by part of the skin, especially by the fingers and lips.

COMMENT: Touch is sensed by receptors in the skin which send impulses back to the brain. The touch receptors can tell the difference between hot and cold, hard and soft, wet and dry, and rough and smooth.

tough /tʌf/ adjective unable to break or tear easily. The meninges are covered by a layer of tough tissue, the dura mater.

Tourette's syndrome /tjuːˈrɛts ˈsɪmədriə/ noun a condition which includes involuntary movements, tics, and speech disorders. Also called Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome.

tourniquet /ˌtɜrnɪkət/ noun an instrument or tight bandage wrapped round a limb to constrict an artery, so reducing the flow of blood and stopping bleeding from a wound.

tox- /tɒks/ prefix same as toxo- (used before vowels)

toxaemia /tɒksˈsiːmɪə/ noun the presence of poisonous substances in the blood. Blood poisoning (NOTE: The US spelling is toxemia.)

toxaemia of pregnancy /tɒksˈsiːmɪə ə ˈprɛɡnənsi/ noun a condition which can affect women towards the end of pregnancy, in which they develop high blood pressure and pass protein in the urine.
toxic /tɔksɪk/ adjective poisonous

toxic, of *tox* /tɔks/ adjective 'goitre due to hyperthyroidism in which the limbs tremble and the eyes protrude.
toxicity /tɔksɪˈsɪtɪ/ noun 1. the degree to which a substance is poisonous or harmful 2. the amount of poisonous or harmful material in a substance
toxicogenic /ˌtɔksɪˈkɒdʒɪk/ adjective same as toxicogenic
toxicologist /ˌtɔksɪˈkɒlədʒɪst/ noun a scientist who specialises in the study of poisons
toxicoLOGY /ˌtɔksɪˈkɒlədʒɪ/ noun the scientific study of poisons and their effects on the human body
toxicosis /ˈtɔksɪsɪs/ noun poisoning

**toxic shock syndrome** /ˌtɔksɪk ˈʃɒk sɪndrəm/ noun a serious condition caused by a staphylococcus infection of the skin or soft tissue. Its symptoms include vomiting, high fever, faintness, muscle aches, a rash and confusion, Abbr TSS

toxicogenic /ˌtɔksɪˈkɒdʒɪk/ adjective caused or produced by a toxin. Also called toxicogenic
toxin /ˈtɔksɪn/ noun a poisonous substance produced in the body by microorganisms, and which, if injected into an animal, stimulates the production of antitoxins
toxo- /tɔksɔ/ prefix referring to poison
toxocariasis /ˌtɔksəˈkærəsɪs/ noun the infection of the intestine with worms from a dog or cat. Also called visceral larva migrans
toxoid /ˌtɔksɔɪd/ noun a toxin which has been treated and is no longer poisonous, but which can still provoke the formation of antibodies. Toxoids are used as vaccines, and are injected into a patient to give immunity against specific diseases.
toxoid-antitoxin /ˌtɔksɔɪdˌænˈtɪtɔksɪn/ noun a mixture of a toxoid and an antitoxin, used as a vaccine
toxoplasmosis /ˌtɔkspəˈlæzəməsɪs/ noun a disease caused by the parasite Toxoplasma which is carried by animals. Toxoplasmosis can cause encephalitis or hydrocephalus and can be fatal.

TPA abbr tissue plasminogen activator

**trabecula** /trəˈbekələ/ noun a thin strip of stiff tissue which divides an organ or bone tissue into sections (Note: The plural is trabeculae.)

trabeculectomy /trəˌbekjuˈlɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to treat glaucoma by cutting a channel through trabeculae to link with Schlemm's canal

**trace** /treɪs/ noun a very small amount. ○ There are traces of the drug in the blood sample. ○ The doctor found traces of alcohol in the patient's urine. ■ verb to find someone or something that you are looking for

**trace element** /ˈtreɪsˌɛləmənt/ noun a substance which is essential to the human body, but only in very small quantities

COMMENT: The trace elements are cobalt, chromium, copper, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, selenium and zinc.

**tracer** /ˈtreɪsər/ noun a substance, often a radioactive one, injected into a substance in the body, so that doctors can follow its passage round the body

trache-, *treɪk* /ˈtreɪki/ prefix same as tracheo-

trachea /trəˈkɪə/ noun the main air passage which runs from the larynx to the lungs, where it divides into the two main bronchi. It is about 10 cm long, and is formed of rings of cartilage and connective tissue. See illustration at lungs in Supplement. Also called windpipe

tracheal /ˈtreɪkiəl/ adjective referring to the trachea

tracheal tugging /ˈtreɪkiəl ˈtʌgɪŋ/ noun the feeling that something is pulling on the windpipe when the person breathes in, a symptom of aneurysm

tracheitis /ˈtreɪkiətɪs/ noun inflammation of the trachea due to an infection

trachelorrhaphy /ˈtreɪkiəlˈrɔːfi/ noun a surgical operation to repair tears in the cervix of the uterus

tracheo- /ˈtreɪkiəʊ/ prefix relating to the trachea

tracheobronchial /ˌtreɪkiəʊˈbrɔrnkʃəl/ adjective referring to both the trachea and the bronchi

tracheobronchitis /ˌtreɪkiəʊˌbrɔŋkʃɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of both the trachea and the bronchi

tracheo-oesophageal /ˌtreɪkiəʊˌiːsˈfɑːl/ adjective referring to both the trachea and the oesophagus

tracheostomy /ˌtrækiəˈstəmi, ˌtrækəʊ-/ noun a surgical operation to make a hole through the throat into the windpipe, so as to allow air to get to the lungs in cases where the trachea is blocked, as in pneumonia, poliomyelitis or diphtheria

COMMENT: After the operation, a tube is inserted into the hole to keep it open. The tube may be permanent if it is to bypass an obstruction, but can be removed if the condition improves.

trachoma /trəˈkɔːmə/ noun a contagious viral inflammation of the eyelids, common in tropical countries, which can cause blindness if the conjunctiva becomes scarred

trac-, *trak* /ˈtræk/ noun 1. a series of organs or tubes which allow something to pass from one part of the body to another 2. a series or bundle of nerve fibres connecting two areas of the nervous system and transmitting nervous impulses in one or in both directions

*GI fistulae are frequently associated with infection because the effluent contains bowel organisms.*
traction

which initially contaminate the fistula tract

traction /ˈtrækʃən/ noun a procedure that consists of using a pulling force to straighten a broken or deformed limb. The patient was in traction for two weeks.

COMMENT: A system of weights and pulleys is fastened over the patient’s bed so that the limb can be pulled hard enough to counteract the tendency of the muscles to contract and return it back to its original position. Traction can also be used to correct if slipped discs and other dislocation.

Other forms of traction include frames attached to the body.

tractotomy /ˈtræktekˌtɔmi/ noun a surgical operation to cut the nerve pathway taking sensations of pain to the brain, as a treatment for severe pain that is hard to control.

tragus /ˈtræɡəs/ noun a piece of cartilage in the outer ear which projects forward over the entrance to the auditory canal.

training /ˈtrænɪŋ/ noun the process of educating by giving instruction and the opportunity to practise.

trait /treɪt/ noun 1. a typical characteristic of someone. 2. a genetically controlled characteristic.

trance /ˈtræns/ noun a condition in which a person is in a dream, but not asleep, and seems not to be aware of what is happening round him or her. 3. a hypnotic trance.

transameric acid /ˈtrænsəˌæmərɪk/ noun a drug used to control severe bleeding.

tranquiliser /ˈtræŋkwɪlɪzaɪzər, -ˈkwɪlɪzaɪzɪzər/ noun a drug which relieves someone’s anxiety and calms him or her down. (informal) She’s taking tranquillisers to calm her nerves.

He’s been on tranquillisers ever since he started his new job.

trans- /ˈtræns/ prefix through or across.

transaminase /ˈtrænsəˌmeɪnəˌzi/ noun an enzyme involved in the transamination of amino acids.

transamination /ˈtrænsəˌmeɪnəˌʒən/ noun the process by which amino acids are metabolised in the liver.

transcendental meditation /ˌtrænsˌsɛnˌdɛntəl/ noun a type of meditation in which the same words or sounds are repeated silently.

transcription /ˈtrænsˌskrɪpʃən/ noun 1. the act of copying something written, or of putting something spoken into written form. 2. the first step in carrying out genetic instructions in living cells, in which the genetic code is transferred from DNA to molecules of messenger RNA, which then direct protein manufacture.

transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation /ˌtrænsˌkjuːˈtriːnik/ noun full form of TENS.

transdermal /ˈtrænsdərˈmæl/ adjective referring to a drug which is released through the skin.

transdermal patch /ˈtrænsdərˈmæl/ noun a patch containing medication applied to the skin and releasing its contents into the body over a period of time.

transdiaphragmatic approach /ˌtrænsˌdɪəˈfɜrəmətrɪk/ noun an operation carried out through the diaphragm.

transsection /ˌtrænsˌsektʃən/ noun 1. the act of cutting across part of the body. 2. a sample of tissue which has been taken by cutting across a part of the body.

transfer /ˈtrænsfɜːr/ verb to pass from one place to another, or cause someone or something to pass from one place to another. The hospital records have been transferred to the computer.

transference /ˌtrænsfərəns/ noun in psychiatry) a condition in which someone transfers the psychoanalyst the characteristics belonging to a strong character from his or her past such as a parent, and reacts as if the analyst were that person.

transferrin /ˌtrænsfərɪn/ noun a substance found in the blood, which carries iron in the bloodstream. Also called siderophilin.

transfer RNA /ˌtrænsfəˌreɪn/ noun RNA which attaches amino acids to protein chains being made at ribosomes.

transfix /ˈtrænsfɪks/ verb to cut through a part of the body completely, e.g. when amputating a limb.

transfusion /ˌtrænsfəˈʃən/ noun the procedure of transferring blood or saline fluids from a container into a someone’s bloodstream.

transient /ˈtrænsɪənt/ adjective not lasting long.

transient ischaemic attack /ˈtrænsɪənt/ noun a mild stroke caused by a brief stoppage of blood supply to the brain. Also TIA.

transillumination /ˌtrænsɪˌlʌmɪˈneɪʃən/ noun an examination of an organ by shining a bright light through it.

transitional /ˌtrænsɪˈʃənəl/ adjective in the process of developing into something.

transitional epithelium /ˌtrænsɪˈʃənəl/ noun a type of epithelium found in the urethra.

translocation /ˌtrænsˌkləˈkeɪʃən/ noun the movement of part of a chromosome to an-
other part of the same chromosome or to a different chromosome pair, leading to genetic disorders

translucent /trænsˈliːskənt/ adjective allowing light to pass through, but not enough to allow objects on the other side to be clearly distinguished

translumbar /trænsˈlʌmbr/ adjective through the lumbar region

transmigration /ˌtrænzmaɪˈgreʃ(ə)n/ noun the movement of a cell through a membrane

transmission-based precautions /trænzˈmɪʃən-/ plural noun the most recent set of guidelines for healthcare workers on dealing with highly infectious diseases, to be used in addition to the Standard Precautions. There are three categories: Airborne Precautions, Droplet Precautions and Contact Precautions, sometimes used in combination for diseases which can be transmitted in various ways.

transmit /trænzˈmɪt/ verb to pass something such as a message or a disease transported along the neural pathways. The disease is transmitted by lice.

transparent /trænzˈpərənt/ adjective able to be seen through The cornea is a transparent tissue on the front of the eye.

transplacental /ˌtrænzplæˈsɛntəl/ adjective through the placenta

transplant noun /trænzˈplænt/ 1. a procedure which involves taking an organ such as the heart or kidney, or tissue such as skin, and grafting it into someone to replace an organ or tissue which is diseased or not functioning properly She had a heart-lung transplant. 2. the organ or tissue which is grafted The kidney transplant was rejected. ■ verb /trænzˈplænt/ to graft an organ or tissue onto into someone to replace an organ or tissue which is diseased or not functioning correctly

transplantation /ˌtrænzplæntəˈʃən/ noun the act of transplanting something bone marrow transplantation has added complication of graft-versus-host disease [Hospital Up-date]

transport /trænzˈpɔrt/ verb to carry someone or something to another place Arterial blood transports oxygen to the tissues.

transposition /ˌtrænzpoʊˈzɪʃən/ noun a congenital condition where the aorta and pulmonary artery are placed on the opposite side of the body to their usual position

transpyloric plane /ˌtrænzˈpɒlərɪk/ noun a plane at right angles to the sagittal plane, passing midway between the suprasternal notch and the symphysis pubis. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

transrectal /trænsˈrektrəl/ adjective through the rectum

transsexual /trænzˈseksjuəl/ adjective feeling uncomfortable with their birth gender a person, especially a man, who feels uncomfortable with their birth gender

transsexualism /trænzˈseksjuəlɪz(ə)m/ noun a condition in which a person, especially a man, feels uncomfortable with their birth gender

transsternal plane /ˌtrænzstərnl/ noun an imaginary horizontal line drawn through the chest bones. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement. Also called intersternal plane

transudate /trænzˈjuːdət/ noun a fluid which passes through the pores of a membrane. It contains less protein or solid material than an exudate.

transudation /trænzˈjuːdeɪʃən/ noun the process of passing a fluid from the body’s cells through the pores of a membrane

transuretero-ureterostomy /trænzˈjuːrətərəˌjuːrəˈterəstəmi/ noun a surgical operation in which both ureters are brought to the same side in the abdomen, because one is damaged or obstructed

transurethral /trænzˌjuːrəθrəl/ adjective through the urethra

transurethral prostatectomy /trænzˌjuːrəθrəl ˈprɒstəˌtekstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the prostate gland, where the operation is carried out through the urethra. Abbrev TUR. Also called resection of the prostate

transvaginal /trænzvəˈdʒiːnəl/ adjective across or through the vagina

transverse /trænzvərˈzəs/ adjective across or through the body

transverse arch /trænzvərˈzəs ɑrʃ/ noun same as metatarsal arch

transverse colon /trænzvərˈzəs ˈkɒlən/ noun the second section of the colon which crosses the body below the stomach. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement

transverse fracture /trænzvərˈzəs ˈfræktrə/ noun a fracture where the bone is broken straight across

transverse lie /trænzvərˈzəs ˈlaɪ/ noun the position of a fetus across the body of the mother

transverse plane /trænzvərˈzəs ˈplɛnə/ noun a plane at right angles to the sagittal plane, running horizontally across the body. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

transverse presentation /trænzvərˈzəs ˈprɛzənʃən/ noun a position of the baby in the uterus, where the baby’s side will appear first, usually requiring urgent manipulation or caesarean section to prevent complications
transverse process

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transverse process /ˌtrænzvəs/ˈtrʌnsvəs/ noun the part of a vertebra which protrudes at the side

transvesical prostatectomy /ˌtrænsvəsɪkəl prəˈstəʊrətəm/ noun an operation to remove the prostate gland, carried out through the bladder

transvestism /ˌtrænsvəstɪzəm/ noun the condition of liking to dress and behave as a member of the opposite sex

transvestite /ˌtrænsvəstɪt/ noun a person who dresses and behaves as a member of the opposite sex

trapezium /ˈtræpzɪəm/ noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist, below the thumb. See illustration at HAND in Supplement (Note: The plural is trapeziums or trapezia.)

trapezoid /ˈtræpzɪɔd/, trapezoid bone /ˈtræpzɪɔd ˈbɑːni noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist, below the first finger. See illustration at HAND in Supplement

trauma /ˈtræmə/ noun 1. a wound or injury 2. a very frightening or distressing experience which gives a person a severe emotional shock

trauma centre /ˈtræmə səntər noun a hospital or a department in a hospital that treats people who have complex, life-threatening injuries

traumatic /ˈtræmətɪk/ adjective 1. caused by an injury 2. extremely frightening, distressing or shocking

traumatic fever /ˈtræmətɪk ˈfɪvər noun a fever caused by an injury

traumatic pneumothorax /ˈtræmətɪk ˈnuːməʊθərɔks/ noun pneumothorax which results from damage to the lung surface or to the wall of the chest, allowing air to leak into the space between the pleurae

traumatology /ˈtræmətələdʒi/ noun a branch of surgery which deals with injuries received in accidents

traveller’s diarrhoea /ˈtrævlə(ɹ)ləz diəˈrɪə/ noun diarrhoea that affects people who travel to foreign countries and which is due to contact with a different type of E. coli from the ones they are used to. (informal)

travel sickness /ˈtrævl(ɹ)siknəs noun same as motion sickness

trazodone /ˈtræzoʊdən/ noun an antidepressant drug which has a strong sedative effect, used in the treatment of depressive disorders accompanied by insomnia

Treacher Collins syndrome /ˈtrɛθər ˈkɒlnz, ˈstrɛθər ˈsɪndrəm noun a hereditary disorder in which the lower jaw, the cheek bones, and the ear are not fully developed

treat /trɪt/ verb to use medical methods to cure a disease or help a sick or injured person to recover. ◇ She has been treated with a new antibiotic. ◇ She’s being treated by a specialist for heart disease.

treatment /trɪtmənt noun 1. actions taken to look after sick or injured people or to cure disease. ◇ He is receiving treatment for a slipped disc. 2. a particular way of looking after a sick or injured person or trying to cure a disease. ◇ cortisone treatment. ◇ This is a new treatment for heart disease.

trematode /ˈtrɛmətəd/ noun a parasitic flatworm

tremble /ˈtrembl/ verb to shake or shiver slightly

trembling /ˈtremblɪŋ noun rapid small involuntary movements of a limb or muscle

trench fever /ˈtrentʃ ˈfɪvər noun a fever caused by Rickettsia bacteria, similar to typhus but recurring every five days

trench foot /ˈtrentʃ ˈfʊt noun a condition, caused by exposure to cold and damp, in which the skin of the foot becomes red and blistered and in severe cases turns black when gangrene sets in. Also called immersion foot (note: Trench foot was common among soldiers serving in the trenches during the First World War.)

trench mouth /ˈtrentʃ ˈmaʊθ noun + gingivitis

Trendelenburg’s operation /ˈtrendəlenbɜrɡs əˈpərənʃən noun an operation to tie a saphenous vein in the groin before removing varicose veins. [After Friedrich Trendelenburg (1844–1924), German surgeon]

Trendelenburg’s position /ˈtrendəlenbɜrɡs ˈpərsən noun Trendelenburg position /ˈtrendəlenbɜrɡs ˈpərsən noun a position in which someone lies on a sloping bed, with the head lower than the feet, and the knees bent. It is used in surgical operations to the pelvis and for people who have shock.

Trendelenburg’s sign /ˈtrendəlenbɜrɡs ˈsɛn noun a symptom of congenital dislocation of the hip, where the person’s pelvis is lower on the opposite side to the dislocation

trephination /ˈtrɪfənəʃn noun a surgical operation which consists of removing a small part of the skull with a trephine in order to perform surgery on the brain

trephine /ˈtrɪfɪn noun a surgical instrument for making a round hole in the skull or for removing a round piece of tissue
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the bloodstream and settle in muscles.

three parts, which are joined to form one ten-

triceps

Trichomonas

Trichomonas

Trichomonas

Trichocephalus

trichology

trichiasis

trichomycosis

Trichophyton

trichosis

trichotillomania

Trichuris

trichuriasis

Trichophyton

triage

triad

TRH

Treponema

trifocal lenses

trigeminal

trigeminal nerve

Treponema /trepə'niːmə/ noun a genus of bacteria which cause diseases such as syphilis or yaws

treponematosis /trepə'nəmatəsɪs/ noun an infection by the bacterium Treponema pertenue; or yaws

TRH abbr thyrotropin-releasing hormone

triad /traɪəd/ noun three organs or three symptoms which are linked together in a group

triage /triˈɑːɡ/ noun the system in which a doctor or nurse sees patients briefly in order to decide who should be treated first

trial /ˈtrɪəl/ noun a process of testing something such as a drug or treatment to see how effective it is, especially before allowing it to be used generally in clinical trials. A six-month trial period. We're supplying it on a trial basis.

trial

trial

triamcinolone /traɪəmˈsɪnələʊn/ noun a synthetic corticosteroid drug used in the treatment of skin, mouth and joint inflammations

triangle /ˈtraɪəŋɡəl/ noun 1. a flat shape which has three sides 2. part of the body with three sides

triangular /ˈtraɪəŋɡjʊlər/ adjective with three sides

triangular bandage /ˈtraɪəŋɡjʊlər ˈbændɪdʒ/ noun a bandage made of a triangle of cloth, used to make a sling for the arm

triceps /ˈtraɪəsɪps/ noun a muscle formed of three parts, which are joined to form one tendon

triceps brachii /ˈtraɪəsɪps ˈbreʃkɪi/ noun a muscle in the back part of the upper arm which makes the forearm stretch out

trich- /ˈtrɪk/ prefix same as tricho- (used before vowels)

trichiasis /trɪkˈʃiəsɪs/ noun a painful condition in which the eyelashes grow in towards the eye and scratch the eyeball

trichinosis /trɪkˈnəʊsɪs/, trichiniasis /ˌtrɪkˈniəsɪs/, trichiniasis /ˌtrɪk’niəsɪs/ noun a disease caused by infestation of the intestine by larvae of roundworms or nematodes, which pass round the body in the bloodstream and settle in muscles. Comment: the larvae enter the body in meat, especially pork, which has not been properly cooked.

tricho- /ˈtraɪkoʊ/ prefix 1. referring to hair 2. like hair

Trichocephalus /ˈtraɪkoʊˌsfɛləs/ noun same as Trichuris

trichology /ˈtraɪkoʊlɒdʒi/ noun the study of hair and the diseases which affect it

Trichomonas /ˈtrɪkəʊˌmənəs/ noun a species of long thin parasite which infests the intestines

Trichomonas vaginalis /ˌtrɪkəʊˌmənəs vəˈdʒɪnəlɪs/ noun a parasite which infests the vagina and causes an irritating discharge

trichomoniasis /ˌtrɪkəʊˈmənəsɪs/ noun infestation of the intestine or vagina with Trichomonas

trichomycosis /ˌtrɪkəʊˈmərkəsɪs/ noun a disease of the hair caused by a corynebacterium

Trichophyton /ˈtrɪkəʊˌfɪtən/ noun a fungus which affects the skin, hair and nails

trichophytosis /ˌtrɪkəʊˈfɪtəsɪs/ noun an infection caused by Trichophyton

trichosis /ˈtrɪkəsɪs/ noun any unusual condition of the hair

trichotillomania /ˌtrɪkəˌtɪləˈmənɪə/ noun a condition in which a person pulls his or her hair out compulsively

trichromatism /ˌtrɪkəroʊˈmætɪz(ə)m/ noun vision which allows the difference between the three primary colours to be seen. Compare dichromatism, monochromatism

trichrome stain /ˌtrɪktrɪkˌrəʊm, ˈstɛɪn/ noun a stain in three colours used in histology

trichuriasis /ˌtrɪkəˌʃiərəsɪs/ noun an infestation of the intestine with whipworms

Trichuris /trɪkˈʃʊrɪs/ noun a thin round parasitic worm which infests the caecum. Also called whipworm

tricusp /ˈtrɪkəs/p/ noun something which has three cusps, e.g. a tooth or leaf

tricuspid valve /ˈtrɪkəsɪp ˌvælv/ noun an inlet valve with three cusps between the right atrium and the right ventricle in the heart. See illustration at heart in Supplement

tricyclic antidepressant /ˌtrɪsɪkˈlɪs/ noun a drug used to treat depression and panic disorder, e.g. amitriptyline and nortriptyline

Comment: Antimuscarinic and cardiac side-effects can occur; rapid withdrawal should be avoided.

tridactyly /ˌtrɪdæktɪli/ noun the condition of having only three fingers or toes

trifocal lenses /ˌtrɪfəʊkəl ˈlɛnsz/ noun three lenses combined in one piece of glass to give clear vision over different distances.

trifocal

triclops /ˈtrɪklɒps/ noun a fusion of the fifth cranial nerve, which controls the sensory...
trigeminal neuralgia

nerves in the forehead, face and chin, and the muscles in the jaw

trigeminal neuralgia /trɪɡəˈmɛnɪl/ "a disorder of the trigeminal nerve, which sends intense pains shooting across the face. Also called tic douloureux"

trigeminy /trɪɡəˈmɛnɪ/ "noun an irregular heartbeat, where a regular beat is followed by two ectopic beats"

trigger /ˈtrɪɡər/ "verb to start something happening. It is not known what triggers the development of shingles."

trigger finger /ˈtrɪɡər ˈfɪŋər/ "noun a condition in which a finger can bend but is difficult to straighten, probably because of a nodule on the flexor tendon"

triglyceride /trɪɡəˈlɜːrd/ "noun a substance such as fat which contains three fatty acids"

trigone /trɪɡəʊn/ "noun a triangular piece of the wall of the bladder, between the openings for the urethra and the two ureters"

trigonitis /trɪɡəˈnɪtɪs/ "noun inflammation of the bottom part of the wall of the bladder"

trigonocephalic /trɪɡəˈnəʊsəl/ "adjective referring to a skull which shows signs of trigonocephaly"

trigonocephaly /trɪɡəˈnəʊsəlɪ/ "noun any part of the body shaped like a pulley, especially part of the lower end of the humerus, which articulates with the ulna, or a curved bone in the frontal bone through which one of the eye muscles passes (NOTE: The plural is trochleae.)"

trichleare /trɪkəˈlər/ "adjective referring to a ring in a bone"

trichlear nerve /trɪkəˈlɜːr nəv/ "noun the fourth cranial nerve which controls the muscles of the eyeball"

trichoid joint /trɪkəˈrɔɪd dʒɔɪnt/ "noun a joint where a bone can rotate freely about a central axis as in the neck, where the atlas articulates with the axis. Also called pivot joint"

trichrome /trɪkəˈrɒm/ "noun a wheeled table for transporting patients. The patient was placed on a trolley to be taken to the operating theatre."

triphosphatase /trɪfəʊˈsɒfət/ "adrenosine triphosphate"

triple marker test /trɪpəl mɑːˈkɑːr/ "noun a blood test performed on pregnant women which can detect Down’s syndrome in a fetus by analysing the relative levels of substances produced by the mother’s placenta and the fetus itself"

triplet /trɪplɪt/ "noun one of three babies born to a mother at the same time"

triple vaccine /trɪpləv/ "noun a vaccine which induces protection against three diseases e.g. diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough"

triploid /trɪpplɔɪd/ "adjective referring to a cell where each chromosome, except the sex chromosome, occurs three times, which is not viable in humans"

triquetrum /kweɪтрəm/ "noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist. See illustration at HAND in Supplement"

trismus /trɪzms/ "noun a spasm in the lower jaw, which makes it difficult to open the mouth, a symptom of tetanus"

trisomic /trɪzəˈmɪk/ "adjective referring to Down’s syndrome"

trisomy 21 /trəsəˈmɒmi/ "noun a condition in which someone has three chromosomes instead of a pair"

trisomy 21 /trəsəˈmɒmi/ "noun same as Down’s syndrome"

tritonopia /trɪˌtɒnəˈpiə/ "noun a rare form of colour blindness, in which someone cannot see blue. Compare Daltonism, deuteranopia"

trocar /trəˈkɑːr/ "noun a surgical instrument or pointed rod which slides inside a cannula to make a hole in tissue to drain off fluid"

trochanter /trəˈkæntər/ "noun two bony lumps on either side of the top end of the femur where muscles are attached."

trochanteric /trəˈkæntərɪk/ "adjective referring to something which influences the development of shingles."

trochlear /trʊklə/ "noun the lesser trochanter."

trochlea /trʊklɪə/ "noun one of the eight small carpal bones, triquetral bone"

trochlear nerve /trʊklər nɜːv/ "noun the fourth cranial nerve which controls the muscles of the eyeball"

trochlear nerve /trʊklər nɜːv/ "noun same as Down’s syndrome"

tritiated /trɪˈteɪʃətɪd/ "adjective referring to a radioactively labelled chemical or biological substance."

tritium /trɪˈtiəm/ "noun a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, used in tritium lamps and tritium watches."

troton /trəˈtɒnt/ "noun a conjugated triene, e.g. in the structure of cholesterol."

tritory /trɪˈtɒrɪti/ "noun the external surface of the brain, especially that part of it which can be seen from the outside."

trophoblast /trɒfəˈblɑːst/ "noun tissue which forms the wall of a blastocyst."

tropho- /trɒfə/ "prefix meaning 'food' or 'nutrition'"

trophic ulcer /trɒfɪk ˈalsə/ "noun an ulcer caused by lack of blood, e.g. a bedsore"

tropho- /trɒfə/ "prefix meaning "food" or "nutrition"

trophoblast /trɒfəˈblɑːst/ "noun tissue which forms the wall of a blastocyst."

trop- /trɒp/ "prefix meaning 'towards' or 'toward'"
Also called wound, found especially in tropical countries.

periods of sleep.

pains in the head, general lethargy and long
tropical diseases
e.g. malaria, dengue or Lassa fever

disease which is found in tropical countries,
zyme secreted by the pancreas into the duode-

blood contains too little calcium.

causes the index and middle fingers to extend.

trousers for back trouble

tourniquet is applied to the upper arm, which

spasm in the muscles in the forearm when a

truss

a belt worn round the waist,

trunk

a belt worn round the waist, with pads, to hold a hernia in place

trypsin
digests food protein.

tryptophan

an essential amino acid

tsetse fly

tropical ulcer

Also called Naga sore

trots

an attack of diarrhoea

trouble

trousseau’s sign

a spasm in the muscles in the forearm when a

true rib

true vocal cords

trypanocide

Trypanosoma

Trypanosomiasis

trypsin

Trypsinogen

tuberculosis

TSS abbr toxic shock syndrome

tubal occlusion

TSS abbr toxic shock syndrome

tubal pregnancy

TSS abbr toxic shock syndrome

tuberculin test

tuberculosis

An infectious disease caused by the tuberculosis bacillus, where infected lungs form in the tis-
sue. Abbr TB

COMMENT: Tuberculosis can take many forms: the most common form is infection of the lungs (pulmonary tuberculosis), but it can also al-
called aches, fever and swollen lymph nodes. Also which can be passed to Brucella tularensis, of curare, used as a muscle relaxant tugging of the Eustachian tube and the tympanum (NOTE: The US spelling is tubocurarine referring to a Fallopian tube and the tubular secretion of open gauze covered with soft paraffin wax which prevents sticking tumescence of swollen tissue where liquid has accumulated underneath. tumescent screening. patch test; it can also be detected by X-ray tumid a large lump tumoral tumoral tumour an unusual swelling or growth of new cells. The X-ray showed a tumour in the breast. tumour a brain tumour. (NOTE: For other terms referring to tumours, see words tumoral, tumorous referring to a tumour tumoral tunica vaginalis the membrane covering the testes and the ovaries tunica intima the lining inner layer of the wall of an artery or vein. Also called intima media tunica adventitia an outer layer of the wall of an artery or vein. Also called adventitia tunica albuginea testis a white fibrous membrane covering the testes and the ovaries tunicu media the middle layer of the wall of an artery or vein. Also called media tunica vaginalis a membrane covering the testes and epididymis tuning fork a metal fork which, if hit, gives out a perfect note, used in hearing tests such as Rinne’s test tunnel vision which is restricted to the area directly in front of the eye turbinate 1. having a shape like a spiral or an inverted cone 2. referring to any of the three bones found on the walls of the nasal passages of mammals turbinate bone turbinate bone 1. nasal conchae turbinate a surgical operation to remove a turbinate bone
turbulent flow noun rushing or uneven flow of blood in a vessel, usually caused by a partial obstruction

turcica noun salsa turcica
turgescence noun a swelling in body tissue caused by the accumulation of fluid
turgid adjective swollen with blood
turgor noun the condition of being swollen
turn noun a slight illness or attack of dizziness (informal) ■ verb 1. to move the head or body to face in another direction 2. to change into something different ◇ The solution is turned blue by the reagent.

Turner’s syndrome noun a congenital condition in females, caused by the absence of one of the pair of X chromosomes, in which sexual development is retarded by the absence of one of the pair of X chromosomes, in which sexual development is retarded and no ovaries develop [Described 1938. After Henry Hubert Turner (b. 1892), US endocrinologist, Clinical professor of Medicine, Oklahoma University, USA.]
turricephaly noun [tarti’sefalı] same as oxycephaly
tussis noun coughing
tutor noun a teacher, a person who teaches small groups of students
tweezers noun an instrument shaped like small scissors, with ends which pinch and do not cut, used to pull out or pick up small objects
twenty-four hour flu noun any minor illness similar to flu which lasts for a short period (informal)
twenty-twenty vision noun perfect vision
twice adverb two times or twice daily two times a day
twilight myopia noun a condition of the eyes, in which someone has difficulty in seeing in dim light
twilight sleep noun a type of anaesthetic sleep, in which the patient is semi-conscious but cannot feel any pain
twilight state noun a condition of epileptics and alcoholics in which the person can do some automatic actions, but is not conscious of what he or she is doing

COMMENT: Twilight state is induced at childbirth, by introducing anaesthetics into the rectum.
twin noun one of two babies born to a mother at the same time

coment: Twins occur at a rate of about one birth in 38. They are often found in the same family, where the tendency to have twins is passed through females.
twinge noun a sudden sharp pain ◇ He sometimes has a twinge in his right shoulder.

twist verb to hurt a joint by turning or bending it too much or the wrong way ◇ He twisted his ankle.
twitch noun a small movement of a muscle in the face or hands ■ verb to make small movements of the muscles

twisting noun small movements of the muscles in the face or hands
tylosis noun the development of a callus
tympan- prefix same as tympano- 

NOTE: used before vowels
tympanectomy noun a surgical operation to remove the tympanic membrane
tympanic adjective referring to the eardrum
tympanic membrane noun the part of the temporal bone that supports and partly surrounds the auditory canal

tympanic cavity noun the section of the ear between the eardrum and the inner ear, containing the three ossicles.

Also called middle ear, tympanum
tympanic membrane noun the membrane at the inner end of the external auditory meatus leading from the outer ear, which vibrates with sound and passes the vibrations on to the ossicles in the middle ear. Also called tympanum, eardrum. See illustration at EAR in Supplement
tympanitis noun the expansion of the stomach with gas. Also called meteorism
tympanitis noun same as otitis media
tympano- prefix same as otitis media
tympano- noun same as tympanic cavity
tympanoplasty noun same as myringoplasty
tympanosclerosis noun irreversible damage to the tympanic membrane and middle ear, starting with the replacement of tissues or fibrin by collagen and hyalin. Then calcification occurs, leading to deafness.
tympanotomy noun same as myringotomy
tympanum noun same as tympanic membrane

type A behaviour noun a behaviour pattern which may contribute to coronary heart disease, in which an individual is aggressive and over-competitive, and usually lives at a stressful pace. Compare type B behaviour
type B behaviour noun a behaviour pattern which is unlikely to contribute to coronary heart disease, in which an individual is patient, tolerant, not very com-
Type I diabetes mellitus

Type I diabetes mellitus is a condition in which the beta cells of the pancreas produce little or no insulin, and the person is completely dependent on injections of insulin for survival. It is more likely to develop in people under 30. Symptoms are usually severe and occur suddenly. Also called insulin-dependent diabetes.

Type II diabetes mellitus

Type II diabetes mellitus is the type of diabetes mellitus in which cells throughout the body lose some or most of their ability to use insulin. It is more likely to develop in people who are over 40, who are overweight or obese, and who do not exercise regularly. It can be controlled in some cases with diet and exercise, but more severe cases may need oral medication which reduces glucose concentrations in the blood, or insulin injections, so that even cells with a poor uptake will capture enough insulin. Also called non-insulin-dependent diabetes.

Typhlitis

Typhlitis is inflammation of the caecum (large intestine).

Typhoid

Typhoid is an infection of the intestine caused by Salmonella typhi in food and water. Comment: Typhoid fever gives a fever and diarrhoea and the person may pass blood in the faeces. It can be fatal if not treated. People who have had the disease may become carriers, and the Widal test is used to detect the presence of typhoid fever in the blood.

Typhus

Typhus is one of several fevers caused by the Rickettsia bacterium, transmitted by fleas and lice, producing a fever, extreme weakness and a dark rash on the skin. The test for typhus is the Weil-Felix reaction.

Typical

Typical is an adjective showing the usual symptoms of a condition. For example, His gait was typical of a patient suffering from Parkinson’s disease.

Typically

Typically is an adverb in a typical way.
UKCC  abbr United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting
ulcer /'ʌlsər/ noun an open sore in the skin or in a mucous membrane, which is inflamed and difficult to heal. ○ stomach ulcer
ulcerated /'ʌlsərətɪd/ adjective covered with ulcers
ulcerating /'ʌlsərətɪŋ/ adjective developing into an ulcer
ulceration /'ʌlsərəʃən/ noun the development of an ulcer
ulcerative /'ʌlsərətɪv/ adjective referring to ulcers, or characterised by ulcers
ulcerative colitis /'ʌlsərətɪv kə'loʊtɪs/ noun severe pain in the colon, with diarrhoea and ulcers in the rectum, often with a psoriatic cause
ulceromembranous gingivitis /ˌʌlsərə'membrənəs /′jɪŋəvɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the gums, which can also affect the mucous membrane in the mouth
ulcerous /'ʌlsərəs/ adjective 1. referring to an ulcer. 2. like an ulcer
ulitis /ju'latex/ noun inflammation of the gums,
ulna /'ʌlnə/ noun the longer and inner of the two bones in the forearm between the elbow and the wrist. See illustration at hand in Supplement. Compare radius
ulnar /'ʌlnər/ adjective referring to the ulna (the whole joint becomes disorganised, causing ulnar deviation of the fingers resulting in the typical deformity of the rheumatoid arthritic hand) ['Nursing Times']
ulnar artery /'ʌlnər əˈtɑːri/ noun an artery which branches from the brachial artery at the elbow and runs down the inside of the forearm to join the radial artery in the palm of the hand
ulnar nerve /'ʌlnər ˈnɜːv/ noun a nerve which runs from the neck to the elbow and controls the muscles in the forearm and some of the fingers
COMMENT: The ulnar nerve passes near the surface of the skin at the elbow, where it can easily be hit, giving the effect of the ‘funny bone’.
ulnar pulse /'ʌlnər pɑːls/ noun a secondary pulse in the wrist, taken near the inner edge of the forearm
ultra-/'ʌltərə/ prefix 1. further than 2. extremely
ultrafiltration /'ʌltərəflɪˈtreʃən/ noun the process of filtering the blood to remove tiny particles, e.g. when the blood is filtered by the kidney
ultramicroscopic /ˌʌltərəˌmaɪkəˈrɑːsɪk/ adjective referring to something so small that it cannot be seen using a standard microscope
ultrasonic /'ʌltərəsɒŋ/ adjective referring to ultrasound
ultrasonic probe /'ʌltərəsɒŋkˈprəʊb/ noun an instrument which locates organs or tissues inside the body using ultrasound
ultrasonics /'ʌltərəsɒŋtɪks/ noun the study of ultrasound and its use in medical treatments
ultrasonic waves /'ʌltərəsɒŋk 'weɪvz/ plural noun same as ultrasound
ultrasonogram /ˌʌltərəsɒnəˈɡræm/ noun a picture made with ultrasound for the purpose of medical examination or diagnosis
ultrasonograph /ˌʌltərəsɒnəˈɡrɑːf/ noun a machine which takes pictures of internal organs, using ultrasound
ultrasonography /ˌʌltərəsɒnəˈɡrɑːfi/ noun the procedure of passing ultrasound waves through the body and recording echoes which show details of internal organs. Also called echography
ultrasonotomography /ˌʌltərəˌsɒnəˌtɒməˈɡrɑːfi/ noun the procedure of making images using ultrasound of organs which are placed at different depths inside the body
ultrasound /'ʌltəsəʊnd/ noun very high frequency sound waves which can be reflected off internal body parts or off a fetus in the womb to create images for medical examination (Note: No plural for ultrasound)
COMMENT: The very high frequency waves of ultrasound can be used to detect and record organs or growths inside the body, in a similar way to the use of X-rays, by recording the differences in echoes sent back from different tissues. Ultrasound is used routinely to monitor the development of a fetus in the womb, and to treat some conditions such as internal
ultrasound marker 434

- bruising. It can also destroy bacteria and calcu-
- lates.

**ultrasound marker** /ˌʌltrəˈsaʊnd_ˈmɑrkər/ **noun** an unusual physical characteristic seen in an ultrasound examination of a fetus which is an indication of the existence of a genetic or developmental disorder.

**ultrasound probe** /ˌʌltrəˈsaʊnd_ˈproʊb/ **noun** same as **ultrasonic probe**

**ultrasound scan** /ˌʌltrəˈsaʊnd_ˈskæn/ **noun** the examination of internal parts of the body, especially a fetus in the womb, using ultrasound technology.

**ultrasound scanning** /ˌʌltrəˈsaʊnd_ˈskæntɪŋ/ **noun** a method of gathering information about the body by taking images using high-frequency sound waves.

**ultrasound treatment** /ˌʌltrəˈsaʊnd_ˈtrɪtmənt/ **noun** the treatment of soft tissue inflammation using ultrasound waves.

**ultraviolet** **adjective** referring to the short invisible rays beyond the violet end of the spectrum, which form the element in sunlight which tans the skin, helps the skin produce Vitamin D and kills bacteria. Abbrev UV.

**ultraviolet lamp** /ˌʌltrəˈvaɪələt_ˈlæmp/ **noun** a lamp which gives off ultraviolet rays.

**ultraviolet radiation** /ˌʌltrəˈvaɪələt_ˈrædɪəʃən/ **noun** short invisible rays of ultraviolet light. Abbrev UVR.

**umbilical** /əmˈbɪlɪkl/ **adjective** referring to the navel.

**umbilical circulation** /əmˈbɪlɪkl_ˈsɜrkəluˈkeɪʃən/ **noun** the circulation of blood from the mother’s bloodstream through the umbilical cord to the fetus.

**umbilical cord** /əmˈbɪlɪkl_ˈkɔrd/ **noun** a cord containing two arteries and one vein which links the fetus inside the uterus to the placenta.

**umbilical hernia** /əmˈbɪlɪkl_ˈhɜrniə/ **noun** a hernia which bulges at the navel, usually in young children. Also called eomphalos.

**umbilical region** /əmˈbɪlɪkl_ˈrɪdʒən/ **noun** the central part of the abdomen, below the epigastrium.

**umbilicated** /əmˈbɪlɪkətɪd/ **adjective** with a small depression, like a navel, in the centre.

**umbilicus** /əmˈbɪlɪkəs/ **noun** same as navel.

**umbilum** /əmˈbɪləm/ **noun** a projecting part in the middle of the outer side of the eardrum.

unaided /ənˈɛrtid/ **adjective** without any help. Two days after the operation, he was able to walk unaided.

**unblock** /ənˈblook/ **verb** to remove something which is blocking or an operation to unblock an artery.

**unform bone** /ənˈfoʊm_ˈbɔn/ **noun** one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist, shaped like a hook. Also called hamate bone.

**uncinate epilepsy** /ənˈsɪnət_ˈeplɪsɪ/ **noun** a type of temporal lobe epilepsy, in which the person has hallucinations of smell and taste.

**unconditioned response** /ənˈkənʃənd_ˌrɪspəns/ **noun** a response to a stimulus which occurs automatically, by instinct, and has not been learned.

**unconscious** /ənˈkənʃəs/ **adjective** not aware of what is happening or She was unconscious for two days after the accident. **noun** the unconscious (in psychology) the part of the mind which stores feelings, memories or desires that someone cannot consciously call up. **subconscious**

**unconsciousness** /ənˈkənʃəns_ˈnəsnəs/ **noun** the state of being unconscious, e.g. as a result of lack of oxygen or from some other external cause such as a blow on the head.

**uncontrollable** /ənˈkəntrəˈɛlətɪd/ **adjective** not able to be controlled. The uncontrollable spread of the disease through the population.

**uncoordinated** /ənˈkəʊnˈɔrdɪnətɪd/ **adjective** not working together. His finger movements are completely uncoordinated.

**uncus** /ənˈkʌs/ **noun** a projecting part of the cerebral hemisphere, shaped like a hook.

**undeconoic acid** /ənˌdɛknəˈsɪk_ˌɑs/ **noun** a substance made from castor bean oil, used in the treatment of fungal infections such as thrush.

**under-** /əndər/ **prefix** less than usual, too little.

**undergo** /əndərˈɡoʊ/ **verb** to experience something such as a procedure or operation. He underwent an appendicectomy. **noun** the condition of having too little water in the body.

**undernourished** /əndərˈnɔrʃd/ **adjective** having too little food.

**underproduction** /əndərˈprəʊdəʃən/ **noun** the act of producing less than normal.

**underwrite** /əndərˈrait/ **verb** to carry out a procedure such as a surgical operation or Replacement of the joint is mainly undertaken to relieve pain.
underweight /ˌʌndərˈwɛt/ adjective weighing less than is medically advisable. He is several pounds underweight for his age.

undescended testis /ˌʌndɪˈsɛndɪd/ testis noun a condition in which a testis has not descended into the scrotum.

undiagnosed /ˌʌndɪˈɡnoʊzd/ adjective not identified as a specific disease or disorder.

undigested /ˌʌndɪˈɡɛstɪd/ adjective referring to food which is not digested in the body.

undipple /ˌʌndɪˈpolə/ verb to remove clothes.

undulant fever /ˌʌndɪˈluːnt/ noun a glass container for a solution to bathe the eyes.

undress /ˈʌndrɛs/ verb to remove clothes.

unguentum /ˌʌŋɡwɪntəm/ noun (in pharmacy) an ointment.

unguis /ˌʌŋɡwɪs/ noun as same as nail.

undigested /ˌʌndɪˈɡɛstɪd/ adjective not physically healthy.

ungevous /ˌʌŋɡwɜːvəs/ adjective referring to the fingernails or toenails.

unguent /ˌʌŋɡwɜːnt/ noun a smooth oily medical substance which can be spread on the skin to soothe irritations.

unguentum /ˌʌŋɡwɪntəm/ noun (in pharmacy) an ointment.

undress /ˈʌndrɛs/ verb to remove clothes.

unguis /ˌʌŋɡwɪs/ noun as same as nail.

unfit /ˈʌnft/ adjective not physically healthy.

unfit /ˈʌnft/ adjective not clean or good for health.

unhygienic /ˌʌnhaɪˈdʒiːnɪk/ adjective not clean or good for health. The conditions in the hospital laundry have been criticised as unhygienic.

unil /ˈjuːniːl/ prefix one.

unicellular /ˌjuːniˈsɛljuːəl/ adjective referring to an organism formed of one cell.

uniform /ˌjuːnɪˈfɔːm/ noun the set of official clothes worn by a group of people such as the nurses in a hospital to identify them. Not physical.

unextrême /ˌjuːnɪˈɡrævɪdə/ noun as same as primigravida.

unilateral /ˌjuːniˈlætrəl/ adjective affecting one side of the body only.

unilateral oophorectomy /ˌjuːniˈləʊfərəkˈtəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of one ovary.

union /ˌjuːniˈʒən/ noun joining together of two parts of a fractured bone. Opposite nonunion.

uniovular /ˌjuːniˈɔvjuələr/ noun consisting of, or coming from, one ovum.

uniovular twins /ˌjuːniˌɔvjuələr/ noun same as identical twins.

unipara /ˌjuːniˈpərə/ noun as same as primipara.

unipolar /ˌjuːniˈpɔʊlər/ adjective referring to a neurone with a single process. Compare bipolar. See illustration at neurone in Supplement.

unipolar lead /ˌjuːniˈpɔʊlər/ ˈlɛd/ noun an electric lead to a single electrode.

unipolar neurone /ˌjuːniˈpɔʊlər/ ˈnjuəroʊn/ neurone with a single process. Compare multipolar neurone, bipolar neurone. See illustration at neurone in Supplement.

unit /ˈjuːnɪt/ noun 1. a single part of a larger whole. 2. a part of a hospital that has a specialised function such as burns unit, a named and agreed standard amount used for measuring something such as a gram is an SI unit of weight, 4. a quantity of a drug, enzyme, hormone, or of blood, taken as a standard for measurement and producing a given effect. Three units of blood or a unit of insulin.

unprofessional conduct /ˌʌnprəˈfɛʃənəl/ noun activity by a professional person such as a doctor or nurse which is considered wrong by the body which regulates the profession.

unqualified /ˌʌŋkwɛlˈfɪəd/ adjective referring to someone who has no qualifications or no licence to practise.

unsaturated fat /ˌʌnˈsætərətɪd/ noun fat which does not have a large amount of hydrogen, and so can be broken down more easily.

unstable /ˌʌnˈstɛbl/ adjective referring to something which may change easily or unsteady mental condition.

unstable angina /ˌʌnˈstɛbl/ ˈæŋˈdʒɪnə/ noun angina which has suddenly become worse.
unsteady /ˈʌnstɛdi/ adjective likely to fall down when walking ◊ She is still very unsteady on her legs.

unstriated muscle /ˌʌnstrɪətɪdˈmʌskəl/ noun same as smooth muscle

unviable /ˈʌnvɪvəl/ adjective referring to a fetus that cannot live if born

unwanted pregnancy /ˌʌnˌwɒntɪdˈprɛɡnənsi/ noun a condition in which a woman becomes pregnant without wanting to have a child

unwell /ˈʌnwel/ adjective ill ◊ She felt unwell and had to go home. (NOTE: Not used before a noun: a sick woman but the woman was unwell.)

upper /ˈʌpə/ adjective at the top, higher

upper arm /ˈʌpər ˈɑrm/ noun the part of the arm from the shoulder to the elbow

upper limb /ˈʌpər ˈlɪm/ noun an arm ◊ There was damage to the upper limbs only.

upper motor neurone /ˈʌpər ˈmɔtər njuˈroʊn/ noun a neurone which takes impulses from the cerebral cortex

upper respiratory infection /ˈʌpər ˈresɪtpəri ˈɪnfekʃən/ noun an infection in the upper part of the respiratory system

UPPP abbr uvulopalatopharyngoplasty

upset noun /ˈʌspɛt/ a slight illness ◊ adjective /ˈʌspɛt/ slightly ill

upside down /ˌʌpsɪd ˈdaʊn/ adverb with the top turned to the bottom

upside-down stomach /ˌʌpsɪd daʊn ˈstʌmək/ noun an abnormal situation of a stomach where the upper part of the stomach is turned upside down

Ureaemia /juˈrɪzmə/ noun a disorder caused by kidney failure, where urea is retained in the blood, and the person develops nausea, convulsions and in severe cases goes into a coma (NOTE: The US spelling is uremia.)

Ureamic /juˈrɪmɪk/ adjective referring to ureaemia, or having ureaemia (NOTE: The US spelling is uremic.)

Uran- /ˈjuːrən-/ prefix referring to the palate

Uraniscorrhaphy /ˌjuːrənɪˈskɒrəf/ noun same as palatineorrhaphy

Uratemia /ˈjuːrətēmɪə/ noun a condition in which urates are present in the blood, e.g. in gout

Urate /ˈjuːrət/ noun a salt of uric acid found in urine

Uraturia /ˌjuːrəˈtjʊrəriə/ noun the presence of excessive amounts of urates in the urine, e.g. in gout

Urea /ˌjuːˈrɪə/ noun a substance produced in the liver from excess amino acids, and excreted by the kidneys into the urine

Urease /juˈrɪəs/ noun an enzyme which converts urea into ammonia and carbon dioxide

Urecchysis /juˈrɛkəsɪs/ noun a condition in which uric acid leaves the blood and enters connective tissue

Uresis /juˈrɪsɪs/ noun the act of passing urine

Ureter /juˈrɪtər/ noun one of the two tubes which take urine from the kidneys to the urinary bladder. See illustration at kidney in Supplement. Also called urinary duct

Ureter- /juˈrɪtər/ prefix same as uretero- (used before vowels)

Ureteral /juˈrɪtərəl/ adjective referring to the ureters

Ureterectomy /ˌjuːrɪtərɛkˈtɒmi/ noun the surgical removal of a ureter

Ureteric /ˌjuːrɪtərɪk/ adjective same as ureteral

Ureteric calculus /ˌjuːrɪtərɪk ˈkælkjʊləs/ noun a kidney stone in the ureter

Ureteric catheter /ˌjuːrɪtərɪk ˈkæθɪər/ noun a catheter passed through the ureter to the kidney, to inject an opaque solution into the kidney before taking an X-ray

Ureteritis /ˈjuːrɪtərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a ureter

Uretero- /juˈrɪtərəʊ/ prefix referring to the ureter

Ureterocoleostomy /ˌjuːrɪtərəkoʊˈloʊstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to implant the ureter into the sigmoid colon, so as to bypass the bladder

Ureterolysis /ˌjuːrɪˈtɛrəlɪsɪs/ noun a surgical operation to free one or both ureters from adhesions or surrounding tissue

Ureteroneocystostomy /ˌjuːrɪtərənəʊˌsɪstəˈstɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to transplant a ureter to a different location in the bladder

Ureteronephrectomy /ˌjuːrɪtərənɛfˈrɛktəmi/ noun same as nephroureterectomy

Ureteroplasty /ˌjuːrɪˈtɛrəpəˈlɑːstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to repair a ureter

Ureteropyelonephritis /ˌjuːrɪˌtɛrəˈpɪloʊˌnɛfrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the ureter and the pelvis of the kidney to which it is attached

Ureteroscopy /ˌjuːrɪˈtɛrəskəʊpi/ noun an instrument which is passed into the ureter and up into the kidneys, usually used to locate or remove a stone
urethroscope /juərɪ'θrɔskəpi/ noun an examination of the urethra with a urethroscope.
ureterosigmoidostomy /juərɪ'tɛrəsɪdʒəʊ'sɪdʒəʊ'məʊstəmə/ same as ureterocolostomy.
ureterostomy /juərɪ'tɛrə'stəmə/ noun a surgical operation to make an artificial opening for the ureter into the abdominal wall, so that urine can be passed directly out of the body.
ureterotomy /juərɪ'tɛrə'tɔmə/ noun a surgical operation to make an incision into the ureter, mainly to remove a stone.
ureterovaginal /juərɪ'tɛrə'veɡənəl/ adjective referring to the ureter and the vagina.
urethral /juərɪ'threəl/ adjective referring to the urethra.
urethral catheter /juərɪ'threəl'kæθətər/ a tube which takes urine from the bladder to be passed out of the body. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM in Supplement.
urethral striation /juərɪ'threəl'striəʃən/ noun a condition in which excessive urea forms in the sweat.
urinary bladder /juərɪ'nərɪblɛdər/ noun a sac where the urine collects after passing from the kidneys through the ureters, before being passed out of the body through the urethra. See illustration at KIDNEY, UROGENITAL SYSTEM (MALE) in Supplement.
urinary catheter /juərɪ'nərɪkæθətər/ noun same as urethral catheter.
urinary duct /juərɪ'nərɪdɛk/ noun same as ureter.
urinary incontinence /juərɪ'nərɪin'kənɪntəns/ noun the involuntary emission of urine.

COMMENT: In males, the urethra serves two purposes: the discharge of both urine and semen. The male urethra is about 25cm long, in women it is shorter, about 3cm and this relative shortness is one of the reasons for the predominance of bladder infection and inflammation (cystitis) in women. The urethra has sphincter muscles at either end which help control the flow of urine.

WHEELHOUSE'S operation /juərɪ'θwelhousz/ noun /L50263/ an operation to make an incision into the urethra between the scrotum and the anus.

urinary catheter /juərɪ'nərɪkæθətər/ noun same as urethral catheter.

urinary incontinence /juərɪ'nərɪin'kənɪntəns/ noun a condition of the urine which increases the amount of uric acid excreted in the urine.

uricosuria /juərɪ'koʊsjuərɪə/ noun a condition in which excessive uric acid is passed in the urine.

uricosuric /juərɪ'koʊsjuərɪk/ adjective referring to the urine.

uric acid /juərɪ'ık/ noun a chemical compound which is formed from nitrogen in waste products from the body and which also forms crystals in the joints of people who have gout.

uricacidaemia /juərɪ'kæsɪdə'miə/ noun same as lithaemia.

uric aciduria /juərɪ'kæsɪdəˈjʊərɪə/ noun a disease characterised by a condition of the urine.

urine /juərɪn/ noun /L50263/ the passing of urine, to detect diseases such as diabetes mellitus.

urinary bladder /juərɪ'nərɪblɛdər/ noun a sac where the urine collects after passing from the kidneys through the ureters, before being passed out of the body through the urethra. See illustration at KIDNEY, UROGENITAL SYSTEM (MALE) in Supplement.

urinary incontinence /juərɪ'nərɪin'kənɪntəns/ noun the involuntary emission of urine.
urinary obstruction /jʊərɪnərɪəbəl/ noun a blockage of the urethra, which prevents urine being passed

urinary retention /jʊərɪnərɪərɪtʃən/ noun the inability to pass urine, usually because the urethra is blocked or because the prostate gland is enlarged. Also called urine retention

urinary system /jʊərɪnərɪəsɪstəm/ noun a system of organs and ducts which separate waste liquids from the blood and excrete them as urine, including the kidneys, bladder, ureters and urethra

urinary tract /jʊərɪnərɪətrækt/ noun the set of tubes down which the urine passes from the kidneys to the bladder and from the bladder out of the body

urinary tract infection /jʊərɪnərɪətrəktɪn, fɛkʃən/ noun a bacterial infection of any part of the urinary system. Symptoms are usually a need to urinate frequently and pain on urination. Abbr UTI

urinate /jʊərɪnet/ verb to pass urine from the body

urination /jʊərɪnetʃən/ noun the passing of urine out of the body. Also called micturition

urine /jʊərɪn/ noun a yellowish liquid, containing water and waste products, mainly salt and urea, which is excreted by the kidneys and passed out of the body through the ureters, bladder and urethra

urine retention /jʊərɪn rɪtʃən/ noun same as urinary retention

uriniferous /jʊərɪnɪfərəs/ adjective carrying urine

uriniferous tubule /jʊərɪnɪfərəs ‘tjuːrɪbjʊl/ noun same as renal tubule

urino- /jʊərɪnəʊ/ prefix referring to urine

urinogenital /jʊərɪnəʊdʒənɪtəl/ adjective same as urogenital

urinometer /jʊərɪnəʊnəmətər/ noun an instrument which measures the specific gravity of urine

urobilin /jʊərɪbəlɪn/ noun a yellow pigment formed when urobilinogen comes into contact with air

urobilinogen /jʊərɪbəlɪnəˈbɪlənɪdʒən/ noun a colourless pigment formed when bilirubin is reduced to stercobilinogen in the intestines

urocele /jʊərəsəl/ noun a swelling in the scrotum which contains urine

urochasia /jʊərərə’kɪziə/ noun the passing of urine through the rectum, due to injury of the urinary system (Note: The US spelling is urochasia.)

urochrome /jʊərəkrəʊm/ noun the pigment which colours the urine yellow

urodynamics /jʊərədə’næmɪks/ plural noun the active changes which occur during the function of the bladder, urethral sphincter and pelvic floor muscles

urogenital /jʊərədʒənɪtəl/ adjective referring to the urinary and genital systems. Also called urogenital

urogenital diaphragm /jʊərədʒənɪtəl dɪərəfɜrm/ noun a fibrous layer beneath the prostate gland through which the urethra passes

urogenital system /jʊərədʒənɪtəl sɪstəm/ noun the whole of the urinary tract and reproductive system

urogram /jʊərəɡrɑːm/ noun an X-ray picture of the urinary tract, or of a part of it

urography /jʊərə’ɡrɑːfi/ noun an X-ray examination of any part of the urinary system after injection of radio-opaque dye

urokinase /jʊərəkɪnəs/ noun an enzyme formed in the kidneys, which begins the process of breaking down blood clots

uroliith /jʊərəlɪθ/ noun a stone in the urinary system

urological /jʊərələʊ’ɒlɪk/ adjective referring to urology

urologist /jʊərəlɒdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in urology

urology /jʊərəlɒdʒi/ noun the scientific study of the urinary system and its diseases

urostomy /jʊərəstəmɪ/ noun the surgical creation of an artificial urethra

urticaria /ɜːtɪˈkɛrɪə/ noun an allergic reaction to injections, particular foods or plants where the skin forms irritating red patches. Also called hives, nettle rash

USP /æbər United States Pharmacopeia

uropharmacopeia

usual /jʊərʊs/ adjective expected or typical

uter- /juːtə/ prefix same as utero- (used before vowels)

uteri /jʊətəri/ plural of uterus

uterine /jʊətərɪn/ adjective referring to the uterus

uterine cavity /jʊətərɪn kə’vætɪ/ noun the inside of the uterus

uterine cavity /jʊətərɪn kə’vætɪ/ noun the inside of the uterus

uterine fibroid /jʊətərɪn ’fɪbrəd/ noun a fibroid tumour

uterine fibroma /jʊətərɪn fɪbrəmə/ noun same as fibroid tumour

uterine procidentia /jʊətərɪn prək’sɛntɪʃən, jʊətərɪn prək’sɛntɪʃən/ noun a condition in which part of the uterus has passed through the vagina, usually after childbirth

uterine prolapse /jʊətərɪn prələps/ noun a condition in which part of the uterus is outside the vagina, but part of the uterus is still inside, and in the third stage, the whole uterus passes outside the vagina.

uterine retroflexion /jʊətərɪn rɛtrəfɛksʃən/ noun an X-ray picture of the urinary tract, or of a part of it
uterine retroversion  /ˌjʊtərɪn ˈrɛtrəvərsʃən/ noun a condition in which the uterus slopes backwards away from its usual position

uterine subinvolution  /ˌjʊtərɪn ˈsəb ɪnvəˈljuːʃən/ noun a condition in which the uterus does not go back to its previous size after childbirth

uterine tube  /ˌjʊtərɪn ˈtjuːb/ noun same as Fallopian tube

uterosalpingography  /ˌjʊtərəsælˈpɪŋɡəˌgreɪfɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the uterus

uterography  /ˌjʊtərəˈɡrəfi/ noun referring to the uterus and the ovaries

uterus didelphys  /ˌjʊtərəs ˈdaɪˈdɛlfɪs/ noun same as double uterus

UTI  abbr urinary tract infection

uvulopalatopharyngoplasty  /ˌjuːvləˈpælətəˈfæriːnəl ˈpləʊstəri/ noun a surgical operation to remove the uvula and other soft tissue in the palate, in order to widen the airways and treat the problem of snoring. Abbr UPPP
vaccinate /vækˈsɪnɪt/ verb to introduce vaccine into a person's body in order to make the body create its own antibodies, so making the person immune to the disease (NOTE: You vaccinate someone against a disease.)

vaccination /vækˈsɪneɪʃn/ noun the action of vaccinating someone.

COMMENT: Originally the words vaccination and vaccine applied only to smallpox immunisation, but they are now used for immunisation against any disease. Vaccination is mainly given against cholera, diphtheria, rabies, smallpox, tuberculosis, and typhoid.

vaccine /vækˈsɪn/ noun a substance which contains antigens to a disease or a weak form of a disease, used to protect people against it.

vaccinotherapy /vækˈsɪnəθrəpi/ noun the treatment of a disease with a vaccine.

vaguest /vəˈdʒuːst/ adjective referring to the vagina.

vaginal /vəˈdʒən(ə)l/ adjective referring to the vagina.

vaginal bleeding /vəˈdʒən(ə)lˈblidɪŋ/ noun bleeding from the vagina.

vaginal delivery /vəˈdʒən(ə)ldɪˈlɪvri/ noun the birth of a baby through the mother's vagina, without surgical intervention.

vaginal diaphragm /vəˈdʒən(ə)lməˈdɪəfrəm/ noun a circular contraceptive device for women, which is inserted into the vagina and placed over the neck of the uterus before sexual intercourse.

vaginal discharge /vəˈdʒən(ə)ldɪˈʃɑːr/ noun the flow of liquid from the vagina.

vaginal douche /vəˈdʒən(ə)ldʒu/ noun 1. the process of washing out the vagina. 2. a device or liquid for washing out the vagina.

vaginal examination /vəˈdʒən(ə)lməˈɛɡnəmənt/ noun the act of checking the vagina for signs of disease or growth.

vaginalis /vəˈdʒən(ə)lɪs/ noun 1. same as Trichomonas vaginalis. 2. same as tunica vaginalis.

vaginal orifice /vəˈdʒən(ə)lməˈɔːrɪfəs/ noun an opening leading from the vagina to the uterus.

vaginal proctocoele /vəˈdʒən(ə)lməˌprɒkˈtəsi/ noun a condition associated with prolapse of the uterus, where the rectum protrudes into the vagina.

vaginal suppository /vəˈdʒən(ə)lməˈsʌpəraˈtɔrɪ/ noun a substance which is introduced into or by a funnel, into the vagina for signs of disease or growth.

vaginal suppository /vəˈdʒən(ə)lməˈsʌpəraˈtɔrɪ/ noun a surgical instrument formed of a rubber suction cup, which is used in vacuum extraction during childbirth.

vaginal suction /vəˈdʒən(ə)lməˈskəʃn/ noun the procedure of pulling on the head of the baby with a suction instrument to aid birth.

vaginal tone /vəˈdʒən(ə)ltən/ noun the action of the vagus nerve to slow the beat of the sinusoidal node.

vagin- /vəˈdʒən/ prefix referring to the vagina.

vagina /vəˈdʒənə/ noun a passage in a woman's reproductive tract between the entrance to the uterus, the cervix, and the vulva, able to stretch enough to allow a baby to pass through during childbirth. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (FEMALE) in Supplement (NOTE: For other terms referring to the vagina, see words beginning with colp-, colpo-.)

vaginectomy /vəˈdʒənəˌnɛkˈtəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the vagina or part of it.

vaginismus /vəˈdʒənɪzməs/ noun a painful contraction of the vagina which prevents sexual intercourse.

vaginitis /vəˈdʒənɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the vagina which is mainly caused by the bacterium Trichomonas vaginalis or by a fungus Candida albicans.

vaginography /vəˈdʒənəˈɡrəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the vagina.

vaginoplasty /vəˈdʒənəˈplæstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to graft tissue on to the vagina.
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The plural is

valvulitis /valvju'laitəs/ noun inflammation of a valve in the heart

valvuloplasty /va lvju'soplæstɪ/ noun surgery to repair valves in the heart without opening the heart

... in percutaneous balloon valvuloplasty a catheter introduced through the femoral vein is placed across the aortic valve and into the left ventricle; the catheter is removed and a valve-dilating catheter bearing a 15mm balloon is placed across the valve. [Journal of the American Medical Association]

valvulotomy /va lvju'ltətəmi/ noun same as valvotomy

vancomycin /va nkom'sɪm/ noun an antibiotic which is effective against some bacteria which are resistant to other antibiotics. Strains of bacteria resistant to vancomycin have now developed.

van den Bergh test /va n den 'ba rg test/ noun a test of blood serum to see if a case of jaundice is caused by an obstruction in the liver or by haemolysis of red blood cells. [After A.A. Hijmans van den Bergh (1869–1943), Dutch physician]

vaporise /veəpəraɪz, vaporize verb to turn a liquid into a vapour

vaporiser /veəpəraɪzər, vaporizer noun a device which warms a liquid to which medicinal oil has been added, so that it provides a vapour which someone can inhale

vapotome /va vətorəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove a vein or part of a vein

varicella /va rɪsələr/ noun same as chickenpox

varicella-zoster virus /va rɪsələl ˈzoʊstər/ varī rēsələl ˈzoʊstər/ noun a herpes virus that causes chickenpox and shingles

varices /va rɪsərəs/ plural of varix

varicocèle /va rɪkəsələr/ noun swelling of a vein in the spermatic cord which can be corrected by surgery

varicose /va rɪkəsər/ adjective 1. affected with or having varicose veins 2. designed for peptic ulcers

VALUES /ˈvei ləs/ noun an essential amino acid

Valium /ˈvei lɪəm/ a trade name for diazepam

vallate papillae /ˈvælət pəˈpɪlə/ plural noun large papillae which form a line towards the back of the tongue and contain taste buds

Vallecula /ˈvæləkju lə/ noun a natural depression or fissure in an organ as between the hemispheres of the brain. [Note: The plural is valleculae.]

Valsevva’s manoeuvre /ˈvæl sa vəvəz ˈmuːniəvər/ noun the process of breathing out while holding the nostrils closed and keeping the mouth shut, used in order to test the functioning of the Eustachian tubes or to adjust the pressure in the middle ear

variance /ˈværə sən/ noun 1. the degree to which something is useful or necessary ○ food with low nutritional value 2. a number or amount that is unknown and is shown as a symbol

valvulitis /ˈvælvju lətəs/ noun an inflammation of the membrane which lines the valves of the heart

valvuloplasty /ˈvælvju ˈsu pləstɪ/ noun surgery to repair valves in the heart without opening the heart

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The treatment of varicose veins 3. relating to or producing swelling

**Varicose eczema** /vərɪkəs ˈɛksmə/ noun eczema which develops on the legs, caused by bad circulation. Also called **hypostatic eczema**

**Varicose ulcer** /vərɪkəs ˈʌlsə/ noun an ulcer in the leg as a result of bad circulation and varicose veins

**Varicose vein** /vərɪkəs ˈvɛrn/ noun a vein, usually in the legs, which becomes twisted and swollen

**Varicosity** /vərɪkəˈsɪtɪ/ noun (of veins) the condition of being swollen and twisted

**Varicotomy** /vərɪˈkɒtəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut into a varicose vein

**Vascular** /vəˈsəl/ adjective describing or relating to blood vessels or blood circulation

**Vascular system** /vəˈsəl skəˈrəm/ noun the network of blood vessels in the body

**Vascular lesion** /vəˈsəl kləˈʒən/ noun damage to a blood vessel

**Vascular system** /vəˈsəl sɪˈstəm/ noun the network of blood vessels that carry oxygen and nutrients to cells and remove waste products

**Vas deferens** /væs ˈdɛfərənz/ noun see illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (MALE) in Supplement. Also called **ductus deferens**, sperm duct (NOTE: The plural is vas deferentia.)

**Vasectomy** /vəˈsektəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut a vas deferens, in order to prevent sperm travelling from the epididymis up the duct. ▶ **Bilateral vasectomy**

**Vas efferens** /væs ˈɛfərəns/ noun one of many tiny tubes which take the spermatzoa from the testis to the epididymis (NOTE: The plural is vas efferentia.)

**Vaso-** /væsəʊ/ prefix 1. referring to a blood vessel 2. referring to the vas deferens

**Vasodilator** /væsəˈdɪlətər/ noun a chemical substance which makes blood vessels become wider, so that blood pressure falls, e.g. hydralazine hydrochloride

**Vasoconstriction** /væsəˈkɒnstrɪkʃən/ noun a contraction of blood vessels which makes them narrower

**Vasomotor** /væsəˈmɔːtər/ adjective relating to the vas deferens and facilitating the release of blood from the bladder to the skin. [British Journal of Nursing]

**Vasomotor centre** /væsəˈmɔːtər ˈsentə/ noun a nerve centre in the brain which controls the rate of heartbeat and the diameter of blood vessels and so regulates blood pressure
temporal bones and the occipital bone

a diet of only vegetables and fruit

femoris, the muscle of the thigh

vas deferens

of the vagus nerve

of the heartbeats caused by excessive activity

eggs or fish

spasm causing the fingers to become cold,

rowing the blood vessels

vegetative

vegetative

vegetarian

vegetarian

vegan

vector

vectis

VDH

VDH

vCJD

venereal

venereal

vegetation

venereal

venereal

diseases

venereal

diseases

disease which is passed from one person to an-
other during sexual intercourse.

Abbr VD

NOTE: Now usually called a sexually transmit-
ted disease (STD).

venereal wart

a wart on the genitals or in the urogenital area

venereologist

venereology

venereum

venereal

venereal

mons

venesection

vene

vene

venepuncture

venipuncture

veno-

venography

venenous
venomous 444

COMMENT: Depending on the source of the bite, venom can have a wide range of effects, from a sore spot after a bee sting, to death from a scorpion. Antivenenes will counteract the effects of venom, but is only effective if the animal which gave the bite can be correctly identified.

venomous /ˈvɛnəməs/ adjective referring to an animal which has poison in its bite. The cobra is a venomous snake. He was bitten by a venomous spider.

venous /ˈvɛnəs/ adjective referring to the veins.

...venomous air embolism is a potentially fatal complication of percutaneous venous catheterization [Southern Medical Journal]...a pad was placed under the Achilles tendon to raise the legs, thus aiding venous return and preventing deep vein thrombosis [MATNews]

venous bleeding /ˈvɛnəs ˈbliːdnɪŋ/ noun bleeding from a vein

venous blood /ˈvɛnəs blʌd/ noun same as deoxygenated blood

venous haemorrhage /ˈvɛnəs ˈhɛmərərɑːdʒ/ noun the escape of blood from a vein

venous system /ˈvɛnəs ˌsɪstəm/ noun a system of veins which brings blood back to the heart from the tissues

venous thrombosis /ˈvɛnəs ˈθrʌmbəsɪs/ noun the blocking of a vein by a blood clot

venous ulcer /ˈvɛnəs ˈʌlsər/ noun an ulcer in the leg, caused by varicose veins or by a blood clot

ventilation /ˈventɪleɪʃn/ noun the act of breathing air in or out of the lungs, so removing waste products from the blood in exchange for oxygen. dead space

ventilator /ˈventɪleɪtər/ noun a machine which pumps air into and out of the lungs of someone who has difficulty in breathing. The newborn baby was put on a ventilator. Also called respirator

ventilatory failure /ˈventɪlətrɪ ˈfeɪlər/ noun a failure of the lungs to oxygenate the blood correctly

Venimask /ˈvɛnɪmɑːsk/ a trademark for a type of oxygen mask

Ventolin /ˈvɛntəlɪn/ a trade name for salbutamol

ventouse /ˈvɛntəs/ noun a cup-like vacuum device attached to the top of an unborn baby’s head in the process of delivery, used to enable a distressed baby to be born quickly

ventral /ˈvɛntrəl/ adjective 1. referring to the abdomen 2. referring to the front of the body. Opposite dorsal

ventricle /ˈvɛntrɪkəl/ noun a cavity in an organ, especially in the heart or brain. See illustration at heart in Supplement

COMMENT: There are two ventricles in the heart: the left ventricle takes oxygenated blood from the pulmonary vein through the left atrium, and pumps it into the aorta to circulate round the body; the right ventricle takes blood from the veins through the right atrium, and pumps it into the pulmonary artery to be passed to the lungs to be oxygenated. There are four ventricles in the brain, each containing cerebrospinal fluid. The two lateral ventricles in the cerebral hemispheres contain the choroid processes which produce cerebrospinal fluid. The third ventricle lies in the midline between the two thalami. The fourth ventricle is part of the central canal of the hindbrain.

ventricular /ˈvɛntrɪkjuˈlər/ prefix referring to a ventricle in the brain or heart

ventricular fibrillation /ˈvɛntrɪkjuˌlər fɪˌbɪləˈʃən/ noun a serious heart condition where the ventricular muscles flutter and the heart no longer beats. Abbr VF

ventricular folds /ˈvɛntrɪkjuˌləl fəldz/ plural noun same as vocal cords

ventricular septal defect /ˈvɛntrɪkjuˌləl ˈseptəl dɛfɛkt/ noun a condition in which blood can flow between the two ventricles of the heart, because the intraventricular septum has not developed properly. Abbr VSD. Compare atrial septal defect

ventriculitis /ˈvɛntrɪkjuˌlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the brain ventricles

ventriculostomy /ˈvɛntrɪkjuˌlɒstəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation passed to the lungs to be oxygenated. There are four ventricles in the brain, each containing cerebrospinal fluid. The two lateral ventricles in the cerebral hemispheres contain the choroid processes which produce cerebrospinal fluid. The third ventricle lies in the midline between the two thalami. The fourth ventricle is part of the central canal of the hindbrain.

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Venturi mask /ˈvɛntœriː ˈmask/ noun a type of disposable mask which gives the person a controlled mixture of oxygen and air

Venturi nebuliser /ˈvɛntœriː nɪˈbulɪza/ noun a type of nebuliser which is used in aerosol therapy

venule /ˈvɛnjuːl/ noun a small vein or vessel leading from tissue to a larger vein

verapamil /ˈvɛrəpəmɪl/ noun a synthetic compound which helps to prevent the movement of calcium ions across membranes. It is used in the treatment of angina pectoris, hypertension and irregular heartbeat.

verbigeration /ˈvɜːbɪɡərəˈkeɪʃən/ noun a condition seen in people with mental disorders, in which they keep saying the same words over and over again.

vermicide /ˈvɜːmɪsaɪd/ noun a substance which kills worms in the intestine

vermiform appendix /ˈvɜːmɪfɪrm əˈpɛndɪks/ noun same as appendix 1

vermifuge /ˈvɜːmɪfjuɡ/ noun a substance which removes worms from the intestine

vermilion border /ˌvɜːməˈliən ˈbɜːrd/ noun the external red parts of the lips

vermis /ˈvɜːrmiːs/ noun the central part of the cerebellum, which forms the top of the fourth ventricle

vermix /ˈvɜːrmɪks/ noun a vermiform appendix

vermiform caseosa /ˈvɜːrmɪfrək ˈkɛsəʊə/ noun an oily substance which covers a baby’s skin at birth

verruca /ˈvɜːrʊkə/ noun a small hard harmless growth on the sole of the foot, caused by a virus (note: verrucas are a type of wart. The plural is verrucas or verrucae.)

version /ˈvɜːʃən/ noun the procedure of turning a fetus in a uterus so as to put it in a better position for birth

vertebra /ˈvɜːtəbə/ noun one of twenty-four ring-shaped bones which link together to form the backbone. See illustration at CARTILAGINOUS JOINT in Supplement (note: the plural is vertebrae.)

COMMENT: The top vertebra (the atlas) supports the skull; the first seven vertebrae in the neck are the cervical vertebrae; then follow the twelve thoracic or dorsal vertebrae which are behind the chest and five lumbar vertebrae in the lower part of the back. The sacrum and coccyx are formed of five sacral vertebrae and four coccygeal vertebrae which have fused together.

vertebral /ˈvɜːtəbrəl/ adjective referring to the vertebrae

vertebral artery /ˈvɜːtəbrəl ˈætərɪ/ noun one of two arteries which go up the back of the neck into the brain

vertebral canal /ˈvɜːtəbrəl ˈkænəl/ noun same as spinal canal

vertebral column /ˈvɜːtəbrəl ˈkɔləm/ noun the series of bones and discs linked together to form a flexible column running from the base of the skull to the pelvis. Also called backbone, spinal column. See illustration at PELVIS in Supplement

vertebral disc /ˈvɜːtəbrəl ˈdɪsk/ noun same as intervertebral disc

vertebral foramen /ˈvɜːtəbrəl ˈfərəmən/ noun a hole in the centre of a vertebra which links with others to form the vertebral canal through which the spinal cord passes

vertebral ganglion /ˈvɜːtəbrəl ˈɡæŋgliən/ noun a ganglion in front of the origin of the vertebral artery

vertebro-basilar insufficiency /ˈvɜːtəbrəˈbæsɪlər ɪnˈsʌfɪʃənsi/ noun a brainstem ischaemia due to temporary occlusion of the arteries

vertex /ˈvɜːrtekss/ noun the top of the skull

vertex delivery /ˈvɜːrtekts dɪˈlɪvərɪ/ noun a normal birth, where the baby’s head appears first

vertigo /ˈvɜːrtɪɡə/ noun 1. feelings of dizziness or giddiness caused by a malfunction of the sense of balance 2. a fear of heights, as a result of a sensation of dizziness which is felt when high up, especially on a tall building. She won’t sit near the window – she suffers from vertigo.

very low density lipoprotein /ˌvɛri ˈloʊ ˈlɪpəˌprɑʊtɪn/ noun a substance which makes the skin blister. Also called epispastic.

vesical /ˈvɛsɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to the bladder

vesicant /ˈvɛsɪknts/ noun a substance which makes the skin blister. Also called epispastic.

vesicle /ˈvɛsɪkl/ noun a small blister on the skin, e.g. caused by eczema 2. a sac which contains liquid.

vesico- /ˈvɛsɪkəʊ/ prefix referring to the urinary bladder

vesicofixation /ˈvɛsɪkəʊfɪkʃən/ noun same as cystostomy

vesicostomy /ˌvɛsɪkəʊˈstɒmɪ/ noun, vesicotomy /ˌvɛsɪkəˈtɒmɪ/ noun same as cystostomy

vesico-aortic reflux /ˌvɛsɪkoʊˈaɔrɪk ˈreflʌks/ noun the flowing of urine back from the bladder up the ureters during urination, which may carry infection from the bladder to the kidneys. Also called vesicoureteric reflux.

vesicoureteric reflux /ˌvɛsɪkoʊˈjuːərəˈtɛrɪk ˈreflʌks/ noun same as vesico-aortic reflux

vesicovaginal /ˌvɛsɪkoʊˈvæɡɪnəl/ adjective referring to the bladder and the vagina
vesicovaginal fistula

A vesicovaginal fistula is an unusual opening between the bladder and the vagina.

vesicular

A vesicular condition refers to a vesicle, which is a small, rounded sac or blister.

vesiculopustular

A vesiculopustular condition refers to blisters and pustules.

vesiculopapular

A vesiculopapular condition refers to blisters and papules.

vesiculography

A vesiculography is an X-ray examination of the seminal vesicles.

vesiculitis

Vesiculitis is the formation of blisters on the skin.

vesiculectomy

A vesiculectomy is a surgical operation to remove a seminal vesicle.

vesiculovaginal fistula

A vesiculovaginal fistula is an unusual opening between the bladder and the vagina.

vibratory

Vibratory refers to the ability to feel vibrations, which may be used for massage.

vibrio

Vibrio refers to a genus of Gram-negative bacteria which are found in water and cause cholera.

vincristine

Vincristine is an alkaloid drug used in the treatment of cancer.

vibrissa

Vibrissae are hairs in the nostrils or ears.

vibratory

Vibratory refers to continuous movement or the act of being moved in a strong way.

vibratory

Vibratory refers to the action of an alkaloid drug similar to vinblastine.

vigour

Vigour refers to the attributes expressed in rapid growth, large size, high fertility and long life in an organism (NOTE: The plural is vigours).

villus

A villus is a tiny projection like a fin on the surface of a mucous membrane (NOTE: The plural is villi).

viscera

Viscera refers to the internal organs.

victim

A victim is a person who is injured in an accident or who has caught a disease from someone whose heart is no longer able to beat.

viable

Viable refers to the possibility of being born (NOTE: A fetus is viable by about the 28th week of pregnancy).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>viral</td>
<td>adjective caused by a virus, or referring to a virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viral hepatitis</td>
<td>noun same as serum hepatitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viral infection</td>
<td>noun an infection caused by a virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viral pneumonia</td>
<td>noun a type of inflammation of the lungs caused by a virus. Also called virus pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virgin</td>
<td>noun a female who has not experienced sexual intercourse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virginity</td>
<td>noun the condition of a female who has not experienced sexual intercourse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virile</td>
<td>adjective like a man, with strong male characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virilisation</td>
<td>noun the development of male characteristics in a woman, caused by a hormone imbalance or therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virilism</td>
<td>noun male characteristics such as body hair and a deep voice in a woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virology</td>
<td>noun the scientific study of viruses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virulence</td>
<td>noun 1. the ability of a microorganism to cause a disease. 2. the degree of effect of a disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virulent</td>
<td>adjective, referring to the ability of a microorganism to cause a disease or an unusually virulent strain of the virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virus</td>
<td>noun a parasite consisting of a nucleic acid surrounded by a protein coat that can only develop in other cells. Viruses cause many diseases including the common cold, AIDS, herpess and polio. (note: Antibiotics have no effect on viruses, but effective vaccines have been developed for some viral diseases.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virus pneumonia</td>
<td>noun same as viral pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>viscera</td>
<td>plural noun the internal organs, e.g. the heart, lungs, stomach and intestines</td>
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<td>visceral</td>
<td>adjective referring to the internal organs</td>
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<tr>
<td>visceral larva migrans</td>
<td>noun same as toxocaralisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visceral muscle</td>
<td>noun a smooth muscle in the wall of the intestine which makes the intestine contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visceral pericardium</td>
<td>noun a smooth muscle in the wall of the heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visceral peritoneum</td>
<td>noun part of the peritoneum which covers the organs in the abdominal cavity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visceral pleura</td>
<td>noun a membrane attached to the surface of a lung. See illustration at lungs in Supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visual cortex</td>
<td>noun the ability to see objects clearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visual acuity</td>
<td>noun the part of the cerebel cortex which is concerned with sight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visual area</td>
<td>noun the line between the object on which the eye focuses, and the fovea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>visual cortex</td>
<td>noun the part of the cerebel cortex which receives information about sight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vitamin A /ˌvɪtəmɪn ə/ noun a vitamin found in eggs, liver, green vegetables, milk and yeast. Also called riboflavin

Vitamin B /ˌvɪtəmɪn b/ noun a vitamin which is soluble in fat and is found in butter, eggs and fish. It is also produced by the skin when exposed to sunlight. It helps in the formation of bones, and lack of it causes rickets in children.

Vitamin C /ˌvɪtəmɪn si/ noun a vitamin which is soluble in water and is found in fresh fruit, especially oranges and lemons, raw vegetables and liver. Also called ascorbic acid

Vitamin D /ˌvɪtəmɪn d/ noun a vitamin which is soluble in fat and is found in butter, eggs and fish. It is produced by the skin when exposed to sunlight. It helps in the formation of bones, and lack of it causes rickets in children.

Vitamin E /ˌvɪtəmɪn i/ noun a vitamin found in vegetables, vegetable oils, eggs and wholemeal bread

Vitamin K /ˌvɪtəmɪn k/ noun a vitamin found in green vegetables such as spinach and cabbage, and which helps the clotting of blood and is needed to activate prothrombin

vitelline sac /ˌvɪtəlɪn ˈsæk/ noun a sac attached to an embryo, where the blood cells first form

vitellus /ˌvɪtələs/ noun the yolk of an egg (ovum)

vitiligo /ˌvɪtɪlɪɡoʊ/ noun a condition in which white patches appear on the skin. Also called leucoderma

vitrectomy /ˌvɪttrɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove some or all of the vitreous humour of the eye

vitreous /ˌvɪtrɪəs/ adjective 1. having the characteristics of glass 2. relating to the vitreous humour of the eye

vitreous body /ˌvɪtrɪəs ˈbɒdɪ/ noun same as vitreous humour

vitreous detachment /ˌvɪtrɪəs ˈdɪtəˈmɛnt/ noun the separation of the vitreous humour from the retina, often due to natural ageing when the vitreous humour thins, but also occurring in other conditions such as diabetes

vitreous humour /ˌvɪtrɪəs ˈhjuːmər/ noun a transparent jelly which fills the main cavity of the eye

vitrectomy /ˌvɪtrɪəs ˈtɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove some or all of the vitreous humour of the eye
449 von Recklinghausen’s disease

behind the lens in the eye. See illustration at eye in Supplement.
vitritis /vɪˈtrɪtɪs/ noun same as hyalitis
vitro /ˈvɪttrəʊ/ in vitro
Vitus /ˈvɪtəs/ St Vitus’s dance
vitiparous /ˈvɪtɪpərəs/ adjective referring to animals which bear live young, such as humans, as opposed to birds and reptiles which lay eggs.
vivisection /ˈvɪvɪˌsɛkʃən/ noun the act of dissecting a living animal as an experiment.
vocal /ˈvʊkəl/ adjective referring to the voice.
vocal cords /ˈvʊkəl kɔːdz/ plural noun a pair of fibrous sheets of tissue which span the cavity of the voice box (larynx) and produce sounds by vibrating. Also called ventricular folds.
vocal folds /ˈvʊkəl ˈfəʊldz/ plural noun same as vocal cords.
vocal folds adducted /ˈvʊkəl ˈfəʊldz əˈdʌktɪd/ noun the usual condition of the vocal cords in quiet breathing.
vocal folds abducted /ˈvʊkəl ˈfəʊldz əˈbʌdtɪd/ noun the position of the vocal cords for speaking.
vocal fremitus /ˈvʊkəl ˈfriːmɪtəs/ noun a vibration of the chest when a person speaks or coughs.
vocal ligament /ˈvʊkəl ˈlɪgəmənt/ noun a ligament in the centre of the vocal cords.
vocal resonance /ˈvʊkəl ˈrɛznəns/ noun a sound heard by a doctor when he or she listens through a stethoscope to the chest while a person is speaking.
voice /vɔɪs/ noun the sound made when a person speaks or sings. To lose one’s voice not to be able to speak because of a throat infection. If his voice has broken his voice has become deeper and adult, with the onset of puberty.
voice box /vɔɪs bɔks/ noun the larynx, a hollow organ containing the vocal cords at the back of the throat, which produces sounds.
volar /ˈvʊlər/ adjective referring to the palm of the hand or sole of the foot.
volatile /ˈvɔlətəl/ adjective referring to a liquid which turns into gas at room temperature.
volatile oils /ˈvɔlətəl ˈɔɪls/ plural noun concentrated oils from plants used in cosmetics and as antiseptics.
voltantes /ˈvʊltəntəz/ noun muscae voltantes.
volition /vɔlɪˈʃən/ noun the ability to use the will.
Volkman’s canal /ˈvʊlkmaŋz kæˈnæl/ noun a canal running horizontally through compact bone, carrying blood to the Haversian systems [after Richard von Volkman (1830–89), German surgeon].
Volkman’s contracture /ˈvʊlkmaŋz kɔnˈtræktʃər/ noun a fibrosis and tightening of the muscles of the forearm because blood supply has been restricted, leading to contraction of the fingers.
volsella /ˈvɒlsələ/ noun a type of surgical forceps with claw-like hooks at the end of each arm. Also called volusella.
volume /ˈvɒljuːm/ noun an amount of a substance.
voluntary /ˈvɒlənt(ə)rɪ/ adjective done because one wishes to do it.
voluntary admission /ˈvɒlənt(ə)rɪ əˈdɪʃn/ noun the process of taking someone into a psychiatric hospital with the person’s consent.
voluntary movement /ˈvɒlənt(ə)rɪ ˈmjuːvəmənt/ noun a movement directed by the person’s willpower, using voluntary muscles, e.g. walking or speaking.
voluntary muscle /ˈvɒlənt(ə)rɪ ˈmʌskəl/ noun a muscle which is consciously controlled. It is usually made up of striated fibres.
COMMENT: Voluntary muscles work in pairs, where one contracts and pulls, while the other relaxes to allow the bone to move.
volute /vɔljuː/ noun a thin flat vertical bone in the septum of the nose.
vomica /vɒmɪkə/ noun 1. a cavity in the lungs containing pus 2. the act of vomiting pus from the throat or lungs.
vomit /ˈvɒmɪt/ noun partly digested food which has been brought up from the stomach into the mouth. His bed was covered with vomit. She died after choking on her own vomit. Also called vomitus [verb] to bring up partly digested food from the stomach into the mouth. He had a fever, and then started to vomit. She vomited her breakfast.
vomiting /ˈvɒmɪtɪŋ/ noun the act of bringing up vomit into the mouth. Also called emesis.
vomitus /ˈvɒmɪtəs/ noun same as vomit.
von Hippel-Lindau syndrome /vɒn ˈhipəlˌlɪndəʊ ˈsɪstrəm/ noun a disease in which angiomos of the brain are related to angiomas and cysts in other parts of the body.
von Recklinghausen’s disease /vɒn ˈrɛklɪŋhauznəs ˈdɪz/ noun 1. same as neurofibromatosis 2. same as osteitis fibrosis cystica [Described 1882. After Friedrich Daniel von Recklinghausen (1833–1910), Professor of Pathology at Strasbourg, France.]
von Willebrand’s disease

von Willebrand’s disease /vɒn ˈvɪl brəndz dɪˈpiːdʒ/ noun a hereditary blood disease, occurring in both sexes, in which the mucous membrane starts to bleed without any apparent reason. It is caused by a deficiency of a clotting factor in the blood, called von Willebrand’s factor. [Described 1926. After E. A. von Willebrand (1870–1949), Finnish physician.]

von Willebrand’s factor /vɒn ˈvɪl brəndz ˈfaktər/ noun a protein substance in plasma involved in platelet aggregation

voyeurism /vɔɪɪˈɜːrɪzəm/ noun a condition in which a person experiences sexual pleasure by watching others having intercourse

VSD abbr ventricular septal defect

vulgaris /ˈvʌlɡərɪs/ /ˈvʌlɡərs/ /ˈvʌlɡəris/ /ˈvʌlɡəris/ /ljuːpəs ˈvʌlɡəris/ vulgaris /ˈvʌlɡərɪs/ /ˈvʌlɡərs/ /ˈvʌlɡəris/ /ˈvʌlɡəris/ /ljuːpəs ˈvʌlɡəris/ noun (G. vulgaris) a species of plant with showy white flowers

vulnerable /vʌnˈləbrəbəl/ adjective likely to catch a disease because of being in a weakened state ○ Premature babies are especially vulnerable to infection.

vulvella /ˈvʌlvələ/, vulsellum /ˈvʌlˌseləm/ noun same as volcella

vulva /ˈvʌlvə/ noun a woman’s external sexual organs, at the opening leading to the vagina. ○ kraurosis vulvae (NOTE: For other terms referring to the vulva, see words beginning with epi-.) ○ COMMENT: The vulva is formed of folds (the labia), surrounding the clitoris and the entrance to the vagina.

vulvectomy /ˈvʌlvəktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the vulva

vulvitis /ˈvʌlvɪtɪs/ /ˈvʌlvɪtɪs/ /ˈvʌlvɪtɪs/ /ˈvʌlvɪtɪs/ /ˈvʌlvɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the vulva, causing intense irritation

vulvovaginitis /ˈvʌlvəvəˈvæɡɪnɪtɪs/ /ˈvʌlvəvəvæɡɪnɪtɪs/ /ˈvʌlvəvəvæɡɪnɪtɪs/ /ˈvʌlvəvəvæɡɪnɪtɪs/ /ˈvʌlvəvəvæɡɪnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the vulva and vagina
Wad /wɔd/ noun a pad of material used to put on a wound ○ The nurse put a wad of absorbent cotton over the sore.

Wadding /ˈwɒdɪŋ/ noun material used to make a wad ○ Put a layer of cotton wadding over the eye.

Waist /ˈwerst/ noun the narrow part of the body below the chest and above the buttocks

Wait /wɔt/ verb to stay somewhere until something happens or someone arrives ○ He has been waiting for his operation for six months. ○ There are ten patients waiting to see Dr Smith.

Waiting list /ˈwɔtɪŋ lɪst/ a list of people waiting for admission to hospital usually for treatment of non-urgent disorders ○ The length of waiting lists for non-emergency surgery varies enormously from one region to another. ○ It is hoped that hospital waiting lists will get shorter.

Waiting room /ˈwɔtɪŋ ruːm/ noun a room at a doctor’s or dentist’s surgery where people wait ○ Please sit in the waiting room – the doctor will see you in ten minutes.

Waiting time /ˈwɔtɪŋ tarm/ noun the period between the time when someone’s name has been put on the waiting list and his or her admission into hospital

Wake /wɔk/ verb 1. to interrupt someone’s sleep ○ The nurse woke the patient. ○ The patient had to be woken to have his injection. (Note: waking – woke – woken)

Wakeful /ˈwɔkfl/ adjective wide awake, not wanting to sleep

Wakefulness /ˈwɔkfləns/ noun the condition of being wide awake

Wake up /ˈwɔkʌp/ verb to stop sleeping, or stop someone sleeping ○ The old man woke up in the middle of the night and started calling for the nurse.

Waldeyer’s ring /ˈwɔldərˌeɪ/ noun a ring of lymphoid tissue made by the tonsils and adenoids [Described 1884. After Heinrich Wilhelm Gottfried Waldeyer-Hartz (1836–1921), German anatomist.]

Walk /wɔk/ verb to go on foot ○ The baby is learning to walk. ○ He walked when he was only eleven months old. ○ She can walk a few steps with a Zimmer frame.

Walking distance /ˈwɔkɪŋ ,dɪstəns/ noun the distance which someone can walk before they experience pain in their muscles, which shows the effectiveness of the blood supply to their legs

Walking frame /ˈwɔkɪŋ frɛm/ noun a metal frame used by people who have difficulty in walking. ○ Zimmer frame

Wall /wɔl/ noun the side part of an organ or a passage in the body ○ An ulcer formed in the wall of the duodenum. ○ The doctor made an incision in the abdominal wall. ○ They removed a fibroma from the wall of the uterus or from the uterine wall.

Wall eye /ˈwɔl aɪ/ walleye noun an eye which is very pale or is squinting so strongly that only the white sclera is visible

Wangensteen tube /ˈwɒŋɡəstɪn tjuː/ noun a tube which is passed into the stomach to remove the stomach’s contents by suction [Described 1832. After Owen Harding Wangensteen (1898–1980), US surgeon.]

Ward /wɔrd/ noun a room or set of rooms in a hospital, with beds for the patients ○ He is in Ward 8. ○ The children’s ward is at the end of the corridor.

Ward manager /ˈwɔrd ,meəndʒər/ noun a nurse in charge of a ward

Ward nurse /ˈwɔrd nɜːs/ noun a nurse who works in a hospital ward

Ward sister /ˈwɔrd sɪstrə/ noun a senior nurse in charge of a ward

Warfarin /ˈwɔrfərɪn/ noun a colourless crystalline compound used to help prevent the blood clotting

Warm /wɔrm/ adjective quite hot, pleasantly hot ○ The patients need to be kept warm in cold weather.

Warn /wɔːrn/ verb to tell someone that a danger is possible ○ The children were warned about the dangers of solvent abuse. ○ The doctors warned her that her husband would not live more than a few weeks.

Warning /ˈwɔːrɪŋ/ noun a signal or message to warn someone of danger or risk ○ A traffic warning.
warning /ˈwɔːnɪŋ/ noun written or spoken information about a danger. ○ There’s a warning on the bottle of medicine, saying that it should be kept away from children.
wastewater /ˈwɔstəwɔtər/ noun a thin liquid in the knee joint under the skin, usually on the feet, caused by a virus.
water balance /ˈwɔtər bæləns/ noun a state where the water lost by the body, e.g. in urine or sweat, is made up by water absorbed from food and drink.
water-brash /ˈwɔtər brɑʃ/ noun a condition caused by dyspnoea, in which there is a burning feeling in the stomach and the mouth suddenly fills with acid saliva.
water-hammer pulse /ˈwɔtər hæmər pulz/ noun same as Corrigan’s pulse.
waterproof /ˈwɔtərpriːf/ adjective not allowing water through. ○ Put a waterproof sheet on the baby’s bed.
water sac /ˈwɔtər sæk/ noun the amnion.
Waterston’s operation /ˈwɔtərstən ɒpəreʃən/ noun a surgical operation to treat Fallot’s tetralogy, in which the right pulmonary artery is joined to the ascending aorta.
water works /ˈwɔtər wɜks/ plural noun same as urinary system.
waterproof /ˈwɔtərpriːf/ adjective like water. ○ He passed some watery stools.
Watson-Crick helix /ˈwɔtsən krik hɪlɪks/ noun a molecular model for DNA in which the organic base pairs are linked by hydrogen bonds which form the rungs of a ladder spiralling in the form of a helix.
Watson knife /ˈwɔtsən ˈnɛf/ noun a very sharp surgical knife for skin transplants.
weak /wɛk/ adjective not strong. ○ After his illness he was very weak. ○ She is too weak to dress herself. ○ He is allowed to drink weak tea or coffee.
weakness /ˈwɛknəs/ noun the fact of being weak.
weak pulse /ˈwɔks pulz/ noun a pulse which is not strong, which is not easy to feel.
Wean /weɪn/ noun a small area of skin which swells because of a sharp blow or an insect bite

Wean /weɪn/ verb to make a baby stop breast-feeding and take other liquid or solid food, or to make a baby start to eat solid food after having only had liquids to drink. The baby was breastfed for two months and then was gradually weaned onto the bottle.

Wean /weɪn/ verb to become damaged through being used. The cartilage of the knee was worn from too much exercise.

Web space /ˈwɛb spɛs/ noun the soft tissue between the bases of the fingers and toes.

Wechsler scales /ˈwɛkslər skɛlz/ plural noun a set of standardised scales for measuring someone’s IQ. There are three separate versions developed for different age groups.

Ween /wi/ verb same as urinate (informal)

Weep /wiəp/ verb 1. to cry. 2. (of a wound) to ooze fluid.

Wegener’s granulomatosis /ˈvɛɡənəz ɡrænjuˈləmətəsəs/ noun a disease of connective tissue, where the nasal passages, lungs and kidneys are inflamed and ulcerated, with formation of granulomas. It is usually fatal.

Weight /wɛt/ noun 1. how heavy something is. The nurse weighed the baby on the scales. 2. to have a particular weight. She weighed seven pounds (3.5 kilograms) at birth. A woman weighs less than a man of similar height. The doctor asked him how much he weighed. I weigh 120 pounds or I weigh 45 kilograms.

Weight /wɛt/ noun 1. how heavy someone or something is. What’s the patient’s weight? 2. her weight is only 105 pounds. She's trying to lose weight before she goes on holiday. 3. to put on weight to become fatter. He’s put on a lot of weight in the last few months. 4. to gain in weight to become fatter or heavier. 2. something which is heavy. Don’t lift heavy weights, you may hurt your back.

Weight gain /ˈwɛt ,ɡɛtn/ noun the fact of becoming fatter or heavier.

Weight loss /ˈwɛt ,lɒs/ noun the fact of losing weight or of becoming thinner. Weight loss can be a symptom of certain types of cancer.

Weil-Felix reaction /ˈwel ,ˈfɛlɪks ri ,ækˈʃæn/ noun a test to see if someone has typhus, in which the person’s serum is tested for antibodies against Proteus vulgaris [Described 1916. After Edmund Weil (1880–1922) Austrian physician and bacteriologist; Arthur Felix (1887–1950), British bacteriologist.]

Weller’s flash /ˈwelərz ˈflæʃ/ noun a condition in which the eye is badly damaged by very bright light.

Well /wel/ adjective healthy. He’s not a well man. You’re looking very well after your holiday. He’s quite well again after his flu. She’s not very well, and has had to stay in bed.

Well-baby clinic /welˈbi biˌklɪnIk/ noun a clinic where parents can ask a doctor or nurse any questions they have about their child’s growth and development. Their babies can be weighed and measured and their development monitored.

Well-being /wel ,ˈbɪzn/ noun the state of being in good health and having good living conditions. She is responsible for the well-being of the patients under her care.

Well-man clinic /welˈmænˌklɪnIk/ noun a clinic just for men where they can get check-ups, advice and health information.

Well-woman clinic /welˈwʊmənˌklɪnIk/ noun a clinic which specialises in preventive medicine for women, e.g. breast screening and cervical smear tests, and gives advice on pregnancy, contraception and the menopause.

Wen /wen/ noun a cyst which forms in a sebaceous gland.

Werdnig-Hoffmann disease /ˈwɜrdnɪŋ hˈɒfman ˈdɪzəs/ noun a disease in which the spinal muscles atrophy, making the muscles of the shoulders, arms and legs weak. In its most severe form, infants are born floppy, have
Werner's syndrome feeding and breathing problems and rarely live more than two or three years.

Werner's syndrome /ˈwɜːnər/ noun an inherited disorder involving premature ageing, persistent hardening of the skin, underdevelopment of the sex organs and cata
tacts

Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome /wɜːnɪkəˈkɔːrskɒf/ noun a form of brain damage caused by severe nutritional deficiencies in people with long-term alcoholism

Wernicke's encephalopathy /wɜːnɪkəˈɛnˌsɛfələˈpæθi/ noun a condition caused by lack of Vitamin B, which often affects alcoholics and in which the person is delirious, moves the eyes about rapidly, walks unsteadily and is subject to constant vomiting [Described 1875. After Karl Wernicke (1848–1905), Breslau psychiatrist and neurologist.]

Wertheim's operation /wɜːrθiˈmiːz ˈɒpə/ noun a surgical operation to remove the uterus, the lymph nodes which are next to it and most of the vagina, the ovaries and the Fallopian tubes, as treatment for cancer of the uterus [Described 1900. After Ernst Wertheim (1864–1920), Austrian gynaecologist.]

White blood cell /ˈwɔːt/ noun same as leucocyte
white corpuscle /ˈwɔːt ˈkɔmpəs(kəl)/ noun same as white blood cell

White head /ˈwɔːt/ noun a small white swelling formed when a sebaceous gland becomes blocked

White leg /ˈwɔːt ˈleɡ/ noun a condition which affects women after childbirth, in which a leg becomes pale and inflamed as a result of lymphatic obstruction. Also called milk leg, phlegmasia alba dolens

White matter /ˈwɔːt ˈmeɪtə/ noun nerve tissue in the central nervous system which contains more myelin than grey matter

Whealing /ˈwɪzlɪŋ/ noun whistling noises in the bronchi when breathing. Wheezing is often found in people with asthma and is also associated with bronchitis and heart disease.

Wheezy /ˈwɪzi/ adjective making a whistling sound when breathing. She was quite wheezy when she stopped running.

Whiplash injury /ˈwɪpləʃ ɪndʒəri/ noun an injury to the vertebrae in the neck, caused when the head jerks backwards, often occurring in a car that is struck from behind

Whiplash shake syndrome /ˈwɪpləʃ ʃeɪk ˈsəʊdərn/ noun a disease in which someone has difficulty in absorbing nutrients and passes fat in the faeces, the joints are inflamed and the lymph glands enlarged [Described 1907. After George Hoyt Whipple (1878–1976), US pathologist. Nobel prize for Pathology and Medicine 1934.]

Whipple's disease /ˈwɪpləʃ dɪz, ˈraɪz/ noun a condition caused by bacteria in the small intestine which prevents absorption of nutrients and passes fat in the faeces. [Described 1907. After George Hoyt Whipple (1878–1976), US pathologist. Nobel prize for Pathology and Medicine 1934.]

Whipple's operation /ˈwɪpləʃ ˈɒpə/ noun a surgical operation to remove the central canal part of the white matter in the spinal cord near the main part of the eye which is white. Also called vitreous body surgery

White blood cell /ˈwɔːt ˈbl/v in verted sel/ noun same as white corpuscle

White finger /ˈwɔːt ˈfɪŋɡər/ noun a condition in which a finger has a mottled discoloured appearance because its blood vessels are damaged. The thumb is usually not affected. Very severe cases can result in finger loss. It occurs most commonly in Raynaud's disease.

White blood cell /ˈwɔːt ˈbl/v in verted sel/ noun same as white corpuscle

White matter /ˈwɔːt ˈmeɪtə/ noun nerve tissue in the central nervous system which contains more myelin than grey matter

Wheezing /ˈwɪziŋ/ noun whistling noises in the bronchi when breathing. Wheezing is often found in people with asthma and is also associated with bronchitis and heart disease.

Whale /ˈwɔːl/ noun a large marine mammal

Wheelhouse's operation /ˈwiːlhoʊs/ noun same as Whipple's operation

Wheelhouse /ˈwiːlhoʊs/ noun German surgeon
white noise instrument /ˌwait ˈnoiz/ noun a small electronic device worn in the ear. It combines sounds of many different frequencies. It is used to mask internal noise in the ear due to tinnitus.

whites /ˈwaɪts/ plural noun same as leucorhoea (informal)

whitlow /ˈwɪtləʊ/ noun an inflammation caused by infection near the nail in the fleshy part of the tip of a finger. Also called felon

WHO abbr World Health Organization

whoop /ˈwʊp/, hump/ˈhʊmp a loud noise made when inhaling by a person who has whooping cough

whooping cough /ˈhʊpɪŋ kɒf/ noun an infectious disease caused by Bordetella pertussis affecting the bronchial tubes, common in children, and sometimes very serious. Also called pertussis

COMMENT: A person with whooping cough coughs very badly and makes a characteristic ‘whoop’ when he or she breathes in after a coughing fit. Whooping cough can lead to pneumonia, and is treated with antibiotics. Vaccination against whooping cough is given to infants.

Widal reaction /ˈvɪdəl ˈreɪʃən/ noun a test to detect typhoid fever. A sample of the person’s blood is put into a solution containing typhoid bacilli, or anti-typhoid serum is added to a sample of bacilli from the person’s faeces. If the bacilli agglutinate, i.e. form into groups, this indicates that the person has typhoid fever. [Described 1896. After Georges Fernand Isidore Widal (1862–1929), French physician and teacher.]

Willis /ˈwɪlɪs/ a circle of Willis

willpower /ˈwɪl, ˈpwoʊr/ noun the fact of having a strong will

Willims’ tumour /ˈvɪlmz .tjʊmər/ noun same as nephroblastoma [Described 1899. After Max Wimms (1867–1918), Professor of Surgery at Leipzig, Basle and Heidelberg.]

Wilson’s disease /ˈwɪlznz .dɪzəz/ noun a hereditary disease where copper deposits accumulate in the liver and the brain, causing cirrhosis. Also called hepatolenticular degeneration [Described 1912. After Samuel Alexander Kinnner Wilson (1878–1937), British neurologist.]

wind /wɪnd/ noun 1. gas which forms in the digestive system and escapes through the anus.

windpipe /ˈwɪndpɪp/ noun same as trachea

wiring /ˈwaɪrɪŋ/ noun 1. a network of wires 2. a neurological or physiological structure or process which controls a function in the body 3. the act of fixing a piece of bone in place using wires

wisdom tooth /ˈwɪzdəm tuːθ/ noun one of the four teeth in the back of the jaw which only appear at about the age of 20 and sometimes do not appear at all. Also called third molar

Witch hazel /ˈwɪtʃ .ˈheɪzl(ə)l/ noun a lotion made from the bark of a tree, used to check bleeding and harden inflamed tissue and bruises. Also called hamamelis

withdrawal /ˌwɪdərˈɔrəl/ noun 1. a loss of interest in having contact with other people, which leads to a person becoming isolated 2. a period during which a person who has been addicted to a drug stops taking it and experiences unpleasant symptoms.

…she was in the early stages of physical withdrawal from heroin and showed classic symptoms: sweating, fever, sleeplessness and anxiety. [Nursing Times]

withdrawal symptom /ˌwɪdərˈɔrəl .ˈsɪmptəm/ noun an unpleasant physical condition, e.g. vomiting, headaches or fever, which occurs when someone stops taking an addictive drug

Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome /wʊlf .pærkɪznˈwaɪt/ noun a condition within the heart’s conducting tissue which makes the heart beat dangerously fast. It can be fatal.

womb /wʊm/ noun same as uterus (NOTE: For other terms referring to the womb, see words beginning with hyster-, hystero-, metr-, metro-, uterus, utero-)

women’s ward /′wʊmznz .wɔrd/ women’s hospital /′wʊmznz .hɒspɪtl/ noun a ward or hospital for female patients. \well-woman clinic\n
Wood’s lamp /wʊdz ləmp/ noun an ultraviolet lamp which allows a doctor to see fluorescence, e.g. in the hair of someone who has a fungal infection [After Robert Williams Wood (1868–1955), US physicist]

woolsorter’s disease /ˈwʊlsɔːtəz .dɪzəz/ noun a form of anthrax which affects the lungs

word blindness /ˈwɜrd ,blæɪindnəs/ noun same as alexia

work-related upper limb disorder /ˌwɜrk .rɪˌlɛd, ʌpˌlɜmb ˈdɜrəʊrd/ noun same as repetitive strain injury. Abbreviation: WRULD

World Health Organization /ˌwɜrd ˈhelθ ɔganəsətʃən/ noun an organisation, part of the United Nations, which aims to improve health in the world. Abbreviation: WHO
worm /wɔrn/ noun a long thin animal with no legs or backbone, which can infest the human body, especially the intestines

wound /wʌnd/ noun damage to external tissue which allows blood to escape ○ He had a knife wound in his leg. ○ The doctors sutured the wound in his chest. ○ gunshot wound wound caused by a pellet or bullet from a gun ○ verb to harm someone by making a hole in the tissue of the body ○ She was wounded three times in the head.

wound dehiscence /wʌnd diˈhɪs(ə)ns/ noun the splitting open of a surgical incision

wound healing /wʌnd_ˈhiːlɪŋ/ noun the replacement of dead tissue with new tissue

WR abbr Wassermann reaction

wrench /rɛntʃ/ verb to injure part of the body by twisting it suddenly and forcibly

wrinkle /ˈrɪŋkl/ noun a fold in the skin

wrinkled /ˈrɪŋkəld/ adjective covered with wrinkles

wrist /rɪst/ noun a joint between the hand and forearm ○ He sprained his wrist and can’t play tennis tomorrow. See illustration at hand in Supplement (NOTE: For other terms referring to the wrist, see words beginning with carp-, carpo-.)

COMMENT: The wrist is formed of eight small bones in the hand which articulate with the bones in the forearm. The joint allows the hand to rotate and move downwards and sideways. The joint is easily fractured or sprained.

wrist drop /ˈrɪst drɒp/ noun paralysis of the wrist muscles, caused by damage to the radial nerve in the upper arm, which causes the hand to hang limp

wrist joint /ˈrɪst dʒɔɪnt/ noun a place where the wrist joins the arm

writer’s cramp /ˈrɪtərˈkræmp/ noun a painful spasm of the muscles in the forearm and hand which comes from writing too much

writhe /rɪð/ verb ○ to writhe in pain to twist and turn because the pain is very severe

WRULD abbr work-related upper limb disorder

wry neck /ˈraɪ nek/, wryneck noun same as torticollis

Wuchereria /ˌwʊkəˈrɛriə/ noun a type of tiny nematode worm which infests the lymph system, causing elephantiasis
xanth- /'zænθ-/ prefix same as xanho- (used before vowels)
xantho- /'zænθ-/ prefix xantho- (used before vowels)
xanthemia /'zænθēmiə/ noun same as carotenemia (NOTE: The US spelling is xan-
themia)
xanthelasma /'zænθeləsma/ noun the for-
mation of little yellow fatty tumours on the
eyelids
xanthine /'zænθin/ noun 1. an intermediate
product in the breakdown of nucleic acids to
uric acid, found in blood, body tissue and urine
2. a derivative of xanthine, e.g. caffeine or the-
ophylline
xanho- /'zænθo-/ prefix yellow
xanthochromia /'zænθəkraʊmiə/ noun yellow
colour of the skin as in jaundice
xanthoma /'zænθəʊmə/ noun a yellow fatty
mass, often on the eyelids and hands, found in
people with a high level of cholesterol in the
blood (NOTE: The plural is xanthomat-
a.)
xanthomatosis /'zænθəmatəsɪs/ noun a condi-
tion in which several small masses of
yellow fatty substance appear in the skin or
some internal organs, caused by an excess of
fat in the body
xanthopsia /'zænθəpsɪə/ noun a disorder of
the eyes, making everything appear yellow
xanthosis /'zænθəsɪs/ noun yellow colour-
ing of the skin, caused by eating too much food
containing carotene
X chromosome /'eks kraʊməzəsm/ noun a
chromosome that determines sex. Compare Y
chromosome. x sex chromosome
xeno- /'zɛnə/ prefix xeno-
 xenograft /'zenəɡræft/ noun tissue taken
from an individual of one species and graft-
ed on an individual of another species. Also
called heterograft. Opposite homograft
 xenotransplantation /'zenətərənθræmpləˈteniʃn/ noun the process of transplanting or-
gans from one species to another, especially
from animals to humans
xero- /'zɛrəʊ/ prefix dry
xeroderma /'zɛrədərəmə/ noun a skin disor-
der where dry scales form on the skin
xerophthalmia /ˌzɛrəˈθfəlmə/ noun a
condition of the eye, in which the cornea and
corneal conjunctiva become dry because of a lack of
Vitamin A
xeroradiography /ˌzɛrəˌrædiəˈɡræfi/ noun an X-ray technique used in producing
mammograms on selenium plates
xerosis /'zɛrəsɪs/ noun extreme dryness of
skin or mucous membrane
xerostomia /ˌzɛrəˈstəʊmiə/ noun dryness
of the mouth, caused by lack of a saliva
xiph- /'zɪf/ prefix relating to the xiphoid
process
xiphisternal plane /'zɪfɪsˈtɜːnəl/ noun an imaginary horizontal line across
the middle of the chest at the point where the xi-
phoid process starts
xiphisternum /'zɪfɪsˈtɜːnəm/ noun same as
xiphoid process
xiphoid cartilage /ˌzɪfɪd kərəˈtɪdʒ/ noun the
bottom part of the breastbone which is carti-
lage in young people but becomes bone by
middle age. Also called ensiform cartilage, xi-
phisternum
X-linked /ˈeks ˈlɪŋkt/ adjective relating to the
genes situated on the X chromosome
X-linked disease /ˈeks ˈlɪŋkt dɪzəˈsi/ noun a
 genetic disorder caused by a mutation on the
X chromosome which only appears in males,
e.g. one form of haemophilia
X-ray /ˈeks rɛ, ˈzɛr- y/ noun 1. a ray with a
very short wavelength, which is invisible, but
can go through soft tissue and register as a
photograph on a film. X-rays are used in diag-
nosis in radiography, and in treating disease by
radiotherapy. ○ The X-ray examination
showed the presence of a tumour in the colon.
2. a photograph taken using X-rays ○ The den-
tist took some X-rays of the patient’s teeth. ○
He pinned the X-rays to the light screen. 3. an
examination in which X-ray photographs are
taken ○ All the staff had to have chest X-rays.
4. verb to take an X-ray photograph of a patient
○ There are three patients waiting to be X-rayed.
 COMMENT: Because X-rays go through soft tis-
sue, it is sometimes necessary to make inter-
X-ray imaging

X-ray imaging is the process of showing X-ray pictures of the inside of part of the body on a screen. X-ray photographs are a picture produced by exposing sensitive film to X-rays. He was examining the X-ray photographs of the patient’s chest.

X-ray screening is a method of gathering information about the body by taking images using X-rays. It is carried out by a radiographer or radiologist.

Xylocaine is a trade name for a preparation of lignocaine.

Xylometazoline hydrochloride is a drug which helps to narrow blood vessels, used in the treatment of colds and sinusitis.

Xylose is a pentose which has not been metabolised.

XYY syndrome is an extremely rare condition in males in which they have two Y chromosomes instead of one. They grow faster than normal, and their final height is approximately 7cm above average. Many experience severe acne during adolescence.
yawn /jɔ/ noun  a reflex action when tired or sleepy, in which the mouth is opened wide and after a deep intake of air, the breath exhaled slowly. His yawns made everyone feel sleepy.  

verb  to open the mouth wide and breathe in deeply and then breathe out slowly

yawning /ˈjɔʊnɪŋ/ noun the act of opening the mouth wide without conscious control and slowly releasing a deep breath, usually a sign of tiredness or boredom

yaws /jɔ/ noun a tropical disease caused by the spirochaete Treponema pertenue. Symptoms include fever with raspberry-like swellings on the skin, followed in later stages by bone malformation. Also called frambesia, pim.

Y chromosome /ˈwɛt,krɑːməsˌɒmə/ noun  a chromosome that determines sex, it is carried by males and is shorter than an X chromosome. Compare X chromosome.  

yeast /jɛist/ noun  a fungus which is used in the fermentation of alcohol and in making bread. It is a good source of Vitamin B.

yellow /ˈjɛləʊ/ adjective  of a colour like that of the sun or of gold  

His skin turned yellow when he had hepatitis.  

The whites of the eyes become yellow as a symptom of jaundice.  

noun  a colour like that of the sun or of gold

yellow atrophy /ˈjɛləʊ əˈtrəʊfi/ noun  an old name for severe damage to the liver

yellow elastic fibrocartilage /ˈjɛləʊ ɪˌlɛstɪk ˈfɪbrəʊkɑrtɪlɪdʒ/ noun  flexible cartilage, e.g. in the ear and epiglottis

yellow fever /ˈjɛləʊ ˈfɛvər/ noun  an infectious disease, occurring especially in Africa and South America, caused by an arbovirus carried by the mosquito Aedes aegypti. It affects the liver and causes jaundice. There is no known cure and it can be fatal, but vaccination can prevent it.

yellow fibre /ˈjɛləʊ ˈfɜːbər/ noun  same as elastic fibre

yellow marrow noun  marrow  

yellow spot /ˈjɛləʊ ˈspɒt/ noun  same as macula lutea

Yersinia pestis /ˈjɛrˌsɪniə ˈpestəs/ noun  a bacterium which causes plague

yin and yang /ˈjɪn ənd ˈjæŋ/ noun  the two opposite and complementary principles of Chinese philosophy which are thought to exist in varying proportions in all things. They are sometimes thought of as femininity and masculinity.

yoga /ˈjɒgə/ noun  1. a Hindu discipline which promotes spiritual unity with a Supreme Being through a system of postures and rituals  

2. any one of dozens of systems and methods derived from or based on Hindu yoga. Many include breathing exercises and postures which are thought to aid health.

yolk sac /ˈjoʊk ˈsæk/ noun  same as vitelline sac

yuppie flu /ˈjʌpi ˈfjuːl/ noun  myalgic encephalomyelitis (informal)
Z

Zadik's operation /'zædɪks əpə,refələn/ noun a surgical operation to remove the whole of an ingrowing toenail
Zantac /'zæntək/ a trade name for ranitidine
zidovudine /ziədəvju'di:n/ noun azidothymidine or AZT, a drug used in the treatment of AIDS, which helps to slow the progress of the disease
Zimmer frame /'ztəm frɛm/ a trademark for a metal frame used by people who have difficulty in walking. She managed to walk some steps with a Zimmer frame.
Zonulolysis /'zonələli:səs/ noun the removal of a zonule by dissolving it
Z-plasty /'zed plæstɪ/ noun a technique used in plastic surgery. A deep Z-shaped incision is made to relieve tension in the area of a scar, or to change the direction of a scar.
zygoma /'ziɡəʊmə/ noun same as zygomatic arch
zygomatic /'ziɡəmətɪk/ adjective referring to the zygomatic arch
zygomatic arch /'ziɡəmətɪk ərʃ/ noun the ridge of bone across the temporal bone, running between the ear and the bottom of the eye socket. Also called zygoma.
zygomatic bone /'ziɡəmətɪk bɔːrn/ noun a bone which forms the prominent part of the cheek and the lower part of the eye socket. Also called cheekbone, malar bone
zygomatic process /'ziɡəmətɪk prə'səs/ noun one of the bony projections which form the zygomatic arch
zygomyosis /'ziɡəməˈmɒsɪs/ noun a disease caused by a fungus which infects the blood vessels in the lungs
zygote /'ziɡpət/ noun a fertilised ovum, the first stage of development of an embryo
zym- /'ziːm/ prefix (used before vowels) 1. enzymes 2. fermentation
zymogen /'ziːmədʒən/ noun same as proenzyme
zymosis /'ziːməˈmɒsɪs/ noun same as fermentation
zymotic /'ziːmɒtɪk/ adjective referring to zymosis
SUPPLEMENT
Anatomical Terms

The body is always described as if standing upright with the palms of the hands facing forward. There is only one central vertical plane, termed the median or sagittal plane, and this passes through the body from front to back. Planes parallel to this on either side are parasagittal or paramedian planes. Vertical planes at right angles to the median are called coronal planes. The term horizontal (or transverse) plane speaks for itself. Two specific horizontal planes are (a) the transpyloric, midway between the suprasternal notch and the symphysis pubis, and (b) the transtubercular or intertubercular plane, which passes through the tubercles of the iliac crests. Many other planes are named from the structures they pass through.

Views of the body from some different points are shown on the diagram; a view of the body from above is called the superior aspect, and that from below is the inferior aspect.

Cephalic means toward the head; caudal refers to positions (or in a direction) towards the tail. Proximal and distal refer to positions respectively closer to and further from the centre of the body in any direction, while lateral and medial relate more specifically to relative sideways positions, and also refer to movements. Ventral refers to the abdomen, front or anterior, while dorsal relates to the back of a part or organ. The hand has a dorsal and a palmar surface, and the foot a dorsal and a plantar surface.

Note that flexion of the thigh moves it forward while flexion of the leg moves it backwards; the movements of extension are similarly reversed. Movement and rotation of limbs can be medial, which is with the front moving towards the centre line, or lateral, which is in the opposite direction. Specific terms for limb movements are adduction, towards the centre line, and abduction, which is away from the centre line. Other specific terms are supination and pronation for the hand, and inversion and eversion for the foot.
BRAIN
1. corpus callosum
2. thalamus
3. hypothalamus
4. pineal body
5. pituitary gland
6. superior colliculi
7. inferior colliculi
8. cerebellum
9. cerebral peduncle
10. fomix cerebi
11. pons

NEURON
(a) multipolar
1. nucleus
2. Nissl granules
3. neurofibrilla
4. dendrite
5. axon
6. myelin sheath
7. Schwann cell nucleus
8. node of Ranvier
9. neurilemma
10. terminal branch
(b) bipolar
(c) unipolar

1. nucleus
2. Nissl granules
3. neurofibrilla
4. dendrite
EYE
1. optic nerve 7. aqueous humour 12. suspensory ligament
2. vitreous humour 8. lens 13. fovea
3. sclera 9. iris 14. muscle
4. choroid 10. cornea 15. ciliary muscle
5. retina 16. pupil
6. conjunctiva

EAR
1. pinna 6. cochlea 11. tympanic membrane (eardrum)
2. temporal bone 7. Eustachian tube 12. round window
3. external auditory meatus 8. malleus 13. auditory nerve
4. ceruminous glands 9. incus 14. vestibule
5. semicircular canals 10. stapes 15. oval window
UROGENITAL SYSTEM (female)

1. pubic bone
2. labia majora
3. labia minora
4. urethra
5. urinary bladder
6. vagina
7. Fallopian tube
8. uterus
9. ovary
10. clitoris
11. rectum
12. anus

UROGENITAL SYSTEM (male)

1. penis
2. scrotum
3. testis
4. epididymis
5. ductus deferens
6. seminal vesicle
7. ejaculatory duct
8. prostate gland
9. glans
10. urinary bladder
11. urethra
12. rectum
13. anus
14. corpus cavernosum
15. corpus spongiosum
16. pubic bone
17. corpus spongiosum
HAND
1. carpus 6. triquetrum 11. hamate
2. metacarpus 7. pisiform 12. ulna
3. phalanges 8. trapezium 13. radius
4. scaphoid 9. trapezoid 14. wrist
5. lunate 10. capitate

FOOT
1. tarsus 4. cuneiforms 7. calcaneus
2. metatarsus 5. navicular 8. talus
3. phalanges 6. cuboid

1. tarsus
2. metatarsus
3. phalanges
BONE STRUCTURE
1. periosteum
2. compact bone (yellow marrow)
3. cancellous (spongy) bone (red marrow)
4. medullary cavity
5. articular cartilage
6. epiphysis
7. diaphysis

CARTILAGINOUS JOINT
1. intervertebral disc
2. vertebra

SYNOVIAL JOINT
1. bone
2. articular cartilage
3. synovial membrane
4. synovial cavity and fluid
5. joint capsule (ligament)