fourth edition

Dictionary of Medical Terms

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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowels</th>
<th>Consonants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>æ</td>
<td>back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uː</td>
<td>harm</td>
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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 /ə/ noun the medical procedures used in A & E departments

A & E medicine /ə/ the medical procedures used in A & E departments

A /ə/ adjective referring to the abdomen and thorax

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

abdominal aorta /æbˈdɒmɪnlˈɔːtə/ 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 /æbˈdɒmɪnlˈkævɪtɪ/ noun the space in the body below the chest

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

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

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

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

abdomino- /æbˈdɒmɪnəʊ-/ prefix referring to the abdomen

abdominopelvic /æbˈdɒmɪnpəˈlɪvɪk-/ adjective referring to the abdomen and pelvis

abdominoperineal /æbˈdɒmɪnəˈpɜrɪnɛl/ adjective referring to the abdomen and perineum

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

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

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

abdominothoracic /æbˈdɒmɪnəˈθɔːrəs-/ 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 adducent

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

abducent /æbˈdjuːsənt/ 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 adducent

abducent nerve /æbˈdjuːsənt ˈnɜrve/ noun same as abducens nerve

abduct /æbˈdʌkt/ verb (of a muscle) to pull a leg or arm in a direction which is away from
abduction

the centre line of the body, or to pull a toe or finger away from the central line of a leg or arm. Compare adduct

abduction /ɪbˈdʌktʃən/ 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° upright with her legs in abduction.’ [British Journal of Nursing]

abductor /ɪbˈdʌktər, ˈæb-/, abductor muscle /ɪbˈdʌktər ˈmʌskl/ 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 /əˈberənt/ adjective not usual or expected

aberration /əˈberəʃən/ noun an action or growth which is not usual or expected

ablation /əˈbleɪʃən/ noun the removal of an organ or of a part of the body by surgery

abnormal /əˈbɜːnɔrəl/ adjective not usual or abnormal behaviour or 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]

abnormality /əˈbɜːrnɔrələti/ noun a form or condition which is not usual [Note: For other terms referring to abnormality, see words beginning with tera-, 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 /əˈbɒkləʒən/ noun a condition in which the teeth in the top and bottom jaws do not touch

aboral /əbˈɔrəl/ adjective situated away from or opposite the mouth

abort /əˈbɔrт/ 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 /əˈbɔrtɪfəsnt/ noun a drug or instrument which provokes an abortion

abortion /əˈbɔrtʃən/ 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

comment: In the UK, an abortion can be carried out legally if two doctors agree that the mother’s life is in danger, that she risks grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of herself or her children, or that the fetus is likely to be born with severe disabilities.

abortionist /əˌbɔrtʃəˈnɪst/ noun a person who helps a woman abort, usually a person who performs an illegal abortion

abortion pill /əˌbɔrtʃəˈpil/ noun a drug that causes an abortion to occur very early in pregnancy

abortion trauma syndrome /əˌbɔrtʃəˈtraʊmə ˈsɜːndrəm/ noun a set of symptoms sometimes experienced in the period after an abortion including weight loss, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, eating and sleeping disorders and suicidal thoughts

abrupt /əˈbrʌpt/ adjective not successful or an abortive attempt

abruptive poliomyelitis /əˌbrʌptv ˈpolɪoʊˌmɪlɪtɪs/ noun a mild form of polio which only affects the throat and intestines

abortus /əˈbɔrtəs/ noun a fetus which is expelled during an abortion or miscarriage

abortion fever /əˌbɔrtʃə ˈfɜːr/ noun same as brucellosis

ABO system /əˈbiː ˈsɪstəm/ noun a system of classifying blood groups. [blood group]

abruption /əˈbɹəpʃən/ noun a condition in which the surface of the skin has been rubbed off by a rough surface and bleeds

abreaction /əˌbɹɛriˈkeʃən/ noun the treatment of a person with a neurosis by making him or her think again about past bad experiences

abruptio placenta /əˌbrʌptʃəʊ ˈplæsəntə/ noun an occasion when the placenta suddenly comes away from the uterus earlier than it should, often causing shock and bleeding

abscess /əˈbɛsəs/ noun a painful swollen area where pus forms. She had an abscess under a tooth. [The doctor decided to lance the abscess. (Note: The formation of an abscess is often accompanied by a high temperature. The plural is abscesses.)

comment: An acute abscess can be dealt with by opening and draining when it has reached the stage where sufficient pus has been formed. A chronic abscess is usually treated with drugs.

absolute alcohol /əˌbɛlsəˈlɔːk/ noun alcohol which contains no water

absorb /əbˈsɔːb/ 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 /əbˌsɔːrˈbæbl ˈsətʃər/ noun a suture which will eventually be ab-
sorbed into the body, and does not need to be removed.

**absorbent cotton** /əbˈzɔːrbɛnt kənt/ noun a soft white material used as a dressing to put on wounds

**absorption** /əbˈzɔːrpoʊʃən/ 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** /əbˈstɛnər/ noun a person who does not drink alcohol

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

**abulia** /əˈbuliə/ noun a lack of willpower

**abuse** /əˈbjuːz/ noun 1. the act of using something wrongly. 2. the abuse of a privilege. 3. the illegal use of a drug or overdose of alcohol. 4. substance abuse. 5. child abuse. 6. sexual abuse. 7. verb /əˈbjuːz/ 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 prescription) before food. Full form *ante cibum*

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

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

**acarasia** /əˈkærəsɪəs/ noun the presence of mites or ticks on the skin

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

**acarophobia** /əˈkærəˈfəʊbiə/ noun an unusual fear of mites or ticks

**acatalasia** /əˈkætəˌleɪziə/ noun an inherited condition which results in a lack of catalyst in all tissue

**accessory** /əˈkɛsərəri/ 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** /əˈkɛsərəri, əˈkɛssərəri/ noun the eleventh cranial nerve which supplies the muscles in the neck and shoulders

**accessory organ** /əˈkɛsərəri, əˈkɛssərəri/ noun an organ which has a function which is controlled by another organ

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**adjective** /əˈdʒɛksədʒər/ noun an unpleasant event which happens suddenly and harms someone’s health. 2. She had an accident in the kitchen and had to go to hospital. 3. Three people were killed in an accident on the motorway. 4. chance, or something which happens by chance. 5. I met her by accident at the bus stop.

**accidental injury** /əˈkɛsədʒənt iˈnjʊərɪ/ noun an injury that happens to someone in an accident

**accident and emergency department** /əˈkɛsədʒənt əndˈɪmɪdʒənts dɪˈpɑːrtmənt/ noun the part of a hospital which deals with people who need urgent treatment because they have had accidents or are in sudden serious pain. Abbr A & E

**accident form** /əˈkɛsədʒənt fɔːm/ noun 1. accident report form. 2. a form to be filled in with details of an accident.

**accident prevention** /əˈkɛsədʒənt prɪˈventʃən/ noun the work of taking action or changing procedures to prevent accidents from happening

**accident ward** /əˈkɛsədʒənt wɔːd/ noun a ward for urgent accident victims. Also called casualty ward

**accommodation** /əˈkɒməˌdeɪʃən/ noun 1. the treatment of high blood pressure and irregular heart rhythms. 2. the accommodation reflex. 3. the accommodation reflex is activated when the lens of the eye is trying to focus on an object which is very close

**accommodation squint** /əˈkɒməˌdeɪʃənˈskwɪnt/ noun a squint when the eye is trying to focus on an object which is very close

**accoucheur** /əˈkʊʃer/ noun the time when a woman is being looked after because her baby is being born, or has just been born

**accrual** /əˈkɜːrəl/ noun a gradual increase in size, as through growth or external addition. 2. an accrual of calcium around the joint.

**ACE inhibitor** /əˈsɛs ɪˈnhibitər/ noun same as angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor

**acephalus** /əˈsɛfələs/ noun a fetus born without a head

**acetabuloplasty** /əˈsɛtəbəˈpləstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to repair or rebuild the acetabulum

**acetabulum** /əˈsɛtəˈbjuːləm/ noun the part of the pelvic bone, shaped like a cup, into which the head of the femur fits to form the hip joint. Also called cotyloid cavity. (Note: The plural is acetabula.)
acetaminophen

acetaminophen ə'siːtə'mɪnəfən noun US same as paracetamol

acetazolamide ə'siːtə'sələməd noun a drug which helps a person to produce more urine, used in the treatment of oedema, glaucoma and epilepsy

acetonemia ə'siːtə'nəmɪə noun same as ketonaemia

acetone /'æsətn/ noun a colourless volatile substance formed in the body after vomiting or during diabetes. \* ketone

acetonuria ə'siːtə'nənjʊəriə noun the presence of acetone in the urine, shown by the fact that the urine gives off a sweet smell

achalasia ə'shiːləsɪə noun the condition of being unable to relax the muscles

achambrosis ə'shiːmbroʊsɪə noun a surgical operation to divide the Achilles tendon

achlorhydria ə'shloʊr-hɪdriə noun a condition in which the gastric juices do not contain hydrochloric acid, a symptom of stomach cancer or pernicious anaemia

acholic ə'shəlɪk/ adjective of bile or the absence of bile colouring in the urine

acholouria ə'shələʊrɪə noun the absence of bile

acholuric jaundice ə'shələrɪk ˈdʒɔndɪs 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 əˌkɒndroʊˈplæzɪə 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 əˌkrɒməˈtɒpsіə noun a rare condition in which a person cannot see any colours, but only black, white and shades of grey

achy /'eɪki/ adjective feeling aches all over the body (informal)

aciclovir /'æsɪkloʊvɜːr/ noun a drug that is effective against herpesviruses. Also called acyclovir

acid /'æsɪd/ noun a chemical compound containing hydrogen, which reacts with an alkali to form a salt and water

acidemia /ˌæsɪ'dɛmɪə noun a state in which the blood has too much acid in it. It is a feature of untreated severe diabetes.

acid–base balance /ˌæsɪdBiːs/ noun the balance between acid and base, i.e. the pH level, in plasma

acidity /'æsɪdɪti/ noun 1. the level of acid in a liquid \* The alkaline solution may help to reduce acidity. 2. same as hyperacidity

acidosis /'æsɪdəʊsɪs/ 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 /'æsɪdətɪk/ adjective relating to acidosis

acid reflux /'æsɪd rɪflɛks/ noun a condition caused by a faulty muscle in the oesophagus allowing the acid in the stomach to pass into the oesophagus

acid stomach /ˌæsɪd ˈstʌmək/ noun same as hyperacidity

aciduria /ˌæsɪdjuˈrɪə/ noun a condition in which there is a higher level of acidity of the urine than is desirable

acinar /ˌæsɪnər/ adjective relating to a gland

acute /'ækʃu/ adjective relating to a short time

acoustic /'ækstɪsk/ adjective relating to sound or hearing

acoustic nerve /'ækstɪsk rɪn/ noun the eighth cranial nerve which governs hearing and balance
acutally
Acupressure /ə'kJʊpɾɛsə/ noun a treatment which is based on the same principle as acupuncture in which, instead of needles, fingers are used on specific points on the body, called pressure points.

Acupuncture /ækjʊpʌŋktʃə/ noun a treatment based on needles being inserted through the skin into nerve centres in order to relieve pain or treat a disorder.

Acupuncturist /ækju,paŋkʃəstərɪst/ noun a person who practises acupuncture.

Acute /ə'kJʊt/ adjective 1. referring to a disease or condition which develops rapidly and can be dangerous. Opposite chronic 2. referring to pain which is sharp and intense. (informal) He felt acute chest pains.

Acute abdomen /ə'kJʊtæb'dəmən/ noun any serious condition of the abdomen which requires surgery.

Acute bed /ə'kJʊt bed/ noun a hospital bed reserved for people requiring immediate treatment.

Acute care /ə'kJʊt kɛə/ noun medical or surgical treatment in a hospital, usually for a short period, for a patient with a sudden severe illness or injury.

Acute disseminated encephalomyelitis /ə'kJʊt dɪsə,meɪnətɪd enˌsɛfələʊmɨˈlɪtɪs/ noun an encephalomyelitis or myelitis believed to result from an autoimmune attack on the myelin of the central nervous system.

Acute glaucoma /ə'kJʊt ɡlɔʊkəmə/ noun same as angle-closure glaucoma.

Acute hospital /ə'kJʊt hɒspɪt(ə)l/ noun a hospital where people go for major surgery or intensive care of medical or surgical conditions.

Acutely /ə'kJʊtli/ adverb 1. having or causing a suddenly developing medical condition. Opposite acutely ill patients 2. extremely (informal)

Acute lymphocytic leukaemia /ə'kJʊt ˈlɪmfə rakɪtɪk ˈljuːˌkɪmɪə/ noun a form of leukaemia that affects adults and children and is usually treated with chemotherapy.

Acute pancreatitis /ə'kJʊt ˈpærəkˌnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation after pancreatic enzymes have escaped into the pancreas, causing symptoms of acute abdominal pain.

Acute respiratory distress syndrome /ə'kJʊt riˈspɜːrətɔrɪ dɪˈstrɛs ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun an infection of the lungs, often following injury, which prevents them functioning properly. Abbreviated ARDS.

Acute rheumatism /ə'kJʊt ˈrɪmyʊtɪzæm/ noun same as rheumatic fever.

Acute rhinitis /ə'kJʊt rɪˈnɪtɪs/ noun a virus infection which causes inflammation of the mucous membrane in the nose and throat.

Acute suppurative arthritis /ə'kJʊt ˈsʌpjʊˌrətɪv ərˈtɪtərɪs/ noun same as pyarthrosis.

Acute toxicity /ə'kJʊt ˈtɒksɪtɪs/ noun a level of concentration of a toxic substance which makes people seriously ill or can cause death.

Acute yellow atrophy /ə'kJʊt ˈjeləʊ ˈætroʊθi/ noun a condition in which a baby is born without a bladder.

Add AD 1. Alzheimer's disease

Adam's apple /ədədəmz ˈæpəʊl/ noun a part of the thyroid cartilage which projects from the neck below the chin in a man. Also called cricoid prominence.

Adapt /ədəpt/ verb 1. to change one's ideas or behaviour to fit into a new situation. Opposite adapted 2. the act of changing something so that it fits a new situation 3. the process by which sensory receptors become accustomed to a sensation which is repeated.

Adder attention deficit disorder

Addicted /ə'dɪktɪd/ adjective physically or mentally dependent on a harmful substance. Opposite addicted to alcohol or drugs needing to take alcoholic or a harmful drug regularly.

Addictive /ə'dɪktɪv/ adjective referring to a drug which is habit-forming and which people can become addicted to.

Addison's anaemia /ədɪˈsɪzn əˈnæmɪə/ noun same as pernicious anaemia. [Described 1849. After Thomas Addison (1793–1860), from Northumberland, founder of the science of endocrinology.]

Addison's disease /ədɪˈsɪzn ˈdɪzəs/ noun a disease of the adrenal glands, causing a change in skin colour to yellow and then to dark brown and resulting in general weakness, anaemia, low blood pressure and wasting away. Treatment is with corticosteroid injections. [Described 1849. After Thomas Addison (1793–1860), from Northumberland, founder of the science of endocrinology.]

Adducent /əˈdʒʌsənt/ adjective referring to a muscle which brings parts of the body together or moves them towards the central line of the body or a limb. Compare abductant.
adenomyoma /ˌɛdɪnəˈmaɪəmə/ noun a benign tumour made up of glands and muscle
adenopathy /ˌɛdɪnəˈpɑːθi/ noun a disease of a gland
adenosclerosis /ˌɛdɪnəʊˈskloʊrəs/ noun the hardening of a gland
adenosine /ˌɛdɪnəˈsɪn/ noun a drug used to treat an irregular heartbeat
adenosine diphosphate, adenosin triphosphate react with water. Abbreviate ADP, ATP.
adenoid /ˌɛdɪnəʊıd/ noun referring to fat
adenoidal tissue /ˌɛdɪnəʊıdəl/ noun a mass of tissue at the back of the nose and throat that can restrict breathing if enlarged. Also called pharyngeal tonsils
adenoid vegetation /ˌɛdɪnəʊıd ˌvedʒəʃən/ noun a condition in children where the adenoidal tissue is covered with growths and can block the nasal passages or the Eustachian tube.
adenolymphoma /ˌɛdɪnəʊlɪmfəmə/ noun a benign tumour of the salivary glands
adenoma /ˌɛdɪnəʊəmə/ noun a benign tumour of a gland
adenomyoma /ˌɛdɪnəʊməˈmaɪəmə/ noun a benign tumour made up of glands and muscle
ADHD /ˈædɪkoʊdipəs dɪˈækıətɪmɪ/ noun a stable connection between two parts in the body, either in a healing process or between parts which are not usually connected
adhesive strapping /ˌɛdɪsɪfəstrɪŋ/ noun overlapping strips of adhesive plaster used to protect a lesion
adipose tissue /ˌɛdɪpəs tʃʌs/ noun a tissue where the cells contain fat
adiposis /ˌɛdɪpəsɪs/ noun a state where too much fat is accumulated in the body
adipositis dolorosa /ˌɛdɪpəsɪtɪs ˌdɒlərəsə/ noun a disease of middle-aged women in which painful lumps of fatty substance form in the body. Also called Dercum's disease.
adipogenitalis /ˌɛdɪpəˌdʒɛnɪˈtælɪs/ noun same as Fröhlich's syndrome
adiposuria /ˌɛdɪpəˈdʒʊərɪə/ noun the presence of fat in the urine
aflatoxin

adsorbent /ˈædˌsɔr'bənt/ adjective being capable of adsorption

adsorption /ˈædˌsɔr'pʃən/ noun the attachment of one substance to another, often by bonding of a liquid with a gas or vapour which touches its surface

adult /ˈædəlt, əˈdəlt/ 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 /ˈædəlt ˈsiliæk dɪˌzi/ noun a condition in adults where the villi in the intestine become smaller and so reduce the surface which can absorb nutrients

adult-onset diabetes /ˈædəlt ˈɒnˌsɛt ˈdaɪəˈbetɪs/ noun the process where the oxygen which is breathed in is used to conserve energy as ATP

adult respiratory distress syndrome /ˈædəlt riˈspɪrətɔrɪ ˈdɪstrɪs ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a description of various lung infections which reduce the lungs’ efficiency. Abbr ARDS

adult respiration /ˈædəlt rɪˈspɪrəʃən/ noun the process where the oxygen which is breathed in is used to conserve energy as ATP

aetiological /əˈtiːələˈdʒɪkl/ adjective referring to an agent which causes a disease

aerobic /əˈrɒbɪk/ adjective needing oxygen to live, or taking place in the presence of oxygen

aerobics /əˈrɒbɪks/ noun a tiny organism which needs oxygen to survive

aerophagia /əˈrɒfəˈjeɪə/ noun the habit of swallowing air

aerophagy /əˈrɒfəˈgeɪə/ noun the act of making something less pure by adding another substance

aerogenous /əˈrɔdʒənəs/ adjective referring to air

aerogenesis /əˌrɔdʒəˈneɪzəs/ noun the origin of a disease

aerogeny /əˈrɔdʒənɪ/ noun the general state of a person’s moods

affect /əˈfɛkt/ 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

affectation /əˈfɛktəˈʃən/ noun the act of pretending or disguising

affective /əˈfɛktɪv/ adjective relating to a person’s moods or feelings

daedalic /dəˈdɔlɪk/ adjective with no fever

dead /ˈded/ 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

adherent /əˈdɛrənt/ adjective active support for something, especially in order to help people who would have difficulty in gaining attention without your help

adjective /əˈdʒɛktɪv/ noun a condition which changes someone’s mood, making him or her depressed or excited

adherent nerve /əˈdɛrənt nɜːv/ noun same as sensory nerve

adherent vessel /əˈdɛrənt vɛs(ə)l/ noun a tube which brings lymph to a gland

affect /əˈfɛkt/ noun an attraction between two substances

aflatoxin /əˌfɛlˈtɒksɪn/ noun a poison produced by some moulds in some crops such as peanuts

adsorption /ˈædˌsɔr'pʃən/ noun the adding of air or oxygen to a liquid
African trypanosomiasis

African trypanosomiasis /ˌafrikənˈtrɪpənəsəˈmeɪʃəs/ noun same as sleeping sickness

afterbirth /ˈɑːftərbɜːθ/ 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

aftercare /ˈɑːftərkər/ 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 əˈfɛkt/ noun a change which appears only some time after the cause

after-image /ˈɑːftər ɪmˈɡeɪdʒ/ noun an image of an object which remains in a person’s sight after the object itself has gone

afterpains /ˈɑːftərˈpeɪns/ plural noun regular pains in the uterus which are sometimes experienced after childbirth

afterbirth /ˈɑːftərbɜːθ/ noun 1. the act of causing something to happen. 2. The disease develops through the agency of bacteria present in the bloodstream.

The cost of employing agency nurses should be no higher than the equivalent full-time staff. [Nursing Times]

Growing numbers of nurses are choosing agency careers, which pay more and provide more flexible schedules than hospitals. [American Journal of Nursing]

agenesis /ˌɛɡəˈnɛsɪs/ noun the absence of an organ, resulting from a failure in embryonic development

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 kinds of work on his or her behalf

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

agglutination /ˌæɡljuˈteɪnəˈʃən/ 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.

agglutinogen /ˌæɡljuˈtɪnəˈdʒen/ noun a factor in a serum which makes cells stick together in clumps

agglutinogen /ˌæɡljuˈtɪnəˈdʒen/ noun a factor in a serum which makes cells stick together in clumps

aggrevate /əˈgriːvət/ verb to make something worse

aggravate /əˈgriːvət/ verb to make something worse

agonist /əˈɡɒnɪst/ noun a brain disorder in which a person fails to recognise places, people, tastes or smells which they used to know well

agonist /əˈɡɒnɪst/ 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 /eiˈdʒʌni/ noun a very severe physical or emotional pain ○ He lay in agony on the floor. ○ She suffered the agony of waiting for weeks until her condition was diagnosed.
agoraphobia /ˌæɡəroʊˈfeɪbiə/ noun a fear of being in open spaces. Compare claustrophobia
agoraphobic /ˌæɡərəˈfeɪbɪk/ adjective afraid of being in open spaces. Compare claustrophobic
agranulocytosis /ˌæɡrænjuːləsɪˈtɒsɪs/ a usually fatal disease where the number of granulocytes, a type of white blood cell, falls sharply because of a bone marrow condition
agony /ˈægoni/ noun a condition of being unable to put ideas into writing
AHF abbr antihaemophilic factor
aid /eɪd/ noun 1. help 2. a machine, tool or drug which helps someone do something ○ He uses a walking frame as an aid to exercising his legs. ■ verb to help someone or something ○ The procedure is designed to help the repair of tissues after surgery.
AID /eɪd/ noun full form artificial insemination by donor. now called DI
AIDS /ɛdz/ noun a viral infection which breaks down the body’s immune system. Full form acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, acquired immune deficiency syndrome
Albee’s operation /ælˈbiːz əˈlɪnə/ noun a surgical procedure to fuse two or more vertebrae 2. a surgical operation to fuse cats
air /eər/ noun a mixture of gases, mainly oxygen and nitrogen, which cannot be seen, but which exists all around us which is breathed ○ Open the window and let some fresh air in to the room. ○ He breathed the polluted air into his lungs.
air bed /ˈeər bɛd/ noun a mattress which is filled with air, used to prevent the formation of bedsores. ○ conduction
airborne infection /ˈeər bɔrn ɪnˈfɜːnʃən/ an infection which is carried in the air
air conduction /ˈeər ˈkɒn,dɪkʃən/ noun the process by which sounds pass from the outside to the inner ear through the auditory meatus
air embolism /ˈeər ɪmˈbɒlɪz(ə)m/ noun a blockage caused by bubbles of air, that stops the flow of blood in vessels
air hunger /ˈeər ˈhʌŋgər noun a condition in which the patient needs air because of lack of oxygen in the tissues
air passage /ˈeər ˈpæsɪdʒ/ any tube which takes air to the lungs, e.g. the nostrils, pharynx, larynx, trachea and bronchi
air sac /ˈeər ˈsæk/ noun a small sac in the lungs which contains air. ○ alveolus
air sickness /ˈeər sɪŋkl difficulté feeling sick because of the movement of an aircraft
airway /ˈeərweɪ/ noun a passage through which air passes, especially the trachea
airway clearing /ˈeərweɪ ˈklɛərɪŋ/ noun making sure that the airways in a newborn baby or an unconscious person are free of any obstruction
airway obstruction /eəriˈweɪ əˈbstrəkʃən/ noun something which blocks the air passages
akathisia /ˌækəˈθɪziə/ noun restlessness
akinesia /ˌækiˈnizɪə/ noun a lack of voluntary movement, as in Parkinson’s disease
akinetik /ˌækɪˈnɛtɪk/ adjective without movement
alacrima /ˌæləˈkrɪmə/ 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
alactasia /ˌæləˈkætəsɪə/ 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
albino /ˈælbənəʊ/ noun an amino acid
alanine aminotransferase /ˌæləˈneɪni əˌmiˈnəʊtrænˈsfɜːrəz/ noun an enzyme which is found in the liver and can be monitored as an indicator of liver damage. Abbr ALT
albine /ˈælbaɪn/ noun a condition in which a person completely loses the ability to speak.
albinism /ˌæləˈbɪnɪzəm/ noun an amino acid
albino /ˈælbənəʊ/ 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
allergy /ˈælədʒi/ noun an illness, though not generally a very serious one ○ Chickenpox is one of the common childhood ailments.
allophobia /ˌæləˈfoʊbiə/ noun a fear of cats
alluxophobia /ˌæləˈlʊkəˈfeɪbiə/ noun a fear of being in open spaces. Compare claustrophobia
Albee’s operation /ˈælbiːz əˈlɪnə/ noun a surgical operation to fuse two or more vertebrae 2. a surgical operation to fuse cats
air /eər/ noun a mixture of gases, mainly oxygen and nitrogen, which cannot be seen, but which exists all around us which is breathed ○ Open the window and let some fresh air in to the room. ○ He breathed the polluted air into his lungs.
the femur to the pelvis [After Frederick Houdlett Abbe (1876–1944), US surgeon]
albicans /ˈælkɪkænz/ noun; corpus albicans
albinism /ˈælbaɪnɪzəm/ noun a condition in which a person lacks the pigment melanin and so has pink skin and eyes and white hair. It is hereditary and cannot be treated.  v. vitiligo
albino /ˈælbaɪnəʊ/ noun a person who is deficient in melanin and has little or no pigmentation in the skin, hair or eyes
albuginea /ˌælbuˈdʒiːniə/ noun a layer of white tissue covering a part of the body
albuginea ocular /ˌælbuˈdʒiːniə ˈɒkjʊlər/ noun same as sclera
albuminometer /ˌælbuˈmɪnəʊmətər/ noun an instrument for measuring the level of albumin in the urine
albuminuria /ˌælbuˈmɪnjuərɪə/ noun a condition in which albumin is found in the urine, usually a sign of kidney disease, but also sometimes of heart failure
albumose /ˌælbuˈmʊs/ noun an intermediate product in the digestion of protein
alcohol /ˈælkəhol/ noun a pure colourless liquid which is formed by the action of yeast on sugar solutions and forms part of drinks such as wine and whisky
alcohol addiction /ˈælkəhol əˈdɪkʃən/ noun a condition in which a person is dependent on the use of alcohol
alcohol-fast /ˈælkəhol ˈfɑːst/ adjective referring to an organ stained for testing which is not discoloured by alcohol
alcoholic /ˈælkəholɪk/ adjective 1. containing alcohol 2. caused by alcoholism or alcoholic poisoning n noun a person who is addicted to drinking alcohol and shows changes in behaviour and personality
alcoholic cardiomyopathy /ˌælkəholɪk kɑrˈdɪəʊməˈpɑːθɪə/ noun a disease of the heart muscle arising as a result of long-term heavy alcohol consumption
alcoholic cirrhosis /ˌælkəholɪk ˈsɜːrθərəs/ noun cirrhosis of the liver caused by alcoholism
alcoholic hepatitis /ˈælkəholɪk ˈhepəˌtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the liver as a result of long-term heavy alcohol consumption, often leading to cirrhosis
Alcoholics Anonymous /ˌælkəholɪks ˈænəˈmɔːnɪs/ noun 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
alcoholicum /ˈælkəholɪkʌm/ noun a drink made by distilling spirits and a medicinal or poisonous liquid which is formed by the action of yeast
alcoholism /ˈælkəholɪzəm/ noun excessive drinking of alcohol which becomes addictive
alcohol poisoning /ˈælkəhol, poʊzɪnɪŋ/ noun poisoning and disease caused by excessive drinking of alcohol
alcohol rub /ˈælkəhol ˈrʌb/ noun the act of rubbing a bedridden person with alcohol to help protect against bedsores and as a tonic
alcoholuria /ˌælkəholjuəˈrɪə/ noun a condition in which alcohol is present in the urine
alcohol rub /ˈælkəhol ˈrʌb/ noun the act of rubbing a bedridden person with alcohol to help protect against bedsores and as a tonic
alcoholuria /ˌælkəholjuəˈrɪə/ noun a condition in which alcohol is present in the urine
Tm The patient is still alert, though in great pain.
alert /ˈæltruːˈtɜːrəl/ adjective referring to someone who takes an intelligent interest in his or her surroundings 2. referring to a state where leukaemia is not present
Alexander technique /ˌælˈdʒəntrɪk/ noun a method of improving the way a person stands and moves, by making them more aware of how muscles behave
aleukaemic /ˌælˌjuːkəˈmɪk/ adjective 1. referring to a state where leukaemia is not present 2. referring to a state where leucocytes are not normal
Alexander technique /ˌælˈdʒəntrɪk/ noun a method of improving the way a person stands and moves, by making them more aware of how muscles behave
alexia /əˈleksɪə/ noun a condition in which the patient cannot understand printed words. Also called word blindness
alfacalcidol /ˌɑːlˈfaˌkælsɪdɒl/ noun a substance related to vitamin D, used by the body to maintain the right levels of calcium and phosphate, and also as a drug to help people who do not have enough vitamin D
algesimeter /ˌælˈdʒɪzɪmətər/ noun an instrument to measure the sensitivity of the skin to pain
algia /ˈælˌdʒɪə/ noun a word ending that indicates a painful condition
algid /ˈældɪd/ adjective referring to a stage in a disease that causes fever during which the body becomes cold
algophobia /ˌælɡəˈfəʊbiə/ noun an unusually intense fear of pain
alienation /ˌaliˈneiʃən/ noun a psycho-
logical 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
alignant /ˌaɪləˈmɛnt/ noun the arrange-
ment of something in a straight line, or in the
correct position in relation to something else
alimentary /ˌælɪˈmɛntəri/ adjective provid-
ing food, or relating to food or nutrition
alimentary canal /ˌælɪˈmɛntəri kəˈnæl/
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 /ˌælɪˈmɛntəri ˌsɪstərn/ noun same as digestive system
alimentation /ˌælɪˈmɛntəʃən/ noun the
act of providing food or nourishment
aliquot /ˌælɪˈkwət/ noun a part of a larger
ingthing, especially a sample of something which
is taken to be examined
alive /ˈælɪv/ 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.)
alakelasia /ˌælɪˈkæləsi/ noun an excess of
alkali in the blood
alkali /ˈælkalə/ noun one of many substances
which neutralise acids and form salts (NOTE: The
UK plural is alkalis, but the US plural is al-
kalies.)
alcaline /ˌælkalən/ adjective containing
more alkali than acid
alkalinity /ˌælkalɪˈnɪti/ noun the level of alk-
ali in a body ○ Hyperventilation causes fluc-
tuating carbon dioxide levels in the blood, re-
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 solu-
tions are used to counteract the effects of acid
poisoning and also of bee stings. If strong al-
kal, such as ammonia, is swallowed, the pa-
tient should drink water and an acid such as
orange juice.
alcaloid /ˌælkləˈloid/ noun one of many poi-
sonous substances found in plants and used as
medicines, e.g. atropine, morphine or quinine
alkalosis /ˌælkləˈlɔʊsɪs/ noun a condition
in which the alkali level in the body tissue is
high, producing cramps
alkaptonuria /ˌælˌkæpˈtoʊnəriə/ noun a be-
reditary condition where dark pigment is
present in the urine
allantoin /ˌələˈlɔntən/ noun powder from the
herb comfrey, used to treat skin disorders
allodynia

allodynia /ˌaːləˈdɪniə/ noun pain of the skin caused by something such as clothing which usually does not cause pain
allogeneic /ˌaˌlɔdʒəˈniːk/ adjective (of body tissues) genetically different and therefore incompatible when transplanted
allograft /ˌaˌlɔdʒəɡræft/ noun same as homograft
allopurinol /ˌaˌlɔˈpʊərɪnɔl/ noun a drug which helps to stop the body producing uric acid, used in the treatment of gout
alpha rhythm /ˈælprəθɪm/ noun the pattern of electrical activity in the brain of some- one which raises the level of glucose in the blood.
aloe /ˈæləʊ/ noun a condition in which hair is lost. Compare alopecia areata
aldoheinoxidase /ˌælədəˈhaɪdəˌnəʊs/ noun a protein produced by the liver of the human fetus, which accumulates in the amniotic fluid. A high or low concentration is tested for in the man fetus, which accumulates in the amniotic fluid. Lungs in Supplement [NOTE: The US spelling is aluminium. The chemical symbol is Al.]
aluminium hydroxide /ˌæləˈmɪniəm ˈhaɪdrəˌɔksaid/ noun a metallic element extracted from the ore bauxite.
alveolar /ˌælˈvɛələr/ adjective referring to the alveoli
alveolar bone /ˌælˈvɛələr bɔːn/ noun part of the jawbone to which the teeth are attached
alveolar duct /ˌælˈvɛələr dʌkt/ noun a duct in the lung which leads from the respiratory bronchioles to the alveoli.
alveolar wall /ˌælˈvɛələr wɔːl/ noun one of the walls which separate the alveoli in the lung
alveolitis /ˌælˈvɛələˌlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of an alveolus in the lungs or the socket of a tooth
alveolus /ˌælˈvɛələs, ˌælˈvɛələs/ noun a small cavity, e.g. an air sac in the lungs or the socket into which a tooth fits. See illustration at Lungs in Supplement [NOTE: The plural is alveoli.]
Alzheimer plaque /ˌaˌlθəzmərˈpleɪk/ noun a disc-shaped plaque of amyloid found in the brain in people who have Alzheimer’s disease
Alzheimer’s disease /ˌaˌlθəzmərˈdiːz/ noun a disease where a person experiences progressive dementia due to nerve cell loss in specific brain areas, resulting in loss of mental faculties including memory [Described 1906. After Alois Alzheimer (1864–1915), Bavarian physician.]
Alport’s syndrome /ˌɔlprɔts ˈsʌndrəʊm/ noun a genetic disease of the kidneys which sometimes causes a person to lose his or her hearing and sight
alprostadil /ˌælprəˈstɔdɪl/ noun a drug which makes blood vessels wider, used to treat impotence, prevent coagulation, and maintain babies with congenital heart conditions
ALS abbr 1. amyotrophic lateral sclerosis 2. antilymphocytic serum
ALT abbr alanine aminotransferase
alternative medicine /ˌɔˌlθərniˈtiːv ˈmedɪʃən/ noun the treatment of illness using therapies such as homeopathy or naturopathy which are not considered part of conventional Western medicine.
complementary medicine
altitude sickness /ˌælˈtɪtjuːdˌsiːksən/ noun a condition caused by reduced oxygen in the air above altitudes of 7000 to 8000 feet (2100 to 2400 metres). Symptoms include headaches, breathlessness, fatigue, nausea and swelling of the face, hands and feet. Also called high-altitude sickness, mountain sickness
amnioocentesis /ˌænˈmɪəˌsəntsəs/ noun the procedure of withdrawing fluid from the amniotic sac during pregnancy to test for the presence of a particular condition in the fetus.
amniotic fluid /ˌænˈmiətɪk ˈflʌɪd/ noun a fluid that surrounds the developing embryo, in the uterus, and empties into the amniotic sac. During pregnancy a high or low concentration is tested for in the man fetus, which accumulates in the amniotic fluid.
amniotic sac /ˌænˈmiətɪk ˈsæk/ noun a fluid-filled bag in the uterus containing the amniotic fluid in which the developing embryo is enclosed.
amyloidosis /ˌæmɪˌlɔɪdəˈsɔsɪs/ noun a disease of the optic nerve
soon as possible after the operation can therefore act as a carrier, e.g. involving staying in hospital during the night.

**ambrosia** /əˌmbroʊˈsɪə/ noun temporary blindness in one eye, caused by problems of circulation.

**amaurotic familial idiocy** /əˌmɔrətɪk ˈfɛməlɪ-ətɪk ˈɪdɪ-ə-sɪ/ noun a congenital condition in which the outer genitals do not look typical of those of either sex.

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

**ambigous genitalia** /əˌmɪ bury əsˈdʒɛn-tələ/ noun a condition in which the outer genitals do not look typical of those of either sex.

**amblyopia** /əˌməlˈbɪə-sə-pə/ noun a lack of normal vision without a structural cause. A common example is squint and other forms may be caused by the cyanide in tobacco smoke or by drinking methylated spirits.

**amblyoscope** /əˌməbləsˈskəp/ noun an instrument for measuring the angle of a squint and how effectively someone uses both their eyes together. Also called orthoptoscope.

**ambulance** /əˌməbljəns/ 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. The ambulance service is a separate service from the hospital service.

**ambulant** /əˌməbli-ənt/ adjective able to walk.

**ambulation** /əˌməbjuˈleɪʃən/ noun walking.

**ambulator** /əˌməbjuˈle-ə-tər/ adjective referring to a patient who is not confined to bed but is able to walk.

**ambulatory** /əˌməbjuˈle-ə-tər/ adjective referring to a patient who is not confined to bed but is able to walk.

**ambulatory care** /əˌməbjuˈleɪ-ə-tər ˈke-ə-nər/ noun a service provided to patients who are not able to go home.

**ambulatory fever** /əˌməbjuˈleɪ-ə-tər ˈfi-vər/ noun a milder form of typhoid fever.

**amneosis** /əˌmən-əˈsɪəs/ noun temporary blindness in one eye, caused by problems of circulation.

**amnesia** /əˌmən-əˈzi-ə/ noun the absence of one or more mental periods, usually during pregnancy and after the menopause.

**amnio** /əˌmən-əʊ/ noun a fluid substance which surrounds and protects the developing fetus during pregnancy and after the menopause.

**amnion** /əˌmən-ə-ən/ noun a fluid substance which surrounds and protects the developing fetus during pregnancy and after the menopause.

**amniocentesis** /əˌmən-əˌsɛn-təˈsɪs/ noun a procedure used to obtain a sample of amniotic fluid from the amniotic sac.

**amniotic fluid** /əˌmən-əˈtɪk ˈflʌɪd/ noun a fluid substance which surrounds and protects the developing fetus during pregnancy and after the menopause.

**amlopine** /əˌməmp-əˈpɪn/ noun a drug used to treat depression and persistent pain.

**amnestic** /əˌməniˈstɛs/ noun the multiplication of a cell by splitting of the nucleus.

**amnion** /əˌmən-ə-ən/ noun a fluid substance which surrounds and protects the developing fetus during pregnancy and after the menopause.

**amnesia** /əˌmən-əˈzi-ə/ noun a fluid substance which surrounds and protects the developing fetus during pregnancy and after the menopause.

**amniotic fluid** /əˌmən-əˈtɪk ˈflʌɪd/ noun a fluid substance which surrounds and protects the developing fetus during pregnancy and after the menopause.

**amnios** /əˌmən-əs/ noun temporary blindness in one eye, caused by problems of circulation.
amnihoeak /ˌæmnihoʊk/ noun a hooked instrument used to induce labour by pulling on the amniotic sac
amnio /ˈæmniəʊs/ noun same as amniocentesis (informal)
amniocentesis /ˌæmniəʊsənˈtɛrisɪs/ noun a procedure which involves taking a test sample of the amniotic fluid during pregnancy using a hollow needle and syringe

COMMENT: Amniocentesis and amnioscopy, the examination and testing of the amniotic fluid, give information about possible congenital disorders in the fetus as well as the sex of the unborn baby.
amniography /ˌæmniəˈɔɡrəfi/ noun an X-ray of the womb
amnion /ˈæmniən/ noun the thin sac containing the amniotic fluid which covers an unborn baby in the uterus. Also called amniotic sac
amnioscope /ˌæmniəˈskɒp/ noun an instrument used to examine a fetus through the cervical channel, before the amniotic sac is broken
amnioscopy /ˌæmniəˈskɔpɪ/ noun an examination of the amniotic fluid during pregnancy
amniotic /ˌæmniəˈtɪtɪk/ adjective relating to the amnion
amniotic cavity /ˌæmniəˈtɪktɪˈkævətɪ/ noun a space formed by the amnion, full of amniotic fluid
amniotic fluid /ˌæmniəˈtɪktɪk ˈflʌɪd/ noun the fluid contained in the amnion which surrounds an unborn baby
amniotic sac /ˌæmniəˈtɪktɪk ˈsæk/ noun same as amnion
amniotomy /ˌæmniətəˈtɒmi/ noun a puncture of the amnion to help induce labour
amoeba /əˈmiːbə/ noun a form of animal life, made up of a single cell (NOTE: The plural is amoebae.)
amoebiasis /ˌæməˈbiəsɪs/ 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 /əˈmiːbɪk/ adjective relating to or caused by amoebae
amoebic dysentery /əˌmiːbɪk ˈdaɪsəntəri/ 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 /əˈmiːbɪsɪd/ noun a substance which kills amoebae
amorphous /əˌmɔːrfoʊs/ adjective with no regular shape
amoxicillin /əˈməksɪlɪn/ noun an antibiotic
Amoxil /əˈmoksɪl/ a trade name for amoxicillin
amphetamines /ˌæmˈfetəmɪnəz/ noun the repeated addictive use of amphetamines which in the end affects the mental faculties
amphotericin /ˌæmˈfəterɪkən/ noun an antifungal agent, used against Candida
ampicillin /ˌæmˈpɪsɪlɪn/ noun a type of penicillin, used as an antibiotic
ampoule /ˈæmpʊl/ ampule /ˈæmpjuːl/ noun a small glass container, closed at the neck, used to contain sterile drugs for use in injections
ampulla /ˈæmpʊlə/ noun a swelling of a canal or duct, shaped like a bottle (NOTE: The plural is ampullae.)
amputate /ˈæmpjʊteɪt/ verb to remove a limb or part of a limb in a surgical operation
amputation /ˈæmpjʊteɪʃən/ noun the surgical removal of a limb or part of a limb
ampuette /ˈæmpjuˈtɪ/ noun someone who has had a limb or part of a limb removed in a surgical operation
amygdala /ˈæmɪgdələ/ noun an almond-shaped body in the brain, at the end of the caudate nucleus of the thalamus. Also called amygdaloid body
amygdaloid body /ˈæmɪgdəlɔɪd ˈbɒdɪ/ noun same as amygdala
amyl-/ˌæmɪl-/ prefix referring to starch
amylase /ˌæmɪləˈzeɪ/ noun an enzyme which converts starch into maltose
amyl nitrate /ˌæmɪl ˈnɪtrət/ noun a drug used to reduce blood pressure (NOTE: Amyl nitrate is also used as a recreational drug.)
amyloid /ˌæmɪlɔɪd/ 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 /ˌæmɪlɔɪd ˈdiːzɪs/ noun same as amyloidosis
amyloidosis /ˌæmɪlɔɪdəˈsɔsɪs/ noun a disease of the kidneys and liver, where amyloid develops in the tissues. Also called amyloid disease
amyloid precursor protein /ˌæmɪlɔɪd prɪˈkeɪsə prəˈsɪtrɪn/ 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.
amylase /ˌæmɪləˈseɪ/ noun an enzyme which converts starch into maltose
amylose /ˌæmɪləʊz/ noun a carbohydrate of starch
amyotonia /ˌɛmɪtoʊˈtɔʊniə/ noun a lack of muscle tone
Amyotonia congenita /ˌɛməˈtroʊniə kəˈgements/ noun a congenital disease of children in which the muscles lack tone. Also called floppy baby syndrome

Amynotrophy /ˌæməˈtrepə/ noun a condition in which a muscle wastes away

Amynotrophic lateral sclerosis /ˌæməˌtrəˈtrusk�əl/ skldˈtroʊsɪs/ noun a motor neurone disease in which the limbs switch and the muscles gradually waste away. Also called Gehrig’s disease. Abbrev: ALS

Amyotrophy /ˌæməˈtrəˈtroʊfɪ/ same as amynotrophy

Ana- /ˈænə/ prefix same as ana- (used before vowels)

Ana-/ˈænə/ prefix without lacking

Anabolic /ˌænəˈbɒlɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which synthesises protein

Anabolic steroid /ˌænəˈbɒlɪk ˈstɛrdəʊ/ noun a drug which encourages the synthesis of new living tissue, especially muscle, from nutrients

Anabolism /ˌænəˈbɒlɪzm/ noun the process of building up complex chemical substances on the basis of simpler ones

Anacrotism /ˌænəˈkrɒtɪzəm/ noun a second stroke in the pulse

Anaemia /ˈænəˌmiə/ noun a condition in which the level of red blood cells is less than usual or where the haemoglobin is less, making it more difficult for the blood to carry oxygen. The symptoms are tiredness and pale colour, especially pale lips, nails and the inside of the eyelids. The condition can be fatal if not treated. (Note: The US spelling is anemia.)

Anaemic /ˈænəmɪk/ adjective having anaemia

(Note: The US spelling is anemic.)

Anaerobe /ˈænəˌroʊb/ noun a microorganism which lives without oxygen, e.g. the tetanus bacillus

Anaerobic /ˌænəˈrəʊbɪk/ adjective 1. not needing oxygen for metabolism or anaerobic bacteria 2. without oxygen or anaerobic conditions

Anaesthesia /ˌænəˈθiːziə/ 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 /ˌænəˈθiːzɪəlˌɒdʒɪst/ noun US a specialist in the study of anaesthetics

Anaesthetic /ˌænəˈθetɪk/ adjective inducing loss of feeling or 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 vasodilatation, leading to heat loss.’ [British Journal of Nursing]

anaesthetic induction /ˌænəˈθetɪk ɪndˈʌkʃən/ noun a method of inducing anaesthesia in a patient

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

anaesthesia /ˌænəˈθesɪə/ 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

Comment: There are two types of anaesthesia: local anaesthesia and spinal anaesthesia. Local anaesthesia: a method of inducing anaesthesia in a patient

anaesthesia induction /ˌænəˈθetɪk ɪndˈʌkʃən/ noun a method of inducing anaesthesia in a patient

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

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

anaesthetist /ˌænəˈθetɪst/ noun a specialist who administers anaesthetics

anal /ˈænl/ adjective relating to the anus

anal canal /ˈænl ˈkænl/ noun a passage leading from the rectum to the anus

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

anal fissure /ˈænl ˈfɪʃ/ noun a crack in the mucous membrane of the wall of the anal canal

Anal fistula /ˈænl fˈʃʊlə/ 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 /ˌænəˈlɛdzɪə/ noun a reduction of the feeling of pain without loss of consciousness

Analgesic /ˌænəˈlɛdzɪk/ adjective relating to analgesia; noun a painkilling drug which produces analgesia and reduces pyrexia

Analgotism /ˌænəˈlɜːtɪzɪk/ noun 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

Analysing /ˌænəˈlaɪzɪŋ/ verb to examine something in detail

Analyser /ˌænəˈlaɪzər/ noun a machine which analyses blood or tissue samples automatically

Analysis /ˌænəˈleɪzɪs/ noun an examination of a substance to find out what it is made of

(Note: The plural is analyses.)
analyst /ˌænəˈlist/ noun 1. a person who ex-
amines samples of substances or tissue, to find
out what they are made of 2. same as psycho-
analyst
anamnesis /ˌænəˈmɛsɪs/ noun someone’s
medical history, especially given in their own
words
anamnestic /ˌænəˈmɛstɪk/ adjective
showing a secondary immunological response
anaphylaxis /ˌænəˈfɪlæksɪs/ noun a sudden
allergic reaction to an antigen some time after
immunisation
anaphylactic /ˌænəˈfɪlæktɪk/ adjective
referring to or caused by extreme sensitivity to a
substance
anaplasia /ˌænəˈpleɪsɪə/ noun the loss of a
cell’s typical characteristics, caused by cancer
anaplastic /ˌænəˈplæstɪk/ adjective refer-
ing to anaplasia
anaplastic neoplasm /ˌænəˈplæstɪsk nɪˈɒplæzmə/ noun a cancer where the cells
are not similar to those of the tissue from which they come
anarthria /ˌænərθriə/ noun the loss of the
ability to speak words properly
anasarca /ˌænəˈsɑrkə/ noun the presence of
fluid in the body tissues. 0 oedema
anastomose /əˈnæstəməs/ verb to join
two blood vessels or tubular structures togeth-
er
anastomosis /əˌnæstəˈmɒzɪs/ noun a con-
nection made between two blood vessels or tu-
bular structures, either naturally or by surgery
anat. abbr 1. anatomical 2. anatomy
anatomical /ˌænəˈtɒmɪk(ə)l/ adjective relat-
ing to the anatomy 0 the anatomical features
of a fetus
anatomical position /ˌænəˈtɒmɪk(ə)l pəˈzɪʃn/ noun in anatomy, the standard posi-
tion 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 /ˈænətəmɪ/ 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 0 They
are studying anatomy. 0 the anatomy of
a bone a description of the structure and shape
of a bone
ancillary staff /ˌænəˈstɜrə staf/ noun the
staff in a hospital who are not administrators,
doctors or nurses, e.g. cleaners, porters, kitch-
en staff
ancillary worker /ˌænəˈstɜrə wɜrkə/ noun
someone who does a job for patients such
cooking or cleaning which is supplementary to
medical care
anconeus /ˌænkoʊˈniəs/ noun a small trian-
gular muscle at the back of the elbow
Ancylostoma /ˌæŋsəˈləʊmə/ noun a para-
stic 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
Ancylostomiasis /ˌæŋsəˈləʊstəˌmɪəsɪs/ noun a
disease of which the symptoms are
weakness and anaemia, caused by a hook-
worm which lives on the blood of the carrier. In
severe cases the person may die.
androgen /ˌændroʊdʒən/ noun a male sex
hormone, testosterone or androsterone, which
increases the male characteristics of the body
androgenous /ˌændrəˈdʒənəs/ adjective pro-
ducing male characteristics
androgy nous /ˌændrəˈdʒənəs/ adjective
same as hermaphrodite
andrology /ˌændrəˈlədʒɪ/ noun the study of
male sexual characteristics and subjects such
as impotence, infertility and the male meno-
pause
androsterone /ˌændrəˈstɑrən/ noun one of
the male sex hormones
anaemia /ˈænəmiə/ noun US same as anaemia
anencephalous /ˌænəˈnɛsəfələs/ adjective
having no brain
anencephaly /ˌænənˈɛsəpləli/ noun the ab-
sence of a brain, which causes a fetus to die a
few hours after birth
energy /ˈeənərɪ/ noun 1. a state of severe
weakness and lack of energy 2. lack of immu-
nity
anesthesia, etc /ˌænəˈæθɪəsɪə/ US same as
anaesthesia, etc
aneurine /ˌænəˈjʊərɪn/ noun same as Vitamin
B1
aneurysm /ˌænəˈɜrsı̆m/ noun a swelling
cau sed by the weakening of the wall of a blood
vessel
COMMENT: Aneurysm usually occurs in
the wall of the aorta, ‘aortic aneurysm’, and is
often due to atherosclerosis, and sometimes to
syphilis.
angio- /ˈændʒiəʊ/ prefix same as angio-
(used before vowel)
angiectasis /ˌændʒiəˈektəsɪs/ noun a swell-
ing of the blood vessels
angilitis /ˌændʒɪˈlɪtəs/ noun an inflamma-
tion of a blood vessel
angina /ˈæŋɡɪnə/ 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** /æŋˈdʒɪnəl/ adjective referring to angina /ˈæŋgənə/ He suffered anginal pains.

**angina pectoris** /æŋˈdʒɪnə ˈpɛktərɪs/ noun same as angina

**angio-** /æŋdʒɪəʊ-/ prefix referring to a blood vessel

**angiography** /æŋdʒɪəˈgrəʊfi/ noun a series of pictures resulting from angiocardiography

**angiocardiography** /æŋdʒɪəˌkaːrdɪəˈɡrəʊfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the cardiac system after injection with an opaque dye so that the organs show up clearly on the film

**angiography** /æŋdʒɪəˈgrəʊfi/ noun an X-ray examination of blood vessels after injection with an opaque dye so that they show up clearly on the film

**angioplasty** /æŋdʒɪəˈplɔʊtɪ/ noun a disease of vessels such as blood and lymphatic vessels

**angioplasty** /æŋdʒɪəˈplɔʊtɪ/ noun plastic surgery to repair a blood vessel, e.g. a narrowed coronary artery

**angiosarcoma** /æŋdʒɪəˈsɑːrkoʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour in a blood vessel

**angiography** /æŋdʒɪəˈgrəʊfi/ noun a long thin surgical instrument threaded into a patient’s blood vessels to allow surgeons to observe and perform operations without making large incisions

**anisocytosis** /ænɪsoʊˌsɪtəsɪs/ noun a variation in size of red blood cells

**anisometropia** /ænɪsoʊˌmɛtrəˈpiə/ noun a state where the refraction in the two eyes is different

**ankle** /æŋkəl/ noun the part of the body where the foot is connected to the leg □ he twisted his ankle. he sprained his ankle he hurt it by stretching it or bending it

**anklebone** /æŋkəlˈbɔːn/ noun same as talus

**ankle** /æŋkəl dʒɔɪnt/ noun a sudden jerk as a reflex action of the foot when the back of the ankle is tapped

**ankle joint** /æŋkəl dʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint which connects the bones of the lower leg (the tibia and fibula) to the talus
ankyloblepharon

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

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

ankylosing /spɒndə/verb to fuse together, or to cause bones to fuse together

spondylitis /spɒndɪlɪtɪs/ noun a condition occurring more frequently in young men, in which the vertebrae and sacroiliac joints are inflamed and become stiff

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

Ankylostoma /ənˈkɪlstəʊma/ noun same as Ancylostoma

ankylostomiasis /ənˈkɪlstəʊməˈsɪəsɪs/ noun same as ancylostomiasis

ANLL abbr acute nonlymphocytic leukaemia

annular /ənˈjʊlər/ adjective shaped like a ring

annulus /ənˈjʊləs/ noun a structure shaped like a ring

ano- /ənəʊ/ prefix referring to the anus
anococcygeal /ənəˈnɒskəʊdʒiəl/ adjective referring to both the anus and coccyx

anodine /ənəˈdайн/ noun a drug which reduces pain, e.g. aspirin or codeine

anodyne /ənəˈdайн/ adjective referring to drugs that bring relief from pain or discomfort

anomalies /ənəˈnɒməlēz/ adjective different from what is usual

anomalous pulmonary venous drainage /ənəˈmɒləs pəˈləmərər vəˈnəʊs dreɪniŋ/ noun a condition in which oxygenated blood from the lungs drains into the right atrium instead of the left

anomaly /ənəˈnɒməlɪ/ noun something which is different from the usual

anomie /ənəˈmɪ/ 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 /ənəˈnɒnɪkʃə/ noun a congenital absence of one or more nails

anopheles /ən(ə)ˈnɒfəliəs/ noun a mosquito which carries the malaria parasite

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

anochisim /ənəˈɔkɪsɪzm/ noun a congenital absence of testicles

anorectal /ənəˈrɛktəl/ adjective referring to both the anus and rectum

anorectic /ənəˈrɛktrɪk/ noun a medicine that suppresses the appetite

anorexia /ənəˈrɛksiə/ noun loss of appetite

anorexia nervosa /ənəˈrɛksɪə nɜrˈvəsə/ 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

anorexic /ənəˈrɛksɪk/ adjective 1. referring to anorexia 2. having anorexia

The school has developed a programme of counselling for anorexic students.
anosmia /ənəʊˈsmiə/ noun the lack of the sense of smell

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

anovular /ənəʊˈvjuːlər/ adjective without an ovum

anovular bleeding /ənəʊˈvjuːlə/ˈblɪdn/ noun bleeding from the uterus when ovulation has not taken place

anovulation /ənəʊˌvjuːləˈʃən/ noun a condition in which a woman does not ovulate and is therefore infertile

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

anoxic /ənəˈɒksɪk/ adjective referring to anoxia or lacking oxygen

anoserina /ənəˈsərɪnə/ noun

antacid /əntˈæsɪd/ adjective preventing too much acid forming in the stomach or altering the amount of acid in the stomach

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

antidepressant /əntˈdɛpresənt/ adjective 1. referring to a drug that suppresses the appetite

anterior /əntˈɪərɪər/ adjective before, anterior to

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

antenatal clinic /əntəˈneɪtəl ˈklinɪk/ noun a clinic where expectant mothers are taught how to look after babies, do exercises and have medical checkups. Also called maternity clinic
antenatal diagnosis /ænti't:nət(ə):l/ noun a medical examination of a pregnant woman to see if the fetus is developing in the usual way. Also called *pregnatal diagnosis*.

antepartum /ænti'pɑrtəm/ noun the period of three months before childbirth. **adjective** referring to the three months before childbirth.

anteversion /ænti'verʒən/ noun a condition of the eye which is in front of the iris.

anterior fontanelle /ænti'fɔntənəl/ noun a small jugular vein in the neck.

anterior nares /ænti'nerəz/ plural the two nostrils. Also called *external nares*.

anterior superior iliac spine /ænti'spɛrərɪəl/ noun the front end of the iliac crest of the pelvis.

anterior chamber /ænti'seɪmə/ noun part of the aqueous chamber of the eye which is in front of the iris.

anterior fontanelle /ænti'fɔntənəl/ noun the cartilage at the top of the head where the frontal bone joins the two parietals.

anterior jugular /ænti'ʤuɡələ/ noun a small jugular vein in the neck.

anterior aspect /ænti'æspekt/ 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 /ænti'seɪmə/ noun the part of the aqueous chamber of the eye which is in front of the iris.

anterior jugular /ænti'ʤuɡələ/ noun a small jugular vein in the neck.

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anterior superior iliac spine /ænti'spɛrərɪəl/ noun the front end of the iliac crest of the pelvis.

anormosis /ænˈɔrməsəs/ noun a medical examination of a pregnant woman to see if the fetus is developing in the usual way. Also called *pregnatal diagnosis*.

prenatal diagnosis /prɪˈneɪtal-dɪˌgnoʊsɪs/ noun a medical examination of a pregnant woman to see if the fetus is developing in the usual way. Also called *antenatal diagnosis*.
antidepressant

\[\text{antidepressant} /\text{ani}tidepres\text{s}\text{t}\text{an}/ \text{adjective} \text{ acting to relieve depression} \text{ noun} \text{ 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 /\text{ani}tideb\text{iat}ik/ \text{noun} \text{ a drug used in the treatment of diabetes} \text{ adjective referring to an antidiabetic drug}\

antidiarrhoeal /\text{ani}tide\text{a}ri\text{ho}\text{e}\text{ol}/ \text{noun} \text{ a drug used in the treatment of diarrhoea} \text{ adjective referring to an antidiarrhoeal drug} \text{ [note: all senses] The US spelling is antidiarrheal.}\

antidiuretic /\text{ani}tide\text{ju}\text{ret}ik/ \text{noun a substance which stops the production of excessive amounts of urine} \text{ adjective preventing the excessive production of urine}\

antidiuretic hormone /\text{ani}tide\text{ju}\text{ret}ik \text{hormon}/ \text{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 /\text{ani}tido\text{t}\text{ot}/ \text{noun} \text{ a substance which counteracts the effect of a poison or There is no satisfactory antidote to cyanide.}\

antiembolic /\text{ani}te\text{m}\text{bol}ik/ \text{adjective preventing embolism}\

antiemetic /\text{ani}te\text{mi}tik/ \text{noun} \text{ a drug which prevents vomiting} \text{ adjective acting to prevent vomiting}\

anti-epileptic drug /\text{ani}te\text{pi}e\text{leps}\text{t} \text{dru}\text{g}/ \text{noun a drug used in the treatment of epilepsy and convulsions, e.g. carbamazepine}\

antifibrinolytic /\text{ani}te\text{fi}brinol\text{a}tik/ \text{adjective acting to reduce fibrosis}\

antifungal /\text{ani}te\text{fi}ngul/ \text{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 /\text{ani}te\text{d}\text{gen}/ \text{noun a substance that stimulates the body to produce antibodies, e.g. a protein on the surface of a cell or microorganism}\

antigenic /\text{ani}te\text{d}\text{gen}ik/ \text{adjective referring to a substance which stimulates the formation of antibodies}\

antihaemophilic factor /\text{ani}thi\text{ma}\text{phi}l\text{ik} \text{factor} VIII, used to encourage blood-clotting in haemophiliacs. Abbr AHF\

antihelminthic /\text{ani}thi\text{hel}min\text{thik}/ \text{noun} \text{ a drug used in the treatment of worm infections such as threadworm, hookworm or roundworm}\

antihistamine /\text{ani}thi\text{hist}amin/ \text{noun} \text{ 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 -idine, loratidine for allergies, cimetine for gastric ulcers.]}\

anti-HIV antibody /\text{ani}thi\text{vi}\text{ ri}\text{vi}\text{n}/ \text{adjective acting to reduce blood pressure} \text{ noun a drug used to reduce high blood pressure}\

anti-inflammatory /\text{ani}thi\text{in}flam\text{at}i\text{ori}/ \text{adjective referring to a drug which reduces inflammation}\

antilymphocytic serum /\text{ani}thil\text{in}m\text{f}o\text{so}ri\text{tik} \text{serum}/ \text{noun a serum used to produce immunosuppression in people undergoing transplant operations. Abbr ALS}\

antimalarial /\text{ani}tima\text{laria}l/ \text{noun a drug used to treat malaria and in malarial prophylaxis} \text{ adjective treating or preventing malaria}\

antimetabolite /\text{ani}timet\text{abo}lit/ \text{noun a substance which can replace a cell metabolism, but which is not active}\

antimicrobial /\text{ani}tim\text{i}br\text{ial}/ \text{adjective acting against microorganisms that cause disease}\

antimigraine /\text{ani}tim\text{i}gri\text{ein}/ \text{noun a drug used in the treatment of migraine}\

antimimetic /\text{ani}tima\text{i}m\text{et}ik/ \text{adjective preventing the division of a cell by mitosis}\

antimitotic /\text{ani}tima\text{i}ti\text{tik}/ \text{adjective preventing or destroying fungi}\

antinecrotic /\text{ani}te\text{n}cr\text{ot}ik/ \text{adjective referring to a drug which helps to suppress nausea}\

antioxidant /\text{ani}to\text{xid}ant/ \text{noun a substance which makes oxygen less damaging, e.g. in the body or in foods or plastics} \text{ adjective preventing oxidation}\

antiperistaltic /\text{ani}pire\text{si}tik/ \text{adjective referring to 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 /\text{ani}te\text{per}spir\text{t}ant/ \text{noun a substance which prevents sweating} \text{ adjective preventing sweating}
aorta

antitoxin /ən'tɪtɔksɪn/ noun an antibody produced by the body to counteract a poison in the body

antigrus /ən'tɪgrʌs/ noun a small projection on the outer ear opposite the tragus

antituberculous drug /ən'tɪtju'brekju:las dʁəg/ noun a drug used to treat tuberculosis, e.g. isoniazid or rifampicin

antitussive /ən'tɪtəsɪv/ noun a drug used to reduce coughing

antivenin /ən'tɪvɪnɪn/, antivenom /ən'tɪvə'nəm/, antivenene /ən'tɪvə'nɪn/ noun a substance which helps the body to fight the effects of a particular venom from a snake or insect bite

antiviral /ən'tɪvərəl/ adjective referring to a drug or treatment which stops or reduces the damage caused by a virus

antiviral drug /ən'tɪvərəl dʁəɡ/ noun a drug which is effective against a virus (NOTE: Antiviral drugs have names ending in -civirus.)

antra /ən'trə/ noun the plural of antrum

antral /ən'trɔl/ adjective referring to an antrum

antral puncture /ən'trɔl pʌŋktʃə/ noun making a hole in the wall of the maxillary sinus to remove fluid

antrectomy /ən'trəktəmi/ noun the surgical removal of an antrum in the stomach to prevent gastric beingformed

antral puncture /ən'trɔl pʌŋktʃə/ noun making a hole in the wall of the maxillary sinus to remove fluid

antrum /ən'trʌm/ noun any cavity inside the body, especially one in bone (NOTE: The plural is antra.)

anuria /ən'jʊərɪə/ 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 /ən'sʌs/ 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-)

anxiolitic /ən'sɪlɪtɪk/ noun same as anxiolytic

anxiety /ən'sɪtɪ/ noun a neurotic condition where the patient is very worried and afraid

anxiety disorder /ən'sɪtɪ də'zɔrdr/ noun a mental disorder where someone is very worried and afraid, e.g. a phobia

anxiety neurosis /ən'sɪtɪ nɔrə'sɪz/ noun a neurotic condition where the patient is anxious and has morbid fears

anxiolytic /ən'sɪlɪtɪk/ noun a drug used in the treatment of anxiety

anxiolytic /ən'sɪlɪtɪk/ noun a drug used in the treatment of anxiety

anxieties /ən'sɪtɪz/ 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 /ə'ɔrtə/ 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, rises where the carotids 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

aortic /əˈtɔːrɪk/ adjective relating to the aorta or an aortic arch.

aortic aneurysm /əˈtɔːrɪk əˈnjʊərɪsɪm/ noun a serious aneurysm of the aorta, associated with atherosclerosis.

aortic arch /ɪəˈtɔːrɪk əˈrʌf/ noun a bend in the aorta which links the ascending aorta to the descending aorta.

aortic hiatus /ɪəˈtɔːrɪk ˈheɪtəʊs/ noun an opening in the diaphragm through which the aorta passes.

aortic incompetence /ɪəˈtɔːrɪk ˈɪnkmplən(t)s/ noun a condition in which the aortic valve does not close properly, causing regurgitation.

aortic regurgitation /ɪəˈtɔːrɪk ˈrɛɡərʒətʃən/ noun a backward flow of blood caused by a malfunctioning aortic valve.

aortic sinuses /ɪəˈtɔːrɪk ˈsʌnəsɪz/ plural noun swellings in the aorta from which the coronary arteries lead back into the heart itself.

aortic stenosis /ɪəˈtɔːrɪk ˈstɛnəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the aortic valve is narrow, caused by rheumatic fever.

aortic valve /ɪəˈtɔːrɪk ˈvælv/ noun a valve with three flaps, situated at the opening into the aorta.

aortitis /əˌɔːrtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the aorta.

aortography /æˈɔːrtəˌɡrɑːfeɪ/ 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 /æˈpæθɪtɪk/ adjective referring to a person who takes no interest in anything.

apathy /æˈpæθi/ noun the condition of not being interested in anything, or of not wanting to do anything.

aperient /əˈpɛriənt/ adjective referring to a substance which causes a bowel movement, e.g. a laxative or purgative.

aperistalsis /əˌpɛrɪˈstælsɪs/ noun a lack of the peristaltic movement in the bowel.

Apert’s syndrome /ˈæpərtz ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a condition in which the skull grows tall and the lower part of the face is underdeveloped.

aperture /əˈpɜːtʃər/ noun a hole.

apex /əˈpɛks/ noun 1. the top of the heart or lung 2. the end of the root of a tooth.

apex beat /əˈpɛks bi:t/ noun a heartbeat which can be felt if the hand is placed on the heart.

Apgar score /ˈæɡər 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, heart beat, breathing, muscle tone and reaction to stimuli. (Described 1952. After Virginia Apgar (1909–74), US anaesthetiologist.)

...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 swallow.

aphakia /əˈfeɪkʃiə/ noun the absence of the crystalline lens in the eye.

aphakic /əˈfeɪkɪk/ adjective referring to aphantia /əˈfeɪtʃiə/ 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 /əˌfeəˈrɪsɪs/ noun the transfusion of blood, from which some components have been removed, back into a patient.

aphonia /əˈfəʊniə/ noun a condition in which a person is unable to make sounds.

aphrodisiac /əˌfɒrdɪsiək/ adjective a substance which increases sexual desire.

aphthath /əˌfɔθə/ noun a small white ulcer which appears in groups in the mouth in people who have the fungal condition thrush.

aphthous stomatitis /əˌfɔθəs ˈstəʊmɪtɪs/ noun canker sores which affect the mucous membrane in the mouth.

aphthous ulcer /əˌfɔθəs ˈəlsə/ noun same as mouth ulcer.

apical /əˈpɪkəl/ adjective situated at the top or tip of something.

apical abscess /əˈpɪkəl ˈæbsəs/ noun an abscess in the socket around the root of a tooth.

apicectomy /ˌæpɪˈsɛktəmi/ noun the surgical removal of the root of a tooth.

aplasia /əˈpleɪziə/ noun a lack of growth of tissue.

aplastic /əˈplæstɪk/ adjective unable to develop new cells or tissue.

aplastic anaemia /əˌplæstɪk əˈneɪmiə/ noun anaemia caused by the bone marrow failing to form red blood cells.

apnoea /əˈpnoʊə/ noun US same as apnoea.

apnoea /əˈpnoʊə/ noun a 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.)

apnoeic /ˌæpniˈɪk/ adjective where breathing has stopped. (NOTE: The US spelling is apneic.)

apocrine /ˌæpəˈkrɪn/ adjective referring to apocrine glands.

apocrine gland /ˌæpəˈkrɪn kɔːnd/ noun a gland producing body odour where parts of the gland’s cells break off with the secrions, e.g. a sweat gland.

apocrinitis /ˌæpəˈkrɪnɪtɪs/ noun the formation of abscesses in the sweat glands.
apophasis /əˈpɒfəsɪs/ noun a growth of bone, not at a joint

appendage /əˈpendɪdʒ/ noun a part of the body or piece of tissue which hangs down from another part

appendectomy /əˈpendɪktəmɪ/ noun US same as appendicectomy

appendicular /əˈpendɪkjʊlər/ adjective 1. referring to body parts which are associated with the arms and legs 2. relating to the appendicectomy

appendicular skeleton /əˈpendɪkjʊlər ˈskeɪlərn/ noun part of the skeleton, formed of the pelvic girdle, pectoral girdle and the bones of the arms and legs. Compare axial skeleton

appendix /əˈpendɪks/ noun 1. 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

appendicitis /əˈpendɪkɪtɪs/ noun severe pain in the right lower part of the abdomen, accompanied by a fever. Acute appendicitis usually requires urgent surgery. In chronic appendicitis, the appendix is slightly inflamed, giving a dull pain or a feeling of indigestion over a period of time (a ‘grumbling appendix’)

appendicectomy /əˈpendɪkɪtəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of an appendix

arenavirus /əˈreɪnəvərəs/ noun a virus which transports lipid within the cell and across cell membranes, the genes for two of which are linked with increased risk of Alzheimer’s disease. Abbr AreV

apoipoprotein E /əˌpɒɪˌpɒptəˈrəʊtɪn ɛ/ 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

apomorphine /æˈpɒmərfaɪn/ noun a substance that comes from morphine, used to make a person cough, sleep or be sick (NOTE: it is administered under the skin and is used to treat drug overdose, accidental poisoning and Parkinson’s disease.)
aponeurosis /æˌpɒnəˈrəʊsɪs/ noun a band of tissue which attaches muscles to each other

apparatus /æˈpɑrətəs/ noun equipment used in a laboratory or hospital. (NOTE: No plural: use a piece of apparatus; some new apparatus.)

application /əˈplɪkeɪʃn/ noun US 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

APP abbr amyloid precursor protein

approach /əˈprəʊʃ/ verb 1. to approach something, usually in writing 2. a method used by a surgeon when carrying out an operation

approbation /əˈprəʊbəʃən/ noun approval of something to think that something is good or bad

approprain /əˈprəʊprən/ verb to approve of something to think that something is good or bad

apprehension /əˈprɛhəʃən/ noun a feeling of anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen

approach /əˈprəʊʃ/ noun 1. a way of dealing with a problem 2. The authority has adopted a radical approach to the problem of patient waiting lists. 2. a method used by a surgeon when carrying out an operation

approve /əˈpruːv/ verb to approve of something to think that something is good or that something is good

apraxia /əˈpræksiə/ noun a condition in which someone is unable to make proper movements
apyrexia /'ɛriːpriːkˌsiːə/ noun the absence of fever
apyrexial /'ɛpriːkˌsiːəl/ adjective no longer having any fever
aqua /'ækwə/ noun water
aqueduct /'ækwɪdʌkt/ noun a tube which carries fluid from one part of the body to another
aqueduct of Sylvius /'ækwɪdʌkt əv 'sɪlvɪəs/ noun same as cerebral aqueduct
aquelous /'ækwɪləʊs/ 'ækwɪləʊs/ adjective referring to a solution made with water
aquous humour /'ækwəs 'hjuːmər/ noun same as aqueous, see illustration at eye in Supplement
AR abbr attributable risk
arachidonic acid /'ɑːrəkɪdənɪk 'eɪsɪd/ noun an essential fatty acid
arachnism /'ɑːrəkɪnɪzəm/ noun poisoning by the bite of a spider
arachnodactyly /'ɑːrəkɪnəʊ'dæktɪlɪ/ noun a congenital condition in which the fingers and toes are long and thin
arachnoid /'ɑːrəkɪnɔɪd/ noun the middle of the three membranes covering the brain
arachnoiditis /'ɑːrəkɪnɔɪdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the arachnoid
arachnoid mater /'ɑːrəkɪnɔɪd ˈmɛrtər/ arachnoid membrane /'ɑːrəkɪnɔɪd ˈmɛmbriːn/ noun same as arachnoid
arachnoid villi /'ɑːrəkɪnɔɪd ˈvɪli/ plural noun villi in the arachnoid which absorb cerebrospinal fluid
arborisation /ˌɑːbərəˈzeɪʃən/, arborization /ˌɑːbərəˈzeɪʃən/ noun the branching ends of some nerve fibres, of a motor nerve in muscle fibre or of venules, capillaries and arterioles
arboreo /'ɑːbəroʊ ˈvɑːltʃə/ noun the structure of the cerebellum or of the uterus which looks like a tree
arbovirus /'ɑːrəbəʊvərəs/ noun a virus transmitted by blood-sucking insects
arc /ɑːrk/ noun 1, a nerve pathway 2, part of a curved structure in the body
ARC abbr AIDS-related complex or AIDS-related condition
eye /ˈaɪ/ noun temporary painful blindness caused by ultraviolet rays, especially in arc welding
er /ˈeər/ noun a curved part of the body, especially under the foot
arch- prefix, most important
arcuate /ˈɑrkjuːət/ adjective arched
arcuate artery /ˈɑrkjʊət ˈærtərɪ/ noun a curved artery in the foot or kidney
arcuate ligaments /ˈɑrkjʊət ˈætərɪəl/ plural noun three ligaments forming a fibrous arch to which the diaphragm is attached
arcs /ˈɑrkz/ noun an arch
arcus senilis /ˈɑrkəs ˈsɛnɪlɪs/ noun an opaque circle around the cornea of the eye which can develop in old age
ARDS /ˈɑrdz/ abbr adult respiratory distress syndrome
areata /əˈriːtə/ noun alopecia areata
areola /əˈrɪələ/ noun 1. the coloured part round a nipple 2. in the eye, the part of the iris closest to the pupil
areolar tissue /əˈrɪələr ˈtʃuːər/ noun a type of connective tissue
arginine /ˈɑːrgɪnɪn/ noun an amino acid which helps the liver form urea
argon laser /ˈɑːrgən ˈleɪsər/ noun a laser used in sealing blood vessels and destroying specific lesions
argyll Robertson pupil /ˈɑːrgɪl ˈrɒbrətən ˈpjʊpəl/ noun a condition of the eye, in which the lens is able to focus but the pupil does not react to light. It is a symptom of tertiary syphilis or of locomotor ataxia
arboflavinosis /ˌɑːbəflævəˈnəʊsɪs/ noun a condition caused by not having enough vitamin B₂. The symptoms are very oily skin and hair and small cuts in the mouth
arm /ɑːm/ noun the part of the body from the shoulder to the hand, formed of the upper arm, the elbow and the forearm. She broke her arm skiing. Lift your arms up above your head. (Note: For other terms referring to the arm see words beginning with brach-, brachio-)
arm bones /ˈɑːm bɔːnz/ plural noun the humerus, the ulna and the radius
armpit /ˈɑːmpt/ noun the hollow under the shoulder, between the upper arm and the body, where the upper arm joins the shoulder, containing several important blood vessels, lymph nodes and sweat glands. Also called axilla
arm sling /ˈɑːm slɪŋ/ noun a support for an injured arm that prevents it from moving by tying it against the chest
Arnold-Chiari malformation /ˈɑːrnɔldaɪ nərəld ˈkɪəri ˈmælfɔrʃən/ noun a congenital condition in which the base of the skull is malformed, allowing parts of the cerebellum into the spinal canal. Described 1894. After Julius A. Arnold (1835–1915), Professor of Pathological Anatomy at Heidelberg, Germany, and Hans von Chiari (1851–1916), Professor of Pathological Anatomy at Strasbourg and later at Prague, Czech Republic.
aromatherapist /ˌɑːrəməˈθɛrəpiːst/ noun a person specialising in aromatherapy
aromatherapy /ˌɑːrəməˈθɛrəpi/ noun treatment to relieve tension and promote wellbeing in which fragrant oils and creams containing plant extracts are massaged into the skin
arousal /ˈɑːraʊzəl/ noun 1. feelings and physical signs of sexual desire 2. the act of
waking up from sleep, unconsciousness or a drowsy state
arrector pili /əˌrekˈtər ˈpeɪli/ noun a small muscle which contracts and makes the hair on the skin stand up when someone is cold or afraid
arrest /əˈrest/ noun the stopping of a bodily function, ◊ cardiac arrest
arthrythmia /ˈɑrθrɪθmɪə/ noun a variation in the rhythm of the heartbeat
Cardiovascular effects may include atrial arrhythmia and ventricular arrhythmia, which forms poisonous compounds such as arsine trioxide and which was formerly used in some medicines. (Note: The chemical symbol is As). ART abbr assisted reproductive technology artefact /ˈɑrtɪfækt/ noun something which is made or introduced artificially
arter-/ -art/ prefix same as arterio- (used before vowels)
arterial /ˈɑrtəriəl/ adjective relating to arteries ◊ arterial supply to the brain ◊ arterial bleeding ◊ arterial block ◊ arterial bleeding from an artery ◊ arterial block
arterial bleeding /ˈɑrtəriəl ˈblidɪŋ/ noun bleeding from an artery
arterial block /ˈɑrtəriəl ˈblɒk/ noun the blocking of an artery by a blood clot
arterial blood /ˈɑrtəriəl ˈblɒd/ noun same as oxygenated blood
arterial haemorrhage /ˈɑrtəriəl ˈhɛməroʊrɑːdʒ/ noun a haemorrhage of bright red blood from an artery
arteriectomy /ˈɑrtəriəktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of an artery or part of an artery
arterio- (as in arterio- prefix referring to arteries ◊ arteriography ◊ arteriogram)
arteriography /ˈɑrtəriəgrɑːfɪ/ noun the work of taking X-ray photographs of arteries after injection with an opaque dye
arteriole /ˈɑrtərɪəl/ noun a very small artery
arteriopathy /ˌɑrtərɪˈɒpəθi/ noun a disease of an artery
arterioplasty /ˌɑrtərɪˈɒpləstɪ/ noun plastic surgery to make good a damaged or blocked artery
arteriorrhaphy /ˌɑrtərɪˈɒrθrəfɪ/ noun the act of stitching an artery
arteriosclerosis /ˌɑrtərɪəˈskləʊrəsɪs/ noun the arterial disease atherosclerosis (dated)
articulate /əˈtɪkjuːlət/ verb to be linked with another bone in a joint
articulating bone /əˈtɪkjuələtɪŋ bɔːn/ noun a bone which forms a joint
articulating process /əˈtɪkjuələtɪŋ ˈprəʊses/ noun same as articular process
articulation /əˈtɪkjuələʃən/ noun
articulating bone /əˈtɪkjuələtɪŋ bɔːn/ noun a bone which forms a joint
articulating process /əˈtɪkjuələtɪŋ ˈprəʊses/ noun same as articular process
articulation /əˈtɪkjuələʃən/ noun
arti- /ˈɑː/ noun artificial cartilage
asbestosis /əˈzɛbstəsɪs/ noun a disease of the intestine and sometimes the lungs, caused by infestation with Ascaris lumbricoides
Ascaris lumbricoides /əˈskərɪs lʌmˈbrɪkəʊˈrʌɪdɪz/ noun a type of large roundworm which is a parasite in the human intestine
ascending /əˈsendɪŋ/ adjective going upwards
ascending aorta /əˈsendɪŋ əˈɔːtərə/ noun the first section of the aorta as it leaves the heart and turns upwards. Compare descending aorta
ascending colon /əˈsendɪŋ ˈkɑːlən/ noun the first part of the colon which goes up the right side of the body from the cecum. Compare descending colon. See illustration at digestive system in Supplement
Aschoff's nodules /əˈʃɔfəs ˈnɒdjʊləz/ noun nodules which are formed mainly in or near the heart in rheumatic fever
ascites /əˈsɜːtɪz/ noun an unusual accumulation of fluid from the blood in the peritoneal cavity, occurring in heart and kidney failure or as a result of malignancy
ascorbic acid /əˈskɔːbɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun same as Vitamin C
Ascaris lumbricoides /əˈskərɪs lʌmˈbrɪkəʊˈrʌɪdɪz/ noun
asexual reproduction /əˈsexjuəl ˈrɪprəˌdʌkʃən/ noun a method of producing living organisms by the division of a single cell or organism, as in bacteria, fungi, and certain plants. Compare sexual reproduction
asexual /əˈsexjuəl/ adjective not sexual, not involving sexual intercourse
asexual reproduction /əˈsexjuəl ˈrɪprəˌdʌkʃən/ noun reproduction of a cell by cloning
Asian flu /əˈziːən ˈfljuː/ noun a flu -asia /əˈsɪəs/ -asias
asleep /əˈslɪp/ adjective sleeping © The patient is asleep and must not be disturbed. (NOTE: Asleep cannot be used in front of a noun:...
the patient is asleep but a sleeping patient.) □
she fell asleep she began to sleep □ fast asleep
sleeping deeply
asparagine /'æsˈpaːrəɡən/ noun an amino acid
aspartame /'æsˈpærətəm/ noun a protein pro-
duced from aspartic acid, used to make sub-
stances sweeter
aspartate aminotransferase /'æsˌpærət ə
ˌmɪnəˌtrænsˈfɜːrəz/ 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 /'æsˌpærətɪk əˈsɜːd/ noun an
amino acid
aspect /ˈæspekt/ noun a direction from
which the body is viewed, e.g. the view from
above is the 'superior aspect' of
Asperger's syndrome /'æsəprədʒəz ˌsin
drəʊm/ noun a developmental disorder char-
acterised 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 /'æsəpərdʒɪləʊsɪs/ noun in-
fec tion of the lungs with the fungus Aspergil-
lus
aspermia /'æsəpɜːmə/ noun the absence of
sperm in semen
asphyxia /'æsˌfɪksɪə/ 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 /'æsˌfɪksɪə ˈnɪənətə
rərəm/ noun failure to breathe in a new-
born baby
asphyxiate /'æsˌfɪksɪət/ verb to prevent
someone from breathing, or be prevented from
breathing □ An unconscious patient may be-
come asphyxiated or may asphyxiate if left ly-
ing on his back. □ suffocate
asphyxiation /'æsˌfɪksɪəˈʃɛn/ noun the
state of being prevented from breathing, or the
act of preventing someone from breathing. □
suffocation
aspirate /'æsˈpræt/ verb 1. to remove liquid
or gas by suction from a body cavity 2. to in-
hale something, especially a liquid, into the
lungs
aspiration /'æsˌprərəʃən/ noun 1. the act of
removing fluid from a cavity in the body, often
using a hollow needle 2. same as vacuum suc-
tion
aspiration pneumonia /'æsˌprərəʃən ˌnjuːən
ˈmjuːziənə/ noun a form of pneumonia in
which infected matter is inhaled from the bronchi or osophagus
aspirator /'æsˈprərətər/ noun an instrument
used to suck fluid out of a cavity such as the
mouth or the site of an operation
aspirin /'æsˈprɪn/ noun a common pain-kill-
ing drug, or a tablet containing this drug. Also
called acetylsalicylic acid
assay /'æsə ˌɛs/ noun the testing of a sub-
stance. □ bioassay, immunoassay
assimilate /'əsəˌmɪlət/ verb to take into the
body’s tissues substances which have been ab-
 sorbed into the blood from digested food
assimilation /'əˌsɪməˌleʃən/ noun the ac-
tion of assimilating food substances
assistance /'əstəns(ə)n/ noun help
assistant /'əˌstənt(ə)n/ noun a person who
helps someone, usually as a job
assisted conception /'əˌstɪsd kən
ˈspeʃ(ə)n, ˌəstɪsd rəˈpɾədʒəkʃ(ə)n/ noun the use of a technique
such as in vitro fertilisation to help someone to
become pregnant
assisted respiration /'əˌstɪsd ˌrɛspəˈreɪ
tʃən/ noun the use of a machine to help
breathing
assisted suicide /'əˌstɪsd ˌsuəˈsaɪd/ noun
the suicide of someone who is terminally ill
with the help of a doctor or friend at the re-
quest of the person who is dying
associate /'əˌsəstər/ verb to be related to or
connected with something □ side effects which
may be associated with the drug □ The condi-
tion is often associated with diabetes.
associate nurse /'əˌsəstər ˈnərs/ 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 /'əˌsəstər(ə)ˈeərə ˌɛərə/ noun
an area of the cortex of the brain which is
concerned with relating stimuli coming from
different sources
association neuron /'əˌsəstər(ə)ˈniən ˌnjuən,
ˌnjʊərən/ noun a neuron which links an asso-
ciation area to the main parts of the cortex
association tract /'əˌsəstər(ə)ˈtrækt ˌtrækt/ noun
one of the tracts which link areas of the
cortex in the same cerebral hemisphere
asthenia /'əstθəniə/ noun a condition in
which someone is weak and does not have any
strength
asthenic /'əstθənik/ adjective referring to a
general condition in which someone has no
strength and no interest in things
asthenopia /'əstθənˈɒpiə/ noun same as
eye strain
asthma /ˈæsθmə/ noun a lung condition char-
terised by narrowing of the bronchial tubes,
in which the muscles go into spasm and the
person has difficulty breathing. □ cardiac asth-
ma
asthmatic /'æsθmətɪk/ adjective having the
lung disease asthma, or relating to asthma □
He has an asthmatic attack every spring. □
acute asthmatic attack a sudden attack of
asthma □ noun a person who has asthma
asthmatic bronchitis

asthmatic bronchitis /əsˈmætɪk ˈbrɒŋkˈθætɪs/ noun asthma associated with bronchi-

asthmatic /əsˈmætɪk/ adjective pertaining to asthma

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

astragalus /ɔˈstræɡələs/ noun an old name for the talus (anklebone)

astringent /əˈstrɪŋdʒənt/ noun a substance which makes the skin tissues contract and harden

asymmetrical /əˈsɪmətrɪk/ adjective referring to asymmetry

asymmetry /əˈsɪmətrɪ/ noun a state in which the two sides do not match or balance each other

asymptomatic /əˈsɪmptəmətɪk/ adjective not showing any symptoms of disease

asynergia /əˈsɪnərədʒiə/ noun awkward movements and bad coordination, caused by a disorder of the cerebellum. Also called dysynergia

astyloide /əˈstɪləʊd/ noun a state in which the heart has stopped beating

ataractic /ətəˈrætɪk/ noun a drug which has a calming effect

ataraxia /ətəˈræksiə/ noun a state of being calm and not worrying

ataractic /ətəˈrætɪsk/ noun, adjective same as ataractic

ataxia /ətəˈtɛksіə/ noun a failure of the brain to control movements

ataxic /ətəˈtɛksіk/ adjective having ataxia, or relating to ataxia

ataxic gait /ətəˈtɛksіk ˈɡeіt/ noun a way of walking in which the person walks unsteadily due to a disorder of the nervous system

ataxie /ətəˈtɛksiə/ noun same as ataxia

atelectasis /ətəˈlɛktəsіs/ noun the failure of a lung to expand properly

atenolol /əˈtenəlɒl/ a drug used in controlling blood pressure and angina

ateroinous malformation /ətəˈrəʊnəs ˈmælfləˈmeɪʃən/ noun a condition in which the arteries and veins in the brain are not properly formed, leading to strokes or epilepsy. Abbr AVM

atherogenesis /əˈθɜərəˈdʒenəsіs/ noun the formation of fatty deposits (atheromas) in arteries

atherogenic /əˈθɜərəˈdʒenɪk/ adjective referring to something which may produce atheroma

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

atheromatous /əˈθɜərəˌmətəs/ adjective referring to atheroma

atherosclerosis /əˌθɜəroʊˈsklərəsіs/ 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 /ˌθɜəroʊˈsklərətɪk/ adjective referring to atherosclerosis

atherosclerotic plaque /ˌθɜəroʊˈsklərətɪk ˈpleɪk/ noun a deposit on the walls of arteries

athetosis /əˈθɛtəsіs/ noun repeated slow movements of the limbs, caused by a brain disorder such as cerebral palsy

athlete’s foot /ˌθɛlɪts ˈfʊt/ noun an infectious skin disorder between the toes, caused by a fungus. Also called tinea pedis

atlas /ˈætləs/ noun the top vertebra in the spine, which supports the skull and pivots on the axis or second vertebra

atmospheric pressure /ˌætməsˈfɪrɪk ˈpreʃər/ noun the pressure of the air on the surface of the Earth

atomic cocktail /əˈtɒmɪk ˈkɒktɛl/ noun a radioactive substance in liquid form, used to diagnose or treat cancer (informal)

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

atomic /əˈtɒmɪk/ adjective referring to lack of muscle tone or tension

atopy /əˈtɒpі/ noun a lack of tone or tension in the muscles

atopon /əˈtɒpən/ noun an allergen which causes an atopy

atopic /əˈtɒpɪk/ 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 /əˈtɒpіk ˈɛksmə/ noun a type of eczema often caused by a hereditary allergy

atopy /əˈtɒpі/ noun a hereditary allergic reaction

ATP abbr adenosine triphosphate
atrium /ætrɪəm/ noun a drug used as a relaxant
atresia /ɔtrɪzɪə/ noun an unusual closing or absence of a tube in the body
atretic /ətrɛtɪk/ adjective referring to atresia
atretic follicle /ətrɛtɪk 'folɪkl/ noun the scarred remains of an ovarian follicle
atri-/ætri/ prefix referring to an atrium
atria /ætriə/ plural of atrium
atrial /ætriəl/ adjective referring to one or both of the atria of the heart
atrial fibrillation /ætriəl ˈfɜrbrɪlʃən/ noun a rapid uncoordinated fluttering of the atria of the heart, which causes an irregular heartbeat
atrial septal defect /ætriəl ˈseptəlˌdɛfərt/ 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 septal defect
atrioventricular /ætriəʊvənˈtrɪkjuələr/ adjective referring to the atria and ventricles
atrioventricular bundle /ætriəʊvənˈtrɪkjuələr ˈbʌndəl/ noun a mass of conducting tissue in the right atrium of the heart, which continues as the atrioventricular bundle and passes impulses from the atria to the ventricles. Also called AV bundle, bundle of His
atrioventricular groove /ætriəʊvənˈtrɪkjuələr ˈgrʊv/ noun a groove round the outside of the heart, showing the division between the atria and ventricles
atrioventricular node /ætriəʊvənˈtrɪkjuələr ˈnəʊd/ noun 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 atria.) COMMENT: The two atria in the heart both receive blood from veins. The right atrium receives venous blood from the superior and inferior vena cavae and the left atrium receives oxygenated blood from the pulmonary veins.
atrophic cirrhosis /ætrɪfɪk ˈsɜrəʊˌhɪs/ 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 hobnail liver
atrophic gastritis /ætrɪfɪk ˈɡæstrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the stomach caused by being unable to produce enough acid to kill bacteria
atrophic vaginitis /ætrɪfɪk ˈvægɪnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation, thinning and shrinking of the tissues of the vagina caused by a lack of oestrogen
atrophy /ætrəfi/ noun the wasting of an organ or part of the body. • verb (of an organ or part of the body) to waste away
atropine /ætrəˈpiːn/ 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 /ætiˈtɪs/ abbr antitetanus serum
attack /ˈæktek/ noun a sudden occurrence of an illness. • He had an attack of fever. • She had two attacks of laryngitis during the winter.
attending physician /ætˈtɛndɪŋ fɪˈzɪkən/ noun a doctor who is looking after a particular patient. • He was referred to the hypertension unit by his attending physician.
attention deficit disorder /æˈtenʃən ˈdɪfɪsət dɪˈɔdər/ 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 /æˈtenʃəna ˈhɪpərəˈkætwərɪ ˈdɪsərər/ noun a condition in which there is an inability to concentrate and shows disruptive behaviour. Abbr ADHD
attenuation /ætəˈneɪʃən/ 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 /ætɪkˈtɒmɪ/ noun the removal of the wall in the inner ear. Also called cortical mastoidectomy
attitude /ætɪˈtjuːd/ noun 1. an opinion or set of views on a particular subject. • a positive attitude towards the operation 2. a way of standing or sitting
attributable risk /ætrɪbjuˈtəbl ˈrɪsk/ noun 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 1.5 per 100,000. Abbr AR
attrition /ætrɪˈʃən/ noun the condition of being worn away, as may be caused by friction. • Examination showed attrition of two extensor tendons.
atypical /ætɪʃəpɪk/ adjective not usual or expected. • an atypical renal cyst
audi-/ɔdɪ/ prefix same as audio- (used before vowels)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>audible limits</td>
<td>noun upper and lower limits of the sound frequencies which can be heard by humans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>audiometer</td>
<td>noun a graph drawn by an audiometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>audiogram</td>
<td>noun a graph representing the test conducted by an audiometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>audiologist</td>
<td>noun a specialist who deals with the treatment of hearing disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>audiometry</td>
<td>noun the scientific study of hearing, especially for diagnosing and treating hearing loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>audism</td>
<td>noun an apparatus used for testing hearing, especially for testing the range of sounds that the human ear can detect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>audist</td>
<td>noun a check on figures, scientific data or procedures regarding the outpatient appointment system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>audit cycle</td>
<td>noun the cycle in which medical topics are selected for review, observation and comparison with agreed standards and changes are decided on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auditory acuity</td>
<td>noun the ability to hear sounds clearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auditory canals</td>
<td>noun the external and internal passages of the ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auditory nerve</td>
<td>noun the eighth cranial nerve which governs hearing and balance. See illustration at EAR in Supplement. Also called vestibulocochlear nerve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auditory ossicles</td>
<td>noun the three little bones, the malleus, incus and stapes, in the middle ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auerbach's plexus</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aura</td>
<td>noun a warning sensation which is experienced before an attack of epilepsy, migraine or asthma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aural</td>
<td>adjective referring to the ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auricular</td>
<td>adjective referring to the ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aural polyp</td>
<td>noun a polyp in the middle ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aural surgery</td>
<td>noun surgery on the ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auricle</td>
<td>noun the tip of each atrium in the heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auriculae</td>
<td>noun a concha auricula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auricular</td>
<td>adjective 1. referring to the ear, 2. referring to an auricle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auricular vein</td>
<td>noun a vein which leads into the posterior facial vein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auriscope</td>
<td>noun an instrument for examining the ear and eardrum. Also called otoscope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auscultation</td>
<td>noun the act of listening to the sounds of the body using a stethoscope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auscultatory</td>
<td>adjective referring to auscultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia antigen</td>
<td>noun an antigen produced on the surface of liver cells infected with the hepatitis B virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autism</td>
<td>noun a condition developing in childhood, characterised by difficulty in social interaction, language and communication problems, learning difficulties and obsessionally repetitive behaviour (NOTE: Autism is more common in boys than in girls.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autistic</td>
<td>adjective affected by, or relating to, autism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autistic spectrum disorders</td>
<td>noun autism in all its different forms and degrees of severity. Abbreviation ASD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autoantibody</td>
<td>noun an antibody formed to attack antigens in the body's own cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autoclavable</td>
<td>adjective able to be sterilised in an autoclave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autoclave</td>
<td>noun equipment for sterilising surgical instruments using heat under high pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autogenous</td>
<td>noun a disease in which the person's own cells are attacked by autoantibodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autogenic</td>
<td>adjective produced either in the person's body, or using tissue from the person's own body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autograft</td>
<td>noun a transplant made using parts of the person's own body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autoimmune</td>
<td>adjective referring to an immune reaction in a person against antigens in their own cells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autoimmune disease</td>
<td>noun a disease in which the person's own cells are attacked by autoantibodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autoimmune disease</td>
<td>noun a disease which the person's own cells are attacked by autoantibodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autoimmune process</td>
<td>noun the process leading to an immune reaction in a person to antigens produced in their own body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autoimmunity</td>
<td>noun a condition in which a person's own cells are attacked by autoantibodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autoimmune infection</td>
<td>noun an infection by a microorganism already in the body, or infection of one part of the body by another part</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
autointoxication /ˌɔːtəʊɪnˈtɒksɪkeɪʃn/ noun the poisoning of the body by toxins produced in the body itself
autologous /ˌɔːtəˈlɒɡəs/ adjective referring to a graft or other material coming from the same person
autologous transfusion /ˌɔːtəˌlɒɡəs ˈtrænfəsʃən/ noun a blood transfusion in which the blood is removed from the body for later transfusion after an operation.
autolysis /ˌɔːtəˈlaɪsɪs/ noun a situation in which cells destroy themselves with their own enzymes
automatic /ˈɔːtəmatɪk/ adjective 1. done without weight 2. an automatic reaction 2. (of a machine or process) able to work by itself, without anyone giving instructions
autonomic nervous system /ˈɔːtənɒmɪk ˈnɜːrsɪs ˌsɪstəm/ noun the nervous system formed of ganglia linked to the spinal column.
autopsy /ˈɔːtəpɒsɪ/ noun the examination of a dead body by a pathologist to find out the cause of death. The autopsy showed that he had been poisoned. Also called post mortem
autosomal /ˌɔːtəsəʊməl/ adjective referring to an autosome
autosome /ˈɔːtəsəʊsm/ noun a chromosome that is not a sex chromosome
autotransfusion /ˌɔːtətərˈtrænsfəʃən/ noun an infusion into a person of their own blood
auxiliary /ˈɔːksɪləri/ adjective providing help. The hospital has an auxiliary power supply in case the electricity supply breaks down. noun an assistant
avascular /əˈvæskjʊlər/ adjective with no blood vessels, or with a deficient blood supply
avascular necrosis /əˈvæskjʊlər ˈnekroʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which tissue cells die because their supply of blood has been cut

AV bundle /əˈviː ˈbænd(ə)r/ noun same as atrioventricular bundle
average /ˈæv(ə)rɪdʒ/ noun 1. the usual amount, size, rate, etc. Her weight is above the average. 2. a value calculated by adding together several quantities and then dividing the total by the number of quantities
average 2. a value calculated by adding together several quantities and then dividing the total by the number of quantities. The average age of the group is 25.
aversion therapy /əˈvɜːʃən ˈθɛərəpi/ noun a treatment by which someone is cured of a type of behaviour by making him or her develop a great dislike for it
avitaminosis /ˌævitəˈmænəsɪs/ noun a disorder caused by a lack of vitamins
AVM noun arteriovenous malformation
AVPU noun a method of rating if a person is conscious: A = alert; V = verbal, responding to verbal commands; P = pain, responding to pain; U = unconscious
avulse /əˈvʌls/ verb to tear tissue or a body part away by force
awake /əˈweɪk/ adjective 1. conscious enough to know what is happening. She is not aware of what is happening around her. 2. knowing about something. The surgeon became aware of a problem with the heart-lung machine.
avulsion /əˈvʌlsʃən/ noun an act of pulling away a body part or force
axillary /ˈæksɪlərɪ/ noun the temperature in the armpit
axilla /ˈæksɪlə/ noun the armpit
axial /ˈækʃɪl/ adjective referring to an axis
axial skeleton /ˈækʃɪl ˈskeɪltən/ noun the bones that make up the vertebral column and the skull. Compare appendicular skeleton
axilla /ˈæksɪlə/ noun the armpit
axillary /ˈækʃɪlərɪ/ adjective referring to the armpit
axillary artery /əˈkɜːlərɪ ˈærtərɪ/ noun an artery leading from the subclavian artery in the armpit
axillary nodes /əˈkɜːlərɪ ˈnəʊdz/ plural noun part of the lymphatic system in the arm
axillary temperature /əˈkɜːlərɪ ˈtemprɪ tʃər/ noun the temperature in the armpit
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 /ˌæksoʊˈdendrət/ noun an appendage like a fibril on the axon of a nerve

axolemma /ˌæksoʊˈlemə/ noun a membrane covering an axon

axon /ˈækson/ 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 /ˈækson _kəv(ə)rɪŋ/ noun the myelin sheath which covers a nerve

Ayurvedic medicine /ˌaɪvrɛdɪk ˈmed(ɪ)ʃən/ 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 /ˌæzəθiˈɒprɪn/ noun a drug which suppresses the immune response, used after transplant surgery to prevent rejection

-azepam /ˌæzɪpəm/ suffix used in names of benzo diazepines. -diazepam

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

azo- /ˌæzəʊ-/ prefix containing a nitrogen group

azoospermia /ˌæzəʊsˈpɜrmiə/ noun the absence of sperm

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

azoturia /ˌæzəˈtjʊərɪə/ 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 vɛn/ noun a vein which brings blood back into the vena cava from the abdomen
babesiosis /bəˈbiːziəs/ noun a disease caused by infection of red blood cells by a protozoan introduced by a tick bite

Babinski reflex /bəˈbɪnski/ 'rizfleks/, Babinski's reflex /bəˈbɪnski/ 'rizfleks/ 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 /bəˈbɪnks tiːst/ 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 kliːnɪk/ noun a special clinic which deals with babies

bacillae /ˈbeɪsɪliː/ reddish brownish-yellow slender bacilli which cause an infection of the blood by bacilli

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

bacille Calmette-Guérin /bəˈsɪl laˌkæmˈtɛt ɡyʁɛ̃/ noun BCG [After A. Calmette (1863–1933) and C. Guérin (1872–1961), French bacteriologists.]

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

bacillus /ˈbeɪsiˌləs/ 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 dorsi-.

dorsal-] 2. the other side from the front © She has a swelling on the back of her hand. © dor-
sun

backache /ˈbækkeɪk/ 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 /bækˈbaʊn/ 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 /bækˈɡrɔːnd kærˈɒksɪheɪməˌgloʊbɪn ˈleɪvl/ noun the level of carboxyhaemoglobin in the blood of a person who is not exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide

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

back pain /ˈbeɪk pɛni/ noun pain in the back, especially long-lasting or severe pain

backsaid /ˈbeɪksaɪd/ noun someone’s buttocks (informal)

back strain /ˈbeɪk strɛn/ noun a condition in which the muscles or ligaments in the back have been strained

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

bacteremia /ˈbeɪktərɪəmɪə/ noun the fact of having bacteria in the blood. Bacteremia is not necessarily a serious condition. Compare septicemia. © blood poisoning

bacteri/ˈbeɪktərɪə/ plural of bacterium

bacterial /ˈbeɪktərɪəl/ adjective relating to bacteria or caused by bacteria © Children with sickle-cell anaemia are susceptible to bacterial infection.

bacterial plaque /ˈbeɪktərɪəl plæk/ noun a hard smooth bacterial deposit on teeth
bacterial pneumonia

bacterial pneumonia /ˌbæk.triar/ n: a form of pneumonia caused by pneumococci. > bronchopneumonia

bacterial strain /ˌbæk.triar/ˈstrɛn/ n: a group of bacteria which are different from others of the same general type

bactericidal /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈsaɪdəl/ adj: referring to a substance which destroys bacteria

bactericide /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈsaɪd/ n: a substance which destroys bacteria

bacteriological /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɒlədʒɪk(ə)l/ adj: referring to bacteriology

bacteriologist /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɒlədʒɪst/ n: a doctor who specialises in the study of bacteria

bacteriology /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɒlədʒi/ n: the scientific study of bacteria

bacteriolytic /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɒlɪsɪtɪk/ adj: referring to a substance which can destroy bacterial cells

bacteriolsis /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɒlɪsɪs/ n: the destruction of bacterial cells

bacteriolytic /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɒlɪtɪk/ adj: referring to a substance which can destroy bacteria

bacteriophage /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɑːfɪdʒ/ n: a virus which affects bacteria

bacteriostasis /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɒstəsɪs/ n: the action of stopping bacteria from multiplying

bacteriostatic /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɒstətɪk/ adj: referring to a substance which does not kill bacteria but stops them from multiplying

bacterium /ˌbæk.tɪr.iəm/ n: a microscopical 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 (cocci) or have a spiral form (spirilla). Bacteria, especially bacilli and spirilla, can move and reproduce very rapidly.

bacteriuria /ˌbæk.tɪr.iˈɜːrɪəriə/ n: a condition in which bacteria are present in the urine

Bactrim /ˌbæk.trɪm/ a trade name for co-trimoxazole

bad breath /ˈbæd/ˈbreθ/ n: the same as halitosis (informal)

Baghdad boil /ˈbægdəd bɔɪl/ Baghdad sore /ˌbægdəd ˈsɔːr/ a skin disease of tropical countries caused by the parasite Leishmania. Also called Oriental sore

bag of waters /bæɡ ˈwɔːtəz/ n: part of the amnion which covers an unborn baby in the uterus and contains the amniotic fluid

BAHA abbrev bone anchored hearing aid

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

baker's itch /ˌbæk.kəz ˈɪtʃ/, baker's dermatitis /ˌbæk.kəz dəˈmɑːtətɪs/ n: an irritation of the skin caused by handling yeast

BAL abbrev British anti-lesvisite

balance /ˈbæləns/ n: 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 /ˈbælənsət ˈdɑːrt/ n: a diet which provides all the nutrients needed in the correct proportions

balance of mind /ˈbæləns əv ˈmɑːnd/ n: 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 /ˌbælənˈtɪtɪs/ n: inflammation of the glans of the penis

balanoposthitis /ˌbælənˌpɔstɪˈtɪs/ n: inflammation of the foreskin and the end of the penis

balantidiasis /ˌbæləntɪˈdaɪəsɪs/ n: an infection 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 /ˌbælənəs/ n: the round end of the penis. > glans

bald /bɔld/ adj: 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/ n: 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 /ˌbɔlˈkæn ˈfɛrəm/, Balkan beam /ˌbɔlˈkæn ˈbɜːm/ n: a frame fitted above a bed to which a leg in plaster can be attached. > Pearson bed

ball /bɔl/ n: 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 /ˌbɔl ən ˈkeɪdʒ ˈvɛlv/ n: 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 /ˌbɔl ənd səˈkɒt/ n: 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 /ˈbɔlən/ n: a bag of light material inflated with air or a gas, used to unblock arteries
balloon angioplasty /baˈlʊn ænˈdʒɪplæstɪ/ noun same as percutaneous angioplasty
balloon catheter /baˈlʊn ˈkeθətər/ 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 /ˈbɔlətəmənt/ noun a method of examining the body by tapping or moving a part, especially during pregnancy
balneotherapy /ˌbɔlniˈɔːθərəpi/ noun the treatment of diseases by bathing in hot water or water containing beneficial natural chemicals
balsam /ˈbɔlsəm/ noun a mixture of resin and oil, used to rub on sore joints or to put in hot water and use as an inhalant. ○ friar’s balsam
ban /bæn/ verb to say that something is not permitted. ○ Smoking is banned throughout the building. ○ Use of this drug has been banned.
bandage /ˈbændɪdʒ/ noun a piece of cloth which is wrapped around a wound or an injured limb. ○ His head was covered with bandages. ■ verb to wrap a piece of cloth around a wound. ○ She bandaged his leg. ○ His arm is bandaged up.
Bandl’s ring /ˈbændʊlz rɪŋ/ same as retraction ring [After Ludwig Bandl (1842–92), German obstetrician]
bank /bæŋk/ noun a place where blood or organs from donors can be stored until needed. ○ blood bank
Bankart’s operation /ˈbæŋkɑːt əˈpærəʃən/ noun an operation to repair a recurrent dislocation of the shoulder [First performed 1923. After Arthur Sydney Blundell Bankart (1879–1951), first orthopaedic surgeon at the Middlesex Hospital, London, UK.]
Barth’s syndrome /ˈbɑːθz ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a complex of symptoms including chronic fatigue, immune system dysfunction, and cognitive decline. ○ The syndrome is named after Dr. Raoul Barth, a French pediatrician who described it in 1957.
Barth’s disease /ˈbɑːθz ˈdɪzəs/ noun a rare genetic disorder characterized by respiratory failure, heart problems, and liver damage. ○ The disease is caused by mutations in the CLN8 gene.
barbiturate poisoning /ˈbɑːrəˌbɪtʃərət ˈpoʊznɪŋ/ noun poisoning caused by an overdose of barbiturates
barbotage /ˈbɑːrbətɑːʒ/ noun a method of spinal anesthesia by which cerebrospinal fluid is withdrawn and then injected back
bare /bɑr/ adjective with no covering ○ bare area of the liver a large triangular part of the liver not covered with peritoneum
bariatrics /ˈbɑrətriːks/ noun the medical treatment of obesity
barium /ˈbɑriəm/ noun a chemical element, forming poisonous compounds, used as a contrast medium when taking X-ray photographs of soft tissue. (Note: The chemical symbol is Ba.)
barium enema /ˈbɑriəm ˈɛnɪmə/ noun a liquid solution containing barium sulphate which is put into the rectum to increase the contrast of an X-ray of the lower intestine
barium meal /ˈbɑriəm ˈmɛl/ noun a liquid solution containing barium sulphate which some one drinks to increase the contrast of an X-ray of the alimentary tract
barium sulphate /ˈbɑriəm ˈsʌlfət/ noun a salt of barium not soluble in water and which shows as opaque in X-ray photographs
Barlow’s disease /ˈbɑːlɔʊz dɪˈzɪz/ noun scurvy in children, caused by a lack of vitamin C [Described 1882. After Sir Thomas Barlow (1845–1945), physician at various London hospitals and Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V.]
Barlow’s sign /ˈbɑːlɔʊz sɪgn/ noun a test for congenital dislocation of the hip, in which a sudden movement is felt and sometimes a sound is heard when the joint is manipulated
baroreceptor /ˈbɑrərɪs ˈsɛptər/ noun one of a group of nerves near the carotid artery and aortic arch, which senses changes in blood pressure
barotitis /ˈbɑrərɪtɪs/ noun an injury caused by a sharp increase in pressure
barotrauma /ˈbɑrətrɔmə/ noun an injury caused by a sharp increase in pressure
Barth body /ˈbɑːθ ˈbɒdɪ/ noun a dense clump of chromatrin found only in female cells, which can be used to identify the sex of a baby before birth [Described 1949. After Murray Llewellyn Barr (1908–95), head of the Department of Anatomy at the University of Western Ontario, Canada.]
Barre-Guillain syndrome /ˈbɑrər ˈɡɪlən ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a Guillain-Barre syndrome
barrel chest /ˈbɑrəl ˈtʃɛst/ noun a chest formed like a barrel, caused by asthma or emphysema
barrier cream

barrier cream  /'bærıə krɪzm/ noun a cream put on the skin to prevent the skin coming into contact with irritating substances

barrier method  /'bærıə ,məθəd/ 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  /'bærıə ,nɔrɪŋ/ 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  /'bɑθələnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the Bartholin’s glands

Bartholin’s glands  /'bɑθələnɪz ˈɡlɛndz/ 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  /'bæs(ə)l/ adjective located at the bottom of something, or forming its base

basal cell  /'bæs(ə)l ˈsel/ noun a cell from the stratum germinativum. 

basal cell carcinoma  /'bæs(ə)l ˌsɛl,kɑrəˈmənərɪə/ noun same as rodent ulcer

basale  /ˈbɑsəl/ adjective same as basophilic

basal ganglia  /bæs(ə)l ˈɡæŋɡliə/ 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  /ˈbɑsəlɪs/ adjective same as basophilic

basal metabolic rate  /bæs(ə)l ˈmɛtəˈbolɪk ˈreɪt/ 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  /bæs(ə)l ˈmætəˌθæbəˌlɪzəm/ noun the minimum amount of energy needed to keep the body functioning and the temperature standard when at rest

basal narcosis  /bæs(ə)l ˈnɑrˌkɔsɪs/ noun the administration a narcotic before a general anaesthetic

basal nuclei  /bæs(ə)l ˈnjuːklɪəz/ plural noun masses of grey matter at the bottom of each cerebral hemisphere

base  /bæs/ noun 1. the bottom part or the base of the spine 

Basedow’s disease  /ˈbezdəʊz ˈdɪˌziːz/ noun a form of hyperthyroidism [Described 1840. After Carl Adolph Basedow (1799–1854), general practitioner in Mersburg, Germany]

basement membrane  /ˈbeɪsmənt ˌmemˈbreɪn/ noun a membrane at the base of an epithelium

basic  /ˈbeɪsɪk/ adjective 1. very simple, from which everything else comes 2. basic structure of the skin the two layers of skin, the inner dermis and the outer epidermis, referring to a chemical substance which reacts with an acid to form a salt

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

basilar  /ˈbeɪzələ/ adjective referring to a base

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

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

basilic  /ˈbeɪzəlɪk/ adjective important or prominent

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

basin  /ˈbeɪzn/ noun a large bowl

basophil  /ˈbeɪzəfel/ noun a blood cell which has granules in its cytoplasm

basophilic granulocyte  /ˌbeɪzəfelɪk ˌɡrænəˈljuːˌsɪt/ noun same as basophil

basophilic leucocyte  /ˌbeɪzəfelɪk ˌliːˈsɪt/ noun same as basophil

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

bathe  /bɑθ/ verb to wash a wound 1. He bathed the grazed knee with boiled water.

Batten’s disease  /ˈbeɪtnəz ˈdɪzəz/ 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 ˈʃɪldr 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  /ˈbætəldɔːr/ noun a battledore

Bezold’s disease  /ˈbeɪzəldz ˈdɪzəz/ noun same as erythema induratum [Described 1861. After Pierre Antoine Ernest Bazin (1807–78), dermatologist at Hôtel St Louis, Paris, France]
He was an expert in parasitology associated with skin condition.

**BC** abbr bone conduction.
**BCG** abbr Breast Cancer Campaign

**B cell** /bit selv/ noun same as beta cell
**BCC** /bit si: 'dʒi:/ veiksin/ BCG vaccine noun a vaccine which immunises against tuberculous. Full form bacille Calmette-Guérin

**BCh** abbr Bachelor of Surgery

**BDA** abbr British Dental Association

**bearing down** /ˈberɪŋ ˈdaʊn/ noun a stage in childbirth when the woman starts to push out the baby from the uterus

**bearing-down pain** /ˈberɪŋ ˈdaʊn ˈpɛn/ noun pain felt in the uterus during the second stage of labour (NOTE: Bearing-down pain is also associated with uterine prolapse.)

**beat joint** /ˈbit ˈdʒɔnt/ noun an inflammation of a joint such as the elbow (beat elbow) or knee (beat knee) caused by frequent sharp blows or other pressure

**Beck inventory of depression** /ˈbek ɪnvəntəri əv ˈdɛpreʃən/ noun one of the rating scales for depression, in which a series of 21 questions refers to attitudes frequently shown by people suffering from depression

**beclomethasone** /ˈbekləˌmeθəsən/ noun a steroid drug usually used in an inhaler to treat asthma or hay fever

**bed** /bed/ noun the number of beds occupied in a hospital which are occupied

**bed blocking** /ˈbed ˈblɒkɪŋ/ noun the fact of people being kept in hospital because other forms of care are not available, which means that other people cannot be treated

**bedbug** /ˈbedbug/ noun a small insect which lives in dirty bedclothes and sucks blood

**bed occupancy** /ˈbed əˈkʌpənsi/ noun the percentage of beds in a hospital which are occupied

**bed occupancy rate** /ˈbed əˈkʌpənsi ˈreɪt/ noun the number of beds occupied in a hospital shown as a percentage of all the beds in the hospital

**bedpan** /ˈbedpæn/ noun a dish into which someone can urinate or defecate without getting out of bed

**bed rest** /ˈbed rest/ noun a period of time spent in bed in order to rest and recover from an illness

**bedridden** /ˈbed,ridən/ adjective referring to someone who has been too ill to get out of bed over a long period of time

**bedside manner** /ˈbedsaɪd ˈmeɪnə/ noun the way in which a doctor behaves towards a patient, especially a patient who is in bed or a good bedside manner the ability to make patients feel comforted and reassured

**bed sore** /ˈbedsɔr/ noun an inflamed patch of skin on a bony part of the body, which develops 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 bed sores. Also called pressure sore, decubitus ulcer

**bedtable** /ˈbedˌtæbl/ noun a specially designed table which can be used by a person sitting up in bed

**bedwetting** /ˈbedwɛtɪŋ/ noun same as nocturnal enuresis (NOTE: This term is used mainly about children.)

**Beer’s knife** /ˈbɛər nəf/ noun a knife with a triangular blade, used in eye operations [After George Joseph Beer (1763–1821), German ophthalmologist]

**behaviour** /ˈbiːərɪv| ə| ˈɛvə| ə/ noun a way of acting ○ His behaviour was very aggressive. (NOTE: The US spelling is behavior.)

**behavioural** /bɪˈhjuːvrəl| ə| ˈɛvə| ə| ˈl/ adjective relating to behaviour (NOTE: The US spelling is behavioral.)

**behavioural scientist** /bɪˈhjuːvrəl| ə| ˈɛvə| ə| ˈskeɪntst/ noun a person who specialises in the study of behaviour

**behaviourism** /bɪˈhjuːvrəl| ə| ˈɛvə| ə| ɪzəm/ noun a psychological theory proposing that only someone’s behaviour should be studied to discover their psychological problems

**behaviourist** /bɪˈhjuːvrəl| ə| ˈɛvə| ə| ˈɪst/ noun a psychologist who follows behaviourism

**behaviour therapy** /bɪˈhjuːvrə| ə| ˈθɛrəpi/ noun a form of psychiatric treatment in which someone learns how to improve their condition

**Behçet’s syndrome** /ˈbeɪʃəts ˌsɜːndrəʊm/ noun a chronic condition of the immune system 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 inflamed eyes [Described 1937. After Hâkki Şevket Behçet (1895–1948), Turkish dermatologist]

**behind** /bɪˈhɑːrd/ noun same as buttock (informal)

**bejel** /ˈbeʃəl/ noun a non-venereal 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 bacteria

**belch** /bɛltʃ/ verb to allow air in the stomach to come up through the mouth
belching /ˈbeltʃ/ noun the action of allowing air in the stomach to come up through the mouth. Also called eructation
belladonna /ˈbelədənə/ 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 /ˈbeləˌdɪfərəns/ noun an excessively calm state in a person, in a situation which would usually produce a show of emotion
Bellocq’s cannula /ˈbeɪlɒkz ˈkæŋjʊlə/, Bellocq’s sound /ˈbeɪlɒkz ˈsəʊnd/ noun an instrument used to control a nosebleed [After Jean Jacques Bellocq (1732–1807), French surgeon]
Bell’s mania /ˈbeɪlz ˈmeniə/ noun a form of acute mania with delirium [After Luther Vose Bell (1806–62), American psychologist]
Bell’s palsy /ˈbeɪlz ˈpɔləзи/ 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 /ˈbeliˌbʌtn/ noun the navel (informal)
Bence Jones protein /ˈbenʃəzənˌprɔʊtəˈmɪn/ 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.]
bends /ˈbɛnds/ plural noun the bends · caisson disease
Benedict’s solution /ˈbɛndɪdɪkts ˈsəʊljuʃən/ noun a solution used to carry out Benedict’s test
Benedict’s test /ˈbɛndɪdɪkts 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 /ˈbeɪnj/ adjective generally harmless
benign growth /ˈbeɪnj ˈgrɔʊθ/ noun same as benign tumour
benign pancreatic disease /ˈbeɪnj ˈpærəˌkrænətɪk dɪˌzɪs/ noun chronic pancreatitis
benign prostatic hypertrophy /ˈbeɪnj prəˌstətɪk hɑrˈpɜtrəθ/ noun a nonmalignant enlargement of the prostate. Abbe BPH
benign tumour /ˈbeɪnj ˈtjuːmər/ 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 /bɛnt/ adjective ☑ bent double bent over completely so that the face is towards the ground. He was bent double with pain.
benzocaine /ˈbenzəkən/ noun a drug with anaesthetic properties used in some throat lozenges and skin creams
benzodiazepine /ˈbenzəˌdaɪəzəˌpɪn/ 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 frise’s balsam
benzyl benzoate /ˈbenzəl ˈbenzoʊɛt/ noun a colourless oily liquid which occurs naturally in balsams, used in medicines and perfumes
benzylpenicillin /ˈbenzɪl ˈpenɪsɨlɪn/ noun an antibacterial drug used against streptococcal infections, meningococcal meningitis and other serious infections
bereavement /ˌbɛrəˈvɛmt/ 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.
berryillosis /ˈbɛrɪˌɪləsɪs/ noun poisoning caused by breathing in particles of the poisonous chemical compound beryllium oxide
Besnier’s prurigo /ˈbɛzniərz prɔˈruːrɡoʊ/ 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 /ˈbɛtə/ noun the second letter of the Greek alphabet
beta-adrenergic receptor /ˈbɛtəˌædɹərˈɛnərɪk ˈrɛktər/ noun one of two types of nerve endings that respond to adrenaline by speeding up the heart rate or dilating the bronchi
beta amyloid /ˈbɛtə əˌmɪlɔɪd/ noun a wax-like protein formed from amyloid precursor protein in nerve cells which aggregates in Alzheimer’s disease to form plaques
beta blocker /ˈbɛtəˌblʌkə/ noun a drug which reduces the activity of the heart (NOTE: Beta blockers have names ending in -olol: atenolol, propranolol hydrochloride.)
beta cell /ˈbɛtə sɛl/ noun a type of cell found in the islets of Langerhans, in the pancreas,
41  bilharziasis

which produces insulin. Also called B cell.

Betadine /ˈbɛtədɪn/ noun a trade name for a
form of iodine

betamethasone /ˌbɛtəˈmeθəsən/ noun a very
strong corticosteroid drug

beta rhythm /ˈbɛtə rɪθm/ noun a pattern of
electrical waves in the brain of someone who
is awake and active, registering on an electro-
cephalograph at 18–30 hertz

betaxolol /ˈbɛtæksələl/ noun a beta blocker
drug used in the treatment of high blood pres-
sure and glaucoma

betheanechol /ˈbeθeɪnəkəl/ 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. /ˈbeɪəd/ noun twice or twice

day

bias /ˈbeɪəs/ noun a systematic error in the de-
sign or conduct of a study which could explain
the results

bicarbonate of soda /ˈbaɪkɑrbaɪnət əv ‘sɔdə/ noun same as sodium bicarbonate

bicellar /ˈbaɪsɛlər/ adjective having two
cells

biceps /ˈbaɪsɪps/ noun any muscle formed of
two parts joined to form one tendon, especially
the muscles in the front of the upper arm (bi-
ceps brachii) and the back of the thigh (biceps
femoris).

biceps /ˈbaɪsɪps/ noun (NOTE: The plural is
biceps.)

bicipital /ˈbaɪsɪpɪtl/ adjective 1. referring
to a biceps muscle 2. with two parts

biconcave /ˈbaɪkɔnʃəv/ adjective referring
to a lens which is concave on both sides

biconvex /ˈbaɪkənˈvɛks/ adjective referring
to a lens which is convex on both sides

bicornuate /ˈbaɪkɔrnjuːt/ adjective divided
to into two parts (NOTE: The word is sometimes
affected to a malformation of the uterus.)

bicuspid /ˈbaɪkʌspɪd/ adjective with two
points.

bicuspid valve /ˈbaɪkʌspɪd ˈvaɪlv/ noun
same as mitral valve, see illustration at HEART
in Supplement

b.i.d. adjective (used on prescriptions) twice
daily.

bifid /ˈbaɪfɪd/ adjective in two parts

bifida /ˈbɪfɪdə/ adjective

bifocal /ˌbaɪˈfəʊkəl/ adjective referring to
lenses made with two sections which have dif-
ferent focal lengths, one for looking at things
which are near, the other for looking at things
which are far away

bifocal glasses /ˌbaɪˈfəʊkəl ˈɡlaɪsɪz/ bifocals

bifocal lenses /ˌbaɪˈfəʊkəl ˈlɛnsɪz/ bifocals

bifurcate /ˈbaɪfərkət/ adjective separating or
branching off into two parts.verb to split or
branch off into two parts

bifurcation /ˌbaɪfərˈkefən/ noun a place
where something divides into two parts

bigeminy /ˈbaɪdʒəmɪn/ noun same as pul-
sus bigeminus

big toe /ˈbaɪtɔʊ/ 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 treat-
ment of Type II diabetes

bilateral /ˈbaɪlətərəl/ adjective affecting
both sides

bilateral adrenalectomy /ˌbaɪləˈtərl ədˈreɪnəl təm/ noun the surgical removal of
both adrenal glands

bilateral pneumonia /ˌbaɪləˈtəral ˈnoʊməni/ noun pneumonia affecting both
lungs

bilateral vasectomy /ˌbaɪləˈtərəl ˈvæsəkˈtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to cut
both vasa deferentia and so make a man sterile

bile /ˈbaɪl/ noun thick brown 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 /ˈbaɪl əˈsɪd/ noun an acid found in
the bile, e.g. cholic acid

bile canal /ˈbaɪl ˈkænəl/ noun a very small
vessel leading from a hepatic cell to the bile
duct

bile duct /ˈbaɪl ˈdʌkt/ noun a tube which links
the cystic duct and the hepatic duct to the du-
odenum

bile pigment /ˈbaɪl ˈpɪgrəmənt/ noun colouring
matter in bile

bile salts /ˈbaɪl ˈsæltz/ plural noun sodium
salts of bile acids

bilharzia /ˈbaɪlˌhɑrθzaɪə/ noun 1. a fluke which
enters the bloodstream and causes bilharziasis.
Also called Schistosoma 2. same as bilharzia-
sis (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 /ˌbaɪlˌhɑrθˈzaɪəsɪs/ noun a tropi-
cal 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 wa-
ter, where they lodge and develop in the water
snail, the secondary host. Before going back
into humans. Patients experience fever and
anaemia.
Medicine.fm  Page 42  Thursday, November 20, 2003  4:26 PM

bili-

**bili-** /bili/-prefix referring to bile (NOTE: For other terms referring to bile, see words beginning with chol-, chole-)

biliary /ˈbɪliərɪ/-adjective referring to bile

biliary colic /ˈbɪliərɪ kəlɪk/-pain in the abdomen caused by gallstones in the bile duct or by inflammation of the gall bladder

biliary fistula /ˈbɪliərɪ fɪstələ/-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 /ˈbɪliəsnəs/-noun a feeling of indigestion and nausea (informal)

bilirubin /ˈbɪliɹʌbɪn/-noun a red pigment in bile

bilirubinaemia /ˈbɪliɹʌbɪnəˈmeɪriə/-noun an excess of bilirubin in the blood

biluria /ˈbɪliʊrɪə/-noun the presence of bile in the urine. Also called choloria

biliverdin /ˈbɪliˌvɜrdɪn/-noun a green pigment in bile, produced by oxidation of bilirubin

Billings method /ˈbɪliŋz ˈmeθəd/-noun a method of birth control which uses the colour and consistency of the cervical mucus as guides, to whether ovulation is taking place

Billroth’s operations /ˈbɪlroθz ˈɔpərəʃənz/-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 /ˈbɪləbət/ -adjective with two lobes

bimanual /bəˈmænjʊəl/-adjective done with two hands, or needing both hands to be done

binary /ˈbærɪnərɪ/-adjective made of two parts

binary fission /ˈbærɪnərɪ ˈfɪʃən/-noun the process of splitting into two parts in some types of cell division

binaural /bəˈnɔːrəl/-adjective using, or relating to, both ears

binder /ˈbɛrnda/-noun a bandage which is wrapped round a limb to support it

Binet’s test /ˈbɪnɛt ˈtest/-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 physiological.]

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 /ˈbɪnəʊvjuːlər/-adjective referring to twins who develop from two different ova

bio-

**bio-** /bɪəʊ/-prefix referring to living organisms

bioactive /bɪəʊˈeɪtɪv/-adjective producing an effect in living tissue or in a living organism

bioassay /bɪəʊˈæsə/ -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 /bɪəʊəˌvɒləˈtriələ/ -noun the extent to which a nutrient or medicine can be taken up by the body

biochemical /bɪəʊˈkemɪkəl/ -adjective referring to biochemistry

biochemistry /bɪəʊˌkemɪstri/-noun the chemistry of living tissues

biocide /bɪəʊˈsaɪd/ -noun a substance which kills living organisms

biocompatibility /bɪəʊˌkɒməpəˈtriələ/ -noun 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 /bɪəʊdˈɡrɛdəbəl/ -adjective easily decomposed by organisms such as bacteria or by the effect of sunlight, the sea, etc.

bioengineering /bɪəʊˈenjʊərɪŋ/-noun same as biomedical engineering

bioethics /bɪəʊˈiθɪks/-noun the study of the moral and ethical choices in medical research and treatment of patients, especially when advanced technology is available

biofeedback /bɪəʊˈfiːdbæk/-noun the control of the autonomic nervous system by some one’s conscious thought, as he or she sees the results of tests or scans

biogenesis /bɪəʊˈdʒɛnəsɪs/-noun a theory that living organisms can only develop from other living organisms

biohazard /bɪəʊˈhæzəd/ -noun a danger to human beings or their environment, especially one from a poisonous or infectious agent

bioinstrumentation /bɪəʊˌɪnstrəˌməntrən/-noun instruments used to record and display information about the body’s functions, or the use of such instruments

biological /ˌbɪəʊˈlɒdʒɪkl/ -adjective referring to biology

biological clock /ˌbɪəʊˈlɒdʒɪkl ˈkɒlə/ -noun the rhythm of daily activities and bodily processes such as eating, defecating or sleeping, frequently controlled by hormones, which repeats every twenty-four hours. Also called circadian rhythm

biological parent /ˌbɪəʊˈlɒdʒɪkl pərˈɛənt/-noun a parent who was physically involved in producing a child

biologist /ˈbɪəʊlədʒɪst/-noun a scientist who specialises in biology

biology /ˌbɪəʊˈlɒdʒɪ/ -noun the study of living organisms
biomaterial /ˌbaɪəməˈtʌtrɪəl/ noun a synthetic material which can be used as an implant in living tissue
biomedical engineering /ˌbaɪəmedɪˈɜrniŋ/ noun the application of engineering science such as robotics and hydraulics to medicine
biomachinery /ˌbaɪəməˈmərʃəri/ 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 /ˌbaɪəməˈtɹtri/ 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 /ˌbaɪəməˈmɔnɪtərɪŋ/ 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 /ˌbaɪənɪk ɪər/ noun a cochlear implant (informat)
bionics /ˌbaɪənɪks/ noun the process of applying knowledge of biological systems to mechanical and electronic devices
biopharmaceutical /ˌbaɪəfɑrˈmeɪʃəl/ adjective a drug produced by biotechnological methods
biophysical profile /ˌbaɪəfɪzɪˈkəl/ noun a profile of a fetus, based on such things as its breathing movement and body movement
biopsy /ˌbaɪəpsɪ/ 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 /ˌbaɪəsənsər/ noun a device that uses a biological agent such as an enzyme or organelle to detect, measure or analyse chemicals. □ Biosensors are increasingly used in tests to diagnose medical conditions such as blood pressure.
biostatistics /ˌbaɪəstəˈtɪstɪks/ plural noun statistics used in medicine and the study of disease
biosurgery /ˌbaɪəsɜrˈjʊəri/ noun the use of living organisms in surgery and post-surgical treatment, especially the use of maggots or leeches to clean wounds
biotechnology /ˌbaɪətaɪˈkɒdʒɪk/ noun 1. the use of biological processes in industrial production, e.g. in the production of drugs 2. same as genetic modification
biotherapy /ˌbaɪəθəˈrɛpi/ 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 /ˌbaɪpəˈrɪətəl/ adjective referring to the two parietal bones
biparous /ˌbaɪpəˈrɒs/ adjective producing twins
bipennate /ˌbaɪpɛnət/ adjective referring to a muscle with fibres which rise from either side of the tendon
bipolar /ˌbaɪpəˈlɑːr/ adjective with two poles. See illustration at NEURONE in Supplement
bipolar disorder /ˌbaɪpəˈlɑːrdɪzər/ noun a psychological condition in which someone moves between mania and depression and experiences delusion. Also called manic-depressive illness, manic depression
bipolar neurone /ˌbaɪpəˈlɑːl nəˈraʊn/ 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 /bɜθ/ noun 1. the act of being born □ to give birth to give birth to have a baby. □ She gave birth to twins.
birth canal /bɜθ kæn/ noun the uterus, vagina and vulva
birth control /bɜθ kənˈtrɔːl/ noun same as contraception
birth control pill /bɜθ kənˈtrɔːl pl/ noun same as oral contraceptive
birth defect /bɜθ dɪˈfɛkt/ noun same as congenital anomaly (NOTE: The word ‘defect’ is now disused)
birthing /bɜθɪŋ/ noun the process of giving birth using natural childbirth methods. □ Adjective designed to help in childbirth
birthing chair /bɜθɪŋ tʃeər/ noun a special chair in which a woman sits to give birth
birthing pool /bɜθɪŋ pʊl/ noun a special large bath in which pregnant women can relax before and when giving birth
birthing room /bɜθɪŋ rʊm/ noun an area set up for childbirth in a hospital or other building to provide comfortable and homely surroundings
birth injury /bɜθ ˈɑːnaɪdʒər/ noun an injury which a baby experiences during a difficult birth, e.g. brain damage
birthmark /bɜθ mɑrk/ noun an unusual coloured or raised area on the skin which someone has from birth. Also called naevus
birth mother /bɜθ ˈmʌðər/ noun the woman who gave birth to a child
birth parent /bɜθ ˈpeərænt/ 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 /'bɜːθ rēt/ noun the number of births per year, shown per thousand of the population. There has been a severe decline in the birth rate.

birth trauma /'bɜːθ trəmə/ noun an injury caused to a baby during delivery.

birth weight /'bɜːθ wət/ noun the weight of a baby at birth.

bisacodyl /ˌbɪsəˈkoʊdəl/ noun a laxative drug.

bisexual /'baɪsɛksjuəl/ 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 /'baɪsɛksjuəlɪtɪ/ noun the state of being sexually attracted to both males and females.

bis in die /ˌbaɪz ɪn ˈdaɪ/ adverb full form of b.i.d.

bismuth /ˈbaɪzmoʊθ/ noun a chemical element. (Note: The chemical symbol is Bi.)

bismuth salts /ˈbaɪzmoʊθ sɔlts/ plural noun salts used to treat acid stomach and formerly used in the treatment of syphilis.

bistoury /ˈbɪstrəri/ noun a sharp thin surgical knife.

bite /baɪt/ verb 1. to cut into something with the teeth. 2. (of an insect) to puncture someone's skin. 3. to act of biting or of being bitten. 4. a place or mark where someone has been bitten. 5. a dog bite. 6. an infectious disease caused by a 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.

Bitot's spots /baɪtɒts ˈspɔts/ plural noun small white spots on the conjunctiva, caused by vitamin A deficiency. [Described 1863. After Pierre A. Bitot (1822–88), French physician.]

bivalve /ˌbaɪəvl/ noun an organ which has two valves referring to a bivalve organism.

black eye /ˈblæk ˈaɪ/ noun bruising and swelling of the tissues round an eye, usually caused by a blow.

blackhead /ˈblækˌhɛd/ noun same as comedo (informal).

black heel /ˈblæk hɛl/ noun a haemorrhage inside the heel, characterised by black spots.
bleed /ˈblɛd/ verb to lose blood ○ His knee was bleeding. ○ He was bleeding from a cut on the head. (NOTE: bleeding – bled)
bleeder /ˈblɛdər/ noun 1. a blood vessel which bleeds during surgery 2. a person who has haemophilia (informal)
bleeding /ˈblɛdɪŋ/ 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 /ˈblɛdɪŋ pɔnt/, bleeding site /ˈblɛdɪŋ sat/ noun a place in the body where bleeding is taking place
bleeding time /ˈblɛdɪŋ tɛim/ 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- /ˈblɛnəʊ/ prefix referring to mucus
blennorrhagia /ˌblɛnərɔˈrɛdʒiə/ noun 1. the discharge of mucus 2. gonorrhoea
blennorrhoea /ˌblɛnərɔˈriə/ noun 1. the discharge of watery mucus 2. gonorrhoea
bleomycin /ˌblɛəməˈsɪm/ noun an antibiotic used to treat forms of cancer such as Hodgkin’s disease
blephar- /ˈblɛfərəʊ/ prefix same as blepharo-(used before vowels)
blepharitis /ˌblɛfərəˈrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the eyelid
blepharo-/ˈblɛfərəʊ/ prefix referring to the eyelid
blepharoconjunctivitis /ˌblɛfrəʊkɒŋˈkʌntɪvɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the conjunctiva of the eyelids
blepharon /ˌblɛfrəʊn/ noun an eyelid
blepharospasm /ˌblɛfrərəʊˈpæzəm/ noun a condition in which the upper eyelid is half closed because of paralysis of the muscle or nerve
blind /ˈblænd/ adjective not able to see ○ plural noun □ the blind people who are blind ○ He was blinded in the accident.
blind gut /ˈblænd ˈgʌt/ noun same as caecum
blind loop syndrome /ˈblænd lˈluːp, ˈsɪn drʊm/ noun a condition which occurs in cases of diverticulosis or of Crohn’s disease, with steatorrhoea, abdominal pain and megaloblastic anaemia
blindness /ˈblændnəʊs/ noun the fact of not being able to see
blind spot /ˈblænd spɔt/ noun the point in the retina where the optic nerve joins it, which does not register light
blind study /ˈblænd stʌdi/ 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 /ˈblæŋk/ verb to close and open the eyelids rapidly several times or once ○ He blinked in the bright light.
blister /ˈblɪstər/ noun a swelling on the skin containing serum from the blood, caused by rubbing, burning or a disease such as chicken-pox ○ verb to produce blisters
bledated /ˈbʌldətɪd/ adjective experiencing the uncomfortable sensation of a very full stomach
block /ˈblɑk/ 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 /ˈblɑkɪdʒ/ 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 /ˈblɑkər/ noun a substance which blocks an action ○ beta blocker
blocking /ˈblɑkɪŋ/ noun a psychiatric disorder, in which someone suddenly stops one train of thought and switches to another
blood bank /ˈblʌd bæŋk/ noun a section of a hospital or a special centre where blood given by donors is stored for use in transfusions
blood blister /ˈblʌd ˈblɪstər/ noun a swelling on the skin with blood inside, caused by nipping the flesh

blood-borne virus /ˈblʌd ˈbɒrn ˈvərəs/ noun a virus carried by the blood

blood-brain barrier /ˈblʌd brem ˈbɛrɪə/ 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 /ˈblʌd ˈkæsts/ plural noun pieces of blood cells which are secreted by the kidneys in kidney disease

blood cell /ˈblʌd sɛl/ noun a red or a white cell in the blood

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

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

blood corpuscle /ˈblʌd kəˈpɔrsəl/ plural noun US a red or a white blood cell

blood count /ˈblʌd 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 /ˈblʌd ˈkʌltʃər/ 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 /ˈblʌd ˈdɔnə/ noun a person who gives blood which is then used in transfusions to other people

blood dyscrasia /ˈblʌd dɪˈskrəsiə/ noun any unusual blood condition such as a low cell count or platelet count

blood formation /ˈblʌd fɔrˈmjuːʃən/ noun same as haemopoiesis

blood-glucose level /ˈblʌd ˈɡlʊkəs juˈlevəl/ 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 /ˈblʌd ˈɡruːp/ noun one of the different groups into which human blood is classified. Also called blood type

COMMENT: Blood is classified in various ways. The most common classifications are by the agglutinogens (factors A and B) in red blood cells and by the Rhesus factor. Blood can therefore have either factor (Group A and Group B) or both factors (Group AB) or neither (Group O) and each of these groups can be Rh negative or positive.

blood grouping /ˈblʌd ˈɡruːpɪŋ/ noun the process of classifying people according to their blood groups
blood sugar /ˈblʌd ˈʃʊgə/ noun glucose present in the blood
blood sugar level /ˈblʌd ˈʃʊgə leɪv(ə)/ noun the amount of glucose in the blood, which is higher after meals and in people with diabetes
blood test /ˈblʌd ertest/ noun a laboratory test of a blood sample to analyse its chemical composition. The patient will have to have a blood test.

blood transfusion /ˈblʌd trəns,ʃjʊəsən/ noun a procedure in which blood given by another person or taken from the patient at an earlier stage is transferred into the patient's vein.

blood type /ˈblʌd tʌɪp/ noun same as blood group.

blood typing /ˈblʌd tɑːpɪŋ/ noun the analysis of blood for transfusion factors and blood group.

blood urea /ˈblʌd jəˈriːə/ noun urea present in the blood. A high level occurs following heart failure or kidney disease.

blood vessel /ˈblʌd ˈvɛs(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- or angio-.)

blood volume /ˈblʌd voʊljuːm/ noun the total amount of blood in the body.

blot /blɒt/ noun a reddish patch on the skin.

blot test /ˈblɒt ertest/ noun a test of skin a slight blue colour.

blue /bluː/ noun a liquid in the body that a trauma victim is kept isolated from the sympathetic nervous system.

blue baby /ˈbljuː biəbi/ 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 /ˈbljuː diˈzɪz/, blueeness /ˈbluənəs/ noun a condition in which someone's skin does not see objects clearly.

blue litmus /ˈbljuː ˈlɪtməs/ noun treated paper which indicates the presence of acid by turning red.

blue sky /ˈbljuː skɪ/ 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.

BMA abbr British Medical Association.

BMI abbr body mass index.

BMR abbr basal metabolic rate.

BNF abbr British National Formulary.

body /ˈbɒdi/ noun.

body cavity /ˈbɒdi ˈkevəti/ noun an opening in the body, e.g. the mouth, oesophagus, vagina, rectum or ear.

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

body fluid /ˈbɒdi ˈflʌɪəd/ noun a liquid in the body, e.g. water, blood or semen.

body image /ˈbɒdi ɪˈmɪdʒ/ noun the mental image which a person has of their own body. Also called body schema.

body language /ˈbɒdi ˈlæŋgwidʒ/ 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 /ˈbɒdi ˈmeɪs ɪndeks/ 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.

body temperature /ˈbɒdi ˈtemprətʃər/ noun the internal temperature of the human body, usually about 37° C.

Boeck's disease /ˈboks dɪˈzɪz/, Boeck's sarcoid /ˈboks sɑrkɔɪd/ noun same as sarcoidosis. [Described 1899. After Caesar Peter Moeller Boeck (1845–1913), Professor of Dermatology at Oslo, Norway.]

Bohn's nodules /ˈboʊnz nədʒuːlz/ noun.

Bovine epithelial pearls plural noun tiny cysts found in the mouths of healthy infants.

body odour /ˈbɒdi ˈɔdər/ noun an unpleasant smell caused by perspiration.

body scan /ˈbɒdi skeɪn/ noun an examination of the whole of the body using ultrasound or other scanning techniques.

body schema /ˈbɒdi ˈskɪmə/ noun same as body image.

body substance isolation /ˈbɒdi ˈsʌbstəns ɪzələʃən/ noun making sure that a trauma victim is kept isolated from the possibility of infection from moist body substances.
dye used as a disinfectant

sue

made of bone

with no bone damage

Staphylococcus aureus. Also called furuncle

bolus /'bɒlus/ 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 /'bɒndɪŋ/ noun the process by which a psychological link is formed between a baby and its mother. In autistic children, bonding is difficult.

bone /'bɒn/ noun 1. calcified connective tissue, 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. 2. bone structure

bone damage /'bɒn dəmɪndʒ/ noun damage caused to a bone. No bone damage

bone graft /'bɒn ɡrɑft/ noun a piece of bone taken from one part of the body to repair another bone

bone marrow /'bɒn ˌmɑrəʊ/ noun soft tissue in cancellous bone. For other terms referring to bone marrow, see words beginning with myel-, myelo-.

bone marrow transplant /'bɒn ˌmɑrəʊ ˌtrænsplɑnt/ noun the transplant of marrow from a donor to a recipient

bone scan noun a scan which records a radioactive substance injected into the body to find areas where a bone is breaking down or repairing itself

Bonney’s blue /'bɒniz 'blu/ noun a blue dye used as a disinfectant. After William Francis Victor Bonney (1872-1953), British gynaecologist

bony /'bɒni/ 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

bony labyrinth /'bɒni 'læmbɔrɪn/ noun a hard part of the temporal bone surrounding the membranous labyrinth in the inner ear. Also called osseous labyrinth

booster /'bʌstər ˌɪnˌdʒɛkʃ(ə)n/ noun a repeat injection of vaccine given some time after the first injection to maintain the immunising effect

boracic acid /'bɔrəsık 'əsɪd/ noun a soluble white powder used as a general disinfectant. Also called boric acid

borax /'bɔræks/ noun a white powder used as a household cleaner and disinfectant

borborygmus /'bɔrbərɪɡməs/ noun a rumbling noise in the abdomen, caused by gas in the intestine. The plural is borborygmi. (NOTE: The plural is borborygmi.)

borderline /'bɒrdəlain/ adjective not clearly belonging to either one of two categories. A borderline case 2. referring to a medical condition likely to develop in someone unless an effort is made to prevent it. 3. characterised by emotional instability and self-destructive behaviour. A borderline personality.

Bordetella /'bɔrdətɪlə/ noun a bacterium of the family Brucellaceae. (NOTE: Bordetella pertussis causes whooping cough.)

boric acid /'bɔrɪk 'əsɪd/ noun same as boric acid

born /bɔrn/ verb to be born to begin to live outside the mother’s uterus

Bornholm disease /ˈbɔrnhʊm dɪˌziːm/ noun same as epidemic pleurodynia

bottle-fed /'bɒt(ə)l fɛd/ adjective referring to a baby which is fed from a bottle. Compare breast-fed

bottle feeding /ˈbɒt(ə)l ˈfɛdɪŋ/ noun the act of giving a baby milk from a bottle, as opposed to breast feeding. Compare breast feeding

bottom /ˈbɒt(ə)m/ noun 1. the part of the body on which you sit. Bottom 2. the anus (informal)

bottom shuffling /ˈbɒt(ə)m ˈʃʊlfɪŋ/ noun the process by which a baby who cannot yet walk moves around by moving itself along on its hands and buttocks

botulinum toxin /ˈbɒtjuˈlənəm ˌtʌksm/ 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 /ˈbɒtjuˈlɪzm/ 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 /ˈbuzʒi/ 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. Bout of fever a period
Medicine.fm  Page 49  Thursday, November 20, 2003  4:26 PM

when someone is feverish ○ She has recurrent bouts of malarial fever.

bovine spongiform encephalopathy /ˌboʊvɪn sɒŋˈfɔrm ɪnˌkɛfəlɒpəti/ noun a fatal brain disease of cattle. Abbr BSE ○ Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Also called mad cow disease

bowel /ˈbɔʊl/ 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 /ˈbɔʊl ˌmuvnəmnt/ 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 /ˈbɔʊlz/ plural noun same as bowel

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

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

bow-legged /ˌbɔʊˈlegd/ adjective with bow legs

bow legs /ˈbɔʊ ˈlegz/ 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 /ˌbəʊmənz ˈkeipsəl/ 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 abbr 1. blood pressure. 2. British Pharmacopoeia

BPH abbr 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 /ˈbreɪslɛt/ noun a identity bracelet, medical alert bracelet

brachio-/breɪkiəʊ/ prefix same as brachio- (used before vowels)

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

brachial artery /ˌbreɪkɪəl ˈɔrtəri/ 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 /ˌbreɪkɪəlɪs ˈmʌsk(ə)/ noun a muscle that causes the elbow to bend

brachial plexus /ˌbreɪkɪəl ˈpleksəs/ noun 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 /ˌbreɪkɪəl ˈpreʃə pɔɪnt/ noun the point on the arm where pressure will stop bleeding from the brachial artery

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

brachio-/breɪkiəʊ/ prefix referring to the arm

brachioccephalic artery /ˌbreɪkiəʊ ˈsɛfəlɪk ˈɔrtərɪ/ noun the largest branch of the arch of the aorta, which continues as the right common carotid and right subclavian arteries

brachioccephalic vein /ˌbreɪkiəʊ ˈsɛfəlɪk ˈvɛn/ 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-/brʌki/ prefix short

brachycephaly /ˌbrʌki ˈsɛfəli/ noun a condition in which the skull is shorter than usual

brachytherapy /ˌbrʌki ˈθɛrəpi/ noun a radiative treatment in which the radioactive material actually touches the tissue being treated

Bradford’s frame /breɪdfrʌdˈfeɪm/ noun a frame of metal and cloth, used to support a patient [after edward hickling bradford (1848–1926), us orthopaedic surgeon]

brady-/brʌdi/ prefix slow

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

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

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

bradypnoea /ˌbrʌdiˈpnɔɪə/ 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 1829.

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-
brain covering /ˈbreɪn kəˈvɜːrɪŋ/ noun 

- spheres, which relate to thought and to sensations from either side of the body. At the back of the head and beneath the cerebrum is the cerebellum which coordinates muscle reaction and balance. Also in the brain are the hypothalamus which governs body temperature, hunger, thirst and sexual urges, and the tiny pituitary gland which is the most important endocrine gland in the body.

brain covering /ˈbreɪn kəˈvɜːrɪŋ/ noun 

brain damage /ˈbreɪn _ˈdæmɪdʒ/ noun damage caused to the brain as a result of oxygen and sugar deprivation, e.g. after a haemorrhage, accident, or though disease

brain-damaged /ˈbreɪn _ˈdæmɪdʒɪd/ adjective referring to someone who has experienced brain damage

brain death /ˈbreɪn dɛθ/ noun a condition in which the nerves in the brain stem have died, and the person can be certified as dead, although the heart may not have stopped beating

brain haemorrhage /ˈbreɪn _ˈhæmɪrˌɔdʒ/ noun same as cerebral haemorrhage

brain scan /ˈbreɪn skæn/ noun an examination of the inside of the brain, made by passing X-rays through the head, using a scanner, and reconstituting the images on a computer monitor

brain scanner /ˈbreɪn _ˈskænər/ noun a machine which scans the interior of the body, used to examine the brain

brain stem /ˈbreɪn _ˈstɛm/ noun the lower narrow part of the brain which connects the brain to the spinal cord

brain tumour /ˈbreɪn _ˈtɜːmər/ 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 /ˈbreɪn _ˈwɔːv/ noun a rhythmic wave of voltage produced by electrical activity in the brain tissue

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

branch /brɑŋkʃ/ noun any part which grows out of a main part

- The radial artery branches from the brachial artery at the elbow.

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

branchial /ˈbrɑŋkʃəl/ adjective referring to the branchiae

branchial cyst /ˈbrɑŋkʃəl _ˈsɪst/ noun a cyst on the side of the neck of an embryo

branchial pouch /ˌbrɑŋkʃiəl _ˈpaʊʃ// noun a pouch on the side of the neck of an embryo

Braun's frame /ˌbraʊn_ _ˈfrem/ Braun's splint /ˌbraʊn_ _ˈsplɪнт// 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 /ˌbrɛkstən _ˈhɪks _ˈkɒntrəkʃənz/ 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 /ˌbreɪkbɔʊn _ˈfiːvər/ noun same as dengue

break down /ˌbreɪk _ˈdɔʊn/ 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. 3. to split or cause to split into smaller chemical components, as in the digestion of food

breakdown /ˌbreɪkˌdʌʊn/ noun ○ nervous breakdown

breakdown product /ˌbreɪkˌdʌʊn _ˌprɒdʌkt/ noun a substance which is produced when a compound is broken down into its parts

breakfast /ˌbreɪk _ˈfɛst/ noun one of two glands in a woman which secrete milk. Also called mammary (NOTE: For other terms referring to breasts, see words beginning with mamm-, mammo-,

mast-, masto-)

breast augmentation /ˌbreɪst _ˌæɡˈmənʃən/ noun a surgical procedure to increase the size of the breast for cosmetic purposes

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

breast cancer /ˌbreɪst _ˌkænˈsər/ noun a malignant tumour in a breast

breakfast /ˌbreɪk _ˈfɛst/ adjective referring to a baby which is fed from the mother's breasts ○ She was breast-fed for the first two months.

breast feeding /ˌbreɪst _ˌfɜːdɪŋ/ noun feeding a baby from the mother's breasts as opposed to from a bottle. Compare bottle feeding

breast implant /ˌbreɪst _ˌɪmplænt/ noun a sac containing silicone, implanted to improve the appearance of a breast

breast milk /ˌbreɪst _ˌmɪlk/ noun the milk produced by a woman who has recently had a baby
breech presentation /britʃˈprezɪpʃən/ noun a position of the baby in the uterus where the buttocks will appear first during childbirth
breed / britd / verb to reproduce, or reproduce animals or plants ○ The bacteria breed in dirty water. ○ Insanitary conditions help to breed disease.
bregma /ˈbreɡmə/ noun the point at the top of the head where the soft gap between the bones of a baby’s skull hardens
bretylium tosylate /brɪˈtɪliəm ˈtɒsɪleɪt/ noun an agent used to block adrenergic transmitter release
bridge /britdʒ/ noun 1. the top part of the nose where it joins the forehead 2. an artificial tooth or set of teeth which is joined to natural teeth which hold it in place 3. a part joining two or more other parts
Bright’s disease /ˈbraɪts di,ziə/ noun inflammation of the kidneys, characterised by albuminuria and high blood pressure. Also called glomerulonephritis [Described 1836. After Richard Bright (1789–1858), physician at Guy’s Hospital, London, UK.]
bring up /brɪŋ/ verb 1. to look after and educate a child 2. to cough up material such as mucus from the lungs or throat 3. to vomit (informal)
British anti-lewisite /ˈbrɪtɪʃ ˌæntɪˈljuːzɪt/ noun an antidote for gases which cause blistering, also used to treat cases of poisoning such as mercury poisoning. Abbr BAL
British Dental Association /ˈbrɪtɪʃ ˈdɛnt(ə)l əsəwst,ɛf(ə)ns/ noun in the UK, a professional association of dentists. Abbr BDA
British Medical Association /ˈbrɪtɪʃ ˈmedɪk(ə)l əsəwst,ɛf(ə)ns/ noun in the UK, a professional association of doctors. Abbr BMA
British National Formulary /ˈbrɪtɪʃ nəˈfɔːmərli/ noun a book listing key information on the prescribing, dispensing and administration of prescription drugs used in the UK. Abbr BNF
British Pharmacopoeia /ˈbrɪtɪʃ fəzɪməkə/ noun in the UK, 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 bone/ noun 1. same as osteogenesis imperfecta 2. same as osteoporosis
Broadbent’s sign /ˈbrɔːdbɛntz sɛrn/ 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

breast palpation /ˈbreسط palp,ˌpɛl-ʃən/ noun feeling for a lump as it is present which might indicate breast cancer
breast pump /ˈbreسط pamp/ 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 /ˈbreسط rɪd-ʃən/ noun a reduction of the size of the breast for cosmetic purposes
breath /bref/ noun air which goes in and out of the body when you breathe ○ He ran so fast he was out of breath. ○ Stop for 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 /briːθ/ 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.
COMMENT: Children breathe about 20 to 30 times per minute, men 16–18 per minute, and women slightly faster. 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 /ˈbreレスト həldɪŋ əˈtæk/ noun a period when a young child stops breathing, usually because he or she is angry
breathing /ˈbreレストɪŋ/ noun same as respiration ○ If breathing is difficult or has stopped, begin artificial ventilation immediately. ○ To breathe properly, make sure that your child breathes in and out in a deep and regular way. ○ to breathe easily ○ to take breaths deeply ○ to exhale or inhale deeply ○ breathing rate /ˈbreレストɪŋ ˈreɪt/ noun the number of times a person breathes in and out in a specific period
breathless /ˈbreレストləs/ adjective referring to someone who finds it difficult to breathe enough air ○ After running upstairs she became breathless and had to sit down.
breathlessness /ˈbreレストlɪnəs/ 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 /ˈbreレスト saʊndz/ 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 buttsocks, especially of a breech birth
breach birth /ˈbreʃ bɜːtʃ/ noun a birth in which the baby’s buttocks appear first rather than its head
used to control many types of microorganism

bronchioles  

jamin Collins Brodie (1783–1862), British surgeon, he also invented various instruments, described muscular dystrophy before Duchenne, and recognised rickets as a nutritional disorder before Virchow.

Brodie's abscess /brəʊdz 'æbsəs/ noun an abscess of a bone, caused by staphylococcal osteomyelitis [Described 1832. After Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie (1783–1862), British surgeon.]

bronchidrosis /brɒŋhɪ'droʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which body sweat has an unpleasant smell

bronmide /brɒmɪd/ noun a bromine salt (NOTE: Bromides are used as sedatives.)

bromism /brɒ'mɪzm/ noun chronic ill health caused by excessive use of bromides

broncomedriptide /brɒŋkə'medrɪptɪd/ noun a drug which functions like dopamine, used to treat excessive lacration, breast pain, some forms of infertility, growth disorder and Parkinson's disease

bronch- /brɒŋk/ bronch-, bronchi- /brɒŋkɪ/ prefix same as broncho- (used before vowels)

bronchial /brəʊŋkɪəl/ adj respiratory referring to the bronchi

bronchial asthma /brəʊŋkɪəl ə'stmə/ noun a type of asthma mainly caused by an allergen or by exertion

bronchial breath sounds /brəʊŋkɪəl bɹɛθ ˈsauðz/ plural noun distinctive breath sounds from the lungs which help diagnosis

bronchial pneumonia /brəʊŋkɪəl njuːˈnɪmɪə/ noun same as bronchopneumonia

bronchial tree /brəʊŋkɪəl trɪ/ noun a system of tubes (bronchi and bronchioles) which take the air from the trachea into the lungs

bronchiectasis /brəʊŋkɪˌɛktəˈsɪs/ noun a disorder of the bronchi which become wide, infected and filled with pus (NOTE: Bronchiectasis can lead to pneumonia.)

bronchio-, bronchi- /brəʊŋkɪə/ prefix referring to the bronchioles

broad ligament

Henry Broadbent (1835–1907), British physiologist

broad ligament /brɔːd 'lɪgəmənt/ noun peritoneal folds supporting the uterus on each side

broad-spectrum antibiotic /ˌbɹɔːd,ˈspektrəm ˌæntɪ'bɪərəʊtɪk/ noun an antibiotic used to control many types of microorganism

Broca's area /brəʊkəz ə'riə/ noun an area on the left side of the brain which governs the motor aspects of speaking [Described 1861. After Pierre Henri Paul Broca (1824–80), French surgeon and anthropologist. A pioneer of neurosurgery, he also invented various instruments, described muscular dystrophy before Duchenne, and recognised rickets as a nutritional disorder before Virchow.]

Broca's aphasia /brəʊkəs əˈfeɪzə/ noun a condition in which someone is unable to speak or write, as a result of damage to Broca's area

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Broca's area /brəʊkəz ə'riə/ noun an area on the left side of the brain which governs the motor aspects of speaking [Described 1861. After Pierre Henri Paul Broca (1824–80), French surgeon and anthropologist. A pioneer of neurosurgery, he also invented various instruments, described muscular dystrophy before Duchenne, and recognised rickets as a nutritional disorder before Virchow.]

Broca's aphasia /brəʊkəs əˈfeɪzə/ noun a condition in which someone is unable to speak or write, as a result of damage to Broca's area

broad-spectrum antibiotic /ˌbɹɔːd,ˈspektrəm ˌæntɪ'bɪərəʊtɪk/ noun an antibiotic used to control many types of microorganism

Broca's area /brəʊkəz ə'riə/ noun an area on the left side of the brain which governs the motor aspects of speaking [Described 1861. After Pierre Henri Paul Broca (1824–80), French surgeon and anthropologist. A pioneer of neurosurgery, he also invented various instruments, described muscular dystrophy before Duchenne, and recognised rickets as a nutritional disorder before Virchow.]

brodez 'əbsəs/ noun an abscess of a bone, caused by staphylococcal osteomyelitis [Described 1832. After Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie (1783–1862), British surgeon.]

bronchidrosis /brɒŋhɪ'droʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which body sweat has an unpleasant smell

bronmide /brɒmɪd/ noun a bromine salt (NOTE: Bromides are used as sedatives.)

bromism /brɒ'mɪzm/ noun chronic ill health caused by excessive use of bromides

broncomedriptide /brɒŋkə'medrɪptɪd/ noun a drug which functions like dopamine, used to treat excessive lacration, breast pain, some forms of infertility, growth disorder and Parkinson's disease

bronch- /brɒŋk/ bronch-, bronchi- /brɒŋkɪ/ prefix same as broncho- (used before vowels)

bronchial /brəʊŋkɪəl/ adj respiratory referring to the bronchi

bronchial asthma /brəʊŋkɪəl ə'stmə/ noun a type of asthma mainly caused by an allergen or by exertion

bronchial breath sounds /brəʊŋkɪəl bɹɛθ ˈsauðz/ plural noun distinctive breath sounds from the lungs which help diagnosis

bronchial pneumonia /brəʊŋkɪəl njuːˈnɪmɪə/ noun same as bronchopneumonia

bronchial tree /brəʊŋkɪəl trɪ/ noun a system of tubes (bronchi and bronchioles) which take the air from the trachea into the lungs

bronchiectasis /brəʊŋkɪˌɛktəˈsɪs/ noun a disorder of the bronchi which become wide, infected and filled with pus (NOTE: Bronchiectasis can lead to pneumonia.)

bronchio-, bronchi- /brəʊŋkɪə/ prefix referring to the bronchioles
bruised

bruised

buffered

buffer action

buffered

bug

branched

bronchoaspirometer

bronchospirometry

bronchial

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brown fat

buccal

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buccal smear

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bulb /ˈbʌlb/ noun a round part at the end of an organ or bone. bulb of the penis is the round end of the penis. Also called glans penis.

bulbous /ˈbʌlbəs/ adjective, referring to a bulb 2. referring to the medulla oblongata.

bulbar /ˈbʌlbər/ adjective 1. referring to a bulb or to form something in this way (NOTE: building – built)

build-up /ˈbɪld aup/ noun a gradual process of being added to or to form something in this way and to the walls of the arteries

built /bɪlt/ adjective referring to the general size of a person’s body or a heavily built man (NOTE: She’s slightly built.)

build /ˈbɪld/ verb the general size and shape of a person’s body. He has a heavy build for his height.

build up /ˈbɪld aup/ noun a gradual process of being added to or a build-up of fatty deposits on the walls of the arteries

bulbourethral gland /ˈbʌlbəˌjʊrrθərəl/ noun one of two glands at the base of the penis which secrete into the urethra. (NOTE: She has this name because it can be caused by a blow from the bumper of a car.)

bulging /ˈbʌlgin/ adjective a slightly swollen part on the skin, caused by something such as a bump or sting

bumper fracture /ˈbʌmpər frækʃən/ 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.)

bunion /ˈbʌnjaʊn/ noun an inflammation and swelling of the big toe, caused by tight shoes which force the toe sideways so that a callus develops over the joint between the toe and the metatarsal.

buphthalmos /ˈbʌfθləməs/ noun a type of congenital glaucoma occurring in infants.

bupivacaine /ˈbjuːpəvəkeɪn/ noun a powerful local anaesthetic, used in epidural anaesthesia.

buprenorphine /ˈbjuːprənəfai/ noun an opioid drug used in the relief of moderate to severe pain, and as an opioid substitute in treating drug addiction.

Burkitt’s tumour /ˈbɜːkɪts/ tumər/ noun a malignant tumour, usually on the maxilla, found especially in children in Africa (Described 1957. After Denis Parsons Burkitt (1911–93), formerly Senior Surgeon, Kampala, Uganda; later a member of the Medical Research Council (UK).)

burn /bɜːn/ verb an injury to skin and tissue caused by heat, electricity or chemicals (NOTE: burning – burnt or burned)

burnout /ˈbɜːrnət/ noun a feeling similar to that of being hurt by fire (NOTE: burning – burnt or burned)

burns unit /ˈbɜːnz jʉrənt/ noun a special department in a hospital which deals with burns.

burr /bɜːr/ (informal) noun a bit used with a drill to make holes in a bone such as the cranium or in a tooth.

burn /bɜːn/ verb a form of drug addiction (NOTE: burning – burnt or burned)

burning /ˈbɜːnɪŋ/ adjective referring to a feeling caused by light, heat, radiation, electricity or chemicals (NOTE: burning – burnt or burned)

burns /bɜːrnz/ plural referring to burns unit

burn /bɜːn/ verb to harm or destroy something by fire (NOTE: She burnt her hand on the hot pan. (NOTE: Most of his hair had a burning pain or in her chest.)

burn /bɜːn/ verb a burning pain or in her chest.

burn /bɜːn/ verb in a group of nerves running in the same direction.

burn /bɜːn/ verb a form of drug addiction (NOTE: burning – burnt or burned)

burn /bɜːn/ verb a burning pain or in her chest.

burn /bɜːn/ verb a burning pain or in her chest.

bundle /ˈbændəl/ noun a group of nerves running in the same direction.

bundle branch block /ˈbændəl bולם brəntʃ/ noun an unusual condition of the heart’s conduction tissue.

bundle of His /ˈbændəl oʊ haɪz/ noun same as atrioventricular bundle (Described 1893. After Ludwig His (1853–1934), Professor of Anatomy successively at Leipzig, Basle, Göttingen and Berlin.)

burst /bɜːst/ verb a large blister (NOTE: The plural is bullae.)

burn /bɜːrn/ verb a burning pain or in her chest.

burst /bɜːst/ verb a large blister (NOTE: The plural is bullae.)

burst /bɜːst/ verb to give off a strong smell or sound like smoke.

burst /bɜːst/ verb a large blister (NOTE: The plural is bullae.)

burst /bɜːst/ verb a large blister (NOTE: The plural is bullae.)

burst /bɜːst/ verb a large blister (NOTE: The plural is bullae.)

burst /bɜːst/ verb a large blister (NOTE: The plural is bullae.)

burst /bɜːst/ verb a large blister (NOTE: The plural is bullae.)
such as the knee and elbow, where it protects against frequent pressure and rubbing (NOTE: The plural is bursae.)
bursitis /bər'sətɪs/ noun the inflammation of a bursa, especially in the shoulder
Buscopan /bʌskəpæn/ a trade name for a form of hyoscine
butobarbitone /ˈbjuːtəˈbɑːrbiːtən/ 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 /ˈbætnəʊhəl ˈʃərdʒəri/ noun a surgical operation through a small hole in the body, using an endoscope
bypass /ˈbæps/ 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 /kaˈʃɛt/ noun a quantity of a drug wrapped in paper, to be swallowed
cachexia /ˈkeksɪə/ noun a state of ill health characterised by wasting and general weakness
cadaver /ˈkædəvər/ noun a dead body, especially one used for dissection
cadaveric /ˌkædəˈvɜːrɪk/, cadaverous /ˈkædəˈvɜːrəs/ adjective referring to a person who is thin or wasting away
cæca /ˈsɪkə/ plural of caecum
cæcal /ˈsɪkəl/ adjective referring to the caecum
cæcosigmoidostomy /ˌsɪkəˌsɪgmoʊɪdˈɒstəmi/ noun an operation to open up a connection between the caecum and the sigmoid colon
cæcostomy /ˌsɪIkˈstəmɪ/ 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.)
caesarean /ˈkezərən, -ˈsɛərən, -ˈsɛərən/ noun a surgical section /ˈsɛIkən, ˈsɛklən/ 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.
caesium /ˈsɪzɪəm/ noun a radioactive element, used in treatment by radiation (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Cs.)
caesium-137 /ˈsɪzɪəm ˌwɒnˈθriː/ sɛv(ə)n/ noun a radioactive substance used in radiology
café au lait spots /ˌkeɪfeɪст ˌleɪ spots/ 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 both foods and coffee in about the same percentages as well as in chocolate and other drinks.
caisson disease /ˈkɛs(ə)n ˈdiː, ˈziːzn/ 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 /ˌkɛləmɪn, kəˈleɪmɪn/ noun a lotion, based on zinc oxide, which helps relieve skin irritation, caused e.g. by sunburn or chickenpox
calc- /ˈkælk/ prefix same as calc- (used before vowels)
calcaemia /ˈkeIkˈsɪmɪə, kəˈleIkˈsɪmɪə/ noun a condition in which the blood contains an unusually large amount of calcium
calcaneal /ˈkælkənəl, -ənl/ adjective referring to the calcaneus
calcaneal tendon /ˌkælkəˈnɛrl, -ənl/ 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 /ˌkælkəˈnɛrəs, -ənl/ noun the heel bone, situated underneath the talus. See illustration at foot in Supplement
calcareous degeneration /ˌkælkəˈrɛs dʒiˈneɪəs dɪˌdʒenəˈreɪʃən/ noun the formation of calcium on bones or at joints in old age
calci- /ˈkæls/ prefix referring to calcium
calciﬁcation /ˈkaˌsəfər/ˈkaˌʃə(ʊ)r/ 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 calciﬁnosis.

calciﬁed /ˈkaˌsəfrd/ adjective made hard ○ Bone is calciﬁed connective tissue.

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

calcitonin /ˈkaˌsətənən/ noun a hormone produced by the thyroid gland, which is believed to regulate the level of calcium in the blood. Also called thyrocaltisinon

calciﬁcation /ˈkaˌsəfər/ˈkaˌʃə(ʊ)r/ noun a metallic chemical element which is a major component of bones and teeth and which is essential for various bodily processes such as blood 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.

calciﬁcation /ˈkaˌsəfər/ˈkaˌʃə(ʊ)r/ noun an agent that will not allow for movement or can make a piece hard ○ An instrument with two sharp edges used to measure the width of the inside of a tube or passage

57 caloric requirement

physician; Henri Luc (1855–1925), French laryngologist

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

caliber /ˈkaˌlɪbər/ noun US same as calibre

calibrate /ˈkaˌlbret/ 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 /ˈkaˌlbretə/ noun 1. an instrument used to enlarge a tube or passage 2. an instrument for measuring the diameter of a tube or passage

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

calcitectasis /ˈkaˌlɪktətəsə/ noun swelling of the calycies

caliper /ˈkaˌlɪpə/ noun 1. an instrument with two legs, used for measuring the width of the pelvic cavity 2. an instrument with two sharp points which are put into a fractured bone and weights attached to cause traction 3. a leg splint made of rods and straps and usually fastened to the lower leg to enable the hip bone rather than the foot to support the person’s weight when walking

caliper /ˈkaˌlɪpə/ noun same as caliper 3

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

callosity /ˈkaˌlɒsətɪ/ noun a hard patch on the skin, e.g., a corn, resulting from frequent pressure or rubbing. Also called callus

callosum /ˈkaˌlɒsəm/ noun 1. corpus callosum 2. tissue which forms round a broken bone as it starts to mend, leading to consolidation ○ Cal- losum formation is more rapid in children and young adults than in elderly people

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

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

color /ˈkaˌlə/ noun heat

coloric /ˈkaˌlərɪk/ adjective referring to calories or to heat

coloric energy /ˈkaˌlərɪk/ˈenədʒɪ/ noun the amount of energy shown as a number of calories

coloric requirement /ˈkaˌlərɪk ˈrɪˈkwɔrəmənt/ noun the amount of energy shown in calories which a person needs each day

Caldwell–Luc operation /ˈkaˌldelv lʊk əˈpərəʃən/ 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]
calorie /ˈkæləri/ noun 1. a unit of measurement of heat or energy, equivalent to the amount of heat needed to raise the temperature of 1g of water by 1°C. Now called joule. 2. another unit of measurement of energy in food (informal) a low-calorie diet. Now called calorie to count calories to be careful about how much you eat.
calvaria /ˌkælvəriə/ noun the top part of the skull
calyx /ˈkælɪks/ noun a part of the body shaped like a cup especially the tube leading to the lung.
cancerophobia /ˌkænəˈfəʊbiə/ noun same as cancer phobia
cancer oris /ˌkænəˈkɒrəs/ noun severe ulcers in the mouth, leading to gangrene.
Candida /ˈkændɪdə/ a type of fungus which causes mycosis. Also called Monilia.
Campylobacter /kæmpɪˈləʊbækər/ noun a bacterium which is a common cause of food poisoning in humans and of spontaneous abortion in farm animals.
canal /ˈkænɔl/ noun a tube along which something flows.
calicilitis /ˌkælɪkɪlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the tear duct canal.
caliculotomy /ˌkælɪkjʊləˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to open up a little canal.
cancellous bone /ˈkænsələsˌbɔːn/ 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 /ˈkænsər/ 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 /ˌkænsəˈfəʊbiə/ noun a fear of cancer.
canthal /ˈkænθəl/ adjective referring to the corner of the eye
cantholyis /ˈkænθəlɔɪs/ noun same as
canthoplasty /ˈkænθəplaɪstɪ/ 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 /ˈkæp/ 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 /ˈkæpliən, bænddʒ/ noun a bandage shaped like a cap, either for the head, or to cover a stump after amputation
capillarity /ˈkæpɪlərɪtɪ/ 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 /ˈkæpɪlərɪblɪndɪŋ/ noun bleeding where blood oozes out from small blood vessels
capitate /ˈkæpɪtət/ plural of caput
capitance /ˈkæpɪtəs/ noun the largest of the eight heads of the upper arm bone, the humerus, at the top of the head
capita /ˈkæpɪtə/ abbr.
capita /ˈkæpɪtaɪ/ noun a rounded enlarged part 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 capitae.)
capitella /ˈkæpɪtələ/ plural of capitulum
capitulare /ˈkæpɪtʊlər/ abbr. describing the rounded end (capitulum) of a bone
capitulum /ˈkæpɪtələm/ 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 /ˈkæpɪtələm əv ˈhjuːmərəs/ noun same as capitellum
caplet /ˈkæplət/ noun a small oblong tablet with a covering that dissolves easily and which usually cannot be broken in two
caps, abbr.
capsular /ˈkæpsjʊlər/ abbr.
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 3. The swallowed three capsules of painkiller. 4. The doctor prescribed the drug in capsule form.
capsuleectomy /ˈkæpsjʊlɪktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the capsule round a joint
capsulitis /ˈkæpsjʊlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a capsule
capsulotomy /ˈkæpsjʊltəmɪ/ 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 /ˈkæpʊt/ noun 1. the head 2. the top of part of something (NOTE: All senses) The plural is capita.
carbamazepine /ˈkɑrboʊməzəpɪn/ noun a drug which reduces pain and helps to prevent convulsions. It is used in the treatment of epilepsy, pain and bipolar disorder.
carbon 1. noun a poisonous gas found in fumes from car engines, from burning gas and cigarette smoke (NOTE: The chemical symbol is CO.)
carbon dioxide /kɑrˈbɒndəʊɪd/ 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 \(\text{CO}_2\).

\[\text{Carbon dioxide can be solidified at low temperatures and is known as 'dry ice' or 'carbon dioxide snow', being used to remove growths on the skin.}\]
carbon dioxide snow /ˈkɑrboʊˌdɑːɪˈskəʊd/ noun a drug which reduces pain and helps to prevent convulsions. It is used in the treatment of epilepsy, pain and bipolar disorder.
carbonic anhydrase /ˈkɑrboʊnɪk ænˈhɑːrdɪrəz/ 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 /ˈkɑrboʊ məˈnɒksəd/ noun a poisonous gas found in fumes from car engines, from burning gas and cigarette smoke (NOTE: The chemical symbol is \(\text{CO}\).)
carbon monoxide poisoning

COMMENT: Carbon monoxide is dangerous because it is easily absorbed into the blood and takes the place of the oxygen in the blood, combining with haemoglobin to form carboxyhaemoglobin, which has the effect of starving the tissues of oxygen. 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 /kaɪboʊn ma’nəʊksɔʊd/ noun poisoning caused by breathing carbon monoxide

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

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

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

carcin– /kɑrˈsɪn/ prefix same as carcino– (used before vowels)

carcino– /kɑrˈsɪnəʊ/ prefix referring to carcinoma or cancer

carcinogen /ˈkɑrˌsɪnəʊdʒən/ 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 radiations, and substances used in the manufacture of plastics. A carcinogen is any agent, physical or chemical, that induces a cancer.

carcinogenesis /kɑrˈsɪnəˈdʒenˌɪsɪs/ noun the process of forming a carcinoma in tissue

carcinogenic /kɑrˈsɪnəˈdʒenɪk/ adjective causing a carcinoma or cancer

carcinoid /ˈkɑrˌsɪnɔɪd/ noun an intestinal tumour, especially in the appendix, which causes diarrhoea

carcinoid syndrome /ˈkɑrˌsɪnɔɪd ˈsɜːndrəʊm/ noun a group of symptoms which are associated with a carcinoid tumour

carcinoid tumour /ˈkɑrˌsɪnɔɪd ˈtʃuːmə/ same as carcinoid

carcinoma /ˈkɑrˌsɪnəʊmə/ noun a cancer of the epithelium or glands

carcinoma in situ /ˈkɑrˌsɪnəʊmə in ˈʃɪtjuː/ noun the first stage in the development of a cancer, where the epithelial cells begin to change

carcinomatosis /ˌkɑrˌsɪnəˌmətəsɪs/ noun a carcinoma which has spread to many sites in the body

carcinomatous /ˌkɑrˌsɪnəˌmətəs/ adjective referring to carcinoma

carcinosarcoma /ˌkɑrˌsɪnəˌsɑrəˈkɑmə/ noun a malignant tumour containing elements of both a carcinoma and a sarcoma

cardi– /ˈkɑrdi/ prefix same as cardio– (used before vowels)

cardia /ˈkɑrdiə/ noun 1. an opening at the top of the stomach which joins it to the gullet 2. the heart

cardiac /ˈkɑrdɪək/ adjective 1. referring to the heart 2. referring to the cardia

cardiac achalasia /ˈkɑrdiək əˈkeɪləsɪə/ 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. ○ cardiomycotomy

cardiac arrest /ˈkɑrdiək əˈrɛst/ noun a condition in which the heart muscle stops beating

cardiac asthma /ˈkɑrdiək əˈasma/ noun difficulty in breathing caused by heart failure

cardiac catheter /ˈkɑrdiək ˈkæθər/ 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 /ˈkɑrdiək ˈkæθərɪzaʃən/ noun a procedure which involves passing a catheter into the heart

cardiac cirrhosis /ˈkɑrdiək sɪˈrɔhəsɪs/ noun cirrhosis of the liver caused by liver disease

cardiac compression /ˈkɑrdiək ˈkɒmprɛʃən/ noun the compression of the heart by fluid in the pericardium

cardiac conducting system /ˈkɑrdiək kənˈdʌktɪŋ sɪstəm/ 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 /ˈkɑrdiək ˈsɜːkəl/ noun the repeated beating of the heart, formed of the diastole and systole

cardiac decompression /ˈkɑrdiək diˌkɒmprɛʃən/ noun the removal of a haematoma or constricting of the heart

cardiac failure /ˈkɑrdiək ˈfeɪlər/ noun same as heart failure

cardiac glycoside /ˈkɑrdiək ˈɡlɛksəʊsɪd/ noun a drug used in the treatment of tachycardia and atrial fibrillation, e.g. digoxin

cardiac impression /ˈkɑrdiək ɪˈmɛrʃən/ 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 /ˈkɑrdiək ˈɪndɛks/ noun the cardiac output per square metre of body surface, usually between 3.1 and 3.8l/min/m² (litres per minute per square metre)

cardiac infarction /ˈkɑrdiək ɪnˈfærkʃən/ noun same as myocardial infarction

cardiac monitor /ˈkɑrdiək ˈmɒnɪtər/ noun same as electrocardiograph

cardiac murmur /ˈkɑrdiək ˈmɜrmər/ noun same as heart murmur
cardiac muscle /ˈkɑːdɪækˌmʌsk/ noun a muscle in the heart which makes the heart beat.
cardiac neurosis /ˌkɑːdɪək njuəˈrəʊsɪs/ noun same as disordered action of the heart
cardiac notch /ˌkɑːdɪək ˈnɒtʃ/ 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 /ˌkɑːdɪək ˈɔːrɪfɪs/ noun an opening where the oesophagus joins the stomach.
cardiac output /ˌkɑːdɪək ˈaʊtˈpʊt/ 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 /ˌkɑːdɪək ˈpeɪsɪməkər/ 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 /ˌkɑːdɪək ˈpeɪʃənt/ noun a patient who has a heart disorder.
cardiac reflex /ˌkɑːdɪək ˈrɪflɛks/ noun the reflex which controls the heartbeat automatically.
cardiac surgery /ˌkɑːdɪək ˈsɜːdʒəri/ noun surgery to the heart.
cardiac tamponade /ˌkɑːdɪək ˈtæmpəˌneɪd/ noun a filling of blood within the pericardial cavity.

cardiac notch

heart tamponade

cardiac vein /ˌkɑːdɪək ˈvɛɪn/ noun one of the veins which lead from the myocardium to the right atrium.
cardinal /ˈkɑːrdɪnəl/ adjective most important.
cardinal ligaments /ˌkɑːrdɪnəl ˈlɪgəmənts/ plural noun ligaments forming a band of connective tissue that extends from the uterine cervix and vagina to the pelvic walls. Also called Mackenrodt’s ligaments.
cardio- /ˈkɑːrdiəʊ-/ prefix referring to the heart.
cardiogenic /ˌkɑːrdɪəˈdʒenɪk/ adjective resulting from activity or disease of the heart.
cardiogram /ˌkɑːrdɪəˈɡræm/ noun a graph showing the heartbeat, produced by a cardiograph.
cardiograph /ˌkɑːrdɪəˈɡrɑːf/ noun an instrument which records the heartbeat.
cardiographer /ˌkɑːrdɪəˈɡrɑːfər/ noun a technician who operates a cardiograph.
cardiologist /ˌkɑːrdɪəˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of the heart.
cardiology /ˌkɑːrdɪəˈlɒdʒɪ/ noun the study of the heart, its diseases and functions.
cardiomegaly /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌmɛɡəlɪ/ noun an enlarged heart.
cardiomyopathy /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌməʊˈæpθɪ/ noun a disease of the heart muscle.
cardiomyoplasty /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌməʊˈplæstɪ/ noun an operation to improve the functioning of the heart, by using the latissimus dorsi as a stimulant.
cardiomyotomy /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌməʊˈtɒmɪ/ noun an operation to treat cardiac achalasia by splitting the ring of muscles where the oesophagus joins the stomach. Also called Heller’s operation.
cardiopathy /ˌkɑːrdɪəˈpɑːθɪ/ noun any kind of heart disease.
cardiophone /ˌkɑːrdɪəˈfaʊn/ noun a microphone attached to a patient to record sounds, usually used to record the heart of an unborn baby.
cardioplegia /ˌkɑːrdɪəˈplɪdʒiə/ noun the stopping of a patient’s heart, by chilling it or using drugs, so that heart surgery can be performed.
cardiopulmonary /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌpʊləˈmənɔri/ adjective relating to both the heart and the lungs.
cardiopulmonary bypass /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌpʊləˌmənɔˌbaɪˈpɑːs/ 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 /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌpʊləˌmənɔˌriˌɛsəˈsɪteɪʃən/ 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 /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌpʊləˌmənɔˌriˌsɪstəm/ noun the heart and lungs considered together as a functional unit.
cardiorespiratory /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌɒrəˈsɪprɪəri/ adjective referring to both the heart and the respiratory system.
cardioscope /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌskəʊp/ noun an instrument formed of a tube with a light at the end, used to inspect the inside of the heart.
cardiospasm /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌspæzəm/ noun same as cardiac achalasia.
cardiothoracic /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌθɔːrəsk/ adjective referring to the heart and the chest region O a cardiothoracic surgeon.
cardiocography /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌɒkˌɡrɑːfi/ noun the recording of the heartbeat of a fetus.
cardiotomy /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌtɒmɪ/ noun an operation that involves cutting the wall of the heart.
cardiomyopathy /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌmɒˈθɪ/ noun an operation that involves cutting the wall of the heart.
cardiomyotomy /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌmɒˌtɒmɪ/ noun an operation that involves cutting the wall of the heart.
cardiotoxic /ˌkɑːrdɪəˌtɔksɪk/ adjective which is toxic to the heart.
vascular 62

cardiovascular /ˈkɔrdiəvəskələr/ adjective referring to the heart and the blood circulation system
cardiovascular disease /ˈkɔrdiəvəskələrdiʒ/ 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 /ˈkɔrdiəvəskələ system/ 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
cardioversion /ˈkɔrdiəvərənʃ/ noun a procedure to correct an irregular heartbeat by applying an electrical impulse to the chest wall

cardiitis /ˈkɔrdiətɪs/ noun inflammation of the connective tissue of the heart
caregiver /ˈkeərəgɪvər/ noun same as carer
care pathway /ˈkeərəˈpɑːθwèt/ noun the entire process of diagnosis, treatment and care that a patient goes through
care plan /ˈkeərə plæn/ noun a plan drawn up by the nursing staff for the treatment of an individual patient
...all relevant sections of the nurses’ care plan and nursing process had been left blank [Nursing Times]
carer /ˈkeərər/ noun someone who looks after a sick or dependent person
...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 /ˈkɔrərɪz/ noun decay in a tooth or bone
carina /ˈkɑrɪnə/ noun a structure shaped like the bottom of a boat, e.g. the cartilage at the point where the trachea branches into the bronchi
carotid /ˈkɔrətɪd/ carotid artery /ˈkɔrətɪd ˈɑrtərɪ/ noun either of the two large arteries in the neck which supply blood to the head

COMMENT: The common carotid artery is 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 /ˈkɔrətɪd ɑrˈtərɪ ðroʊmˈboʊsɪs/ noun the formation of a blood clot in the carotid artery
carotid body /ˈkɔrətɪd ˈbɒdɪ/ noun tissue in the carotid sinus which is concerned with cardiovascular reflexes
carotid pulse /ˈkɔrətɪd ˈpʌls/ noun a pulse felt in the carotid artery at the side of the neck
carotid sinus /ˈkɔrətɪd ˈsɪnnəs/ noun an expanded part attached to the carotid artery, which monitors blood pressure in the skull
carp- /ˈkɑrp/ prefix same as carpo-
...carpal(ə) /ˈkɑrp(ə)/ adjective referring to the wrist
carpal bones /ˈkɑrpəl ˈbɔʊnz/, carpal bones /ˈkɑrpəl ˈboʊnz/ plural noun the eight bones which make up the carpus or wrist. See illustration at HAND in Supplement
carpal tunnel release /ˈkɑrpəl ˈtænəl ˈriːləs/ noun an operation to relieve the compression of the median nerve
carpal tunnel syndrome /ˈkɑrpəl ˈtænəl ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a condition, usually affecting women, in which the fingers tingle and hurt at night. It is caused by compression of the median nerve.
carphology /ˈkɑrfoʊlədʒi/ noun the study of the carpus and wrist bones.
carpo- /ˈkɑrpəʊ/ prefix referring to the wrist
carpometacarpal joint /ˈkɑrpəˌmɛtəˈkɑrpəl/ noun one of the joints between the carpals and metacarpals. Also called CM joint
carpometacarpal joint /ˈkɑrpəˌmɛtəˈkɑrpəl/ noun one of the joints between the carpals and metacarpals. Also called CM joint
carpopedal spasm /ˈkɑrpoʊˌpɛdəl ˈspæzm/ noun a spasm in the hands and feet caused by lack of calcium
carpus /ˈkɑrpəs/ noun the bones by which the lower arm is connected to the hand. Also called wrist. See illustration at HAND in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is carpi.)
carrier /ˈkɑrriər/ 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. 2. Ten per cent of the population are believed to be unwitting carriers of the bacteria. 3. an insect which carries disease and infects humans
...a healthy person who carries a chromosome variation that gives rise to a hereditary disease such as haemophilia or Duchenne muscular dystrophy
catalepsy /kætəlɛpsɪ/ 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 /kætəlɪs/ verb to act as a catalyst and help make a chemical reaction take place. (Note: The US spelling is catalyze.) 
catalysis /kætəlɑsɪs/ noun a process where a chemical reaction is helped by a substance (the catalyst) which does not change during the process. 
catalyst /kætəlist/ 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 /kætəliːtɪk/ adjective referring to catalysis. 
catalytic reaction /kætəlɪtɪk rɪˈækʃən/ noun a chemical reaction which is caused by a catalyst which does not change during the reaction. 
catamenia /kætəˈmɪnɪə/ noun menstruation (technical). 
cataplexy /kætəˈpleksɪ/ 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. 
cataract /ˈkætərækt/ 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 /ˈkætərækt ɪkˈstrækʃən/ noun the surgical removal of a cataract from the eye. 
cataractous lens /ˈkætəræktəs lɛnz/ noun a lens on which a cataract has formed. 
cataract, /kætəˈrækt/ noun inflammation of the mucous membranes in the nose and throat, creating an excessive amount of mucus. 
catarhal /ˈkætərɔːl/ adjective referring to cataract or a catarhal cough. 
catatonia /kætəˈtɒnɪə/ noun a condition in which a psychiatric patient is either motionless or shows violent reactions to stimulation. 
catatonic /kætəˈtɒnɪk/ adjective referring to behaviour in which a person is either motionless or extremely violent. 
catatonic schizophrenia /kætəˈtɒnɪk sɪˈzɪkəsprɪˈfɪnə/ noun a type of schizophrenia.
catheterisation /ˌkæθəˈtɪərəˌzɪʃən/ noun the act of putting a catheter into a patient's body

CATHETERISE /ˌkæθəˈtɪərɪz/ verb to insert a catheter into a patient

CAT scan /ˈkæt skæn/ CT scan /siːˈtiː skæn/: noun same as CT scan

cat-scratch disease /ˈkæt skrætʃ dɪˈziːtʃə/ noun an illness in which the patient has a fever and swollen lymph glands, thought to be caused by a bacterium transmitted to humans by the scratch of a cat. It may also result from scratching with other sharp points.

cauda equina /ˈkɔːdə ˌɛkwənə/ noun a group of nerves which go from the spinal cord to the lumbar region and the coccyx

caudal /ˈkɔːdəl/ adjective (in humans) referring to the cauda equina.

caudal anaesthetic /ˈkɔːdəl əˈneɪsθɪk/ noun an anaesthetic, injected into the base of the spine to remove feeling in the lower part of the body. It is often used in childbirth.

caudal analgesia /ˈkɔːdəl əˈnlɪgəsiə/ 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 /ˈkɔːdəl bлюk/ noun a local anaesthesia of the cauda equina nerves in the lower spine

caudate /ˈkɔːdeɪt/ adjective like a tail

caudate lobe /ˈkɔːdeɪt ləʊb/ noun a lobe at the back of the liver, behind the right and left lobes. Also called posterior lobe

cauliflower ear /ˈkɔːfləʊər ˈtɛə/ noun a permanently swollen ear, caused by blows in boxing

causalgia /ˈkɔʊsələdʒɪə/ noun burning pain in a limb, caused by a damaged nerve

causal organism /ˈkɔːzəl ˈɔːɡənɪzəm/ noun an organism that causes a particular disease

cautic /ˈkɔːstɪk/ noun a chemical substance that destroys tissues that it touches; adjective corrosive and destructive

cauterisation /ˌkɔːtəˈrɪzaʃən/, cauterization noun the act of cauterising • The growth was removed by cauterisation.

cauterise /ˈkɔːtəraɪz/, cauterize verb to use burning, radiation or laser beams to remove tissue or to stop bleeding

cautery /ˈkɔːtəri/ noun a surgical instrument used to cauterise a wound

cave /ˈkeɪv/ noun a cavity

cavernous /ˈkævənəs/ adjective referring to a cavernous, hollow structure

cavernous breathing sounds /ˈkævənəs ˈbɹɪtʃɪŋ ˈsɔndəs/ plural noun hollow sounds made by the lungs and heard through a stethoscope placed on a patient's chest, used in diagnosis

Cavernous haemangioma /ˈkævənəs ˈheɪmənˌdʒɪəmə/ noun a tumour in connective tissue with wide spaces which contain blood

cavernous sinus /ˈkævənəs ˈsɪnəs/ noun one of two cavities in the skull behind the eyes, which form part of the venous drainage system

cavitation /ˌkævəˈteɪʃən/ noun the forming of a cavity

cavity /ˈkeɪvəti/ noun a hole or space inside the body

cCD abbr: cubic centimetre

CCU abbr: coronary care unit

CD4 /ˈsiː diː ˈsiː/ 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 a test used to monitor how many CD4 cells have been destroyed in people with HIV
CDH /'siːθiː/ noun US same as coeliac
cefalexin /ˈsɛfælɪksɪn/ noun an antibacterial drug used to treat septicemia
cefotaxime /ˈsɛfətɑksɪzm/ noun a synthetic cephalosporin used to treat bacterial infection by pseudomonads
-ceil /sɪl/ suffix referring to a swelling
celiac /ˈsɛliək/ adjective US same as coeliac
cell /sɛl/ 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 beginning with cyt-, cyto-)
COMMENT: The cell is a unit which can reproduce itself. It is made up of a jelly-like substance (cytoplasm) which surrounds a nucleus. The cell contains 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 reproduction of cells is the way the human body is formed.
cell body /ˈsɛlbɔdi/ noun the part of a nerve cell which surrounds the nucleus and from which the axon and dendrites begin
cell division /ˈsɛldɪvɪʒən/ noun the way in which a cell reproduces itself. Mitosis, meiosis
cell membrane /ˈsɛlmembrem/ noun a membrane enclosing the cytoplasm of a cell. Columnar cell, target cell
cellular /ˈsɛljʊlər/ adjective 1. referring to cells, or formed of cells 2. made of many similar parts connected together
cellular tissue /ˈsɛljuːlər tʃɪər/ noun a form of connective tissue with large spaces
cellulite /ˈsɛljuːlɪt/ noun lumpy deposits of subcutaneous fat, especially in the thighs and buttocks
cellulitis /ˈsɛljuːlɪtɪs/ noun a usually bacterial inflammation of connective tissue or of the subcutaneous tissue
cellulose /ˈsɛljuːlsəʊs/ 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 /ˈsɛlsɪəs/ noun a metric scale of temperature on which 0° is the point at which water freezes and 100° is the point at which water boils under average atmospheric conditions. Also called centigrade. [Fahrenheit (NOTE: It is usually written as a ° after the degree sign; 52°C (say: fifty-two degrees Celsius).) [Described 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.
centrifugal

centrifugal /sentrɪfrɪˈɡɔːl, ˌsɛntrɪfrɪˈɡɔːl/ adjective moving away from the centre

centrifugation /ˌsɛntrɪfrɪˈɡɔːʃən/, centrifuging /ˈsɛntrɪfrɪgɪŋ/ noun the process of separating the components of a liquid in a centrifuge

centrifuge /ˌsɛntrɪfrɪdʒ/ noun a device to separate the components of a liquid by rapid spinning

centriole /ˌsɛntrɪˈɔʊl/ noun a small structure found in the cytoplasm of a cell, which involved in forming the spindle during cell division

centripetal /ˌsɛntrɪˈpɛtl/ adjective moving towards the centre

centromere /ˌsɛntrəmər/ noun a constricted part of a chromosome, seen as a cell divides

centrosome /ˌsɛntrəsəʊm/ noun the structure in the cytoplasm of a cell, near the nucleus, and containing the centrioles

centrum /ˌsɛntrəm/ noun the central part of an organ (note: the plural isenta)

ceph-al-/sɛfəl/ prefix same as ceph- (used before vowels)

cephalalgia /ˌsɛfəlælґʒə/ noun same as headache

cephalexin /ˌsɛfəlɛksɪn/ noun an antibiotic used to treat infections of the urinary system or respiratory tract

cephalhaematoma /ˌsɛfəlhaɪˈməʊmə/ noun a swelling found mainly on the head of babies delivered with forceps

cephalic /ˌsɛfəlɪk/ adjective referring to the head

cephalic index /ˌsɛfəlɪk ˈɪndɛks/ noun a measurement of the shape of the skull

cephalic presentation /ˌsɛfəlɪk, prɛzənˈtʃən/ noun the usual position of a baby in the uterus, where the baby’s head will appear first

cephalic version /ˌsɛfəlɪk ˈvɜːʒən/ noun turning a wrongly positioned fetus round in the uterus, so that the head will appear first at birth

cephalo-/sɛfəloʊ/ prefix referring to the head

cephalocele /ˌsɛfələʊˈsɛl/ noun a swelling caused by part of the brain passing through a weak point in the bones of the skull

cephalogram /ˌsɛfələˈɡræm/ noun an X-ray photograph of the bones of the skull

cephalometry /ˌsɛfələmətɹɪ/ noun measurement of the head

cephalopelvic /ˌsɛfələˈpɛlvɪk/ adjective referring to the head of the fetus and the pelvis of the mother

cephalopelvic disproportion /ˌsɛfələˌpɛlvɪk ˌdɪsˈpɒrsɪʃən/ noun a condition in which the pelvic opening of the mother is not large enough for the head of the fetus

cephalospinor /ˌsɛfələˈspɪnər/ noun a drug used in the treatment of bacterial infection

cephraladine /ˌsɛfərəldəɪn/ noun an antibacterial drug used to treat sinusitis and urinary tract infections

cerclage /ˈsɛrkəlɪdʒ/ noun the act of tying things together with a ring

cerebral-/sɛrəˈbrəl/ adjective referring to the cerebellum

cerebellar ataxia /ˌsɛrəˈbɛlər əˈteɪksiə/ noun a disorder where a person staggers and cannot speak clearly, due to a disease of the cerebellum

cerebellar cortex /ˌsɛrəˈbelər ˈkɔrnɛks/ noun the outer covering of grey matter which covers the cerebellum

cerebellar gait /ˌsɛrəˈbelər ˈgæt/ noun a way of walking where a person stagers along, caused by a disease of the cerebellum

cerebellar peduncle /ˌsɛrəˈbelər ˈpiːdəŋkəl/ noun a band of nerve tissue connecting parts of the cerebellum

cerebellar syndrome /ˌsɛrəˈbelər ˈsɪn dreməʊ/ noun a disease affecting the cerebellum, the symptoms of which are loss of muscle coordination, ataxia, difficulty in speech and impaired sense of balance

cerebro-/sɛrəˈbrəʊ/ prefix same as cerebro- (used before vowels)

cerebral-/sɛrəˈbrəl/ plural of cerebrum

cerebral-/sɛrəˈbrəl/ adjective referring to the cerebrum or to the brain in general

cerebral aqueduct /ˌsɛrəˈbrəl əˈkwɪdɛkt/ noun a canal connecting the third and fourth ventricles of the brain. Also called aqueduct of Sylvius

cerebral artery /ˌsɛrəˈbrəl əˈtɜːrri/ noun one of the main arteries which take blood into the brain

cerebral cavity /ˌsɛrəˈbrəl ˈkeɪvəti/ noun one of the four connected fluid-filled spaces in the brain

cerebral cortex /ˌsɛrəˈbrəl ˈkɔrtɪks/ noun the outer layer of grey matter which covers the cerebrum

cerebral decompression /ˌsɛrəˈbrəl dɪkˈsəmpərɪʃən/ noun the removal of part of the skull to relieve pressure on the brain

cerebral dominance /ˌsɛrəˈbrəl ˈdəmənəns/ noun the usual condition where the centres for various functions are located in one cerebral hemisphere
cerebral haemorrhage /ˌserəbrol ˈhæmərɔr/ noun bleeding inside the brain from a cerebral artery. Also called brain haemorrhage.
cerebral hemisphere /ˌserəbrol ˈhɛmərsfɪr/ noun one of the two halves of the cerebrum.
cerebral infarction /ˌserəbrol ɪnˈfɑrkJən/ noun death of brain tissue as a result of reduction in the blood supply to the brain.
cerebral ischaemia /ˌserəbrol ɪˈskɪmə/ noun failure in the blood supply to the brain.
cerebral palsy /ˌserəbrol ˈpɔlə/ noun a disorder mainly due to brain damage occurring before birth, or due to lack of oxygen during birth, associated with poor coordination of muscular movements, impaired speech, hearing and sight, and sometimes mental impairment. (Note: Premature babies are at higher risk.)
cerebral peduncle /ˌserəbrol ˈpiːdʌŋkl/ noun a mass of nerve fibres connecting the cerebral hemispheres to the midbrain. See illustration at BRAIN in Supplement.
cerebral thrombosis /ˌserəbrol ˈθɔrmboʊsɪs/ noun same as cerebrovascular accident.
cerebral vascular accident /ˌserəbrol ˈvɛskərəl əˈsentɪd/ noun same as cerebrovascular accident.
cerebral vascular activity /ˌserəbrol ˈvɛskərəl əˈækтивɪti/ noun brain activity.
cerebro- /ˌserəˈbruː/ prefix referring to the cerebrum.
cerebrospinal /ˌserəbrol ˈspɹənəl/ adjective referring to the brain and the spinal cord.
cerebrospinal fever /ˌserəbrol ˈspɹənəl ˈfiːvə/ noun same as meningoencephalitis.
cerebrospinal fluid /ˌserəbrol ˈspɹənəl ˈflʌɪd/ noun fluid which surrounds the brain and the spinal cord. Abbr CF.
COMMENT: CSF is found in the space between the arachnoid mater and pia mater of the brain, within the ventricles of the brain and in the central canal of the spinal cord. It consists mainly of water, with some sugar and sodium chloride. Its function is to cushion the brain and spinal cord and it is continually formed and absorbed to maintain the correct pressure.
cerebrospinal meningitis /ˌserəbrol ˈspɹənəl ˈmɛnɪŋɡəʊsəl əˈmənɪtɪs/ noun same as meningoencephalitis.
cerebrospinal tract /ˌserəbrol ˈspɹənəl ˈtrækt/ noun one of the main motor pathways in the anterior and lateral white columns of the spinal cord.
cerebrovascular /ˌserəbrol ˈvɛskərəl əˈsentɪd/ adjective referring to the blood vessels in the brain.
cerebrovascular accident /ˌserəbrol ˈvɛskərəl əˈsentɪd/ noun a sudden blocking of or bleeding from a blood vessel in the brain resulting in temporary or permanent paralysis or death. Also called stroke.
cerebrovascular disease /ˌserəbrol ˈvɛskərəl ˈdiːzi/ noun a disease of the blood vessels in the brain.
cerebrum /ˈsɛriːbrəm/ 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.
certificated /ˈsɛrtɪfɪkat/ noun an official paper which states something.
certify /ˈsɛrtɪfi/ verb to make an official statement in writing about something. O He was certified dead on arrival at hospital.

cerumen /ˈsɜːrəmən/ noun wax which forms inside the ear. Also called earwax.
ceruminous gland /ˈsɜːrəmənəs ˈɡlænd/ noun a gland which secretes earwax. See illustration at EAR in Supplement.
cervico- /ˈsɜːvɪkəʊ/ prefix same as cervico- (used before vowels).
cervical /ˈsɜːvɪkəl/ adjective 1. referring to the neck. 2. referring to any part of the body which is shaped like a neck, especially the cervix of the uterus.
cervical canal /ˈsɜːvɪkəl ˈkænəl/ 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 cervicouterine canal.
cervical cancer /ˈsɜːvɪkəl ˈkænsər/ noun a cancer of the cervix of the uterus.
cervical collar /ˈsɜːvɪkəl ˈkolə/ noun a special strong orthopaedic collar to support the neck of a person with neck injuries or a condition such as cervical spondylosis.
cervical erosion /ˈsɜːvɪkəl əˈrəʊʃən/ noun a condition in which the epithelium of the mucous membrane lining the cervix uteri extends outside the cervix.
cervical ganglion /ˈsɜːvɪkəl ˈɡæŋɡljuːn/ noun one of the bundles of nerves in the neck.
cervical incompetence /ˈsɜːvɪkəl ə ɪnˈkʌmpətns/ 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 Shirodkar’s operation.
cervical intraepithelial neoplasia /ˈsɜːvɪkəl ɪntraɪpiˈθɛplɪl neʊəpəlɪˈziə/ noun changes in the cells of the cervix which may lead to cervical cancer. Abbrev CIN.
cervical nerve /ˈsɜːvɪkəl ˈnɜːv/ noun spinal nerve in the neck.
cervical node /ˈsɜːvɪkəl ˈnəʊd/ noun lymph node in the neck.
cervical plexus /ˈsɜːvɪkəl ˈpleksəs/ noun a group of nerves in front of the vertebrae in the neck, which lead to nerves supplying the
cervical rib /ˈsɜːvɪk(ə)l/ ‘rib’ noun an extra rib sometimes found attached to the vertebral column above the other ribs and which may cause thoracic inlet syndrome

cervical smear /ˈsɜːvɪk(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 /ˈsɜːvɪk(ə)l/ spondiˈləʊs is a degenerative change in the neck bones. spondyloˈsis

(cervical vertebrae /ˈsɜːvɪk(ə)l/ vərtˈsəbriː plural noun the seven bones which form the neck

cervicectomy /ˌsɜːvɪsɪˈektəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the cervix uteri

cervices /ˌsɜːvɪsɪz/ plural of cervix

cervicitis /ˌsɜːvɪsɪˈtɪs/ noun inflammation of the cervix uteri

cervico- /ˈsɜːvɪk(ə)l/ prefix referring to the neck 2, referring to the cervix of the uterus

cervicography /ˌsɜːvɪk(ə)l/ ˈkɜːfrəɡrəfɪ/ noun the act of photographing the cervix uteri, used as a method of screening for cervical cancer

cervicouterine canal /ˌsɜːvɪk(ə)l/ ˈkɜːfətɜːrɪn kəˈnɔːl/ noun same as cervical canal

cervix /ˌsɜːvɪks/ noun 1, any narrow neck of the neck 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. Commission for Healthcare Audit

cesium /ˈsɛzɪəm/ noun US same as caesium

cestode /ˈsɛstəd/ noun a type of tapeworm

cetrizine /ˈsɛtrɪzaɪn/ noun a mixture of ammonium compounds, used in disinfectants and antiseptics

CF abbr cystic fibrosis

CFT abbr complement fixation test

chafe /ʃeɪf/ verb to rub something, especially to rub against the skin. The rough cloth of the collar chafed the girl’s neck.

chafing /ʃeɪfɪŋ/ noun irritation of the skin due to rubbing. She was experiencing chafing of the thighs.

Chagas’ disease /ʃɑɡɡəs dʒɑːtʃə/ 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

chalias /ʃəˈlɛtʃɪə/ noun an excessive relaxation of the esophageal muscles, which causes regurgitation

chalazion /ˈkɛlətʃɪən/ noun same as meibomian cyst

challenge /ˈʧɛlɪndə/ verb to expose someone to a substance to determine whether an allergy or other adverse reaction will occur. n noun exposure of someone to a substance to determine whether an allergy or other adverse reaction will occur

chalone /ˈkæloʊn/ noun a type of tapeworm

chalcosis /ˈkælsɪs/ noun US same as caesium

described 1879–1934, Brazilian scientist and physiologist, 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 /ˈkærɪktərɪstɪk/ noun a quality which allows something to be recognised as different. Cancer destroys the cell’s characteristics.

characteristic adjective being a typical or distinguishing quality. Symptoms characterised by anaemia. The inflammation is characterised by shingles.

charcoal /ˈtʃɑːkɔul/ noun a highly absorbent substance, formed when wood is burnt in the absence of oxygen, used to relieve diarrhoea or intestinal gas and in cases of poisoning

COMMENT: Charcoal tablets can be used to relieve diarrhoea or flatulence.

Charcot’s joint /ˈtʃɑːkɔt/ dʒɔʊnt/ 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 /ˈtʃɑːkɔt/ ˈtɾɪəd/ noun three symptoms of multiple sclerosis: rapid eye movement, tremor and scanning speech

charelyhorse /ˈtʃɛliˌhaʊs/ noun US a painful cramp in a leg or thigh

Charnley clamps /ˈtʃælnl/ ˈklaʊmpz/ plural noun metal clamps fixed to a rod through a bone to hold it tight.
forms the lower part of the eye socket
...terms appear on the palms of the hand... side of the buttocks... metal such as lead from the bloodstream... chelating agent in order to remove a heavy... /vertstrokeinferiorkɒmpə/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorzʃ
.../vertstrokeinferiorki/lengthmarktʃi/lengthmarkkbəυn... a temperature chart
.../pipe/vertstrokeinferiorkemk.../L50263... He had a heart check-up last week.
.../L50263... /L50263... CHD.../L50263... CHD.../L50263... abbr... bachelor of surgery
.../L50263... abbr... child health clinic.../L50263... 2... community health council
.../L50263... abbr... coronary heart disease
.../L50263... check-up.../L50263... a general examination.../L50263... She went for a check-up.../L50263... He had a heart check-up last week.
.../L50263... cheek.../L50263... a double cleft upper lip.../L50263... cheekbone.../L50263... an arch of bone in the face beneath the cheek which also forms the lower part of the eye socket
.../L50263... cheek-.../L50263... -ka/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorʃi.../L50263... same as.../L50263... (used before vowels)
.../L50263... chelilitis.../L50263... inflammation of the lips
.../L50263... chelilo-.../L50263... -ka/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorʃi.../L50263... double cleft upper lip
.../L50263... cheliosis.../L50263... swelling and cracks on the lips and corners of the mouth caused by lack of vitamin B
.../L50263... cheiro-.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorməυ/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorθerə/pipe.../L50263... used be-
.../L50263... cheiropompholyx.../L50263... prefix referring to the hand
.../L50263... cheiropompholyx.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorməυr/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorseptə.../L50263... a disorder of the skin in which tiny blisters appear on the palms of the hand
.../L50263... chelate.../L50263... -kikeil/.../L50263... to treat someone with a chelating agent in order to remove a heavy metal such as lead from the bloodstream
.../L50263... chelating agent.../L50263... -kikeilteiŋ/.../L50263... a chemical compound which can combine with some metals, used as a treatment for metal poisoning
.../L50263... cheloid.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorl3d/.../L50263... same as.../L50263... chemical.../L50263... -keiμk(ə)l/.../L50263... adjective referring to chemistry.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorməυ/pipeθerə/pipe.../L50263... a substance produced by a chemical process or formed of chemical elements
.../L50263... ‘The MRI body scanner is able to provide a chemical analysis of tissues without investigative surgery’.../L50263... (Health Services Journal)
.../L50263... chemical composition.../L50263... -keiμk(ə)l.../L50263... the chemicals which make up a substance.../L50263... They analysed the blood samples to find out their chemical composition.
.../L50263... chemical symbol.../L50263... -keiμk(ə)l.../L50263... ‘symbol.../L50263... letters which represent a chemical substance.../L50263... Na is the symbol for sodium.
.../L50263... chemist.../L50263... -keiμst/.../L50263... a shop where you can buy medicine, toothpaste, soap and similar items.../L50263... Go to the chemist to get some cough medicine, .../L50263... The tablets are sold at all chemists, .../L50263... There’s a chemist on the corner.
.../L50263... chemistry.../L50263... -keiμstrə/.../L50263... the study of substances, elements and compounds and their reactions with each other.../L50263... blood chemistry or chemistry of the blood.../L50263... substances which make up blood, which can be analysed in blood tests, the results of which are useful in diagnosing disease.../L50263... a record of changes which take place in blood during disease and treatment
.../L50263... chemo.../L50263... -kiμməυ/.../L50263... prefix referring to chemistry
.../L50263... chemotherapeutic agent.../L50263... -kiμməυθeηə/.../L50263... 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
.../L50263... chemosis.../L50263... swelling of the conjunctiva
.../L50263... chemotaxis.../L50263... -kiμməυtækksi/.../L50263... the movement of a cell when it is attracted to or repelled by a chemical substance
.../L50263... chemotherapeutic agent.../L50263... -kiμməυθeηə/.../L50263... a chemical substance used to treat a disease
.../L50263... chemotherapy.../L50263... -kiμməυθeρə/.../L50263... 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
.../L50263... chest.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorf/.../L50263... the upper front part of the body between the neck and stomach. Also called thorax.../L50263... (see thorax... for either terms referring to the chest, see pectoral and words beginning with steth-, thoraco-...)
.../L50263... chest cavity.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorf.../L50263... a space in the body containing the diaphragm, heart and lungs
.../L50263... chest examination.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorf.../L50263... an examination of someone’s chest by percussion, stethoscope or X-ray.
.../L50263... chest muscle.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorf.../L50263... same as.../L50263... pectoral muscle
.../L50263... chest pain.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorf.../L50263... pain in the chest which may be caused by heart disease
.../L50263... chesty.../L50263... -ki/lengthmark/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorf.../L50263... adjective having phlegm in the lungs, or having a tendency to chest complaints
.../L50263... Cheyne–Stokes respiration.../L50263... /tʃen/.../L50263... ‘periodic and usually shallow breathing .../L50263... irregular breathing, usually found in people who are unconscious, with short bursts gradually increasing to deep breaths, then reducing again, until breathing appears to stop
.../L50263... CHEI.../L50263... abbr... Commission for Health Improvement
child-proof lids or caps.

sign of the beginning of a fever, of flu or a cold

chill

children

children's hospital

child abuse

child bearing

childbirth

child care

child health clinic

childhood illness

child-proof

child protection

Chinese medicine

chiasm /ˈkæiziəm/ noun optic chiasma

chickenpox /ˈtʃɪkɪnpɔks/ 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 herpes-virus. 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 /ˈtʃifɪʃ ˈmedɪkəl/ noun in the UK, a government official responsible for all aspects of public health.

Chief Nursing Officer /ˈtʃifɪʃ ˈnɜːsɪŋ ˈɒfɪsə/ noun in the UK, an official appointed by the Department of Health to advise Government Ministers and provide leadership to nurses and midwives.

childblain /ˈtʃɪblɛin/ 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, pedo- or ped-, pedo-.)

child abuse /ˈtʃɪld əˈhjuːs/ noun cruel treatment of a child by an adult, including physical and sexual harm

child bearing /ˈtʃɪldbɛərɪŋ/ noun the act of carrying and giving birth to a child

childbirth /ˈtʃɪldbɜːθ/ noun the act of giving birth. Also called parturition

child care /ˈtʃɪld kɛə/ noun the care of young children and study of their special needs

child health clinic /ˈtʃɪld ˈhe̞lθ kλɪmɪk/ noun a special clinic for checking the health and development of small children under school age. Abbr CHC

childhood illness /ˈtʃɪldhɒld ˈɪlnəs/ noun an illness which mainly affects children and not adults

child-proof /ˈtʃɪld prəʊf/ adjective designed so that a child cannot use it or child-proof containers. The pills are sold in bottles with child-proof lids or caps.

child protection /ˈtʃɪld prəˌtekʃən/ noun the measures taken to avoid abuse, neglect or exploitation of any kind towards children

children /ˈtʃɪldrənz/ plural of child

children’s hospital /ˈtʃɪldrənz ˈhɒspɪtəl/ noun a hospital which specialises in treating children

chill /ʃɪl/ 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 /ʃɪn/ noun the bottom part of the face, beneath the mouth

Chinese medicine /ˌtʃiˈməniˈziː ˈmedɪsən/ 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 /ˌtʃiˈməni ˈrɛstərɒnt ˈsɪndrəm/ noun an allergic condition which gives people severe headaches after eating food flavoured with monosodium glutamate (informal)

chiropractic /kɪəˈrɒpтрɪk/ noun the study and treatment of minor diseases and disorders of the feet

chiropractic /kɪəˈrɒpтрɪk/ noun the treatment and prevention of disorders of the neuromusculoskeletal system by making adjustments primarily to the bones of the spine

chiropractor /kɪəˈrɒptər/ noun a person who treats musculoskeletal disorders by making adjustments primarily to the bones of the spine

chiropractic /kɪəˈrɒptər/ noun same as chiropractic (informal)

Chlamydia /ˈklaːmiədə/ 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 /ˈklaːmiədʒəl/ adjective referring to infections caused by Chlamydia

chloasma /ˈkluːəzmə/ noun the presence of brown spots on the skin from various causes

chlor- /ˈkluːə/ prefix same as chloro- (used before vowels)

chlorambucil /ˈkluːərəmbjʊsəl/ noun a drug which is toxic to cells, used in cancer treatment

chloramphenicol /ˌkluːəræmˈfɛnɪkəl/ 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

chloral hydrate /ˌkluːəræl ˈhɑːdrət/ noun a yellow crystalline powder, used as a tranquilliser and treatment for alcoholism

chlorhexidine /ˌkluːərɪkˈsiːdɪn/ noun a salt of hydrochloric acid

chlorination /ˌkluːərɪˈneɪʃən/ 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 /ˌkluːərɪˈneɪtər/ noun apparatus for adding chlorine to water
chlorine /ˈkluːrɪn/ noun a powerful greenish gas, used to sterilise water (Note: The chemical symbol is Cl)

chloromethiazole /ˈklɔrəmɪθəɪzaʊl/ noun a sedative used in the treatment of people with alcoholism

chloro- /ˈklɔrəʊ/ prefix referring to chlorine

chloroform /ˈklɔrəfɔːm/ noun a powerful drug formerly used as an anaesthetic

chloroma /ˈklɔrəmə/ noun a bone tumour associated with acute leukaemia

choloeritosis /ˈkluːlɔrəritəsɪs/ noun a type of severe anaemia due to iron deficiency, affecting mainly young girls

cholethiazide /ˈkluːləθəɪzaɪd/ noun a drug which helps the body to produce more urine, used in the treatment of high blood pressure, swelling and heart failure

choleoxalenol /ˈkluːləʊəkˈɛlənɒl/ noun a chemical used as an antimicrobial agent in skin creams and in disinfectants

chlorpheniramine /ˈkluːlərəfɪnərəməɪn/ noun an antihistamine drug

chlorpromazine hydrochloride /ˈkluːlərəprəʊməziˈnɛn hɪdruˈkluːlərə/ noun a powerful drug which helps the body to produce more urine, used in the treatment of high blood pressure, swelling and heart failure

cholelithiasis /ˈkluːləlɪθəˈlɪθəsɪs/ noun a condition in which gallstones form in the gall bladder or bile ducts. Also called cholelithiasis

cholelithotomy /ˈkluːləlɪθəˈtelθətəmi/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening in a bile duct to remove gallstones

cholecystectomy /ˈkluːləsɪstɪkˈtɛmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the gall bladder

cholecystitis /ˈkluːləsɪstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the gall bladder

cholecystoduodenostomy /ˈkluːləsɪstɪdˌdjuːədəˈnəʊstəmɪ/ noun 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 /ˈkluːləsɪstɪgrəm/ noun an X-ray photograph of the gall bladder

cholecystography /ˈkluːləsɪstɪɡrəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the gall bladder

cholecystokinin /ˈkluːləsɪstɪˈkɔmɪn/ 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 /ˈkluːləsɪstɪtəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a gallstone by cutting into the bile duct

cholecalciferol /ˈkluːləkəlˈsɪkəˈfərəl/ noun a form of vitamin D found naturally in fish-liver oils and egg yolks

cholecalciferol /ˈkluːləkəlˈsɪkəˈfərəl/ noun a drug which encourages the production of bile

cholagogic /ˈkluːləɡəˈɡɪk/ adjective associated with acute leukaemia

cholangiocarcinoma /ˈkluːlənˈdʒiəkɑrˈsɪnəmə/ noun a rare cancer of the cells of the bile ducts

cholangiography /ˈkluːlənˈdʒɪəɡrəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the bile ducts and gall bladder

cholangiopancreatography /ˈkluːlənˈdʒɪəˌpænkrɪˈtɑgrəfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the bile ducts and pancreas

cholangitis /ˈkluːlənˈdʒætɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the bile ducts

cholesterol /ˈkluːləsɨrɒl/ noun a drug which helps the body to produce more urine, used in the treatment of high blood pressure, swelling and heart failure

cholesterol /ˈkluːləsɨrɒl/ noun a diuretic

CM Master of Surgery

choana /ˈkəʊənə/ noun any opening shaped like a funnel, especially the one leading from the nasal cavity to the pharynx (Note: The plural is choanae.)

chocolate cyst /ˈʃɔkətl/ˈsɪst/ noun an ovarian cyst containing old brown blood

choke /ʃoʊk/ 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 or 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.

chooking /ˈʃoʊkɪŋ/ noun a condition in which someone is prevented from breathing.

chol- /ˈkɒl/ prefix same as chole- (used before vowels)

cholaemia /ˈkɒləmɪə/ noun the presence of an unusual amount of bile in the blood

cholagogue /ˈkɒləɡəʊɡ/ noun a drug which affects the presence of an unusual amount of bile in the blood
epidemic broke out after the flood.

dice but some remains in the liver and causes jaun-
dice which all bile does not pass into the intestine

cyst containing some cholesterol found in the

of a cartilage

calcium phosphate are found in articular carti-

chondrodysplasia

chondroblast

chondritis

choluria

cholinesterase

cholinergic

cholic acid

choline

cholinergic

cholinesterase

cholodiniuria

chondroblast

chondrocalcinosis

chondrocyte

chondroplasia

chondrodystrophy

chondroma

chondromalacia

chondrosarcoma

chorda

A cholera
case of diarrhea, cramp in the intestines and dehy-
dration. The disease is often fatal and vacci-
nation is only effective for a relatively short pe-
tiod.

choleretic

cholesterosis

cholesterol

cholic acid

choline

cholodiniuria

chondrotomy

chondrosarcoma

chondroma

chondromalacia

chondrosarcoma

chorda

choleresis

been infected by Vibrio cholerae. A cholera

COMMENT: The infected person experiences
diarrhoea, cramp in the intestines and dehy-
dration. The disease is often fatal and vacci-
nation is only effective for a relatively short pe-
tiod.

choleretic

cholostasis

cholesterol

cholodiniuria

chondrotomy

chondrosarcoma

chorda

choleresis

COMMENT: Cholesterol is found in brain cells,

the liver and forming an essential part of all
cells

COMMENT: Cholesterol is found in brain cells,

the liver and forming an essential part of all
cells

COMMENT: Cholesterol is formed by the body,

and high blood cholesterol levels are associ-
ated with diets rich in animal fat, such as but-
ter and fat meat. Excess cholesterol can be

deposited in the walls of arteries, causing

atherosclerosis.

choleremia

suicide

cholodiniuria

chondrotomy

chondrosarcoma

chondroma

chondromalacia

chondrosarcoma

chorda

choleresis

COMMENT: The infected person experiences

choleresis

A cholera

COMMENT: The infected person experiences
diarrhoea, cramp in the intestines and dehy-
dration. The disease is often fatal and vacci-
nation is only effective for a relatively short pe-
tiod.
stained with basic dyes
parallel filaments making up a chromosome
number or arrangement of chromosomes
body

tion of genes on a chromosome is established
of time

grumbling appendix

chronic catarrhal rhinitis /kroı̊nik ˈkaʊərəl raiˈnətɪs/ noun a persistent form of inflammation of the nose where excess mucus is secreted by the mucous membrane
chronic fatigue syndrome /kroı̊nik ˈfætəg əˈsiːndrəm/ noun same as myalgic encephalomyelitis
chronic glaucoma /kroı̊nik ˈɡluəkəmə/ noun same as open-angle glaucoma
chronic granulomatous disease /kroı̊nik ˌɡreɪnjuːləˈmɒmətəs ˈdiːˌziːz/ noun a type of inflammation where macrophages are converted into epithelial-like cells as a result of infection, as in tuberculosis or sarcoidosis
chronic obstructive pulmonary disease /kroı̊nik ˈɔbstrəktɪv ˈeɪweɪzd ˈdiːˌziːz/ noun Abbr COAD. Now called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
chronic obstructive pulmonary disease /kroı̊nik ˈɔbstrəktɪv ˈpəlmənɔrəi ˈdiːˌziːz/ noun any of a group of progressive respiratory disorders where someone experiences loss of lung function and shows little or no response to steroid or bronchodilator drug treatments, e.g. emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Abbr CÔPD
chronic pancreatitis /kroı̊nik ˈpænkrətiətɪs/ noun a persistent form of inflammation of tissues round the shoulder joint. Also called scapulohumeral arthritis
chronic periarthritis /kroı̊nik ˌpərɪəˈrɪθrətɪs/ noun inflammation of the shoulder joint. Also called constrictive periarthritis
Chronic Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 /kroı̊nik ˈsɪk ənd ˈdɪsəd ˈpɜːrsonz ˈeɪkt/ noun an Act of Parliament in the UK which provides benefits such as alterations to their homes for people with long-term conditions
chronic toxicity /kroı̊nik ˈtɒksiətɪs/ noun exposure to harmful levels of a toxic substance over a period of time
chrysotherapy /ˈkrɔrəθrəpi/ noun treatment which involves gold injections
Chvostek’s sign /ˈkraʊstəkz ˌsaɪn/ noun an indication of tetany, where a spasm is produced if the facial muscles are tapped
chyle /kail/ noun a fluid in the lymph vessels in the intestine, which contains fat, especially after a meal
chylomicron /ˈkaɪliˌmɪkrən/ noun a particle of chyle present in the blood
chyluria /ˈkaɪljuərə/ noun the presence of chyle in the urine
chyme /kʌm/ noun a semi-liquid mass of food and gastric juices, which passes from the stomach to the intestine
chymotrypsin /ˌkaɪməˈtrɪpsən/ noun an enzyme which digests protein
Cl abbr curie
cicatrise /ˈsɪkətrəz/; cicatrice verb to heal and form a scar, or to cause a wound to heal and form a scar
-cicatrics /ˈsɪkətrɪks/ noun same as scar
-ciclovir /sɪkloʊˈvɪr/ noun used in the names of antiviral drugs
-cide /saɪd/ suffix referring to killing
cilium /ˈsɪliəm/ noun 1. the part of the eye which connects the iris to the choroid. See illustration at EYE in Supplement 2. referring to cilium
ciliary /ˈsɪliərri/ adjective 1. referring to the eyelid or eyelashes 2. referring to cilia
ciliary body /ˈsɪliərri ˈbɔrdi/ noun the part of the eye which connects the iris to the choroid. See illustration at EYE in Supplement
ciliary ganglion /ˈsɪliərri ˈɡæŋglən/ noun a parasympathetic ganglion in the orbit of the eye, supplying the intrinsic eye muscles
-ciliary muscle /ˈsɪliərri ˈmʌskəl/ 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 /ˈsɪliərri ˈprəʊsəsɛز/ plural of cillum
-ciliated epithelium /ˈsɪliətɛld ēpˈθɪlɪəm/ noun simple epithelium where the cells have tiny hairs or cilia
cillum /ˈsɪliəm/ 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 /ˈsɪlin/ suffix used in the names of penicillin drugs ○ amoxyceillin
cimetidine /ˈsaɪmətɪdɪn/ noun a drug which reduces the production of stomach acid, used in peptic ulcer treatment
cimex /ˈsaɪmɛks/ noun a bedbug or related insect which feeds on birds, humans and other mammals (NOTE: The plural is cimex.)
CIN abbr cervical intraepithelial neoplasia ○ genitaincin
-cinetics /sɪniˈɛtɪks/ noun the science of movement, especially of body movements
-cineplasty /sɪnˈplæstɪ/ noun an amputation where the muscles of the stump are amputated and used to operate an artificial limb
-cineradiography /ˌsɪnɪrəˈdɪəɡrəfi/ 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 /sɪnəˈsiəlɒdʒi/ noun the study of muscle movements, particularly in relation to treatment
-cingulectomy /ˌsaɪnɡjuˈlektəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the cingulum
-cingulum /ˌsaɪnɡjʊləm/ noun a long curved bundle of nerve fibres in the cerebrum (NOTE: The plural is cingula.)
cinnarizine /ˈsaɪnəraˌzɪn/ noun an antihistaminic used to treat Ménière’s disease
ciprofloxacin /ˌsaɪprəˌflɒksəsɪn/ noun a powerful antibiotic used in eye drops to treat corneal ulcers and surface infections of the eye, and in the treatment of anthrax in humans
-circadian /sɜːˈskiːdɪən/ adjective referring to a pattern which is repeated approximately every 24 hours
-circadian rhythm /sɜːˈskiːdɪən ˈrɪθm/ noun same as biological clock
-circle of Willis /ˈsɜːskiˌɔl/ abbr 'wils/ 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 /ˈsɜːskiˌfɔld/ noun a large transverse fold of mucous membrane in the small intestine
circulation /ˈsɜːskiˈjuːləʃən/ 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 ○ She has poor circulation in her legs. ○ Rub your hands to get the circulation going. 2. circulation (of blood) movement of blood 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 /ˈsɜːskiˈjuːlətri/ adjective referring to the circulation of the blood
circulatory system /ˈsɜːskiˌjuːlətəri/ /ˈsɜːskiˌjuːlətəri/ noun a system of arteries and veins, together with the heart, which makes the blood circulate around the body
-circum- /ˈsɜːrkəm/ prefix around
-circumcise /ˈsɜːrkəmsaɪz/ verb to remove the foreskin of the penis
-circumcision /ˈsɜːrkəmˌsɪzən/ noun the surgical removal of the foreskin of the penis

circumduction /ˈsɜːkəmdənʃən/ noun the action of moving a limb so that its end makes a circular motion

circumflex /ˈsɜːkəmfleks/ adjective bent or curved

circumflex artery /ˈsɜːkəmfleks ɔrətəri/ noun a branch of the femoral artery in the upper thigh

circumflex nerve /ˈsɜːkəmfleks ɔrnəv/ noun a sensory and motor nerve in the upper arm

circumoral /ˈsɜːkəmorəl/ adjective referring to rashes surrounding the lips

circumvallate papillae /ˈsɜːkəmˌvælət pəˈpɪli/ plural noun large papillae at the base of the tongue, which have taste buds

cirrhosis /sɪrˈrɒhəs/ 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 /sɪrˈrɑtɪk/ adjective referring to cirrhosis ○ The patient had a cirrhotic liver.

cirsoid /sɪrˈsɔɪd/ adjective referring to a varicose vein which is dilated

cirsoid aneurysm /sɪrˈsɔɪd ən̄jʊrɪs(ə)m/ noun a condition in which arteries become swollen and twisted

cisplatin /ˈsɪzplətɪn/ noun a chemical substance which may help fight cancer by binding to DNA. It is used in the treatment of ovarian and testicular cancer.

cistern /ˈsɪstenr/ cisterna /ˈsɪstərni/ noun a space containing fluid

cisterna magna /sɪstərniˌmæɡnə/ noun a large space containing cerebrospinal fluid, situated underneath the cerebellum and behind the medulla oblongata

citric acid /ˈsɪtrɪk əsid/ noun an acid found in fruit such as oranges, lemons and grapefruit

citric acid cycle /ˈsɪtrɪk əsid ˌsɪkl/ noun an important series of events concerning amino acid metabolism, which takes place in the mitochondria in the cell. Also called Krebs cycle

citrullinaemia /sɪstrʊlˈnɪmɪə/ noun a deficiency of an enzyme which helps break down proteins

citrulline /ˈsɪstrʊlin, ˈsɪstrʊlɪn/ noun an amino acid

CJD abbr Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease

cleof abbr centiliter

clear /klɪər/ noun a fear of enclosed spaces or crowded rooms. Compare agoraphobia

claustrophobic /ˈklaʊstrəfəˈbɪk/ adjective afraid of being in enclosed spaces or crowded rooms. Compare agoraphobic

clavicle /ˈkleɪvɪkl/ noun same as collarbone

clavicular /ˈklaʊvɪkjuələr/ adjective referring to the clavicle

clavus /ˈklaʊvəs/ noun 1. a corn on the foot 2. severe pain in the head, like a nail being driven in

claw foot /klɔ/ noun a deformed foot with the toes curved towards the instep and with a very high arch. Also called pes cavus

claw hand /klɔ/ hånd/ 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 /klɛn/ 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 /klɛnˈlɪnəs/ noun the state of being clean ○ The report praised the cleanliness of the hospital kitchen.

clear /klɛr/ 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. 3. ○ clear of something ○ The area is now clear of infection. ○ 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[klə(r) ‘lær] verb to get better ○ His infection should clear up within a few days. ○ I hope your cold clears up before the holiday.
cleavage /ˈklɪvɪdʒ/ noun the repeated division of cells in an embryo
cleavage lines plural noun same as Langer's lines
cleft /kli:t/ 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 /kli:t ‘fʊt/ noun same as talipes
cleft lip /klɪt ‘lɪp/ noun a congenital condition in which the upper lip fails to form in the usual way during fetal development. Also called harelip
cleft palate /klɪt ‘pælət/ 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- klaid- prefix referring to the clavicle
cleidocranial dysostosis /klai’dəkrænɪəl ‘dɪsəstəs/ noun a hereditary bone malformation, with protruding jaw, lack of collarbone and malformed teeth
clerking /‘klɛrkiŋ/ noun the practice of writing down the details of a person on admission to a hospital (internal)
client /‘kliɛnt/ noun a person visited by a health visitor or social worker
climacteric /‘klɪmətəriʃ/ noun 1. same as menopause 2. a period of diminished sexual activity in a man who reaches middle age
climax /‘klɪmæks/ noun 1. an orgasm 2. the point where a disease is at its worst adjective referring to have an orgasm
clindamycin /‘klɪndəmɛsɪn/ noun a powerful antibiotic used to treat severe infections and acne
clinic /‘klɪnɪk/ 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 /‘klɪnɪk(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]
clinical audit /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ˈɔːdɪt/ noun an evaluation of the standard of clinical care in treating patients ○ keep an eye on the care and treatment of patients in hospital wards or in doctors' surgeries
climacteric /‘klɪməterɪk/ noun 1. the period of life in which menopause occurs 2. the point where a disease is at its worst
clinical effectiveness /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ˈɪfɛktɪvɪtɪs/ noun the ability of a procedure or treatment to achieve the desired result
clinical governance /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ˈɡəvərznəns/ 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 /‘klɪnɪkli/ 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 /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ‘mɛdɪsɪn/ 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 /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ˈnɜːs ‘mænəʤər/ noun the administrative manager of the clinical nursing staff of a hospital
clinical nurse specialist /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ˈnɜːs ‘speʃ(ə)lɪst/ noun a nurse who specialises in a particular branch of clinical care
clinical pathologist /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ‘pæθələdʒɪst/ noun the study of disease as applied to the treatment of patients
clinical psychologist /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ‘psikəlɔrdʒɪst/ noun a psychologist who studies and treats sick patients in hospital
clinical thermometer /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ˈθɪmətər/ noun a thermometer used in a hospital or by a doctor for measuring a person's body temperature
clinical trial /‘klɪnɪk(ə)l ˈtrɪər/ noun a trial carried out in a medical laboratory on a person or on tissue from a person
clinicalian /‘klɪnɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a doctor, usually not a surgeon, who has considerable experience in treating patients
clonorchis /‘klənɔːdɔktrɪli/ noun the permanent bending of a finger to one side
clop /kləp/ noun a piece of metal with a spring, used to attach things together
clitoris /‘klɪtəris/ noun a small erectile female sex organ, situated at the anterior angle of the vulva, which can be excited by sexual activity. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (FEMALE) in Supplement
cloaca /‘kləʊəkə/ noun the end part of the hindgut in an embryo
clonus /klɔnəs/ noun a drug used to treat depression, phobias and obsessive-compulsive disorder
clonazepam /kləʊnəzepəm/ noun a drug used to treat epilepsy
done /klɔn/ noun a group of cells derived from a single cell by asexual reproduction and so identical to the first cell. verb to reproduce an individual organism by asexual means
clonic /kləʊnɪk/ adjective 1. referring to clonus 2. having spasmodic contractions
clonic spasms /kləʊnɪk 'spezɪzmz/ plural noun spasms which recur regularly
clonidine /kləʊnɪdɪn/ noun a drug which relaxes and widens the arteries, used in the treatment of hypertension, migraine headaches and heart failure
cloning /klaʊnɪŋ/ noun the reproduction of an individual organism by asexual means
clonorchiasis /kləʊnɔr'kɪəsɪs/ noun a liver condition, common in the Far East, caused by the fluke Clonorchis sinensis
clonus /'klɔnəs/ noun the rhythmic contraction and relaxation of a muscle, usually a sign of upper motor neurone lesions
close /kləʊz/ verb 1. to become covered with new tissue as part of the healing process 2. to fix together the sides of a wound after surgery to allow healing to take place
closed fracture /klaʊzd 'fræktʃə/ noun same as simple fracture
Clostridium /kloʊstrɪdɪəm/ noun a type of bacteria
COMMENT: Species of Clostridium cause botulism, tetanus and gas gangrene.
clot /klɔt/ noun a soft mass of coagulated blood in a vein or an artery. verb 1. the doctor diagnosed a blood clot in the brain. 2. Blood clots occur in thrombosis. nor verb to change from a liquid to a semi-solid state, or to cause a liquid to do this. His blood does not clot easily. (note: clotting – clotted)
clostrimazole /kloʊstrɪ'mæzoʊl/ noun a drug used to treat yeast and fungal infections
clotting /'klɒtʃɪŋ/ noun the action of coagulating
clotting factors /'klɒtʃɪŋ 'færktʃəz/ plural 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
COMMENT: Deficiency in one or more of the clotting factors results in haemophilia
clotting time /'klɒtʃɪŋ tɛm/ noun the time taken for blood to coagulate under usual conditions. Also called coagulation time
cloud /klɔʊd/ noun the disturbed sediment in it
cloudy /'klɔʊdi/ adjective referring to liquid which is not transparent but which has an opaque substance in it

coarse tremor /kɔrs 'tremər/ noun severe trembling

clubbing /'klʌbɪŋ/ noun a thickening of the ends of the fingers and toes, a sign of many different diseases
club foot /'klʌb fʊt/ noun same as talipes
cluster /'klʌstə/ noun 1. a group of small items which cling together 2. a significant subset in a statistical sample, e.g. of numbers of people affected by a particular disease or condition
cluster headache /'klʌstə hɛdɪsk/ noun a headache which occurs behind one eye for a short period
Clutton’s joint /'kləʊtənəz dʒʌmənt/ noun a swollen knee 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 /siː 'em dʒʌmənt/ plural noun same as 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 /'kəʊəgə'kjʊlənt/ noun a substance which can make blood clot
coaagulase /'kəʊəgə'ləs/ noun an enzyme produced by a staphylococcal bacteria which makes blood plasma clot
coagulate /'kəʊəgə'ləut/ verb to change from liquid to semi-solid, or cause a liquid to do this. His blood does not coagulate easily.

COMMENT: Blood coagulates when fibrinogen, a protein in the blood, converts into fibrin under the influence of the enzyme thrombokinase.
coagulation /'kəʊəgə'leɪʃən/ noun the action of clotting
coagulation time /'kəʊəgə'leɪʃən taim/ noun same as clotting time

coagulum /'kəʊəgələʊm/ noun same as blood clot (note: The plural is coagula.)
coalesce /'kəʊəles/ verb to combine, or to cause things to combine, into a single body or group
coalescence /'kəʊəlesəns/ noun the process by which wound edges come together when healing
coarctation /'kəʊərkˌteʃən/ noun the process of narrowing. coarctation of the aorta congenital narrowing of the aorta, which results in high blood pressure in the upper part of the body and low blood pressure in the lower part

coarse tremor /kɔrs 'tremər/ noun severe trembling
coat /koʊt/ noun  a layer of material covering an organ or a cavity
verb to cover something with something else
coated tongue /ˈkoʊtɪd ˈtɔŋ/ noun same as furred tongue
coating /ˈkoʊtɪŋ/ noun a thin covering ○ a pill with a sugar coating
cobalt /ˈkɔbɔlt/ noun a metallic element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Co.)
cobalt 60 /ˈkɔbɔlt ˈsɪksɪtɪ/ noun a radioactive isotope which is used in radiotherapy to treat cancer
cocaine /ˈkoʊkeɪn/ noun a narcotic drug not generally used in medicine because its use leads to addiction, but sometimes used as a surface anesthetic
cocci /ˈkœk̪si/ plural of coccus
cocci-dioïdomyosiscis /ˈkɑksĩˌdɪóʊdəˌmiˌsɪs/ noun a lung disease, caused by inhalation of spores of the fungus Coccidioides immitis
coccus /ˈkɔkəs/ noun a bacterium shaped like a ball (NOTE: The plural is cocci.)
COMMENT: Cocci grow together in groups: either in clusters (staphylococci) or in long chains (streptococci).
coccyx /ˈkɒksi/ noun referring to the coccyx
 coccygyd* /ˈkɒskɪdɪn/ noun a sharp pain in the coccyx, usually caused by a blow. Also called coccygodynia
 coccygeal vertebrae /ˈkɑskɪdʒəl ˈvɜrtərɪəl/ plural noun the fused bones in the coccyx
 coccygyd* /ˈkɒskɪdɪniən/ noun same as coccygodynia
 coccyx /ˈkɑsksi/ noun the lowest bone in the backbone (NOTE: The plural is coccyges.)
COMMENT: The coccyx is a rudimentary tail made of four bones which have fused together into a bone in the shape of a triangle.
coclea /ˈkɔkliə/ 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 cochlæae.)
COMMENT: Sounds are transmitted as vibrations to the cochlea from the ossicles through the oval window. The lymph fluid in the cochlea passes the vibrations to the organ of Corti which in turn is connected to the auditory nerve.
cochlear /ˈkɔkliər/ adjective referring to the cochlea
cochlear duct /ˈkɔkliər ˈdækt/ noun a spiral channel in the cochlea
cochlear implant /ˈkɔkliər ˈɪmpləmənt/ noun a type of hearing aid for profound hearing loss
cochlear nerve /ˈkɔkliər ˈnɜrv/ noun a division of the auditory nerve
Cochrane database /ˈkɔkrən ˈdɛrətəbəs/ noun a database of regular reviews carried out on research
code /ˈkəud/ 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 /ˈkɔdɪn/ noun a common painkilling drug that can also be used to suppress coughing and in the treatment of diarrhoea
code of conduct /ˈkɔd əv ˈkɔndəkt/ noun a set of general rules showing how a group of people such as doctors or nurses should work
cod liver oil /ˈkɒd ˈlɪvr ˈɔil/ noun a fish oil which is rich in calories and vitamins A and D
-coelle /ˈsɪl/ suffix referring to a hollow (NOTE: The US spelling is usually -cel-)
cocci- /ˈsɪlɪ/ prefix same as coello- (used before vowels) (NOTE: The US spelling is usually -cel-)
coccales /ˈsɪləkəs/ noun referring to the abdomen
coccal agency /ˈsɪləkəl ˈægənsi/ noun a group acting on an organism or an organ system
coeliac /ˈkoʊlɛɪk/ adjective referring to the abdomen leading from the abdominal aorta and dividing into the left gastric, hepatic and splenic arteries. Also called coeliac trunk
-coeliac disease /ˈsɪləkəl ˈdiːzəs/ noun same as gluten-induced enteropathy
coeliac ganglion /ˈsɪləkəl ˈɡæŋɡliən/ noun a ganglion on each side of the origins of the diaphragm, connected with the coeliac plexus
-coeliac plexus /ˈsɪləkəl ˈpleksəs/ noun a network of nerves in the abdomen, behind the stomach
-coeliac trunk /ˈsɪləkəl ˈtrʌŋk/ noun same as coeliac artery
-coello- /ˈsɪlələʊ/ prefix referring to a hollow, usually the abdomen (NOTE: The US spelling is usually -cello-)
-coeloscop* /ˈsɪlələskəp/ noun an examination of the peritoneal cavity by inflating the abdomen with sterile air and passing an endoscope through the abdominal wall (NOTE: The plural is coeloscopies.)
-coelom /ˈsɪlələm/ noun a body cavity in an embryo, which divides to form the thorax and abdomen (NOTE: The plural is coeloms or coelomata)
coffee ground vomit /ˈkɑfɪ ɡraʊnd ˈvəmɪt/ noun vomit containing dark pieces of blood, indicating that the person is bleeding from the stomach or upper intestine
cognitive /ˈkɒgnɪtɪv/ adjective referring to the mental processes of perception, memory, judgment and reasoning ○ a cognitive impairment
### Cognitive Disorder

**cognitive disorder** /kəˈɡɒnɪtrɪv dɪsˈɔːdər/ noun impairment of any of the mental processes of perception, memory, judgment and reasoning

**cognitive therapy** /kəˈɡɒnɪtrɪv ˈθɛrəpi/ noun a treatment of psychiatric disorders such as anxiety or depression which encourages people to deal with their negative ways of thinking

### Cohort Study

**cohort** /koʊˈhɑːrt/ 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** /koʊˈhɑːrt strɛdi/ 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

**cold** /kəld/ 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, cough

**cold burn** /kəld brən/ noun an injury to the skin caused by exposure to extreme cold or by touching a very cold surface

**cold cauter** /kəld kəˈtɔːtər/ noun the removal of a skin growth using carbon dioxide snow

**cold compress** /kəld kəmˈpreʃər/ noun a waal of cloth soaked in cold water, used to relieve a headache or bruise

**cold pack** /kəld 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** /kəld sɔr/ noun a painful blister, usually on the lips or nose, caused by herpes simplex Type I

### Colistin

**colistin** /kəˈlistɪn/ noun an antibiotic which is effective against a wide range of organisms

### Collagen

**collagen** /kəˈlædʒən/ noun a thick protein fibre forming bundles, which make up the connective tissue, bone and cartilage

**collagen disease** /kəˈlædʒən dʒiˈdiːs/ noun any disease of the connective tissue

### Collateral

**collateral** /kəˈlɛrəl/ adjective referring to sexual intercourse

**collateral** /kəˈlɛrəl/ noun same as sexual intercourse

### Colectomy

**colectomy** /kəˈlektəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the whole or part of the colon  *(NOTE: The plural is colectomies.)*

**colic** /kəˈlɪk/ noun 1. pain in any part of the intestinal tract. Also called enteralgia, terminal colic 2. crying and irritability in babies, especially from stomach pain

**colicky** /kəˈlɪkki/ adjective referring to colic  *She had colicky pains in her abdomen.*

**coli-form bacterium** /kəˈlɔɪfɪm bəˈtɪkʃəm/ noun any bacterium which is similar to *Escherichia coli*

**colistin** /kəˈlistɪn/ noun an antibiotic which is effective against a wide range of organisms and is used to treat gastrointestinal infections

**colon** /kəˈlɑːn/ noun inflammation of the colon. Also called *colonitis*

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**collins** /kəˈlɑːns/ noun a drink containing malt or fruit syrup, water, ice and often orange juice

### Colitis

**colitis** /kəˈlɑːtɪs/ noun inflammation of the colon

### Collarbone

**collarbone** /kəˈlɑːbərn/ noun one of the most frequent fractures in the body

**collarbone fracture** /kəˈlɑːbərn frækt/ noun a fracture of the lower end of the radius with 1. **Colles' fracture** /kəˈlɪts ˈfrækt/ noun a fracture of the lower end of the radius with 2. **Colles' fracture** /kəˈlɪts ˈfrækt/ noun

### Cohort Study

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### Comment

**Comment**  A cold usually starts with a virus in-
displacement of the wrist backwards, usually when someone has stretched out a hand to try to break a fall [After Abraham Colles (1773–1843), Irish surgeon]
colliculus /kəˈlɪkələs/ noun one of four small protuberances (superior colliculi and inferior colliculi) in the midbrain. See illustration at BRAIN in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is colliculi)
collodion /kəˈlɒdoʊn/ noun a liquid used for painting on a clean wound, where it dries to form a flexible covering
colloid /ˈkɒloɪd/ noun a solution used to bathe the eyes (NOTE: The plural is collyria.)
colo- /ˈkɒloʊ-/ prefix referring to the colon
coloboma /kəˈloʊbəmə/ noun a condition in which part of the eye, especially part of the iris, is missing
colon /ˈkəloʊn/ 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 /kəˈlɒnɪk/ adjective referring to the colon
colonic irritation /kəˈlɒnɪk ɪˈrərəʃən/ noun the washing out of the contents of the large intestine using a tube inserted in the anus
colonitis /ˈkɒlənɪtɪs/ noun same as colitis
colonoscopy /kəˈlɒnəskəpi/ noun a surgical instrument for examining the interior of the colon
COMMENT: The plural is colonoscopies.
colony /ˈkɒlənɪ/ noun a group or culture of microorganisms
colorectal /kəˈlɒrəktəl/ adjective referring to both the colon and rectum
colostomy /kəˈlɒstəmɪ/ 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 is blocked, or where part of the colon or rectum has had to be removed.
colostomy bag /kəˈlɒstəmɪ ˈbæɡ/ noun a bag attached to the opening made by a colostomy, to collect faeces as they are passed out of the body
colostrum /kəˈlɒstrəm/ 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 /ˈkələr ˈblaɪndnəs/ 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 ɪndɛks/ noun the ratio between the amount of haemoglobin and the number of red blood cells in a specific amount of blood

colouRing /ˈkələrɪŋ ˌmætə/ colouring matter noun a substance which colours an organ
colpo-/ˈkəlpoʊ-/ prefix same as colpo- (used before vowels)
colpitis /ˈkəlpətɪs/ noun same as vaginitis
colpo-/ˈkəlpəʊ-/ prefix referring to the vagina
colpocel ectomy /ˈkəlpəʊˌsɛlkstəmɪ/ noun an operation to remove the womb from the vagina and bladder to the abdominal wall (NOTE: The plural is colpocystectomies.)
colpohysterectomy /ˈkəlpəˌhɪsətərəkstəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation in which the womb is removed through the vagina (NOTE: The plural is colpohysterectomies.)
colpoplasty /ˈkəlpəˈpləstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to repair a damaged vagina (NOTE: The plural is colpoplasties.)
colpoptosis /ˈkəlpəˌpəʊtəsɪs/ noun a prolapse of the walls of the vagina. Also called colpocele (NOTE: The plural is colpoptoses.)
colporrhaphy /ˈkəlpərərəfɪ/ noun a surgical operation to stitch a prolapsed vagina (NOTE: The plural is colporrhaphies.)
colposcope /ˈkəlpəskəp/ noun a surgical instrument used to examine the inside of the vagina. Also called vaginoscope
colposcopy /ˈkəlpəskəpi/ noun an examination of the inside of the vagina (NOTE: The plural is colposcopies.)
colposuspension /ˈkəlpəsəsənʃən/ noun a surgical operation to strengthen the pelvic floor muscles to prevent incontinence
**NOTE:** The operation to make a cut in the vagina involves the removal of facial features, which is often fatal, but a patient may continue to live in a coma for a long time, even several months, before dying or regaining consciousness.

**comment**

Acoma can have many causes: head injuries, diabetes, stroke or drug overdose. A coma is often fatal, but a patient may continue to live in a coma for a long time, even several months, before dying or regaining consciousness.

**commit**

A commando operation is a major operation into the internal iliac artery, leading to the pelvis, and the external iliac artery, leading to the leg.

**comment**

A common cold is caused by a virus which branch from the aorta in the abdomen and in turn divide into the internal iliac artery, leading to the pelvis, and the external iliac artery, leading to the leg.

**common disease**

A common disease is a disease which can be passed from one person to another or from an animal to a person.

**combined therapy**

A combined therapy aims to identify where improvement is required and share good practice. Abbreviation: CHI

**communication**

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**comment**

A common cold is caused by a virus which branch from the aorta in the abdomen and in turn divide into the internal iliac artery, leading to the pelvis, and the external iliac artery, leading to the leg.

**common salt**

A common salt is a white powder used to make food, especially meat, fish and vegetables, taste better. Also called sodium chloride.

**common wart**

A common wart is a wart which appears mainly on the hands.
communicating artery 82

communicating artery  /ˈkɒmjʊˌlɛrɪŋ/ noun one of the arteries which connect the blood supply from each side of the brain, forming part of the circle of Willis.

community  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ noun a group of people who live and work in a district. The health services serve the local community.

community care  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ 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  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ noun the health of a local community, or provision of services for a local community.

community health council  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ 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  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ noun a hospital serving a local community.

community medicine  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ 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  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ noun a specialist nurse who works in a particular district visiting people in the area with mental health problems. Abbr CMHN.

community midwife  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ noun a midwife who works in a community as part of a primary health care team.

community nurse  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ noun a nurse who treats people in a local community.

community psychiatric nurse  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ noun. Also called community mental health nurse. Abbr CPN.

community services  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ noun community psychiatric nurse.

community trust  /ˈkɒmjʊnɪti/ noun an independent non-profit-making body set up to represent an area of public concern.

compact bone  /ˈkɒmpəkt/ noun a type of bone tissue which forms the hard outer layer of a bone. See illustration at bone structure in Supplement.

compatibility  /ˈkɒmpətərəlɪti/ 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  /ˈkɒmpətəbrəl/ 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  /ˈkɒmpəntseɪt/ 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.

To emphasise a particular ability or personality characteristic in order to make the lack of another one seem less bad.

compensation  /ˈkɒmpənˈseɪʃn/ 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 caused by the failure of an organ, or the undamaged parts of the same organ, function at a higher level. Behaviour that emphasises a particular ability or personality characteristic in order to make the lack of another one seem less bad.

competence  /ˈkɒmpənsnt/ 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  /ˈkɒmplənt/ 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 or a chest complaint. A nervous complaint.

complement  /ˈkɒmplənt/ noun /ˈkɒmplənt/ noun a substance which forms part of blood plasma and is essential to the work of antibodies and antigens. Encouraging the development of professional competence in the delivery of care to patients.

complementary  /ˈkɒmpləməntəri/ adjective 1. combining with or adding to something else. Ultrasound and CT provide complementary information. 2. used in or using complementary medicine. A complementary therapist refers to genes which are necessary to each other and produce their effect only when they are present together.

complementary medicine  /ˈkɒmpləməntəri/ noun alternative medicine in the forms which are now accepted by practitioners of conventional Western medicine, e.g. acupuncture and osteopathy.

complement fixation test  /ˈkɒmplənt/ noun a test to measure the
amount of complement in antibodies and antigens. Abbreviation CFT.

**complete abortion** /ˌkɒmpliˈeɪʃən/ *noun* an abortion where the whole contents of the uterus are expelled.

**complete blood count** /ˌkɒmpliˈblɔːktʌnt/ *noun* a test to find the exact numbers of each type of blood cell in a sample of blood. Abbreviation CBC.

**complex** /ˈkɒmplɪkəs/ *noun* 1. (in psychiatry) 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. 2. a group of items, buildings or organs. **complex syndrome** *adjective* complicated. **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** /ˈkɒmprɛs/ *verb* to squeeze or press something out of an infected wound.

**compressed air sickness** /ˌkɒmpliˈɛərˌsɪks/ *noun* same as caisson disease.

**compression** /ˌkɒmpliˈʃən/ *noun* 1. the act of squeezing or pressing. **The first- aider applied compression to the chest of the casualty.** 2. a serious condition in which the brain is compressed by blood or cerebrospinal fluid accumulating in it or by a fractured skull.

**compression stocking** /ˌkɒmpliˈʃənˌstɒkɪŋ/ *noun* a strong elastic stocking worn to support a weak joint in the knee or to hold varicose veins tightly.

**compulsion** /ˌkɒmpliˈʃən/ *noun* 1. 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.** 2. a strong psychological force which makes someone do something, often unwillingly. **She felt a sudden compulsion to wash her hands again.**

**compulsive eating** /ˌkɒmpliˈsjuːləv ˈɛntɪŋ/ *noun* a psychological condition in which someone has a continual desire to eat.

**compulsive–obsessive disorder** /ˌkɒmpliˈkjʊls–əˈsɛsɪv ˈdɪzərəd/ *noun* same as obsessive–compulsive disorder.

**computed tomography** /ˌkɒmpliˈtɒməɡrəfi/ *noun* as computerised axial tomography. Abbreviation CT.

**computerised axial tomography** /ˌkɒmpliˈteɪʃən ˌæksʃəl ˈtɒməɡrəfi/ *noun* a system of examining the body in which a narrow X-ray beam, guided by a computer, photographs a thin section of the body or of an organ from several angles, using the computer to build up an image of the section. Abbreviation CAT. Also called computed tomography.

**concavity** /ˌkɒŋkəˈvɪti/ *noun* a solution from which water has been removed. **concave lens** *noun* a concave lens towards the inside. **To be conceived** (of a child) to come into existence through the fertilisation of an ovum. **Our son was conceived during our holiday in Italy.**

**concentrate** /ˌkɒnˈzentrət/ *noun* a solution from which water has been removed. **concentrated** /ˈkɒnˌsentratid/ *adjective* made up of two or more components.

**congestion** /ˌkɒnˈjestʃən/ *noun* 1. (in medicine) a condition in which two or more conditions exist in someone, whether or not they are connected. **He was admitted to hospital suffering from pneumonia with complications.** 2. a situation in which someone develops a second condition which changes the course of treatment for the first. **She appeared to be improving, but complications set in and she died in a few hours.**

…sickle cell chest syndrome is a common complication of sickle cell disease, presenting with chest pain, fever and leucocytosis. **[British Medical Journal]**

**compos mentis** /ˌkɒmpoz ˈmentɪs/ *adjective* not affected by a mental disorder. **[Note: The phrase is from Latin and means ‘of sound mind.’]**

**compound** /ˈkɒmpaʊnd/ *noun* a chemical substance made up of two or more components.

**compound fracture** /ˌkɒmpaʊnd ˈfræktʃər/ *noun* a fracture where the skin surface is damaged or where the broken bone penetrates the surface of the skin. Also called open fracture.

**conceive** /kənˈsiːv/ *verb* 1. (of a woman) to become pregnant with a child. **Our son was conceived during our holiday in Italy.**

**concavity** /ˈkɒnkərətɪv/ *adjective* curving towards the inside. **To be conceived** (of a child) to come into existence through the fertilisation of an ovum. **Our son was conceived during our holiday in Italy.**
concept

to give full attention to something 2. □ to con-
centrate on to examine something in particu-
lar 3. to reduce a solution and increase its
strength by evaporation

concept /ˈkɒnsɛpt/ 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

COMMENT: Conception is usually taken to be
either the moment when the sperm cell fertili-
ises the ovum, or a few days later, when the fer-
tilised ovum attaches itself to the wall of the
uterus.

conceptual framework /ˈkɒnˌseptʃʊəl
ˈfɜːrmwɜːk/ noun the theoretical basis on
which something is formed

conceptus /ˈkɒnˈseptəs/ noun an embryo or
fetus together with all the tissues that surround
it during pregnancy (NOTE: The plural is con-
ceptuses.)

concha /ˈkɒŋkə/ noun a part of the body
shaped like a shell (NOTE: The plural is con-
chae.)

conchia auricularis /ˈkɒŋkə əˈrikjuːləris/ noun
the depressed part of the outer ear that leads to
the inner ear

concordance /ˈkɒnˈkɔːrdəns/ noun 1. a
state in which two or more things are in the
correct or expected relationship to each other.
For example, the atrioventricular concordance
is the relationship between the atria and the
ventricles in the heart. 2. the fact of two related
people sharing the same genetic characteristic
□ the concordance of schizophrenia in identi-
cal twins 3. an agreement between a profes-
sional and a patient on a course of treatment,
especially related to use of medicines

concretion /ˈkɒnˈkrɛʃən/ noun a mass of
hard material which forms in the body, e.g. a
gallstone or deposits on bone in arthritis

concluded /ˈkɒnˌklʊd/ adjective referring to
someone who has been hit on the head and has
lost and then regained consciousness ○ He
was walking around in a concluded state.

conclusion /ˈkɒnˌkluːʃən/ noun 1. the act
of applying force to any part of the body 2. loss
of consciousness for a short period, caused by
a blow to the head

cumulative /ˈkɒnˌkʌmbjʊətiv/ adjective caus-
ing concussion

condensed /ˈkɒnˈdɛnsd/ adjective made
compact or more dense

condition /ˈkəndɪʃn/ noun 1. the particu-
lar state of someone or something ○ in poor
condition ○ Her condition is getting worse. ○ The
conditions in the hospital are very good. 2. a
particular illness, injury or disorder ○ He is
being treated for a heart condition.

conditioned reflex /ˈkəndəd,ˈrɪflɛks/ noun
an automatic reaction by a person to a
stimulus, or an expected reaction to a stimulus
which comes from past experience

conditioned response /ˈkəndəd,riˈspɔns/ noun
a response to a stimulus as a re-
sult of associating it with an earlier stimulus

COMMENT: The classic example of a condi-
tioned response is Pavlov's experiment with
dogs in which they produced saliva, ready to
eat their food, when a bell rang, because on
previous occasions they had been fed when the
bell was rung.

condom /ˈkəndəm/ noun a rubber sheath
worn on the penis during intercourse as a con-
traceptive and also as a protection against sex-
ually transmitted disease

conducting system /ˈkəndəd,ˈsɪstəm/ noun
the nerve system in the heart which links an
atrium to a ventricle, so that the two beat at
the same rate

conduction /ˈkəndəd,ˈfʒən/ noun the process
of passing heat, sound or nervous impulses
from one part of the body to another

conduction fibre /ˈkəndəd,ˈfɪbr/ noun
a fibre which transmits impulses, e.g. in the
bundle of His

conductive /ˈkəndəd,ˈdɪkətɪv/ adjective referring to
conduction

conductive deafness /ˈkəndəd,ˈdɪkətɪv
ˈdɛfnəs/, conductive hearing loss /ˈkəndəd,ˈdɪkətɪv
ˈhɪərɪŋ ˈlʊs/ noun deafness caused by inadequate con-
duction of sound into the inner ear

conductor /ˈkəndəd,ˈkəntrɪdər/ noun 1. a substance
or object which allows heat, electricity, light or
sound to pass along it or through it 2. a tube
with a groove in it along which a knife is slid
to cut open a sinus

condyle /ˈkəndəl/ noun a rounded end of a
bone which articulates with another

condylar process /ˈkəndələr,ˈprəʊses/ noun
a projecting part at each end of the lower
jaw which forms the head of the jaw, joining
the jaw to the skull

condyloma /ˈkəndəˌləʊmə/ noun a growth
usually found on the vulva (NOTE: The plural is
condydomas or condylomata.)

cone /ˈkən/ noun 1. a shape with a circular
base or 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
bright light and colour (NOTE: The plural is
cones – coning – coned)

cone biopsy /ˈkən biˈsɔpi/ noun the re-
moving of a cone of tissue from the cervix for
examination

confabulation /ˈkɒnfəˌbeɪʃn/ noun the
act of making up plausible stories to cover up
loss of memory
85

Conn’s syndrome

confidentiality /konfɪˈdɛn(t)ɪˈləti/ noun an obligation not to reveal professional information about a person or organisation

confined /ˈkɒnfɪmd/ adjective kept in a place \(\diamond \) She was confined to bed with pneumonia.\(\diamond \) He has been confined to a wheelchair.

confinement /ˈkɒnfɪmənt/ 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.

confused /ˈkɒfjuːzd/ adjective unable to think clearly or act rationally \(\square \) Many severely confused patients do not respond to spoken communication.

confusion /ˈkɒfjʊzn/ noun the state of being confused

congeal /ˈkɒn:dʒiəl/ verb (of fat or blood) to become solid

congenital /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl/ adjective existing at or before birth

congenital aneurysm /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈnjuərɪs/ noun a weakening of the arteries at the base of the brain, present at birth

congenital anomaly /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈnɒməli/ 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 inherited from a parent through 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 /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈkætərækt/ noun a cataract which is present at birth

congenital defect /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈdɛfɪkt/ noun same as congenital anomaly (note: The word ‘defect’ is now avoided.)

congenital dislocation of the hip /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈdlɪksə(ə) əˈ� \(\scriptstyle\text{d} \) hip/ 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 /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈhɑːrt dɪˈzɜːzi, ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈhɑːrt ˈdɪfɪkt/ 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 /ˈkɒn:dʒəntləli/ adverb at or before birth \(\diamond \) The baby is congenitally incapable of absorbing gluten.

congenital malformation /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈmælfərəˈmeɪʃn/ noun a malformation which is present at birth, e.g. a cleft palate

congenital syphilis /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈsfɪlɪs/ noun syphilis which is passed on from a mother to her unborn child

congenital toxoplasmosis /ˈkɒn:dʒəntl(ə)əˈtɒkəploʊsəˈmɒsɪs/ noun a condition in which a baby has been infected with toxoplasmosis by its mother while still in the uterus

congested /ˈkɒn:dʒɪst/ adjective with blood or fluid inside \(\diamond \) congested face a red face, caused by blood rushing to the face

congestion /ˈkɒn:dʒɪʃn/ noun an accumulation of blood in an organ \(\diamond \) nasal congestion

congestive heart failure /ˈkɒn:dʒɪstɪv 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

conii /ˈkɔʊni/ plural of conus

conisation /ˈkɒnəzə niˈzeʃn/ noun the surgical removal of a cone-shaped piece of tissue

conjoined twins /ˈkɒn:dʒənt 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 /ˈkɒŋdʒəɡət/ conjugate diameter /ˈkɒŋdʒəɡət dəˈɪmətər/ noun a measurement of space in a woman’s pelvis, used to calculate if it is large enough for a child to be delivered

conjectiva /ˈkɒŋdʒɛkˈtɪvə/ 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 conjunctivae or conjunctivae.)

conjectival /ˈkɒŋdʒɛkˈtɪvəl/ adjective referring to the conjunctiva

conjectivitis /ˈkɒŋdʒɛkˈtɪvɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the conjunctiva from a range of causes

connective tissue /ˈkənekˈtɪv ˈtrɪʧɪv/ 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 sərˈdrəʊn/ noun a condition in which excessive production of the hormone aldosterone causes fluid retention and high blood pressure
come conscious after being unconscious

to pass faeces often enough

general health and strength of a person

conscious /ˈkɒnʃəns/ noun a state of being mentally alert and knowing what is happening or to become conscious after being unconscious

consciousness /ˈkɒnʃənsəs/ noun the state of being conscious or to regain consciousness

consciousness /ˈkɒnʃənsəs/ noun a state of being mentally alert and knowing what is happening or to become conscious after being unconscious

consensus management /kənˈsaʊnəmən/ noun a form of management which aims to get everyone to agree on what actions should be taken

consent /ˈkɒnsent/ noun agreement to allow someone to do something or The parents gave their consent for their son’s heart to be used in the transplant operation.

consent form /ˈkɒnsent fɔːm/ noun a form which a patient signs to show that he or she agrees to have a particular operation

conservative /ˈkɒnsvərʃiv/ adjective resistant to new things 2. (of a treatment) designed to help relieve symptoms or preserve health with a minimum of medical intervention or risk or Symptoms usually resolve with conservative treatment.

consolidation /ˈkɒnsəlɪteɪʃən/ noun 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 /ˈkɒnstɪpetɪd/ adjective unable to pass faeces often enough

constipation /ˈkɒnstɪpeɪʃən/ noun difficulty in passing faeces

COMMENT: Constipated bowel movements are hard and may cause pain in the anus. Constipation may be caused by worry or by a diet which does not contain enough roughage or by lack of exercise, as well as by more serious diseases of the intestine.

constituent /ˈkɒnstɪtjuːənt/ noun a substance which forms part of something or the chemical constituents of nerve cells

constitution /ˈkɒnstɪtjuːʃən/ noun the general health and strength of a person or She has a strong constitution or He has a weak constitution and is often ill.

constitutional /ˌkɒnstrɪˈteɪʃənəl/ adjective referring to a person’s constitution or a short walk taken for health reasons

constitutor /ˈkɒnstɪtjuːər/ noun a person to whom a gift or property is given

Consult /ˈkɒnsalt/ verb to ask someone for his or her opinion or He consulted an eye specialist.

consultancy /ˈkɒnsaltənsi/ noun the post of consultant or She was appointed to a consultancy at a London hospital.

consultant /ˈkɒnsaltənt/ noun a senior specialist in a particular branch of medicine and who is consulted by GPs or She was referred to a consultant at the orthopaedic hospital.

consulting room /ˈkɒnsaltɪŋ ruːm/ noun a room where a doctor sees his or her patients

consumption /ˈkɒnsəmpʃən/ noun 1. the act of taking food or liquid into the body or the patient’s increased consumption of alcohol 2. a former name for pulmonary tuberculosis

contact /ˈkɒntækt/ noun 1. an act of touching someone or something, or the state of touching or to have (physical) contact with someone or something or to actually touch someone or something or to be in or come into contact with someone to be near to or touching someone or The hospital is anxious to trace anyone who may have come into contact with the patient. 2. an act of getting in touch or communicating with someone 3. a person who has been in contact with a person suffering from an infectious disease or Now that Lassa fever has been diagnosed, the authorities are anxious to trace all contacts which the patient may have met. or verb to meet or get in touch with someone

contact dermatitis /ˈkɒntækt dərəˈmɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the skin caused by touch, e.g. by touching some types of plant, soap or chemical. Also called irritant dermatitis

contact lens /ˈkɒntækt lɛnz/ noun a tiny plastic lens which fits over the eyeball and is worn instead of spectacles to improve eyesight
contact tracing /ˈkɒntræktɪŋ/ noun the process of tracing people with whom someone with an infectious disease has been in contact

contagion /ˈkɒntədʒiən/ 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

contagious /ˈkɒntədʒɪəs/ adjective able to be transmitted by touching an infected person or objects which an infected person has touched ○ communicable disease, infectious disease

containment /ˈkəntəmənt/ 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 eradicating of a global disease such as smallpox by removing it region by region

contaminant /ˈkəntəmənənt/ noun a substance which contaminates something

contaminate /ˈkəntəmɪneɪt/ 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 /ˈkəntəmɪneɪʃən/ 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

contraction /ˈkɒntrækʃən/ noun 1. the act of tightening a muscle caused by fibrosis ○ An outside firm is contracted to do the hospital cleaning. 2. 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 contracts to contract the chest. 3. to catch a disease ○ He contracted Lassa fever. 4. to make a formal or legally binding agreement with someone ○ An outside firm is contracted to do the hospital cleaning. 5. noun a formal or legally binding agreement

contractility /ˈkɒntræktɪlɪtɪ/ noun the capacity to contract

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 1. a drug or device which prevents pregnancy

contraceptive sheath /ˈkɒntrəsɛptɪv/ fɪd/ noun same as condom

contraceptive sponge /ˈkɒntrəsɛptɪv/ sɒŋ/ 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. 4. noun a formal or legally binding agreement

contralateral /ˈkɒntrəlætrəl/ adjective located on or affecting the opposite side of the body. Opposite ipsilateral

contrasting /ˌkɒntrəˈstɪŋ/ verb 1. to have the ability or authority to direct someone or something ○ Sometimes
control group /ˈkɒntrə greɪp/ noun a group of people or group whose test data are used as a comparison in a study.

controlled drug /ˈkɒntrə drʌg/ 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.

controlled respiration /ˈkɒntrədʒərənʃən/ noun the control of a person’s breathing by an anaesthetist during an operation, when regular breathing has stopped.

controlled substance /ˈkɒntrəstʌbsnt/ noun same as controlled drug.

controlled trial /ˈkɒntrətrəl/ 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 group. A comparison in a study.

controls assurance /ˈkɒntrəzərsɪzn/ 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.

contused wound /ˈkɒntjuzd/ noun a wound caused by a blow where the skin is bruised as well as torn and bleeding.

contusion /ˈkɒntʃən/ noun same as bruise.

conus /ˈkɔnəs/ noun a structure shaped like a cone. (Note: The plural is coni.)

convalesce /ˈkənvələs/ verb to get back to good health gradually after an illness or operation.

convalescence /ˈkənvəlesəns/ noun a period of time when someone is convalescing.

convalescent /ˈkənvələsənt/ adjective referring to convalescence.

convalescent home /ˈkənvələsənt həʊm/ noun a type of hospital where people can recover from illness or surgery.

convergent strabismus /ˈkənərənt strəˈbrɪzəməs, kənərənt strəˈbrɪzənt/ noun a condition in which one or both of a person’s eyes look towards the nose. Also called cross eye.

conversion /ˈkənvərʒən/ noun the process of changing one thing into another or the conversion of nutrients into tissue.

convex /ˈkənvɛks/ adjective curving towards the outside or a convex lens.

convoluted /ˈkənvələtəd/ adjective folded and twisted.

convoluted tubule /ˈkənvələtəd ˈtjuːbəl/ noun a coiled part of a nephron.

convulsion /ˈkənvələʒən/ noun a twisted shape or the convolutions of the surface of the cerebrum.

convulse /ˈkənvəls/ verb to shake violently and uncontrollably.

convulsive /ˈkənvələsiv/ adjective referring to convulsions. (Note: He had a convulsive seizure. (Note: He was unable to coordinate the movements of his arms and legs.)

cooperate /kəˈprəʊən/ verb 1. to make things work together. (Note: He was unable to coordinate the movements of his arms and legs.)

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 /ˈkərdəˌneɪʃən/ noun 1. the combining of two or more things as an effective unit, or the ways things combine effectively. (Note: He was unable to coordinate the movements of his arms and legs.)

the ability to use two or more parts of the body at the same time to carry out a movement or task. (Nursing Times)

COPD abbr chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

coping mechanism /ˈkəʊpiŋ ˌmekənɪzəm/ noun a method of dealing with situations which cause psychological stress.
corneal transplant /ˈkɔrɪnl ˈtrænspɔl/ noun same as corneal graft

89 coronary obstruction

coronification /ˈkɔrɪni fækʃən/ noun same as keratinisation

cornu /ˈkɔrənju/ noun 1. a structure in the body which is shaped like a horn 2. each of the four processes of the thyroid cartilage (note: The plural is cornua.)
corona /ˈkɔrənə/ noun a structure in the body which is shaped like a crown
corona capsula /ˈkɔrənə kæpˈsɪtəs/ noun the crown of the head or top part of the skull
coronal /ˈkɔrənəl/ adjective 1. referring to a corona 2. referring to the crown of a tooth
corneal /ˈkɔrənəl/ adjective referring to the cornea
corneal abrasion /ˈkɔrɪnl ˈəbrəzən/ noun a scratch on the cornea, caused by something sharp getting into the eye
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coronary sinus

blood from reaching the heart muscles and leads to heart failure

coronary sinus /ˈkɔrənəri sɪnəs/ noun a vein which takes most of the venous blood from the heart muscles to the right atrium

coronary thrombosis /ˈkɔrənəri throʊmˈbɒsəs/ noun a blood clot which blocks the coronary arteries, leading to a heart attack. Also called coronary

coronary vein /ˈkɔrənəri vɛn/ noun a vein that drains blood from the muscles of the heart

coronavirus /ˌkɔrəˈvɑːrəs/ 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 /ˈkɔrənəʊd pɜrsəs/ 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

corps /ˈkɔrpəs/ noun the body of a dead person

cor pulmonale /ˌkɔr pəlˈmənəli/ noun pulmonary heart disease in which the right ventricle is enlarged

corpus /ˈkɔrəpəs/ noun any mass of tissue (NOTE: The plural is corpora.)
corpus albicans /ˌkɔrəpəs ˈælbəkəns/ noun scar tissue that replaces the corpus luteum in the ovary

corpus callosum /ˌkɔrəpəs 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 /ˌkɔrəpəs ˈkævər nəʊsəm/ 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 /ˌkɔrəpsəl/ noun 1. a small round mass 2. a cell in blood or lymph

corpus haemorrhagicum /ˌkɔrəpəs ˈhɛməˈrɔrθrɪkəm/ noun a blood clot formed in an ovary where a Graafian follicle has ruptured (NOTE: The plural is corpora haemorrhagica.)
corpus luteum /ˌkɔrəpəs ˈlʊtətəm/ 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 /ˌkɔrəpəs spəŋˈziə səŋıəm/ noun the part of the penis round the urethra, forming the glans. See illustration at urogenital system (male) in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is corpora spongiosa.)
corpus striatum /ˌkɔrəpəs ˈstrətətəm/ noun a mass of nervous tissue in each cerebral hemisphere (NOTE: The plural is corpora striata.)
corrective /ˈkɔrəktɪv/ adjective intended to correct an irregularity or problem ○ corrective lenses ▲ noun a drug which changes the harmful effect of another drug

corrigan’s pulse /ˌkɔrəɡənˈz pəls/ 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 /ˌkɔrərvɪs/ adjective destroying tissue ▲ noun a substance which destroys tissue, e.g. acid or alkali

corrugator muscle /ˌkɔrəɡətər ˈmaskəl/ noun one of the muscles which produce vertical wrinkles on the forehead when someone frowns

corset /ˈkɔrset/ noun a piece of stiff clothing worn on the chest or over the trunk to support the body, e.g. after a back injury

Corti /ˈkɔrti/ ▲ organ of Corti
cortical /ˈkɔrtɪkl/ adjective referring to a cortex

cortical mastoidectomy /ˌkɔrtɪkl ˈmæstədɛktəmi/ noun same as atticotomy

cortices plural of cortex

corticospinal /ˌkɔrtɪkəsˈplɛnəl/ adjective referring to both the cerebral cortex and the spinal cord

corticosteroid /ˌkɔrtɪkəˈstɔrətəd/ noun 1. any steroid hormone produced by the cortex of the adrenal glands 2. a drug which reduces inflammation, used in asthma, gastro-intestinal disease and in adrenocortical insufficiency

cortisone /ˈkɔrtɪsən/ noun a hormone secreted by the cortex of the adrenal glands

corticotropic /ˌkɔrtɪktrəˈtrepfɪk/ noun same as adrenocorticotropic hormone (NOTE: The US spelling is corticotropin.)
cortisol /ˌkɔrtɪsəl/ noun same as hydrocortisone

corison /ˌkɔrɪznən/ noun a hormone secreted in small quantities by the adrenal cortex ○ The doctor gave her a cortisone injection in the ankle.
Corynebacterium /ˈkɔrniˌbæk.tər.iəm/ noun a genus of bacteria which includes the bacterium which causes diphtheria
coryza /ˈkɔr.ə.zə/ 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 /ˈkəz.mət.ɪk ˈsərdʒ.ər.i/ 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 ˈkɑːs.təldʒ/ 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 ˈplʊərə/ noun a part of the pleura lining the walls of the chest
costive /ˈkɒst.ɪv/ adjective same as constipated

costo- /ˈkɒstəʊ/ prefix referring to the ribs
costocervical trunk /ˈkɒstəʊˌsɜrv.ɪk(ə)l ˈtræŋk/ noun a large artery in the chest
costodiaphragmatic /ˌkɒstəʊˌdaɪəˈfær.ɪk/ adjective referring to both the ribs and the diaphragm

costovertebral joint /ˌkɒstəʊvərˈtɛbrəl(ə)l ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint between the ribs and the vertebral column
cot death /ˈkɒt ˈdeθ/ noun a sudden infant death syndrome (NOTE: The US term is crib death.)

The lotion should counteract the 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 /ˈkɒfn ˈfɪt/ noun a sudden attack of coughing
cough medicine /ˈkɒf ˌmed.əs.ɪn/ noun an opioid or sedative antihistamine drug such as phencodine which suppresses the cough reflex
cough up /ˈkɒf ˈʌp/ 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 /ˈkɔʊnsəlɪŋ/ 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 /ˈkɔʊnsələr/ noun a person who advises and talks with someone about his or her problems

Counsellors were perceived improvement.

COMMENT: Synthetic cortisone was used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, asthma and skin disorders, but it is now replaced by other drugs.
counterirritant /ˌkɔʊntər.ɪˈrænt/ 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 /ˌkɔʊntər.ɪˈræʃən/ noun a skin irritant applied artificially to alleviate the pain in another part of the body
counterirritation /ˌkɔʊntər.ɪˈræʃən/ noun a liquid taken to soothe the irritation which causes a cough
cough suppressant /ˈkɒf ˈsəˌprɛz.ənt/ noun an opioid or sedative antihistamine drug such as phencodine which suppresses the cough reflex
cough mixture /ˈkɒf ˈmɪk.ə.tʃər/ noun a cough which causes constipation
cough reflex /ˈkɒfn ˈrɛf.leks/ noun a reflex action, caused by something or reduce the effect of something □ The lotion should counteract the irritation in the throat, when the glottis is opened and air is sent out of the lungs suddenly

counselling /ˈkɔʊnsəlɪŋ/ 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 /ˈkɔʊnsələr/ noun a person who advises and talks with someone about his or her problems

counteract /ˌkɔʊntər.æk.t/ verb to act against something or reduce the effect of something □ The lotion should counteract the irritant effect of the spray on the skin.
counteraction /ˌkɔʊntər.æk.ʃən/ noun the action of one drug which acts against another drug
counterextension /ˌkɔʊntər.ɪˈkstən.ʃən/ 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 /ˌkɔʊntər.ɪˈrænt/ 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 /ˌkɔʊntər.ɪˈræʃən/ noun a skin irritant applied artificially to alleviate the pain in another part of the body
counterstain /ˈkaʊntəstɛɪn/ noun a stain used to identify Gram-negative bacteria after having first stained them with violet dye.

coupling /ˈkʌplɪŋ/ 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 /ˈkɔːs/ noun 1. a programme of study or training. 2. went on a course to update his nursing skills. 3. a series of drugs to be taken, or a series of sessions of treatment. 4. We’ll put you on a course of antibiotics.

cover test /ˈkʌvər test/ 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 /ˈkəʊpərz ɡlɛndz/ 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 /ˈkɔʊpɒks/ 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 /ˈkɔksəlʤiə/ noun pain in the hip joint.

coxa vara /ˈkɔksərə/ noun an unusual development of the hip bone, making the legs bow.

coxsackie virus /ˈkɔksəkˌiː viərəs/ 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 Cossack, New York, where the virus was first identified.]

CPAP abbr continuous positive airways pressure.

CPN abbr community psychiatric nurse.

CPR abbr cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

crab /kreb/ crab louse /ˈkreb lɔːs/ 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 /ˈkred(ə)l/ noun a metal frame put over a person in bed to keep the weight of the bedclothes off the body. 5. verb to carry a child with one arm under the thigh and the other under the upper back.

cradle cap /ˈkred(ə)l kæp/ noun a yellow deposit on the scalp of babies, caused by seborrhoea.

cram /kræm/ noun a painful involuntary spasm in the muscles, in which the muscle may stay contracted for some time.

cranio- /ˈkriəniəʊ/ prefix same as cranium- (used before vowels).

cranial /ˈkriəniəl/ adjective referring to the skull.

cranial bone /ˈkriəniəl bɔːn/ noun one of the bones in the skull.

cranial cavity /ˈkriəniəl ˈkævəti/ noun a space inside the bones of the cranium, in which the brain is situated.

cranial nerve /ˈkriəniəl nɜːv/ 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. [NOTE: The plural is cranial nerves.]

COMMENT: The cranial nerves are the olfactory, optic, loculomotor, trochlear, trigeminal, (ophthalmic, maxillary and mandibular), abducent, facial, auditory (vestibular and cochlear), glossopharyngeal, vagus, accessory and hypoglossal.

cranio-/ˈkriəniəʊ/ prefix the skull.

cranio-/ˈkriəniəm/ noun a tumour in the brain originating in the hypophyseal duct. [NOTE: The plural is cranio-/ˈkriəniəm/.

cranio-/ˈkriəniəm/ adjective of measuring skulls to find differences in size and shape.

cranio-/ˈkriəniəm/ adjective referring to the skull.

cranio-/ˈkriəniəm/ noun a surgical operation on the skull, especially one cutting away part of the skull. [NOTE: The plural is cranio-/ˈkriəniəm/.

cranio-/ˈkriəniəm/ adjective referring to the skull.

CRANUM abbr cranium.

craniopharyngioma /ˌkriəniəfəˈræŋdʒiə/ noun a tumour in the brain originating in the hypophyseal duct. [NOTE: The plural is cranio-/ˈkriəniəm/.

craniosynostosis /ˌkriəniəˈsɪnəstəsɪs/ noun the early closing of the bones in a baby’s skull, so making the skull contract.

craniotabes /ˌkriəniəˈteɪbrɪz/ noun thinness of the bones in the occipital region of a child’s skull, caused by rickets, marasmus or syphilis.

craniorrhaphy /ˌkriəniəˈrɔːfɪ/ noun a surgical operation on the skull, especially one cutting away part of the skull. [NOTE: The plural is craniorrhaphies.]

CRNR abbr cranium.

craniotomy /ˌkriəniəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation on the skull, especially one cutting away part of the skull. [NOTE: The plural is craniorrhaphies.]

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creatinine /ˈkriːətəˈnaɪn/ noun a substance which is the form in which creatine is excreted.

creatinine clearance /ˈkriːətəˈnaɪn /ˈklɛərəns/ noun removal of creatinine from the body by the kidneys.

creatorrhoea /ˈkrɛətəˈraʊə/ noun the presence of undigested muscle fibre in the faeces, occurring in some pancreatic diseases.

Crede's method /ˈkreɪdɪz ˈmɛθəd/ noun 1. a method of extracting a placenta by massaging the uterus through the abdomen 2. the putting of silver nitrate solution into the eyes of a baby born to a mother who has gonorrhea, in order to prevent gonococcal conjunctivitis [Described 1860. After Karl Sigmund Franz Credé (1819–92), German gynaecologist.]

creeping eruption /ˈkrɛəpɪŋ ˈɪrəpʃən/ noun an itching skin complaint, caused by larvae of various parasites which creep under the skin.

crepitation /ˈkrɛpɪˈteɪʃən/ noun an unusual soft cracking sound heard in the lungs through a stethoscope. Also called rale.

crest /krest əv /ˈlɪəm/ noun a ridge, e.g. the border of a bone 2. a ridge of bone left behind during childbirth.

crest of ilium /ˈkrest əv ˈɪliəm/ noun same as iliac crest.

cretinism /ˈkriːtəˈnɪzəm/ noun now called congenital hyperthyroidism [NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.]

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease /ˈkrɔtʃfɛlt dəˈkɔb/ noun a disease of the nervous system caused by a slow-acting prion which eventually affects the brain. It may be linked to BSE in cows. Abbr CJD. & variant CJD [Described 1920 by H.G. Creutzfeldt (1885–1964); 1921 by A.M. Jakob (1884–1931), German psychiatrists]

cribiform /ˈkrɪbrɪfərəm/ adjective having small holes like a sieve.

cribiform plate /ˈkrɪbrɪfrəm ˈpleɪt/ noun the top part of the ethmoid bone which forms the roof of the nasal cavity and part of the roof of the eye sockets.

crick /krik/ noun a painful stiffness in the neck or back (informal).

cricoid /ˈkrɪkɔɪd/ adjective relating to the lowest part of the cartilage of the larynx.

cricoid cartilage /ˈkrɪkɔɪd ˈkɔrtəldʒ/ noun ring-shaped cartilage in the lower part of the larynx. See illustration at LUNGS in Supplement.

cri-du-chat syndrome /ˈkriː du ˈʃæt/ noun a congenital condition, caused by loss of part of chromosome 5, which is characterised in babies by a cry suggestive of that of a cat.

Crigler-Najjar syndrome /ˈkriɡlər ˈnædʒər/ noun a genetically controlled condition in which bilirubin cannot be formed, leading to jaundice or even brain damage.

criminal abortion /ˈkriːmərəl ˈəbərəʃən/ noun an abortion which is carried out illegally.

crisis /ˈkrɪəsɪs/ noun 1. a situation or period of difficulty demanding action 2. a turning point in a disease, after which the person may start to become better or very much worse.

NOTE: Many diseases progress to a crisis and then the patient rapidly gets better. The opposite situation where the patient gets better very slowly is called lysis.

crista /ˈkrɪsta/ noun 1. a ridge, e.g. the border of a bone 2. a ridge in the inner membrane of a mitochrondron [NOTE: The plural is cristae.]

crista galli /ˈkrɪstə ˈɡæli/ noun a projection from the ethmoid bone.

criterion /ˈkriːtrɪərɪən/ noun an accepted standard used in making a decision or judgment about something [NOTE: The plural is criteria.]

critical /ˈkrɪktɪəl/ adjective 1. referring to a crisis 2. extremely serious. ○ He was taken to hospital in a critical condition 3. which criticises ○ The report was critical of the state of aftercare provision.

critical list /ˈkrɪktɪəl ˈlɪst/ noun the list of patients in a hospital whose condition is medically life-threatening.

CRNA abbr certified registered nurse anaesthetist.

Crohn's disease /ˈkraʊnz dɪˈzɪz/ noun a persistent inflammatory disease, usually of the lower intestinal tract, characterised by thickening and scarring of the intestinal wall and obstruction [Described 1932. After Burrill Bernard Crohn (1884–1983), New York physician.]

NOTE: No certain cause has been found for Crohn's disease, where only one section of the intestine becomes inflamed and can be blocked.

cromolyn sodium /ˌkrɔməˈlɛn ˈsɔʊdɪəm/ noun a drug that helps to prevent the release of histamine and other substances which cause many of the symptoms of asthma and hay fever.

cross-dresser /ˈkros ˈdresər/ noun someone who wears clothes usually worn by people of the opposite sex, e.g. by transvestites.

cross-dressing /ˈkros ˈdresɪŋ/ noun the practice of wearing clothes usually worn by people of the opposite sex, e.g. by transvestites.

cross eye /ˈkros ə/ noun same as convergent strabismus (informal).

cross-eyed /ˈkros əd/ adjective having convergent strabismus (informal).
cross-infection /krɔs ɪnˈfɛkʃən/ noun an infection passed from one patient to another in hospital, either directly or from nurses, visitors or equipment.

crossmatch /krɔs ˈmætʃ/ verb (in transplant surgery) to match a donor to a recipient as closely as possible to avoid tissue rejection.

crossing /ˈkrɔsɪŋ/ noun the act of matching a transplant donor to a recipient as closely as possible to avoid tissue rejection.

cross-resistance /ˈkrɔs ˈrizistəns/ noun the development by a disease agent of resistance to a number of similar drugs or chemicals of the same class.

cross-section /ˈkrɔs ˈsɛkʃən/ noun 1. a small part of something, taken to be representative of the whole (NOTE: The team consulted a cross-section of hospital ancillary staff. 2. a sample cut across a specimen for examination under a microscope (NOTE: He examined a cross-section of the lung tissue.

crotch /krɔtʃ/ noun the point where the legs meet the body, where the genitals are. Also called crutch.

croup /krɔup/ noun acute infection of the upper respiratory passages which blocks the larynx, affecting children.

COMMENT: The patient’s larynx swells, and he or she breathes 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 heel of a shoe 4. 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 /ˈkrjuːʃiət/ adjective shaped like a cross.

cruciate ligament /ˈkrjuːʃiət ˈlɪgəmənt/ any ligament shaped like a cross, especially either of two ligaments behind the knee which prevent the knee from bending forwards.

crucial /ˈkrjuːʃəl/ adjective of vital importance.

crus /ˈkrʌs/ noun a long projecting part (NOTE: The plural is crura.)

crus cerebri /krʌs ˈsɜərbrəi/ noun each of the nerve tracts between the cerebrum and the medulla oblongata (NOTE: The plural is crura cerebri).

crush fracture /ˈkrʌʃ ˈfræktʃə/ noun a fracture by compression of the bone.

crush syndrome /ˈkrʌʃ ˈsɜndaʊəm/ noun a condition in which a limb has been crushed, as in an accident, causing kidney failure and shock.

crus of penis /ˈkrʌs əv ˈpɪnɪs/ noun a part of a corpus cavernosum attached to the pubic arch.

crust /ˈkrʌst/ noun a dry layer of blood, pus or other secretion that forms over a cut or sore.

crush /ˈkrʌʃ/ 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.

cryn- /kraɪn- pref ex same as cryo- (used before vowels)

cryaesthesia /ˌkraɪəˈesθiəri/ noun the fact of being sensitive to cold.

cryo- /ˈkrɪəʊ-/ prefix cold.

cryobank /ˈkrɪəʊbæŋk/ noun a place where biological material such as semen and body tissue can be stored at extremely low temperatures.

cryoprecipitate /ˌkrɪəʊprɪˈsɪprɪtət/ 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 /ˌkrɪəʊprəʊb/ noun an instrument used in cryosurgery with a tip that is kept very cold to destroy tissue.

cryosurgery /ˌkrɪəʊsərˈdʒurɪə/ noun surgery which uses extremely cold instruments to destroy tissue.

cryotherapy /ˌkrɪəʊθəˈrɛpi/ noun treatment using extreme cold, as in removing a wart with dry ice.

crypt /krɒpt/ noun a small cavity in the body.

crypto- /ˈkrɪptəʊ-/ prefix hidden.

cryptococci /ˌkrɪpˈtɒkəsi/ plural of cryptococcus.

cryptococcal meningitis /ˌkrɪpˈtɒkəkəl ˌmɛnɪŋɪtɪs/ noun a form of meningitis that is a feature of cryptococcosis.

cryptococcosis /ˌkrɪpˈtɒkəkəsɪs/ 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 /ˌkrɪpˈtɒkəkəs/ noun one of several single-celled yeasts which exist in the soil and can cause disease (NOTE: The plural is cryptococci.)
cryptomenorrhoea /ˌkrɪptəˈmənərəʊ/ noun the retention of menstrual flow, usually caused by an obstruction
cryptorchidism /ˈkrɪptrəʊkɪdɪzəm/ noun a condition in a young male in which the testicles do not move down into the scrotum
cryptosporidiosis /ˌkrɪptraʊspərˈdɪəsiəs/ noun an infectious condition of humans and domestic animals, spread by an intestinal parasite Cryptosporidium parvum. Its symptoms are fever, diarrhea and stomach cramps.
cryptosporidia /ˌkrɪptraʊspərˈdɪəriə/ plural of cryptosporidiosis
cryptosporidium /ˌkrɪptraʊspərˈdɪəriəm/ noun a parasite which contaminates drinking water supplies, causing intestinal infection (NOTE: The plural is cryptosporidia.)
crypts of Lieberkühn /ˌkrɪptriˌliːbərˈkuːn/ 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 /ˈkrɪstrəl/ noun a chemical formation of hard regular-shaped solids
crystalline /ˈkrɪstrələn/ adjective clear like pure crystal
crystal violet /ˌkrɪstrəˈvɪəl/ ‘vɪəl/ noun same as gentian violet
cSF abbr cerebrospinal fluid
cT abbr computed tomography
cT scan /ˈtiː skeɪn/ noun a computer picture of a slice of the body or an organ produced by a CT scanner. Also called CAT scan
cT scanner /ˈtiː 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 /ˈkjuːbɪtəl/ adjective referring to the ulna
cubital fossa /ˈkjuːbɪtəl ˈfɒsə/ noun a depression in the front of the elbow joint
cubitus /ˈkjuːbiːtəs/ noun same as ulna
cuboid /ˈkjuːbɔɪd/ cuboid bone /ˈkjuːbɔɪd bʌn/ noun one of the three tarsal bones in the foot. See illustration at foot in Supplement
cuboidal cell /ˈkjuːbiːɔld/ plural noun a cube-shaped epithelial cell
cuff /kʌf/ noun 1, an inflatable ring put round the arm and inflated when blood pressure is being measured 2, an endotracheal tube to close the passage
cuirass respirator /kəˈwɜːrəs ˌrɪsprɪˈreɪtər/ noun a type of artificial respirator which surrounds only the chest
culdoco cescope /ˈkʌldəʊkəʊsəpi/ noun an instrument used to inspect the interior of a woman’s pelvis, introduced through the vagina
culdocoscopy /ˌkʌldəʊkəʊsəpi/ noun an examination of the interior of a woman’s pelvis using a culdocoscope
culture /ˈkʌltʃər/ 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 /ˈkʌltʃər ˌmɛdiəm/ noun a substance in which a culture of microorganisms or tissue is grown in a laboratory, e.g. agar
.cumulative /ˈkjʊəmjʊlətɪv/ adjective growing by adding
.cumulative action /ˈkjʊəmjʊlətɪv ˈækʃən/ noun an effect of a drug which is given more often than it can be excreted and so accumulates in the tissues
cuneiform /ˈkjʊɪnɪfɔːm/ cuneiform bone /ˈkjʊɪnɪfɔːm bʌn/ noun one of the three tarsal bones in the foot. See illustration at foot in Supplement
cupola /ˈkjʊpɔːlə/ noun 1, a dome-shaped structure 2, a piece of cartilage in a semicircular canal which is moved by the fluid in the canal and connects with the vestibular nerve
curable /ˈkjʊərəb(ə)l/ adjective able to be cured or a curable form of cancer
curare /ˈkjʊərər/ 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 /ˈkjʊərətɪv/ adjective able to cure
cure /kjuːr/ noun a particular way of making someone well or of stopping an illness • Scientists are trying to develop a cure for the common cold. • verb to make someone healthy • She was completely cured. • Can the doctors cure his bad circulation?
curettage /kjuːrəˈtɛtɪdʒ/ noun the procedure of scraping the inside of a hollow organ, often the uterus, to remove a growth or tissue for examination. Also called curettement
curette /kjuːrəˈret/ 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 – cureted.) The US spelling is curet.
curettage same as curettage
curie /kjuːri/ noun a unit of measurement of radioactivity, replaced by the becquerel. Symbol Ci
.Curling’s ulcer /ˈkɜːliŋz ˈəlʃər/ noun an ulcer of the duodenum following severe injury to the body
Curvature

curvature /'kaʊvərətʃə/ noun the way in which something bends from a straight line ○ greater or lesser curvature of the stomach

curvature of the spine /'kaʊvərətʃəvərədə/ 'spain' noun an unusual bending of the spine forwards or sideways

cushingoid /'kjuʃinɔd/ adjective showing symptoms of Cushing’s disease

Cushing’s disease /'kjuʃinz daɪz/ Cushing’s syndrome /'kjuʃinz skrəʊndrəm/ noun a condition in which the adrenal cortex produces too many corticosteroids [Described 1932, After Harvey Williams Cushing (1869–1939), surgeon, Boston, USA.]

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 muscles, raised blood pressure and retention of salt and water in the body.

cusp /'kʌs/ noun 1, the pointed tip of a tooth 2. a flap of membrane forming a valve in the heart

cuspид /'kʌspid/ noun same as canine
cut /kaʊt/ 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. 3. 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 /'kjuːtəniəs/ adjective referring to the skin

cutaneous leishmaniasis /'kjuːtəniəs lɪʃməˈnæsɪs/ noun a form of skin disease caused by the tropical parasite Leishmania. Also called Delhi boil
cutdown /'kaʊtədən/ noun the procedure of cutting a vein to insert a cannula or administer an intravenous drug
cuticle /'kjuːtɪklə/ noun 1. same as epidermis 2. a strip of epidermis attached at the base of a nail
cutis /'kjuːtɪs/ noun the skin
cutis anserina /'kjuːtɪs ænˈsərɪnə/ 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

cycaval cerebrovascular accident
cyan- /saiən/ prefix same as cyan- (used before vowels)
cyanide /saiənɪd/ noun a poison which kills very rapidly when drunk or inhaled

cyano- /saiənəʊ/ prefix blue

cyano-cobalamin /saɪənəʊkəbələmɪn/ noun same as Vitamin B12
cyanosed /'saiənəʊzd/ adjective with blue skin ○ The patient was cyanosed round the lips.
cyanosis /saiənəʊsɪs/ 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-otic /saiənəʊˈtɪk/ adjective referring to or having cyanosis

cyclandelate /sɪkˈklændəlɛt/ noun a drug used to treat cerebrovascular disease
cycle /saiəl/ noun a series of events which recur regularly
cyclic /sɪklɪk, -siklɪk/ adjective 1. occurring or repeated in cycles 2. referring to organic compounds composed of a closed ring of atoms
cycli-cal /sɪklɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to cycles
cyclical vomiting /sɪklɪk(ə)l vəmˈtəʊɪŋ/ noun repeated attacks of vomiting

cycline /saiəklɪn/ suffix used in names of antibiotics ○ tetracycline

cyclitis /sɪklɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the ciliary body in the eye
cyclizine /saiəklɪzɪn/ noun an antihistamine drug that can be used to control nausea and vomiting
cyclo- /saiəl/ prefix cycles
cyclodiagnosis /saiəldəˈdʒɒnəsɪs/ noun a surgical operation to connect the anterior chamber of the eye and the choroid, as a treatment of glaucoma

cycloplegolate /saiəlˈpɛlələt/ noun a drug used to paralyse the ciliary muscle
cyclophosphamide /saiəlˈfɔsfaɪmɪd/ noun a drug which suppresses immunity, used in the treatment of leukaemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and tumours

cycloplegia /saiəlˈplɪdʒɪə/ noun paralysis of the ciliary muscle which makes it impossible for the eye to focus properly

cyclopropane /saiəlˈprəpən/ noun a flammable hydrocarbon gas used as a general anaesthetic and in organic synthesis

cyclothymia /saiəlˈθəmɪə/ noun a mild form of bipolar disorder in which the person experiences alternating depression and excitement
cyclostomy /saiəlˈstəmə/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut in the ciliary body (NOTE: The plural is cyclostomies.)

cyclovir /saiəlvər/ suffix used in the names of antiviral drugs
cyphosis /saiˈfəsɪs/ noun same as pregnancy (technical)
cylinder /sɪləndər/ 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 /ˌsɪstəˈdəʊmə/ noun an adenoma in which fluid-filled cysts form (NOTE: The plural is cystadenomas or cystadnomea.)
cystalgia /ˈsɪstəlɒdʒɪə/ noun pain in the urinary bladder
cystectomy /ˌsɪstɪˈtektoʊmɪ/ 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 /ˌsɪstɪkˈærətɪ/ noun an artery leading from the hepatic artery to the gall bladder
cystic duct /ˈsɪstɪk dʌkt/ noun a duct which takes bile from the gall bladder to the common bile duct

cysticercosis /ˌsɪstɪsˈɜrksəs/ noun a disease caused by infestation of tapeworm larvae from pork

cysticercus /ˌsɪstɪsˈɜrksəs/ 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 fɪbˈrɒsɪs/ 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 /ˈsɪstɪk vɪn/ noun a vein which drains the gall bladder
cystine /ˈsɪstɪn/ noun an amino acid. It can cause stones to form in the urinary system of people who have a rare inherited metabolic disorder.
cystinosis /ˌsɪstɪnˈɒsɪs/ noun a disorder affecting the absorption of amino acids, resulting in excessive amounts of cystine accumulating in the kidneys

cystinuria /ˌsɪstɪnˈjuəriə/ noun cystine in the urine
cystitis /ˈsɪstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the urinary bladder, which makes someone pass water often and with a burning sensation

cystocele /ˌsɪstəsˈɛl/ noun a hernia of the urinary bladder into the vagina
cystogram /ˌsɪstəˈɡræm/ noun an X-ray photograpth of the urinary bladder

cystography /ˌsɪstəˈɡraʊfɪ/ noun an examination of the urinary bladder by X-rays after radiopaque dye has been introduced
cystolithiasis /ˌsɪstəˈlɪθəsiəs/ noun a condition in which stones are formed in the urinary bladder
cystometer /ˌsɪstəˈmɔtɪr/ noun an apparatus which measures the pressure in the bladder
cystometry /ˌsɪstəˈmɔtrɪ/ noun measurement of the pressure in the bladder
cystopexy /ˌsɪstəˈpɛksɪə/ noun a surgical operation to fix the bladder in a different position. Also called vesicopecty. (NOTE: The plural is cystopexies.)
cystoplasty /ˌsɪstəˈplestɪ/ noun an operation on the bladder (NOTE: The plural is cystoplasties.)
cystoscopy /ˌsɪstəsˈkɒpi/ noun an instrument made of a long tube with a light at the end, used to inspect the inside of the bladder (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 cystostomies.)
cystourethrography /ˌsɪstəˈθɜrəˈɡrɑfi/ noun X-ray examination of the bladder and urethra
cystourethroscope /ˌsɪstəˈθɜrəskəp/ an instrument used to inspect the bladder and urethra

cyt- /ˈsaɪt/ prefix same as cyto- (used before vowels)
cyto- /səˈtəʊ/ prefix cell
cytochemistry /ˌsɪtəʊˌkɛmɪstrɪ/ noun the study of the chemical activity of cells
cytodiagnosis /ˌsɪtədəˈgɒznəs/ noun diagnosis after examination of cells
cytogenetics /ˌsɪtəˈdʒenɛktɪs/ noun a branch of genetics which studies the function of cells, especially chromosomes, in heredity
cytokine /ˌsɪtəˈkʌɪn/ noun a protein secreted by cells of the lymph system which is involved in controlling response to inflammation

cytokinesis /ˌsɪtəˈkɪnəsɪs/ noun changes in the cytoplasm of a cell during division
cytological smear /ˌsɪtəˈlɒdʒɪskər/ noun a sample of tissue taken for examination under a microscope

cytology /ˈsaɪtəlɒgɪ/ noun the study of the structure and function of cells
cytolysis /ˌsɪtəˈlɒsɪs/ noun the breaking down of cells
cytomegalovirus /ˌsɪtəˈmɛɡələvɜr/ noun one of the herpesviruses which can cause...
cytometer /saɪtəˈmətər/ noun an instrument attached to a microscope, used for measuring and counting the number of cells in a specimen
cytopenia /saɪtəˈpiːniə/ noun a deficiency of cellular elements in blood or tissue
cytoplasm /saɪtəˈplæzm/ noun a substance inside the cell membrane which surrounds the nucleus of a cell
cytoplasmic /saɪtəˈplæzmɪk/ adjective referring to the cytoplasm of a cell
cytosine /saɪtəˈsoʊsn/ noun one of the four basic chemicals in DNA
cytosome /saɪtəˈsəʊm/ noun the body of a cell, not including the nucleus
cytotoxic /saɪtəˈtɒksɪk/ adjective 1. referring to a drug or agent which prevents cell division 2. referring to cells in the immune system which destroy other cells
cytotoxic drug /saɪtəˌtɒksɪk ˈdrʌɡ/ 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
dactylometry /dæktɪləmɪˈɡeɪli/ noun a condition in which a person has longer fingers than usual
DAD /drəʊd/ adverb everyday ○ Take the medicine twice daily.
Daltonism /ˈdæltnəʊzɪzm/ 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.]
damaged /ˈdæmdʒd/ 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.
dandruff /ˈdændrʌf/ noun pieces of dead skin from the scalp which fall out when the hair is combed. Also called pityriasis capitis, scurf
D and V /dɪ: ˈviː/ noun 'vitamins (used by the body to assist in the digestion of food)
Dandy-Walker syndrome /ˈdændiˈwɔːkər/ syndrome/ noun a congenital condition in which there is no Magendie's foramen in the brain
danger /ˈdændʒər/ 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 /ˈdændʒərəs/ adjective causing harm or death
dangerous drug /ˈdændʒərəs /ˈdrʌɡ/ noun 1. a drug which is harmful and is not allowed to the general public, e.g. morphine or heroin
2. a poison which can only be sold to specific persons
dark adaptation

dark adaptation /dark _ədəp'teɪʃ(ə)n/
noun the reflex changes which enable the eye to continue to see in dim light. For example, the pupil becomes larger and the rods in the retina become more active than the cones.
darkening /dɑrk'niŋ/
noun the act of becoming darker in colour. Darkening of the tissue takes place after bruising.
data /'deɪtə/
plural noun information in words or figures about a particular subject, especially information which is available on computer
(Note: In scientific usage, data is used with a plural verb: The data are accurate. In everyday language, data is often used with a singular verb: The recent data supports our case.)
data bank
noun a store of information in a computer
The hospital keeps a data bank of information about possible kidney donors.
database noun a structured collection of information in a computer that can be automatically retrieved and manipulated
Data Protection Act /də'teɪtprə'tek(ə)n/
noun a parliamentary act intended to protect information about individuals that is held on computers. It ensures that all information is stored securely and allows people to have access to their entries.
daughter /'dɑ:θər/
noun a female child of a parent
They have two sons and one daughter.
day blind /'deɪblind/ plural noun day blindness a condition in which the eye becomes insensitive to light, but the pupil becomes larger and the rods in the retina become more active than the cones.
day case /'deɪkəs/ noun same as day case surgery

day case surgery /'deɪkeɪ'sərəki/
noun a surgical operation which does not require the patient to stay overnight in hospital. Also called day case surgery
dazed /dezəd/
adjective confused in the mind
She was found walking about in a dazed condition. He was dazed after the accident.
dB abbr decibel
DCR abbr dacryocystorhinostomy
DDS abbr US doctor of dental surgery
DDT abbr dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
dec- /dɛk/ prefix removal or loss
deaf /dɪf/ adjective 1. no longer alive My grandparents are both deaf. The woman was rescued from the crash, but was certified deaf on arrival at the hospital. 2. not sensitive The nerve endings are dead. His fingers went deaf.
deaden /'ded(ə)n/ verb to make something such as pain or noise less strong
The doctor gave him an injection to deaden the pain.
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deaden /'ded(ə)n/ verb to make something such as pain or noise less strong
The doctor gave him an injection to deaden the pain.
deadens /'dedəns/ noun same as deaden

deadly nightshade /'dedli 'naitʃeidi/ noun same as belladonna

dead man's fingers /'ded mænz 'fɪŋgəz/ noun same as Raynaud's disease

dead space /'ded spɛrs/ noun a breath in the last part of the process of breathing in air which does not get further than the bronchial tubes
def /dɛf/ adjective not able to hear in circumstances where most people would You have to speak slowly and clearly when you talk to Mr Jones because he's quite deaf. Hearing-impaired /'defrəʊr/ noun the deaf people who are deaf
dead and dumb /'ded ən 'dʌm/ noun not able to hear or to speak (Note: This term is regarded as offensive.)
deaned /dɪfənd/ verb to make someone deaf for a time
He was deafened by the explosion.
deadness /'dednES/ noun the state of being unable to hear in circumstances where most people would or partial deafness
The condition of being able to hear some tones, but not all 2. a general dulling of the whole range of hearing
Comment: Deafness has many degrees and many causes: old age, viruses, exposure to continuous loud noise or intermittent loud explosions, and diseases such as German measles.
deanminate /'deɪmənɪteɪt/ verb to remove an amino group from an amino acid, forming amonia
deamination /'dedə'nmeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the process by which amino acids are broken down in the liver and urea is formed
Comment: After deamination, the ammonia which is formed is converted to urea by the liv-
er, while the remaining carbon and hydrogen from the amino acid provide the body with heat and energy.

decussation /dəkəsəˈʃon/ noun the process where dead matter is rotted by the action of bacteria or fungi
decomposition /dɪˈkɒmpəzəʃən/ noun the process where dead matter is rotted by the action of bacteria or fungi
deciduum /deˈsidjuəm/ noun a mass of decidual tissue remaining in the uterus after birth (NOTE: The plural is deciduums or deciduomata.)
deciduous /dɪˈsidjuəs/ adjective referring to teeth discarded at a later stage of development
deciduous dentition /dɪˌsidjuəs dənˈtɪʃən/ noun the set of twenty teeth which are gradually replaced by the permanent teeth as a child grows older
deciduous tooth /dɪˌsidjuəs tʊθ/ noun same as primary tooth
decilitre /dɛkɪˈlɪtr/ noun a unit of measurement of liquid equal to one tenth of a litre. Symbol dl (NOTE: The US spelling is deciliter.)
decimetre /dɛkɪˈmɪtər/ noun a unit of measurement of length equal to one tenth of a metre. Symbol dm (NOTE: The US spelling is decimeter.)
decompression /dɪˈkɒmpəzən ˈsɪkɪzn/ 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 /dɪˈkɒmpəz/ verb to rot or become putrefied (NOTE: decomposing = decomposed)
decapitation /dɪˌkæpəˈteɪʃən/ noun an act or process of cutting off the head of a person or animal
decapsulation /dɪˌkæpsjʊəˈteɪʃən/ noun a surgical operation to remove a capsule from an organ, especially from a kidney
decay /dɪˈkeɪ/ 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
decimetre /dɪˈkɪtmətər/ noun 1. a unit of measurement of length equal to one tenth of a metre. Symbol dm (NOTE: The US spelling is decimeter.)
decibel /dɪˈsɪbl/ noun a unit of measurement of the loudness of sound, used to compare different levels of sound. Symbol dB
decidua /dɪˈsidjʊə/ noun a membrane which lines the uterus after fertilisation (NOTE: The plural is deciduas or deciduae.)
deciduous /dɪˈsidjuəs/ adjective referring to the decidua
defibrillation /ˌdɪfɪbrəˈleɪʃn/ 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 /ˌdɪfɪbrəˈleɪtər/ noun an apparatus used to apply an electric impulse to the heart to make it beat regularly

deforestation /ˌdɛfəˈrɛʃn/ noun the removal of fibrin from a blood sample to prevent clotting

deficiency /ˌdɪfəˈsɪənsi/ noun a lack of something necessary

deficiency disease /ˌdɪfəˈsɪənsi diˈziːzi/ noun a disease caused by lack of an essential element in the diet such as vitamins or essential amino and fatty acids

deficient /ˌdɪfəˈsɪnt/ adjective not meeting the required standard or deficient in something not containing the necessary amount of something or His diet is deficient in calcium or he has a calcium-deficient diet.

deficit /ˌdɛfɪsɪt/ noun the amount by which something is less than it should be

defloration /ˌdɛfləʊˈreɪʃn/ noun the act of breaking the hymen of a virgin, usually at the first sexual intercourse

deflorescence /ˌdɛfləˈrɛsəns/ noun the disappearance of a rash

deformans /ˌdɪfərˈmæns/ or osteitis deformans

deforestation /ˌdɪfəˈrɛʃn/ noun the process of becoming deformed, or the state of being deformed or The later stages of the disease are marked by bone deformation, deformed /dɪfərˈmɪd/ adjective not shaped or formed in the expected way

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deficiency disease /ˌdɪfəˈsɪənsi diˈziːzi/ noun a disease caused by lack of an essential element in the diet such as vitamins or essential amino and fatty acids

defective /ˌdɪfəˈtɛkt/ adjective working badly or wrongly formed or The surgeons operated to repair a defective heart valve. ■ noun a person suffering from severe mental impairment (NOTE: The noun use is regarded as offensive.)
defective /ˌdɪfəˈtɛktɪv/ adjective working badly or wrongly formed or The surgeons operated to repair a defective heart valve. ■ noun a person suffering from severe mental impairment (NOTE: The noun use is regarded as offensive.)
defence /dɪˈfens/ 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 /dɪˈfens meˈkænɪzəm/ noun a subconscious reflex by which a person prevents himself or herself from suffering emotion

defense /dɪˈfens/ noun US same as defence
defensive medicine /dɪˈfensɪv ˈmɛdɪsɪn/ noun extensive diagnostic testing before treatment to minimise the likelihood of a patient suing the doctor or hospital for negligence
deferrer /dɪˈfɛrənt/ adjective 1. going away from the centre 2. referring to the vas deferens
defervescence /dɪˈfərəsəns/ noun a period during which a fever is subsiding
**delta virus** /ˈdeltəˈvɜːrəs noun/ the RNA virus which causes delta hepatitis

**delta wave** /ˈdeltə wew/ noun/ a slow brain wave which is produced in the front of the brain by adults in deep sleep, registering a frequency of 3.5 hertz

**deltoid** /ˈdeltəd/ noun/ deltoid muscle /ˈdeltəd/ noun/ a big triangular muscle covering the shoulder joint and attached to the humerus, which lifts the arm sideways

**deltoid tuberosity** /ˈdeltədˌtjuːroʊɪs/ noun/ a raised part of the humerus to which the deltoid muscle is attached

**delirium** /dəˈlɪriəm/ 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** /ˈdelətəriəs/ adjective/ damaging or harmful

**Delhi boil** /ˈdɛliˈbɔɪl/ noun/ same as cutaneous leishmaniasis

**delicate** /ˈdelɪkət/ 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. 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** /ˈdɛlɪrɪəs/ adjective/ affected by delirium. A person can become delirious because of shock, fear, drugs or fever.

**delirium** /ˈdɛlɪrɪəm/ noun/ a mental state in which someone is confused, excited and restless and has hallucinations

**delirium tremens** /ˈdɛlɪrɪəm ˈtremənənz/ adjective/ delirium alcoholicum /ˈdɛlɪrɪəm ˈælkəˈhoʊlikəm/ 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. Abbrev DTs

**delivery** /ˈdɛlɪvəri/ noun/ the birth of a child

**delivery bed** /ˈdɛlɪvəri bɛd/ noun/ a special bed on which a mother lies to give birth

**delivery room** /ˈdɛlɪvəri ruːm/ noun/ a room in a hospital especially equipped for women to give birth

**delta** /ˈdɛltə/ noun/ the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet

**delta hepatitis** /ˈdeltə ˈhepətɪtɪs/ noun/ a severe form of hepatitis caused by an RNA virus in conjunction with the hepatitis B virus. Also called hepatitis delta

**dehydration** /ˈdɛhərəˈteɪʃən/ 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.

**dehydrationase** /ˈdɛhərəˈteɪʃənˌeɪs/ noun/ an enzyme that transfers hydrogen between chemical compounds

**déjà vu** /dəˈdʒəˌvuː/ noun/ an illusion that a current situation is a previous one being repeated, usually caused by a disease of the brain

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**delusion** /ˈdɛləʃən/ noun/ a false belief which a person holds which cannot be changed by reason /He suffered from the delusion that he was wanted by the police.

**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** /ˈdɛməntə əv ˈæltʃəmərˈzər/ noun/ a form of mental degeneration probably due to Alzheimer’s disease

**dementia paralytica** /ˈdɛməntə ˈpærəˌlɪtɪkə/ noun/ mental degeneration due to the tertiary stage of syphilis

**dementia praecox** /ˈdɛməntɪə ˈprɛskɒks/ noun/ same as schizophrenia (old)

**dementing** /ˈdɛməntɪŋ/ adjective/ referring to someone with dementia

**demi-** /ˈdɛmi/ prefix half

**demographic forecast** /ˌdɛməɡrəˈfɔːst/ noun/ a forecast of the numbers of people of different ages and sexes in an area at some time in the future

**demography** /ˌdɛməɡrəˈfi/ noun/ the study of populations and environments or changes affecting populations

**demulcent** /ˈdɛmələns/ noun/ a soothing substance which relieves irritation in the stomach

**demyelinating** /ˈdɛmələniŋtɪŋ/ adjective/ relating to the destruction of the myelin sheath round nerve fibres

**demyelination** /ˈdɛmələnɪˈteɪʃn/ 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** /ˈdɛnətʃərd əˈlɑkələr/ 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** /ˈdendrɪt/ noun/ a branched structure growing out from a nerve cell, which receives impulses from the nerve endings of oth-
dendritic 104
er nerve cells at synapses. See illustration at
neurome in Supplement. Also called dendron.
dendritic /denˈdrɪtk/ adjective referring to a
dendritic ulcer /denˈdrɪk ˈʌlər/ noun a
branching ulcer on the cornea, caused by a her-
pervirus

dendron /ˈdendrɒn/ noun same as dendrite.
denervation /ˌdɛnəˈvɛrəʃən/ noun the stop-
ing or cutting of the nerve supply to a part of
the body
dengue /ˈdɛŋɡw/ noun a tropical disease
caused by an arbovirus transmitted by mosqui-
toes, characterised by high fever, pains in the
joints, headache and rash. Also called break-
bone fever
dential /ˈdɛntɪl/ noun a person’s refusal to
accept that he or she has a serious medical
problem
Denis Browne splint /ˈdɛns bɹəʊn ˈsplɪnt/ noun a
metal splint used to correct a
club foot (Described 1934. After Sir Denis John
Wolko Browne (1892–1967), Australian ortho-
paedic and general surgeon working in Britain.)
dens /ˈdɛns/ noun a tooth, or something
shaped like a tooth
dent- /ˈdent/ prefix referring to a tooth or teeth
dental /ˈdɛnt(ə)/ adjective referring to teeth or
to the treatment of teeth ◦ dental caries ◦
dental surgeon
dental care /ˈdɛnt(ə) l kər/ noun the exami-
nation and treatment of teeth
dental caries /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˈkɛriəz/ noun the
rotting of a tooth. Also called dental decay
dental cyst /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˈkɪst/ noun a cyst near
the root of a tooth
dental decay /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˈdɛntɪkl/ noun same
as dental caries
dental floss /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˈflɒs/ noun a soft
thread which can be pulled between the teeth
to help keep them clean
dental hygiene /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˈhaindʒi/ noun
practices to keep the teeth clean and healthy
dental impaction /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˈimˈpɛkʃən/ noun
a condition in which a tooth is closely
pressed against other teeth and cannot grow
normally
dental plaque /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˈplekl/ noun a hard
smooth bacterial deposit on teeth, which
holds artificial teeth
dental prosthesis /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˈprɔsθəsɪs/ noun
one or more false teeth
dental pulp /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˈpʌlp/ noun soft tissue
inside a tooth
dental surgeon /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˌsɜrdʒən/ noun a
person who is qualified to practise surgery on
teeth
dental surgery /ˈdɛnt(ə) l ˌsɜrdʒəri/ noun 1.
the office and operating room of a dentist. 2.
surgery carried out on teeth
dentine /ˈdɛntɪn/ noun a hard substance
which surrounds the pulp of teeth, beneath the
enamel (Note: The US spelling is dentin.)
dentist /ˈdɛntɪst/ noun a person who is quali-

cified to look after teeth and gums
dentistry /ˈdɛntɪstri/ noun the profession of
a dentist, or the branch of medicine dealing
with teeth and gums
dentition /ˈdɛntəʃən/ noun the number, ar-
rangement and special characteristics of all the
teeth in a person’s jaws.

COMMENT: Children have incisors, canines
and molars, which are replaced over a period
of years by the permanent teeth: eight inci-
sors, four canines, eight premolars and twelve
molars, the last four molars being called the
wisdom teeth.
dentoid /ˈdɛntɔɪd/ adjective shaped like a
tooth
denture /ˈdɛntʃər/ noun a set of false teeth,
fixed to a device which fits inside the mouth
deorient /ˈdɛrərɪənt/ noun a substance
which hides or prevents unpleasant smells
adjective hiding or preventing odours
dendrology /ˌdɛndrəˈlɒdʒi/ noun the ethics
of duty and of what is morally right or wrong
deoxygenate /ˈdɛksədʒəneɪt/ verb to re-
move oxygen from something
deoxygenated blood /ˈdɛksədʒənt
ˈbʌld/ noun blood from which most of the
oxygen has been removed by the tissues. It is
darker than arterial oxygenated blood. Also
denoted venous blood. Compare deoxygenated
blood
deoxyribonucleic acid /ˌdɪəˈsɜrisˌnjuˈleɪk/ noun
full form of DNA
Department of Health /ˌdɛptəmənt əv
ˈhelθ/ noun in the UK, the government depart-
ment in charge of health services. Abbrev DH
dependant /dɪˈpendənt/ noun a person who
is looked after or supported by someone else ◦
He has to support a family of six children and
several dependants.
dependence /dɪˈpendəns, ˈdependəns/ noun
the fact of needing the sup-
port of something or someone such as a carer,
nurse or doctor, or of being addicted to a drug
dependent /dɪˈpendənt/ adjective 1. needing
the support of someone or something 2. addic-
ted to a drug 3. referring to a part of the body
which is hanging down
dependent relative /dɪˈpendənt ˈrɛlatɪv/ noun
a person who is looked after by another
member of the family
depersonalisation /ˌdɛpərˈsɛnlɪzəʃən/ noun
a psychiatric state in which someone does not believe
he or she is real
depression noun a condition that prevents someone from carrying out the normal activities of life in the usual way. The study and treatment of skin and its diseases. A doctor who specialises in the study and treatment of skin and its diseases. A fungal infection of the skin caused by a fungus that is not a dermatophyte. A type of dermatitis where large itchy blisters form on the skin. A special knife used for cutting thin sections of skin for grafting. A condition where a fold of skin moves without being able to have something that you need or want. The lack of basic necessities of life. A fungal infection of the skin caused by a dermatophyte. A skin graft, replacing damaged skin by skin taken from another part of the body or from a donor. A disease of the skin. A thick layer of living skin beneath the epidermis. Also called corium. A template for a progesterone derivative used in birth control and the treatment of endometriosis which is administered by three-monthly injection. 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A thick layer of living skin beneath the epidermis. Also called corium.
dermographia /ˌdɜrməˈɡrafiə/ noun a swelling on the skin produced by pressing with a blunt instrument, usually an allergic reaction. Also called dermatographism.

dermoid /ˈdɛrmɔɪd/ adjective 1. referring to the skin, like skin

dermoid cyst /ˈdɛrmɔɪd ˈsɪst/ noun a cyst found under the skin, usually in the midline, containing hair, sweat glands and sebaceous glands.

Descemet's membrane /dɪˈseɪməts, -mənt/ noun one of the deep layers of the cornea [Described 1795; after Jean Descemet (1732–1810), French physician; Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in Paris.]

descending aorta /dɪˈsɛndɪŋ ərtə/ noun the second section of the aorta, which turns downwards. Compare ascending aorta

descending colon /dɪˈsɛndɪŋ ˈkəʊlən/ 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 /dɪˈsɛndɪŋ ˈtrækt/ noun a set of nerves which takes impulses away from the head

desensitisation /dɪˈsenstɪˌzeɪʃən/ desensitization 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 /dɪˈsenstɪˌzaɪs/ desensitize verb 1. to desensitize

designer drug /dɪˈzaɪnәr druɡ/ noun a drug that has been modified to enhance its properties (informal)

desogestrel /ˌdesəˈdʒestrəl/ noun a hormone used as an oral contraceptive

desquamation /dɪˌskwəˈmeɪʃən/ noun 1. the continual process of losing the outer layer of dead skin 2. peeling off of the epithelial part of a structure

detach /dɪˈtætʃ/ verb to separate one thing from another or an operation to detach the cause of the problem

detached retina /dɪˈtætʃt ˈrɛtnə/ 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 /dɪˈtekʃənt/ 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 /dɪˈtekʃən/ 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 /dɪˈtɛrʒənt/ noun a cleaning substance which removes grease and bacteria. COMMENT: Most detergents are not allergenic but some biological detergents which contain enzymes to remove protein stains can cause dermatitis.

deteriorate /dɪˈtɪərɪərɪt/ verb to become worse. The patient's condition deteriorated rapidly.

deterioration /dɪˌtɪərɪˈeɪʃən/ noun the fact of becoming worse. The nurses were worried by the deterioration in the patient's reactions.

determine /dɪˈtɜrɪˌneɪt/ verb to find out something by examining the evidence. Health inspectors are trying to determine the cause of the outbreak of salmonella poisoning.

detox /dɪˈtɑks/ noun same as detoxication (informal).

detoxication /dɪˈtɑksɪˌkeɪʃən, -ˌkɛʃən/ noun the removal of toxic substances to make a poisonous substance harmless.

detriment /dɪˈtrɪmənt/ noun the fact of wearing away by rubbing or use

detrusor muscle /dɪˈtrʌzər ˈməsəl/ noun the muscular coat of the urinary bladder

detol /ˌdɛtəl/ noun a trade name for a disinfectant containing chloroxylenol.

detumescence /ˌdɛtjuˈmɛsəns/ 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.

detteranopia /ˌdɛtɪˈrænəsˈpɪə/ noun a form of colour blindness in which someone cannot see green.

develop /dɪˈvɛləp/ verb 1. to become larger and stronger, or more complex. The embryo is developing normally. A swelling developed under the armpit. 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 A & E.

detox /dɪˈtɔks/ noun the process of removing substances from the body.
may be developing a cold. He developed complications and was rushed to hospital.

Diabetes 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)

development (n) is 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 (adj) referring to the development of an embryo.

developmental delay (n) the fact of being later than usual in developing, either physically or psychologically.

deviance (n) sexual behaviour which is considered unusual.

deviated nasal septum (n) an unusual position of the septum of the nose which may block the nose and cause nosebleeds.

deviation (n) 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 in strabismus.

Devic's disease (n) described in 1894. After Devic, a French physician who died in 1935.

dexamethasone (n) a synthetic steroid drug that is used to treat inflammation and hormonal imbalances.

Dexa scan (n) a technique to assess changes in someone's bone density, as in osteoporosis or in Paget's disease.

Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (n) a test used to assess bone density.

dextro- (p) referring to the right, or the right side of the body.

dextrocardia (n) a congenital condition in which the apex of the heart is towards the right of the body instead of the left. Compare levo paralysis.

dextromoramide (n) an opioid drug used to reduce pain.

dextrose (n) as glucose.

DH (n) Department of Health.

dhobie itch (n) a common condition of the body.

DI (n) donor insemination.

di- (p) prefix two, double.

dia- (p) prefix 1. through or throughout. 2. across. 3. in different or opposite directions. 4. apart.

diabetes (n) a group of diseases which cause the body to produce large amounts of urine.

gestational diabetes (n) diabetes mellitus.

diabetes insipidus (n) 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 (n) 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 as 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 test 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 (adj) referring to diabetes mellitus.

diabetic catarrh (n) a cataract which develops in people who have diabetes.

diabetic coma (n) a state of unconsciousness caused by untreated diabetes.

Diabetic diet (n) a diet which is low in carbohydrates and sugar.

diabetic retinopathy (n) a disease of the retina, caused by diabetes.

Diabeticogenic (adj) which causes diabetes.

Diabetologist (n) a doctor specialising in the treatment of diabetes mellitus.

diaclasia (n) a fracture made by a surgeon to repair an earlier fracture which has set badly, or to correct a deformity.

Diadochokinesis (n) the natural ability to make muscles move limbs in opposite directions.

Diagnosis (n) the act of diagnosing a condition or illness. The patient was diagnosed with rheumatism.

Diagnosis (n) the act of diagnosing a condition or illness. The doctor's diagnosis was a viral infection, but the child's parents asked for a second opinion.
diagnosis

1. the act of diagnosing, or the result of a diagnosis
2. a condition in which a disease is present or suspected
3. the act of making a diagnosis

diagnostic

1. pertaining to diagnosis or diagnostic procedures
2. used to make a diagnosis

diagnostic imaging

1. imaging techniques that help in diagnosing diseases
2. techniques used to visualize internal structures

diagnostic radiographer

1. a professional who performs diagnostic imaging
2. a person who uses radiographic equipment

diagnostic test

1. a test used to make a diagnosis
2. a test used to confirm a disease

diaphragmatic pleurisy

1. inflammation of the pleura which covers the diaphragm
2. a condition characterized by diaphragmatic pain

diaphragmatic pleura

1. the pleura covering the diaphragm
2. the membrane that separates the thoracic cavity from the abdominal cavity

diaphragmatic hernia

1. a condition in which a portion of the abdominal organs protrudes through a defect in the diaphragm
2. a condition where the diaphragm is torn

diaphragmatic plication

1. a surgical procedure to repair a diaphragmatic hernia
2. a technique to strengthen the diaphragm

diaphragm

1. a muscular sheet that separates the thoracic cavity from the abdominal cavity
2. a muscle that contracts to cause breathing

diaphoretic

1. a substance that promotes sweating
2. a drug that increases perspiration

diaphoresis

1. the process of sweating
2. a condition characterized by excessive sweating

diapedesis

1. the process of exudation
2. the movement of cells through a tissue barrier

diastasis

1. a condition characterized by a gap or separation
2. a condition where a structure is torn

diastolic pressure

1. the pressure in the arteries during diastole
2. the pressure when the heart is relaxed

diastole

1. the phase of the cardiac cycle when the heart is relaxed
2. the time between two heartbeats

diastema

1. a gap between teeth
2. a space between the roots of teeth

diatic

1. pertaining to diagnosing
2. used in the context of diagnosis

diathermy

1. a medical procedure using heat to treat conditions
2. a method of heat therapy

diathermy needle

1. a needle used in diathermy treatments
2. a needle used for electrical currents

diathermy knife

1. a knife used in surgical diathermy
2. a tool used for incision

diathermy snare

1. a snare used in surgical diathermy
2. a tool used for tissue cutting

diathesis

1. a condition where blood does not clot properly
2. a predisposition to a disease

diathetic

1. pertaining to a diathesis
2. characterized by a diathesis

diagnostically

1. in a diagnostic manner
2. related to diagnosis

diagnostic mammography

1. a breast imaging technique
2. a method for detecting breast cancer

diagnostic test

1. a test used to make a diagnosis
2. a test used to confirm a disease

diagnostic and treatment centre

1. a facility for diagnostic and treatment services
2. a center for medical care

diagnostic imaging

1. imaging techniques that help in diagnosing diseases
2. techniques used to visualize internal structures

diagnostic and treatment centre

1. a facility for diagnostic and treatment services
2. a center for medical care

found it difficult to make a diagnosis.

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.
their susceptibility to specific diseases or allergies.

diazepam /daɪˈzɛpəm/ noun a tranquilliser used in the short term to treat anxiety and as a muscle relaxant. In the long term it is potentially addictive.
diazoixide /daɪˈzoʊsɪd/ noun a drug used as a vasodilator, to reduce hypertension

DIC abbr disseminated intravascular coagulation
dicephalus /ˈdaɪsɛfələs/ noun a fetus with two heads
dichlorphenamide /ˌdɪkloʊfəˈmændɪd/ noun a drug used to treat glaucoma
dichromatism /ˌdɪkroʊˌmætɪzəm/ noun colour blindness in which only two of the three primary colours can be seen. Compare monochromatism, trichromatism
diclofenac sodium /ˌdɪkləˈfɛnəs nəʊˈmeɪd/ noun a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to treat rheumatic disease
dicrotic pulse /ˈdaɪkrətɪk/ ‘pʌls/ dicrotic wave /ˈdaɪkrətɪk wɔːv/ noun a pulse which occurs twice with each heartbeat
dicrotomia /ˌdɪkrəˈtɒmɪə/ ‘meɪd/ noun a condition in which the pulse occurs twice with each heartbeat
die /daɪ/ verb to stop living ○ His father died last year. ○ She died in a car crash. (NOTE: dying – died)
diencephalon /ˌdɪsɛnˈfələn/ 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.
dietary /ˈdaɪətri/ ‘eri/ noun a system of nutrition and energy ○ The nutritionist supervised the dietaries for the patients. ■ adjective referring to a diet
dietary fibre /ˌdaɪəˈtæri ˈfaɪbər/ noun food fibrous matter in food, which cannot be digested. Also called roughage

comment: Dietary fibre is found in cereals, nuts, fruit and some green vegetables. There are two types of fibre in food: insoluble fibre, e.g. in bread and cereals, which is not digested, and soluble fibre, e.g. in vegetables and pulses. Foods with the highest proportion of fibre include wholemeal bread, beans and dried apricots. Fibre is thought to be necessary to help digestion and avoid developing constipation, obesity and appendicities.
dietetic /ˌdaɪəˈtɛtɪk/ adjective referring to diets
dietetic principles /ˌdaɪəˈtɛtɪk ˈprɪnsəpəlz/ noun rules concerning the body’s needs in food, vitamins or trace elements

109 digestive enzyme
dietetics /ˌdaɪəˈtɛtɪks/ noun the study of food, nutrition and health, especially when applied to people’s food intake
dieting /ˈdaɪətɪŋ/ 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 /ˌdaɪəˈtɪʃən/ noun someone who specialises in the study of diet, especially someone in a hospital who supervises diets as part of the medical treatment of patients. ○ nutritionist

Diet’s crisis /ˈdaɪəts ˈkræsɪs/ noun a painful blockage of the ureter, causing back pressure on the kidney which fills with urine and swells [After Joseph Diet (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 /ˌdɪfəˈrɛnʃəl/ adjective referring to a difference
differential blood count /ˌdɪfəˈrɛnʃəl ˈblʌd ˈkɔʊnt/ differential white cell count /ˌdɪfəˈrɛnʃəl ˈweɪt sel ˈkɔʊnt/ noun a test that shows the amounts of different types of white blood cell in a blood sample
differential diagnosis /ˌdɪfəˈrɛnʃəl ˈdɪznəs/ noun the identification of one disease from a number of other similar diseases by comparing the range of symptoms of each
differentiation /ˌdɪfəˈrɛnʃəʃən/ noun the development of specialised cells during the early embryo stage
diffuse verb /dɪˈfjuːz/ to spread through tissue, or cause something to spread ○ Some substances easily diffuse through the walls of capillaries. ■ adjective /dɪˈfjuːs/ referring to a disease which is widespread in the body, or which affects many organs or cells
diffusion /dɪˈfjuːʒən/ 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 /ˌdɪɡɪstəbl/ adjective able to be digested ○ Glucose is an easily digestible form of sugar.
digestion /dɪˈɡɪʃən/ noun the process by which food is broken down in the alimentary canal into components which can be absorbed by the body
digestive /dɪˈɡɪstɪv/ adjective relating to digestion
digestive enzyme /dɪˈɡɪstɪv ˈenzəm/ noun an enzyme which encourages digestion
digestive juice  
digestive juice /daɪˈdʒɛstɪv dʒuːs/ noun  
gastric juice, intestinal juice (usually plural) 
digestive system /daɪˈdʒɛstɪv 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 /daɪˈdʒɛstɪv trækt/ noun same as alimentary canal 
digestive tube /daɪˈdʒɛstɪv tuːb/ adjective US same as alimentary canal 
digit /ˈdɪdʒɪt/ noun 1. a finger or a toe 2. a number 
digital /ˈdɪdʒɪtl/ adjective 1. referring to fingers or toes 2. representing data or physical quantities in numerical form 
digitalin /ˌdɪdʒɪˈtəlɪn/ noun a drug derived from foxglove leaves, used in small doses to treat heart conditions 
digitalise /ˈdɪdʒɪtəlaɪz/ verb to treat someone who has heart failure with digitoxin 
digital palpation /ˌdɪdʒɪˈtəl pælˈpeɪʃən/ noun an examination of part of the body by feeling it with the fingers 
digital vein /ˈdɪdʒɪtl ɪv/ noun a vein draining the fingers or toes 
digitoxin /ˌdɪdʒɪˈtɒksɪn/ noun an extract of foxglove leaves, used as a drug to stimulate the heart in cases of heart failure or irregular heartbeat 
digoxin /daɪˈɡɒksɪn/ noun an extract of foxglove leaves, which acts more rapidly than digitoxin when used as a heart stimulant 
dihydrocodeine tartrate /ˌdaɪˈhaɪdrəˌkəʊdɪˈein tɑːˈtrɑːt/ noun  
dihydrocodeine is used to treat severe pain 
dilatation /ˌdaɪləˈteɪʃən/ noun, dilatation /ˌdaɪˈleɪʃən/ 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 3. expansion of the pupil of the eye as a reaction toKWIK  
dilatation and curettage /ˌdaɪləˈteɪʃən ənd kɜːrˈɛtɪdʒ/ 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 /ˈdaɪleɪt/ verb to become wider or larger, or make something become wider or larger 1. The veins in the left leg have become dilated. 2. The drug is used to dilate the pupil of the eye. 
dilator /ˈdaɪloʊtər/ 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 /ˌdaɪloʊtər ˈpjuːlɪlə/ noun a muscle in the iris which pulls the iris back and so makes the pupil expand 
diltiazem hydrochloride /ˌdaɪlɪteɪziəm ˌhaɪdrəˈkloːrəd/ noun a calcium channel blocker used to treat hypertension 
diluent /ˌdaɪljʊənt/ noun a substance which is used to dilute a liquid, e.g. water 
dilute /ˈdaɪloʊt/ adjective with water added 1. to add water to a liquid to make it less concentrated 2. Dilute the disinfectant in four parts of water. 
dilution /ˌdaɪluˈʃən/ noun 1. the action of diluting 2. a liquid which has been diluted 
dimethylamine /ˌdaɪmɪˈθɪləmən/ noun an antihistamine drug that relieves travel sickness 
dimetria /ˌdaɪmɪˈtriə/ noun a condition in which a woman has a double uterus 
dioptre /ˈdaɪəptər/ noun a unit of measurement of the refraction of a lens (Note: The US spelling is diopter.) 
COMMENT: A one dioptre lens has a focal length of one metre, the greater the dioptre, the shorter the focal length. 
dioxide /ˌdaɪəkˈsaɪd/ noun 1. carbon dioxide 
dioxin /ˌdaɪəˈkson/ noun an extremely poisonous gas 
DIP abbr distal interphalangeal joint 
diphenoxylate /ˌdaɪfənˈeksaɪlɪt/ noun a drug related to pethidine that is used to treat diarrhoea, sometimes mixed with a little atropine in commercial preparations 
diphtheria /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. 
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diplo- /diplaʊ/ prefix double
diplo-/ /diplaʊ/keɪtʃəs/ noun a bacte-
rium which usually occurs in pairs as a result
of incomplete cell division, e.g. a pneumococ-
cus. (The plural is diplococci.)
diploe /'diplaʊə/ noun a layer of spongy
bone tissue filled with red bone marrow, be-
tween the inner and outer layers of the skull.
diplopia /'diplaʊpɪə/ noun a condition in
which someone sees single objects as double.
dipsonia /'dɪpsənɪə/ noun a controllable
desire to drink alcohol
disabling disease /dɪsæblɪŋ/ noun a disease
which makes some activities difficult or
impossible
disability /dɪsæ'blɪtɪ/ 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 /dɪsə'ɑrtɪkjuːʃən/ noun
the amputation of a limb at a joint, which does
not involve dividing a bone
discharge /dɪskɑːtʃ/ noun 1. the secretion
of liquid from an opening, 2. to secrete liquid
out of an opening. ◊ The
wound discharged a thin stream of pus. 2. to
send a patient away from hospital because the
treatment has ended ◊ He was discharged
from hospital last week. ◊ to discharge your-
self to decide to leave hospital and stop taking
the treatment provided
discharge planning /'dɪskɑːtʃ plænɪŋ/ noun
the work of making a plan for when a pa-

tient leaves hospital to live at home
discharge rate /'dɪskɑːtʃ rɛt/ 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 /dɪskələ'reɪʃən/ noun a
change in colour
discolour /dɪskə'laʊr/ verb to change the
colour of something ◊ His teeth were discouloured
from smoking cigarettes. (NOTE: The US spell-
ing is discolor.)
discomfort /dɪskə'mfət/ noun a feeling of
mild pain ◊ You may experience some discom-
fort after the operation.
discrete /'dɪskrɪt/ adjective separate, not
joined together
discrete rash /dɪskrɪt 'reɪʃ/ noun a rash
which is formed of many separate spots, which
do not join together into one large red patch
disease /dɪzəz/ 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 dis-
ease is applied to all physical and mental reac-
tions which make a person ill. Diseases with dis-
tinct characteristics have individual names. For
other terms referring to disease, see words be-
ginning with path-, patho-.)
diseased /dɪzəzd/ adjective affected by a
disease ◊ The surgeon cut away the diseased
tissue.
disfigure /dɪsfɪgə/ verb to change some-
one'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 /dɪsɪn'fekt/ verb to make the sur-
face of something or somewhere free from mi-
croorganisms ◊ She disinfected the skin with
surgical spirit. ◊ All the patient's clothes have
to be disinfected.
disinfectant /dɪsɪn'fektnt/ noun a sub-
stance used to kill microorganisms on the sur-
face of something
disinfection /dɪsɪn'fekʃən/ noun the
removal of microorganisms on the surface of
something
especially in a hospital
disinfest / disin'est/ verb to free a place, person or animal from insects or other pests
disinfestation / disin'esteʃən/ noun the removal of insects or other pests from a place, person or animal
dislocate / dis'ləkeɪt/ verb to displace a bone from its usual position at a joint, or to become displaced.
The shoulder joint dislocates easily.
dislocation / dis'ləkʃən/ noun a condition in which a bone is displaced from its usual position at a joint. Also called 
iluxation
dismember / dis'membər/ verb to cut off or pull off someone’s arms or legs, often violently or in an accident
dismemberment / dis'membərment/ noun the state of being dismembered
disorder / dis'oʊd/ 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 / dis'ərdəd/ adjective not functioning correctly
disordered action of the heart / dis'ərdəd ˈækʃən əv ði ˈleɪtəz/ noun a condition in which someone has palpitations, breathlessness and dizziness, caused by effort or worry. Also called 
disorder
dissociation / dis'səʊʃən/ noun a condition in which a person’s general character or tendency to act in a particular way
disproportion / disprəʊ'pɔːʃən/ noun a lack of proper relationships between two things
dissemination / disiˌsɛmənˈtʃən/ noun the fact of being widespread throughout the body
disseminate / disiˌsɛmət/ verb to spread throughout the body
dissociate / disˈsəʊʃɪt/ verb to separate parts or functions. In psychiatry, to separate parts of the conscious mind from the rest
dissociated anaesthesia / disiˌsəʊʃəd ˈænəθiˈeziə/ noun a loss of sensitivity to heat, pain or cold
dissociation / disiˌsəʊʃən/ noun 1. the separation of parts or functions 2. in psychiatry—(in psychotherapy) a condition in which part of the consciousness becomes separated from the rest and becomes independent

disposition / disˈpoʊzəʃən/ noun tendency or inclination

dispensible 

through the tough exterior and causes pressure on a nerve
displacement / disˈplɛrmənt/ noun the fact of being moved out of the usual position or fracture of the radius together with displacement of the wrist
disposable / disˈpəʊzəbəl/ adjective designed to be thrown away after use

disposition / disˈpəʊzəʃən/ noun a person’s general character or tendency to act in a particular way

dispersible / disˈpɜrsəbəl/ adjective that can be dispersed

dispersive 

disperse / disˈpɜrs/ verb to spread, to scatter, to disperse or scatter

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

dispense / disˈpens/ verb to supply medicine according to a prescription

dispenser / disˈpensər/ noun someone who supplies medicine according to a prescription, especially in a hospital

dispensing 

dispenser / disˈpensər/ noun a doctor’s practice which dispenses prescribed medicines to its patients

dispense / disˈpens/ verb to put something out of its usual place

the separation of parts or functions
divulsor

dissociative disorder /dɪˈsəʊsɪətɪv dɪsˈɔrəd/ noun a type of hysteria in which someone shows psychological changes such as a split personality or amnesia rather than physical ones
dissolve /dɪˈsləʊv/ verb to absorb or disperse something in liquid ○ The gut used in sutures slowly dissolves in the body fluids.
distal /ˈdɪstəl/ adjective further away from the centre of a body
distal convoluted tubule /ˈdɪstəl kənˈvʌltjuːt/ noun a part of the kidney filtering system before the collecting ducts
Distalgesic /ˈdɪstəlˌdʒɛsɪk/ a trade name for the analgesic co-proxamol
distal interphalangeal joint /ˈdɪstəl ɪntəˈfɛlæŋdʒiˈɔl dʒʊnt/ noun a joint nearest the end of the finger or toe. Abbr DIP
distally /ˈdɪstəli/ adverb placed further away from the centre or point of attachment. Opposite proximally. See illustration in Supplement
distal phalanges /ˈdɪstəl ˈfeɪləndʒiz/ noun bones nearest the ends of the fingers and toes
distended /ˈdɪstend/ adjective made larger by gas such as air, by liquid such as urine, or by a solid
distended bladder /ˈdɪstendbɛld/ ‘blaːdər/ noun a bladder which is full of urine
distension /ˈdɪstənʃn/ noun a condition in which something is swollen ○ Distension of the veins in the abdomen is a sign of blocking of the portal vein.
distichiasis /ˌdɪstɪkˈəræsɪs/ noun the presence of extra eyelashes, sometimes growing on the meibomian glands
distil /ˈdɪstɪl/ verb to separate the component parts of a liquid by boiling and collecting the condensed vapour
distillation /ˈdɪstɪˈleɪʃn/ noun the action of distilling a liquid
distilled water /ˈdɪstɪld ˈwɔːtər/ noun water which has had impurities by distillation
distort /ˈdɪstrɔrt/ verb to twist something into an unusual shape ○ His lower limbs were distorted by the disease.
distortion /ˈdɪstrɔrʃn/ noun the act of twisting part of the body out of its usual shape
distraction /ˈdɪstrektʃən/ noun 1. something that takes a person’s attention away from something else 2. a state where someone is very emotionally and mentally troubled
distress /ˈdɪstreʃ/ noun unhappiness caused by pain or worry ○ mental distress
district /ˈdɪstrɪkt/ noun a type of hospital which serves the needs of the population of a specific district

113

district nurse /ˈdɪstrɪkt ˈnɜːs/ noun a nurse who visits and treats people in their homes

disturb /ˈdɪstɜːr/ verb 1. to interrupt what someone is doing ○ Her sleep was disturbed by the other patients in the ward. 2. to upset or worry someone

disturbed /ˈdɪstɜːrd/ adjective affected by a psychiatric disorder ○ severely disturbed children
dissolve /dɪˈsɔlv/ noun a drug used to treat alcoholism by causing severe nausea if alcohol is consumed with it
dithranol /ˈdɪθrænəl/ noun an anti-inflammatory drug used to treat dermatitis and psoriasis
diuresis /ˌdaɪˈjuːrɪsɪs/ noun an increase in the production of urine
diuretic /ˌdaɪˈjuːrətɪk/ adjective causing the kidneys to produce more urine ○ noun a substance which makes the kidneys produce more urine and, in the treatment of oedema and hypertension
diurnal /daɪˈjuːnəl/ adjective 1. happening in the daytime 2. happening every day
divaircation /dɪˌvɛrˈkeʃən/ noun 1. separation into widely spread branches 2. the point at which a structure forks or divides
divergence /ˈdaɪvərˈdʒəns/ noun 1. a condition in which one eye points directly at the object of interest but the other does not 2. the process of moving apart to follow different courses 3. the amount of difference between two quantities, especially where the difference is unexpected 4. a deviation from a typical behaviour pattern or expressed wish
divergent strabismus /ˈdaɪvərˈdʒənt strəˈbɪzməs, ˈdɪvərˈdʒənt skwənt/ noun 1. a disease of the large intestine, 2. a condition in which a person’s eyes both look away from the nose. Opposite convergent strabismus
diverticula /ˌdɪvərˈtɪkjʊlə/ plural of diverticulum
diverticular disease /ˌdɪvərˈtɪkjʊlər diˈzɪs/ noun a disease of the large intestine, where the colon thickens and diverticula form in the walls, causing pain in the lower abdomen
diverticulitis /ˌdɪvərˈtɪkjʊlətɪs/ noun inflammation of diverticula formed in the wall of the colon
diverticulosis /ˌdɪvərˈtɪkjʊləsɪs/ noun a condition in which diverticula form in the intestine but are not inflamed. In the small intestine, this can lead to blind loop syndrome.
diverticulum /ˌdɪvərˈtɪkjʊljʊm/ noun a little sac or pouch which develops in the wall of the intestine or another organ (NOTE: The plural is diverticula.)
division /ˈdɪvɪʒən/ noun the action of cutting or splitting into parts
divusor /dɪˈvʌlsər/ noun a surgical instrument used to expand a passage in the body
Dizygotic

Dizygotic /ˌdaɪzɪˈɡɒtɪk/ adjective developed from two separately fertilised eggs.

Dizygotic Twins /ˌdaɪzɪˈɡɑːtɪk tɪnz/ 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 /ˈdɪzɪznɪs/ 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 has been affected.

Doctor /ˈdɒktə/ 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.)

COMMENT: In the UK surgeons are traditionally not called 'Doctor', but are addressed as 'Mr', 'Mrs', etc. The title 'doctor' is also applied to persons who have a higher degree from a university in a non-medical subject. So Dr 'Jones' may have a degree in music, or in any other subject without a connection with medicine.

Doctor-assisted Suicide /ˈdɒktər əˈsɪstid suˈsaɪd/ noun the suicide of someone with an incurable disease carried out with the help of a doctor (Note: Doctor-assisted suicide is illegal in most countries.)

Donald-Fothergill operation /ˌdɒnəld ˈfɒðə/ ərɪˈpɔːtʃəl əˈser/ noun an operation to close the neck of the vagina.

Donate /dəʊneɪt/ verb to agree to give blood, tissue, organs, or reproductive material to be used to treat another person.

Donor /ˈdɒnər/ noun a person who gives blood, tissue, organs or reproductive material to be used to treat another person.

Donor Card /ˈdɒnər kɑːrd/ noun a card carried by people stating that they give permission for their organs to be transplanted into other people after they have died.

Donor Insemination /ˌdɒnər ɪnˈsəmɪneɪʃən/ noun artificial insemination using the sperm of an anonymous donor.

Dopa /ˈdəʊpə/ noun a chemical related to adrenaline and dopamine. It occurs naturally in the body and in the form levodopa is used to treat Parkinson's disease.

Dopamine /ˈdɒpəmən/ noun a substance found in the medulla of the adrenal glands, which also acts as a neurotransmitter. Lack of
dopamine is associated with Parkinson’s disease.

dopaminergic /doʊpəmənˈɜːr/ adjective referring to a neuron or receptor stimulated by dopamine.

Doppler transducer /dɒplaʊ trənz, dʒuːsa/ noun a device to measure blood flow, commonly used to monitor fetal heart rate.

Doppler ultrasound /dɒplər ˈʌltrəsəʊnd/ the use of the Doppler effect in ultrasound to detect red blood cells.

Doppler ultrasound flowmeter /dɒplər ˈʌltrəsəʊnd/ noun a device which measures the flow of blood and detects steady or irregular flow, allowing abnormalities or blockages to be detected.

dormant /dərˈmɑːnt/ adjective inactive for a time. The virus lies dormant in the body for several years.

dorsal /dɔrsəl/ plural of dorsum.

Dorsal vertebrae /dɔsrəl ˈvɜːrtəbrəi/ plural noun the twelve vertebrae in the back between the cervical vertebrae and the lumbar vertebrae.

dorsi- /dɔrsi/ prefix referring to the back.

dorsiflexion /dɔrsɪˈfleksɪn/ noun a movement that brings the foot at the ankle. Compare plantar flexion.

dorso-dorsal /dɔrsə dɔrsəl/ adjective 1. referring to both the front and the back of the body.

dorsal vertebral /dɔrsəl ˈvɜːrtəbrəl/ 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 /dɔrsəm/ noun the back of any part of the body. (Note: The plural is dorsa.)

dose- /dɔsə/ plural noun a measured quantity of a drug calculated to be necessary for someone. 1. a low dosage. The doctor decided to increase the dosage of antibiotics. 2. The dosage for children is half that for adults.

doxepin /ˈdɔksɪpɪn/ noun a drug used as a sedative and antidepressant.

DPT vaccine /ˈdɪpt/ di: pɪˈtɪ; vɑːksɪn/ DPT immunisation /ˈdɪp tiˈmjuːnɪzən/ a combination of three vaccines. Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough.

Dr /dɛər/ abbr doctor. (Note: used when writing someone’s name: Dr Smith)
Medicine.fm Page 116 Thursday, November 20, 2003 4:26 PM

The dentist drilled one of her molars.

Dracunculus medinensis, a parasitic worm which enters the body and rises to the skin to form a blister. The infection frequently leads to secondary arthritis, fibrosis and cellulitis. Also called guinea worm, it is a tropical disease caused by the guinea worm Dracunculus medinensis which enters the body from infected drinking water and forms blisters on the skin, frequently leading to secondary arthritis, fibrosis and cellulitis.

Drain /dren/ noun a tube to remove liquid from the body. A small hole in the skin is drilled in the skull. A tube is inserted through the hole into the brain and the fluid flows slowly down a tube into a needle in a vein or into the stomach. Also called iron lung.

Drainage /drenj/ 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.

Draped /drep/ past participle draped /drep/ adjective appearing tired and careworn, usually as a result of anxiety, grief or illness.

Dracontiasis /drəkɔntəˈsɪs/ noun a parasitic disease caused by the guinea worm Dracunculus medinensis which enters the body from infected drinking water and forms blisters on the skin, frequently leading to secondary arthritis, fibrosis and cellulitis.

Dribble /drɔbl/ verb to let liquid flow slowly out of an opening, especially saliva out of the mouth.

Dribbling /driblɪŋ/ noun the act of letting saliva flow out of the mouth, same as incontinence (informal).

Drip /drɪp/ noun a system for introducing liquid slowly and continuously into the body, by which a bottle of liquid is held above a person and the fluid flows down a tube into a needle in a vein or into the stomach. Also called drip feed.

Drip feed /drip ˈfɛd/ noun a drip containing nutrients.

Drone /draʊn/ 1. a small quantity of liquid 2. a sudden reduction or fall in the quantity of something. A drip in pressure. Drip drops liquid medicine for the eye, nose, or ear administered with a dropper. To fall or let something fall. Pressure in the artery dropped suddenly.

Droplet infection /ˈdrɒplɪt ɪnˈfekʃən/ noun an infection developed by inhaling droplets containing a virus, e.g. from a sneeze.

Drop /drɒp/ 1. to let something fall 2. to be shed from a leaf or flower. A drop in pressure. A drop off. 1. to fall asleep. 2. to get less. 3. a very small quantity of liquid.

Dropper /ˈdrɒpər/ noun a small glass or plastic tube with a rubber bulb at one end, used to suck up and expel liquid in drops.

Drosy /ˈdrɒsɪ/ noun same as oedema (dated).

Druck /ˈdrʊkt/ noun a condition, caused by a muscular disorder, in which the wrist is not strong and the hand hangs limp.

Drum /druːm/ verb to die by inhaling liquid. Drowning /ˈdrɔʊnɪŋ/ noun death as a result of inhaling liquid.

Drowsiness /ˈdraʊzɪnəs/ noun sleepiness. The medicine is likely to cause drowsiness.

Drowsy /ˈdraʊzɪ/ adjective sleepy. The infection will make you feel drowsy.

Drug /drʌɡ/ noun 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.

Drying /ˈdriːŋ/ noun a substance taken by choice which produces a strong effect.
on a person’s feelings and state of mind. A reaction to a particular drug regularly taken by a person who regularly uses drugs for non-medical purposes.

**Drug dependence** /ˈdræg dɪˈpendəns/ noun same as drug addiction.

**Drug allergy** /ˈdræg əˈlɜrdʒi/ noun a reaction to a particular drug.

**Drug addiction** /ˈdræg əˈdɪkʃən/ noun the state of being mentally and physically dependent on taking a particular drug regularly.

**Drug tolerance** /ˈdræg təˈləranς/ noun a condition in which a drug has been given to someone for so long that his or her body no longer reacts to it, and the dosage has to be increased.

**Drunk** /drʌŋk/ adjective intoxicated with too much alcohol.

**Dry** /dri/ adjective 1. not wet. The surface of the wound should be kept dry. 2. containing only a small amount of moisture. She uses a cream to soften her dry skin.

**Dry beriberi** /ˈdrɛr bəˈbɛri/ noun beriberi associated with loss of feeling and paralysis.

**Dry burn** /ˈdrɛr bɜrn/ noun an injury to the skin caused by touching a very hot dry surface.

**Dry drowning** /ˈdrɛr drɔʊnɪŋ/ noun death in which someone’s air passage has been constricted by being under water, though he or she does not inhale any water.
dumb /dʌm/ adjective not able to speak
dumping syndrome /dʌmpɪŋ sɪndrəʊm/ noun same as postgastrectomy syndrome
duo- /djuː/ prefix two
duodenal /djuːˈdɛnəl/ adjective referring to the duodenum
duodenal papillae /djuːˈdɛnəl pəˈpɪli/ plural noun small projecting parts in the duodenum where the bile duct and pancreatic duct open
duodenal ulcer /djuːˈdɛnəl ˈʌltər/ also noun an ulcer in the duodenum
duodenoscope /djuːˈdɛnəskəʊp/ noun an instrument used to examine the inside of the duodenum
duodenostomy /djuːˈdɛnəstəmi/ noun a permanent opening made between the duodenum and the abdominal wall
duodenum /djuːˈdɛnəm/ noun the first part of the small intestine, going from the stomach to the jejunum. See illustration at digestive system in Supplement
COMMENT: The duodenum is the shortest part of the small intestine, about 250 mm long. It takes bile from the gall bladder and pancreatic juice from the pancreas and continues the digestive processes started in the mouth and stomach.
duplex imaging /djuːˈpleks ɪmˈdʒɪn/ noun a type of ultrasonic imaging where the speed of the flow of blood is measured
Dupuytren's contracture /duːˈpjuːtənən kənˈtraktʃər/ noun a condition in which the palmar fascia becomes thicker, causing the fingers, usually the middle and fourth fingers, to bend forwards [Described 1831. After Baron Guillaume Dupuytren (1775–1835), French surgeon.]
dura /djuːrə/ noun same as dura mater
duetal /djuːˈtɛl/ adjective referring to the dura mater
dura mater /djuːrə ˈmeɪtə/ noun the thickest outer membrane of the three covering the brain. Also called dura, pachymeninx.
duty /ˈdjuːti/ noun the activities which a person has to do as part of their job. What are the duties of a night sister? (NOTE: The plural is duties.) ☛ to be on duty to be working. She's on duty from 2 p.m. till 10 p.m. ☛ a duty of care the requirement to treat a patient in an appropriate way, as part of the work of being a health professional
duty nurse /ˈdjuːti nəsr/ noun a nurse who is on duty
duty rota /ˈdjuːti rəʊtə/ noun a list of duties which have to be done and the names of the people who will do them
d.v.t., DVT abbrev deep-vein thrombosis
dwarfism /ˈdwaːrfɪzəm/ noun a condition in which the growth of a person has stopped, leaving him or her much smaller than average COMMENT: Dwarfism may be caused by achondroplasia, where the long bones in the arms and legs do not develop fully but the trunk and head are of average size. Dwarfism can have other causes such as rickets or deficiency in the pituitary gland.
dynamic splint /ˈdaɪmərk ˈsplɪnt/ noun a splint which uses springs to help the person move
dynamometer /ˈdaɪəmətər/ noun an instrument for measuring the force of muscular contraction
-dynia /ˈdɪnіə/ suffix pain
dys-/dɪs/ prefix difficult or impaired
dysaesthesia /ˈdaɪsəˈeθiəsіə/ noun 1, the impairment of a sense, in particular the sense of touch 2, an unpleasant feeling of pain experienced when the skin is touched lightly
dysarthria /dɪsˈɑːθrіə/ dysarthrosis /dɪsɑːθrəˈrɒsɪs/ noun difficulty in speaking words clearly, caused by damage to the central nervous system
dysbarism /ˈdaɪsbərɪzɪəm/ noun any disorder caused by differences between the atmospheric pressure outside the body and the pressure inside
dysbasia /dɪsˈbeɪziə/ noun difficulty in walking, especially when caused by a lesion to a nerve
dyschezia /dɪsˈkɛziə/ noun difficulty in passing faeces
dyschondroplasia /dɪsˈkɒndroʊplæzіə/ noun a condition in which the long bones are shorter than usual
dyschromatopsia /dɪsˈkrɒmətɒpsіə/ noun a condition where someone cannot distinguish colours
dyscoria /dɪsˈkɔrіə/ noun 1, an unusually shaped pupil of the eye 2, an unusual reaction of the pupil
dyscrasia /dɪsˈkrezіə/ noun any unusual body condition (dated)
dysdiadochokinesia /dɪsˌdɪədəʊˈkɒnikəniəsіə/ dysdiadochokinesis /dɪsˌdɪədəˌkɒnikɪnəsiə/ noun the inability to carry out rapid movements, caused by a disorder or lesion of the cerebellum
dysenteric /dɪˌsɛnˈtɛrіk/ adjective referring to dysentery
dysentery /dɪˌsɛntərі/ 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: bacillary dysentery, caused by the bacterium Shigella in contaminated food, and amoebic dysentery or amoebiasis, caused by a para-
dyspepsia /dɪsˈpeptɪs/ noun a condition in which a person feels pains or discomfort in the stomach, caused by indigestion

dysphagia /dɪsˈfɛɡjə/ noun difficulty in swallowing

dysphasia /dɪsˈfɛtʃə/ noun difficulty in speaking and putting words into the correct order

dysphoria /dɪsˈfɔrɪə/ noun difficulty in speaking caused by impairment of the vocal cords, or by laryngitis

dysplasia /dɪsˈpleɪziə/ noun an unusual development of tissue

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The surgeon tried to ease the patient’s fears about the results of the scan.

**eating disorder** /'etN3d ə,sdez/ noun an illness that causes the usual pattern of eating to be disturbed, e.g. anorexia or bulimia

**eating habits** /'etN3d ə,hæbıts/ plural noun the types and quantities of food regularly eaten by a person. ○ The dietitian advised her to change her eating habits.

**Ebolanerv** /'i,boʊlə'vərəs/ 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** /'jibərə'nəʃən/ noun the conversion of cartilage into a hard mass with a shiny surface like bone.

**eburnation** /'jibərənəʃən/ noun a substance which produces contraction of the uterus and so induces childbirth or abortion. ○ an adjective referring to the contraction of the uterus.

**ectoderm** /'ɛk,tə'dərm/ noun the study of the ear, nose and throat. Abbr ENT. Also called **otolaryngology**

**earache** /'ɪərək/ noun pain in the ear. Also called **otalgia**

**ear canal** /'ɛər kænal/ 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.

**ear canal** /'ɛər kænal/ noun the membrane at the end of the external auditory meatus leading from the outer ear to the eardrum.

**ear drum** /'ɛərdrɔm/ noun the membrane at the beginning of a period of time. ○ an adjective referring to sound and the passage from the eardrum to the eardrum.

**ear drum** /'ɛərdrɔm/ noun the study of the ear, nose and throat. Abbr ENT. Also called **otolaryngology**

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**ear ossicle** /'ɛər əsik/ noun one of several ossicles in the middle ear which 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.

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**ear wax** /'ɛərwɔks/ noun same as **cerumen**

**ease** /ɪz/ verb to make pain or worry less ○ She had an injection to ease the pain in her leg.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>thrombosis</td>
<td>obstruction of a blood vessel by a blood clot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ultrasound</td>
<td>use of ultrasound to examine the heart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>passage</td>
<td>removal of a part by surgical operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coma</td>
<td>condition of severe depression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moval of a part by surgical operation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trates deep under the skin and leaves scars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>part or a growth off at its base</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ectomy</td>
<td>surgical operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ectodermal</td>
<td>referring to the ectoderm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ectomy</td>
<td>suffix referring to the removal of a part by surgical operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ek/pipe/vertstrokesuperiortəυpiə</td>
<td>same as ecto-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>electroconvulsive therapy</td>
<td>treatment using electricity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eczema</td>
<td>non-contagious inflammation of the skin, with itchy rash and blisters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eczematous</td>
<td>adjective referring to eczema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eczematous dermatitis</td>
<td>adjective referring to eczema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>economy class syndrome</td>
<td>condition of pregnant women at the end of pregnancy, caused by toxemia, in which the woman has high blood pressure and may go into a coma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>electroencephalogram</td>
<td>a recording of the electrical activity of the brain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. coli</td>
<td>a colourless chemical that can bind to heavy metals to remove them from the bloodstream.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>edible</td>
<td>able to be eaten without causing harm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>effacement</td>
<td>the turning outwards of the lips.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- thrombosis: obstruction of a blood vessel by a blood clot.
- ultrasound: use of ultrasound to examine the heart.
- passage: removal of a part by surgical operation.
- coma: condition of severe depression.
- electroconvulsive therapy: treatment using electricity.
- eczema: non-contagious inflammation of the skin, with itchy rash and blisters.
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- electroencephalogram: a recording of the electrical activity of the brain.
- edible: able to be eaten without causing harm.
- effacement: the turning outwards of the lips.
effect 122

effect /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 /ɪˈfektɪv/ adjective having an effect. Embolisation is an effective treatment for severe haemoptysis.
effective dose /ɪˈfektɪv dˌɔs/ noun a size of dose which will produce the effect required.
effector /ɪˈfektor/ noun a nerve ending in muscles or glands which is activated to produce contraction or secretion.
efferens /ɛfərəns/ noun vas efferens.
efferent /ɪˈfərənt/ adjective carrying something away from part of the body or from the centre. Opposite afferent.
efferent duct /ɪˈfərənt dʌkt/ noun a duct which carries a secretion away from a gland.
efferent nerve /ɪˈfərənt nɜːv/ noun same as motor nerve.
efferent vessel /ɪˈfərənt ves(ə)l/ noun a vessel which drains lymph from a gland.
effleurage /ɛfˈlʊrəʒ/ noun a form of massage where the skin is stroked in one direction to increase blood flow.
effort syndrome /ɛfɔrt səŋˈdɹərəm/ noun same as disordered action of the heart.
effusion /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 /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 /ɛg sel/ noun an immature ovum or female cell.
eggo /ˈɪgəʊ, ˈɛɡəʊ/ 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 /ˌɪdʒɪpˈtelɪmə/ noun the same as trachoma.
EHO abbr Environmental Health Officer.
EIA abbr exercise-induced asthma.
edetic imagery /ˌɛdɪtɪk ɪˈmɪdʒəri/ noun the recall of extremely clear pictures in the mind.
Eisenmenger syndrome /ˌaɪzənmɛŋə,ˌsɪndrəʊm/ noun heart disease caused by a septal defect between the ventricles, with pulmonary hypertension. [Described 1897. After Victor Eisenmenger (1864–1932), German physician.]
ejaculate /n əˈdʒækjuˌleɪt/ verb to send out semen from the penis.
ejaculation /n əˈdʒækjuˌleɪʃən/ noun the sending out of semen from the penis.
ejaculatio praecox /n əˈdʒækjuˌleɪʃənˈprɛkɔks/ noun a situation where a man ejaculates too early during sexual intercourse.
ejaculatory /n əˈdʒækjuˌlætərɪ/ adjective referring to ejaculation.
ejaculatory duct /n əˈdʒækjuˌlætərɪ dʌkt/ 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.
eject /n ɪˈdʒekt/ verb to send out something with force. Blood is ejected from the ventricle during systole.
ejection /n ɪˈdʒekʃən/ noun the act of sending out something with force.
EKG abbr US electrocardiogram.
elastic /n əˈlestɪk/ adjective which can be stretched and compressed and return to its former shape.
elastic bandage /n əˈlestɪk ˈbændɪdʒ/ noun a stretchy bandage used to support a weak joint or for the treatment of a varicose vein.
elastic cartilage /n əˈlestɪk ˈkɑːrtɪdʒ/ noun flexible cartilage, e.g. in the ear and epiglottis.
elastic fibre /n əˈlestɪk ˈfaɪbr/ 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 /n əˈlestɪk ˈhɒs/ noun same as surgical hose.
elasticity /n əˈlestɪkəti/ noun the ability to expand and be compressed and to return to the former shape.
elastic tissue /n əˈlestɪk ˈtjuːʃən/ noun connective tissue which contains elastic fibres, e.g. in the walls of arteries or of the alveoli in the lungs.
elastin /n əˈlestɪn/ noun a protein which occurs in elastic fibres.
elation /n ɪˈleʃən/ noun the state of being happy, stimulated and excited.
elbow /n ˈelbəʊ/ noun a hinged joint where the upper arm bone (humerus) joins the forearm bones (radius and ulna).
elbow crutch /n ˈelbəʊ krʌtʃ/ noun a crutch which surrounds the arms at the elbows and has a handle to hold lower down the shaft. Elderly /ˈeldəli/ adjective older than 65 or a home for elderly single women. She looks after her two elderly parents. Elderly people aged over 65.
elective /n ˈlɛktɪv/ adjective referring to a chemical substance which tends to combine with one substance rather than others. 2. referring to surgery or treatment which someone can choose to have but is not urgently necessary to save their life.
elective care /ɪˈlektɪv/ noun hospital care which is planned in advance, rather than a response to an emergency

Electra complex /ɪˈlektrə kæmpleks/ noun (in psychology) a condition in which a girl feels sexually attracted to her father and sees her mother as an obstacle

electric shock /ɪˈlekttrɪk ʃɒk/ noun a sudden passage of electricity into the body, causing a nervous spasm or, in severe cases, death

electric shock treatment /ɪˈlekttrɪk ʃɒk ˈtrɛtmənt/ noun same as electroconvulsive therapy (internal)

electro- /ɪˌlektroʊ/ prefix referring to electricity

electrocardiogram /ɪˌlektroʊkɑrˈdɪəɡrɑm/ noun a chart which records the electrical impulses in the heart muscle. Abbr ECG, EKG

electrocardiograph /ɪˌlektroʊkɑrˈdɪəɡrɑf/ noun an apparatus for measuring and recording the electrical impulses of the muscles of the heart as it beats

electrocardiography /ɪˌlektroʊkɑrˈdɪəɡrɑɹi/ noun the process of recording the electrical impulses of the heart

electrocardiophonography /ɪˌlektroʊkɑrˈdɪəɡrɑʊfəˈnɒɡrɑfi/ noun specifically for use in remote control

electrocardiophonography /ɪˌlektroʊkɑrˈdɪəɡrɑʊfəˈnɑstɪk/ noun a stethoscope with an amplifier which makes sounds louder

electroencephalography /ɪˌlektroʊˈɛnskəfələˈɡrɑfi/ noun the study of electric currents in active muscles. Abbr EMG

electroencephalography /ɪˌlektroʊˈɛnskəfələˈɡrɑfi/ noun the process of recording electrical activity in the brain

electroencephalogram /ɪˌlektroʊˈɛnskəfələˈɡrɑm/ noun a chart showing the electrical currents in active muscles

electroencephalograph /ɪˌlektroʊˈɛnskəfələˈɡrɑf/ noun measuring of nystagmus

electroencephalogram /ɪˌlektroʊˈɛnskəfələˈɡrɑm/ noun recording the electric currents round the eye, induced by eye movements

electroencephalography /ɪˌlektroʊˈɛnskəfələˈɡrɑfɪ/ noun recording the electric currents round the eye, induced by eye movements, especially for use in remote control

electroencephalography /ɪˌlektroʊˈɛnskəfələˈɡrɑfɪ/ noun the analysis of a substance by the movement of charged particles towards an electrode in a solution

electroencephalography /ɪˌlektroʊˈɛnskəfələˈɡrɑfɪ/ noun the printed result of electroencephalography. Abbr EEG

electroencephalography /ɪˌlektroʊˈɛnskəfələˈɡrɑfɪ/ noun the treatment of a disorder such as some forms of paralysis by using low-frequency electric current to try to revive the muscles

electrographic /ɪˌlektroʊˈɡræfɪk/ adj referring to electricity and chemicals and their interaction

electrocoagulation /ɪˌlektroʊˈkoʊdʒələˈʃən/ noun the control of haemorrhage in surgery by passing a high-frequency electric current through divided blood vessels

electrophoresis /ɪˌlektroʊˈfɔrəsɪs/ noun the analysis of a substance by the movement of charged particles towards an electrode in a solution

electrophoresis /ɪˌlektroʊˈfɔrəsɪs/ noun the treatment of a disorder such as some forms of paralysis by using low-frequency electric current to try to revive the muscles

eleven /ˈelɪvn/ adj meaning 11

eleven /ˈelɪvn/ noun a number which is one less than twelve

eleven /ˈelɪvn/ noun the successor of ten in the series of natural numbers; 11

Eleven /ˈelɪvn/ noun the number eleven, which is one less than twelve; 11

eleven /ˈelɪvn/ noun the number following ten and before twelve; 11
enlightening

eliminate /əˌliməˈneɪt/ verb to remove waste matter from the body 2. a surgical operation to remove a blood clot, preventing the flow of blood (NOTE: The plural is embolism.)

embolism /ˈembəlɪzəm/ noun the blocking of an artery by a mass of material, usually a blood clot, preventing the flow of blood

embolus /ˈembələs/ noun 1. a mass of material which blocks a blood vessel, e.g. a blood clot, air bubble or fat globule 2. material inserted into a blood vessel down a catheter to treat internal bleeding (NOTE: The plural is emboli.)

emergency /ɪˈmɛriʃən/ noun 1. a situation in which urgent immediate action is required 2. the part of a hospital where people who need urgent immediate treatment are dealt with 3. the correct focusing of light rays by the eye onto the retina giving normal vision. Compare ametropia emollient /ɪˈmɒlɪnt/ noun a substance which soothes or smooths the skin, e.g. to prevent the development of eczema

emergency room /ɪˈmɛriʃən ruːm/ noun the part of a hospital where people who need urgent immediate treatment are dealt with

emergency medical technician /ɛmˈdʒerəni medɪˈteknɪkən/ noun US a trained paramedic who gives care to victims at the scene of an accident or in an ambulance. Abbr EMT

emergency medicine /ɪˈmɛriʃən medɪˈmɛns/ noun the treatment of patients whose condition is serious and requires urgent immediate action

embolic /ˈembəlɪk/ adjective 1. referring to an embroyo in an early stage of development

embryonic /ˈembruənik/ adjective 1. referring to an embryo

embolectomy /ˈembruəlɛktəmeɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a blood clot

embolisation /ˈembələzəʃən/ noun the use of emboli inserted down a catheter into a blood vessel to treat internal bleeding

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embolisation /ˈembələzəʃən/ noun the use of emboli inserted down a catheter into a blood vessel to treat internal bleeding

embolism /ˈembəlɪzəm/ noun the blocking of an artery by a mass of material, usually a blood clot, preventing the flow of blood

embolus /ˈembələs/ noun 1. a mass of material which blocks a blood vessel, e.g. a blood clot, air bubble or fat globule 2. material inserted into a blood vessel down a catheter to treat internal bleeding (NOTE: The plural is emboli.)

embryology /ˈembruələdʒələdʒi/ noun the study of the early stages of the development of an embryo

embryonic /ˈembruənik/ adjective 1. referring to an embryo

emetic /ˈemɪtɪk/ adjective causing vomiting

emetic /ˈemɪtɪk/ noun a substance which causes vomiting

emetral /ˈemɪtrəl/ noun the part of a hospital where people who need urgent immediate treatment are dealt with

emesis /ˈemɪsəs/ noun same as vomiting

emesis /ˈemɪsəs/ noun vomiting

emetic /ˈemɪtɪk/ noun a substance which causes vomiting

emesis /ˈemɪsəs/ noun same as vomiting

emesis /ˈemɪsəs/ noun vomiting

emetic /ˈemɪtɪk/ noun a substance which causes vomiting

emergency /ɪˈmɛriʃən/ noun the part of a hospital where people who need urgent immediate treatment are dealt with

emergency /ɪˈmɛriʃən/ noun same as vomiting

emergency /ɪˈmɛriʃən/ noun vomiting

emergency /ɪˈmɛriʃən/ noun the part of a hospital where people who need urgent immediate treatment are dealt with

emergency /ɪˈmɛriʃən/ noun vomiting

emergency /ɪˈmɛriʃən/ noun the part of a hospital where people who need urgent immediate treatment are dealt with
emission /ɪnˈmjuːʒən/ noun a strong feeling
emotion /ɪˈmɑːʃən/ noun a strong feeling
grief or other strong emotion
emotion /ɪˈmɑːʃən/ noun a disorder due to worry, stress,
emotional disorder /ɪˈmɑːʃənl dɪˈzɔːr d/ noun lacking in emotional
development
empathy /ɪmˈpæθi/ noun the ability to understand
the problems and feelings of another person
enzyme /ˌenzəm/ noun an enzyme

endorphin (NOTE: The US spelling is

encephalitis /ˈɛnˌkefələˌtɪs/ en, sefə
ˈlatts/ noun inflammation of the brain
COMMENT: Encephalitis is caused by any of
several viruses (viral encephalitis) and is
also associated with infectious viral diseases
such as measles or mumps. The variant St
Louis encephalitis is transmitted by mosqui-
toes.

encephalitis lethargica /ˌɛnˌkefəˈlætəˌlɪkə/ It
ˈlɑθərɡɪkə noun same as lethargic encephali-
tis

encephaloid -ˌɛnˌkefəˈloɪd/ adjective like brain tissue

encephalomalacia /ˌɛnˌkefəˈmɔləˌsɛʃə/ noun a tu-
mour of the brain

encephalomalacia /ˌɛnˌkefəˈmɔləˌsɛʃə/ noun a tu-
mour of the brain

encephalomyelitis /ˌɛnˌkefəˈmɔləˌmaɪˈlətɪs/ noun a group of diseases which cause inflam-
mation of the brain and the spinal cord

encephalomyelopathy /ˌɛnˌkefəˈmɔləˌməˌpəθi/ 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

encephalography /ˌɛnˌkefəˌlɔˌɡrəfi/ noun

an X-ray examination of the ventricles and
spaces of the brain taken after air has been in-
jected into the cerebrospinal fluid by lumbar
puncture

COMMENT: The air takes the place of the cere-
brospinal fluid and makes it easier to pho-
tograph the ventricles clearly. This technique
has been superseded by CT and MRI.

encephalomalacia /ˌɛnˌkefəˌmɔləˌsɛʃə/ noun a tu-
mour of the brain

encephalopathy /ˌɛnˌkefəˌləˌpəθi/ noun any
condition where the brain and spinal cord are
diseased

encephalopathy /ˌɛnˌkefəˌləˌpəθi/ noun any
disease of the brain

enchondroma /ˌɛnˈkɔndrəˌmə/ noun a tumour
formed of cartilage growing inside a bone

enchondromatosis /ˌɛnˈkɔndrəˌməˌtəˌsɪs/ noun a condition in which a tumour formed of
cartilage grows inside a bone

encopresis /ˈɛŋˌkɔpəˌrɛsɪs/ noun faecal in-
continence not associated with a physical condi-
tion or disease

encounter group /ɪnˈkɔntər ˈgrʊp/ noun a
form of treatment of psychological disorders,
where people meet and talk about their prob-
lems in a group
encysted /en'sistid/ adjective enclosed in a capsule like a cyst
end- /end/ prefix same as endo- (used before vowels)
endanger /en’denɡær/ verb to put someone or something at risk. The operation may endanger the life of the patient.
endarterectomy /en’dartərɪk’təml/ noun the surgical removal of the lining of a blocked artery. Also called resection
endarteritis /en’dartərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the inner lining of an artery
endarteritis obliterans /en’dartərɪtɪs əblɪtərənz/ a condition where inflammation in an artery is so severe that it blocks the artery
end artery /end, ərtɪrɪ/ noun the last section of an artery which does not divide into smaller arteries and does not join to other arteries
endaural /endəˈʊrəl/ adjective inside the ear
endocrine /en’dəkrən/ adjective referring to any disease which is very common in specific places. This disease is endemic to Mediterranean countries.
endemic haemoptysis /en, demɪk hı’mɔptɪsɪs/ noun same as paragonimiasis
endemic syphilis /en, demɪk ‘sɪflɪs/ adjective same as bejel
endemic typhus /en, demɪk ‘tɪfʊs/ noun fever transmitted by fleas from rats
endemiology /en, dɛmɪˈlɔdʒɪ/ noun the study of endemic diseases
end-expiratory /en, dɛkˈɛspɪrətri/ noun positive end-expiratory pressure
endo- /en’dəʊ/ prefix inside
endobronchial /en’dəʊbrɒŋkʃiəl/ adjective inside the bronchi
endocardial /en’dəʊkɑrdiəl/ adjective referring to the endocardium
endocardial pacemaker /en’dəʊkɑrdiəl ‘pæsɪmkeə/ noun a pacemaker attached to the lining of the heart
endocarditis /en’dəʊkɑrdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the membrane lining the heart
endocardium /en’dəʊkɑrdiəm/ noun a membrane which lines the heart. See illustration at heart in Supplement
endocervicitis /en’dəʊsɜrvɪsɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the membrane in the neck of the uterus
endocervix /en’dəʊsɜrvɪks/ noun a membrane which lines the neck of the uterus
endochondral /en’dəʊkɑndrəl/ adjective inside a cartilage
endocrine /en’dəʊkrɪn/ adjective relating to the endocrine glands or the hormones they secrete
endocrine gland /en’dəʊkrɪn ɡlænd/ 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 /en’dəʊkrɪn ˈsɪstəm/ noun a system of related ductless glands
endocrinologist /en’dəʊkrɪnləˈdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of endocrinology
endocrinology /en’dəʊkrɪnləˈdʒɪstɪ/ noun the study of the endocrine system, its function and effects
endoderm /en’dəʊdɜrm/ noun the inner of three layers surrounding an embryo. Also called endoderm 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 /en’dəʊdɜrˈməl/ adjective referring to the endoderm. Also called endodermal
endodontia /en’dəʊdɒntɪə/ 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,dʒənəˈdʒɪərɪʃən/ noun depression caused by no obvious external factor
endogenous eczema /en, dʒənəˈdʒiːmə/ noun eczema which is caused by no obvious external factor
endolymph /en’dəʊlɪmf/ noun a fluid inside the membranous labyrinth in the inner ear
endolymphatic duct /en’dəʊlɪmfætɪk ‘dɑːkt/ noun a duct which carries the endolymph inside the membranous labyrinth
endolysin /en,’dɛlɪsɪn/ noun a substance present in cells, which kills bacteria
endometria /en’dəʊmɛtrɪə/ plural of endometrium
endometrial /en’dəʊmɛtrɪəl/ adjective referring to the endometrium
endometrial laser ablation /en’dəʊmɛtrɪəl ˈlɑːzər əˈbɛʃ(ə)n/ noun a gynaecological surgical procedure using a laser to treat fibroids or other causes of thickening of the lining of the uterus
endometriosis /en’dəʊmɛtrɪəsɪs/ noun a condition affecting women, in which tissue similar to the tissue of the uterus is found in other parts of the body
endometritis /en’dəʊmɛtrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the lining of the uterus
endometrium /en’dəʊmɛtrɪəm/ noun the mucous membrane lining the uterus, part of which is shed at each menstruation (NOTE: The plural is endometria.)
endomyocarditis /ˌendəməˈkaʊrdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the muscle and inner membrane of the heart
endomysium /ˌendəʊˈmaɪsɪəm/ noun connective tissue around and between muscle fibres
endoneurium /ˌendəʊˈnjʊəriəm/ 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 /ˌendəˈfæθəlˈmaɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the interior of the eyeball
end organ /ˌend əˈɡɔrən/ noun a nerve ending with encapsulated nerve filaments
endorphin /ˌendəˈdrɪfrɪn/ noun a peptide produced by the brain which acts as a natural painkiller. Compare encephalin
endoscopy /ˌendəskəʊpi/ 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 /ˌendəskəʊprəˌrɛtrəˈɡreɪd kəˈlæŋdʒiəˈpænkrəˈɡreɪd ˌkætrəˈɡræfi/ noun a method used to examine the pancreatic duct and bile duct for possible obstructions. Abbr ERCP
endoscopy /ˌendəskəʊpi/ noun an examination of the inside of the body using an endoscope
endoskeleton /ˌendəskəlɪtɪn/ noun the inner structure of bones and cartilage in an animal
endosteatosis /ˌendəˈstɪtəsɪs/ noun a membrane lining the bone marrow cavity inside a long bone.
endothelial /ˌendəˈθiəlɪəl/ adjective referring to the endothelium
endotheloma /ˌendəθəˈləʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour originating inside the endothelium
endothelium /ˌendəθəˈlɪəm/ noun a membrane of special cells which lines the heart, the lymph vessels, the blood vessels and various body cavities. Compare epithelium, mesothelium
endotoxin /ˌendəˈtəʊkstɪn/ noun a toxic substance released after the death of some bacterial cells
endotracheal /ˌendəstrəkˈɪəl/ adjective same as intratracheal
endotracheal tube /ˌendəstrəkˈɪəl tjuː/ noun a tube passed down the trachea, through either the nose or mouth, in anaesthesia or to help a person breathe
end plate /ˌend ˈplæt/ noun the end of a motor nerve, where it joins muscle fibre
end stage renal disease /ˌend stɛrdʒ ˈri:nəl dɪˈziː/ noun the stage of kidney disease at which uremia occurs and dialysis needs to start. Abbr ESRD
enema /ˈɛnəmə/ 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 /ˌɛnəmə bæg/ noun a bag containing the liquid for an enema, attached to a tube into the rectum
energy /ˈɛnədʒi/ noun the force or strength to carry out activities. You need to eat certain types of food to give you energy.
enucleation /ˌenəˈkjuːleɪʃn/ noun the removal of an eyeball
encephalitis /ˌendəˈʃɛfəlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the brain
encephalon /ˌendəˈʃɛflən/ noun the inner part of the head, entering the skull at the beginning of labour
enlarged /ˈɛnərɡd/ adjective excessively filled with liquid, usually blood
enlargement /ˌenəˈrɡmənt/ noun the excessive filling of a vessel, usually with blood
enkephalin /ˌɛnˈkɛfəlɪn/ noun US same as encephalin
enophthalmos /ˌɛnəfəˈθelmos/ noun a condition in which the eyes are very deep in their sockets
enostosis /ˌenəˈstoʊsɪs/ noun a harmless growth inside a bone, usually in the skull or in a long bone
enrolled /ˈɛnərəʊld/ adjective registered on an official list
Enrolled Nurse /ˈɛnərəʊld ˈnɜːs/ noun 1. second-level nurse
ensiform /ˈɛnəsɜːfəm/ adjective shaped like a sword
ensiform cartilage /ˌɛnəsɜːfəm ˈkɑrtəlɪdʒ/ noun same as xiphioid process
ENT abbr Ear, Nose & Throat
Entamoeba coli /ˌɛntəməˈbiːə ˈkəʊləʊ/ noun a harmless intestinal parasite
Entamoeba gingivalis /ˌɛntəməˈbiːə ɡɪnˈdʒɪvəlɪz/ noun an amoeba that lives in the gums and tonsils, and causes gingivitis
Entamoeba histolytica /ˌɛntəməˈbiːə ˈhaɪstəˌlɪtɪkə/ noun an intestinal amoeba which causes amoebic dysentery
ENT department /ˈɛnt dɪˈpɑːtmənt/ noun a department of otorhinolaryngology
ENT doctor /ˈɛnt dəˈkɔːtər/ noun same as otorhinolaryngologist
enter- /ˈentər/ prefix same as entero- (used before vowels)
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 /ˌentərəlˈfiːdɪŋ/ 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]

enteral nutrition /ˌentərəl njuˈtrɪʃən/ noun same as colic

enterally /ˌentərəli/ 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]

enterectomy /ˌentərəˈsɛktəmi/ noun the surgical removal of part of the intestine

enteric /ˈentərɪk/ adjective referring to the intestine

enteric-coated /ˈentərɪk ˈkoʊtəd/ 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 /ˈentərɪk ˈfevr/ noun US 1, any one of three fevers (typhoid, paratyphoid A and paratyphoid B) 2, any febrile disease of the intestines

enteritis /entəˈrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestine

entero- /ˈentərəʊ/ prefix referring to the intestine

Enterobacteria /ˌentərəˈbæktəriə/ noun a family of Gram-negative bacteria, including Salmonella, Shigella, Escherichia and Klebsiella

Enterobiasis /ˌentərəˈbaɪəsɪs/ noun a common children’s disease, caused by threadworms in the large intestine which cause itching round the anus. Also called oxyuriasis

Enterobius /ˌentərəˈbɪəs/ 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 /ˌentərəˈsoʊl/, enterocoele /ˌentərəˈsoʊli/ noun a hernia of the intestine

enterocentesis /ˌentərəˈsɛntəsɪs/ noun surgical puncturing of the intestines where a hollow needle is pushed through the abdominal wall into the intestine to remove gas or fluid

enterococcus /ˌentərəˈkɒks/ noun a streptococcal bacterium that lives in the intestine (NOTE: The plural is enterococci.)

enterocolitis /ˌentərəˌkəʊləˈtɪtɪs/ noun another spelling of enterocolitis

enterocolitis /ˌentərəˌkəʊləˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the colon and small intestine

enterogastrone /ˌentərəˈgɑstrən/ noun a hormone released in the duodenum, which controls secretions of the stomach

enterogenous /ˌentərəˈɡɒnəs/ adjective originating in the intestine

enterolith /ˌentərəˈlɒθ/ noun a stone in the intestine

enteron /ˌentərən/ noun the whole intestinal tract

enteropathy /ˌentərəˈpərəθi/ noun any disorder of the intestine. A gluten-induced enteropathy

enteropeptidase /ˌentərəˌpɛptɪˈdeɪz/ noun an enzyme produced by glands in the small intestine

enteroptosis /ˌentərəˈpɔtəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the intestine is lower than usual in the abdominal cavity

enterorrhaphy /ˌentərəˈrɔfɪ/ noun a surgical operation to stitch up a perforated intestine

enteroscope /ˌentərəˈskɒs/ noun an instrument for inspecting the inside of the intestine

enterospasm /ˌentərəˈspæzm/ noun an irregular painful contraction of the intestine

enterostomy /ˌentərəˈstəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening between the small intestine and the abdominal wall

enterotomy /ˌentərəˈtɔrtəmi/ noun a surgical incision in the intestine

enterotoxin /ˌentərəˈtəʊtɪk/ noun a bacterial exotoxin which particularly affects the intestine

enterovirus /ˌentərəˈvɜrəs/ noun a virus which prefers to live in the intestine. Enteroviruses include poliomyelitis virus, Coxsackie viruses and the echoviruses

enterozoon /ˌentərəˈzuən/ noun a parasite which infests the intestine (NOTE: The plural is enterozoas.)

enteroid /ˌentərəˈɔɪd/ noun same as endodermal

enterodermal /ˌentərəˈdɔrəl/ adjective same as endodermal

Entonox /ˌentənɒks/ noun a gas consisting of 50% oxygen and 50% nitrous oxide that is used as a painkiller during childbirth

enteric /ˈentərɪk/ adjective located or taking place in the usual position. Opposite ectopic

enteropon /ˌentərəˈpɔn/ noun a turning of the edge of the eyelid towards the inside

enucleate /ˈɛnjuˈklɪkət/ verb to remove something completely

enucleation /ˌɛnjuˈklɛɪʃən/ noun 1, the surgical removal of all of a tumour 2, the surgical removal of the whole eyeball

enuresis /ˌɛnjʊˈriːsɪs/ noun the involuntary passing of urine

enuretic /ˌɛnjuˈrɛtɪk/ adjective referring to enuresis, or causing enuresis

envenomation /ˌɛnˌvɛnəˈmeɪʃən/ noun the use of snake venom as part of a therapeutic treatment
epidermolysis
epidermolysis bullosa /ˌɛpɪdɪˌmɔlɪsɪs bʊˈloʊsə/ noun a group of disorders where blisters form on the skin
Epidermophyton /ˌɛpɪdrɪz̩əˈmɔrtən/ noun a fungus which grows on the skin and causes athlete’s foot, among other disorders
epidermophytosis /ˌɛpɪdrɪz̩əmɔrˈfɒtiːs/ noun a fungus infection of the skin, e.g. athlete’s foot
epidydymal /ˌɛpɪdrɪdɪmˈɔlər/ adjective referring to the epididymis
epididymectomy /ˌɛpɪdɪdɪmɪkˈtrəni/ noun the removal of the epididymis
epididymis /ˌɛpɪdɪdɪmɪs/ noun a long twisting thin tube at the back of the testis, which forms part of the efferent duct of the testis, and in which spermatozoa are stored before ejaculation. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM
epididymitis /ˌɛpɪdɪdɪmˈɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the epididymis
epididymo-orchitis /ˌɛpɪdɪdɪmˈɔrˈkərɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the epididymis and the testes
epidural /ˌɛpɪdɪˈdʊrəl/ adjective on the outside of the dura mater. Also called extradural
epidural anaesthesia /ˌɛpɪdɪˈdʊrəl ˈænəˈeθɛziə/ noun a local anaesthesia in which anesthetic is injected into the space between the vertebral canal and the dura mater
epidural block /ˌɛpɪdɪˈdʊrəl ˈblɒk/ noun analgesia produced by injecting an analgesic solution into the space between the vertebral canal and the dura mater
epidural space /ˌɛpɪdɪˈdʊrəl ˈspeɪs/ noun a space in the spinal cord between the vertebral canal and the dura mater
epigastric /ˌɛpɪˈɡæstrɪk/ adjective referring to the upper abdomen
epigastric area /ˌɛpɪˈɡæstrɪk ˈeərə/ noun the part of the upper abdomen between the ribs and the navel. Also called the pit of the stomach
epigastrocele /ˌɛpɪdʒəˈstærɒsəl/ noun a hernia in the upper abdomen
epiglotis /ˌɛpɪˈɡlɔtɪs/ 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 /ˌɛpɪglɔtˈɪtɪs/ noun inflammation and swelling of the epiglottis
epilation /ˌɛpɪˈleʃən/ noun the process of removing hair by destroying the hair follicles
epilepsy /ˈɛpɪlɛpsɪ/ 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 /ˈɛpɪˌlɛptɪk/ adjective having epilepsy, or relating to epilepsy
epilepsy and loss of consciousness due to a disordered nervous system in which there are convulsions and sometimes unconsciousness, due to epilepsy
epileptiform /ˌɛpɪˌlɛptɪfɔrəm/ adjective being similar to epilepsy
epileptogenic /ˌɛpɪˌlɛptəˈdʒenɪk/ adjective causing epilepsy
epilepsia partialis /ˌɛpɪˈlɛpsɪə pəˈteɪʃəls/ noun a hereditary disease of the brain associated with learning disabilites, epilepsy and tumours on the kidney and heart. Also called tuberose sclerosis
epimenorrhagia /ˌɛpɪˈmɛnərˈhæɡiə/ noun very heavy bleeding during menstruation occurring at very short intervals
epimenorrhoea /ˌɛpɪˈmɛnərˈhɔɪə/ noun menstruation at shorter intervals than twenty-eight days
epipysis /ˌɛpɪˈpɪsɪs/ noun a connective tissue binding straited muscle fibres
epinephrine /ˌɛpɪˈnɛfrɪn/ noun US same as adrenaline
epineurium /ˌɛpɪˈnjuərɪəm/ noun a sheath of connective tissue round a nerve
epiphagia /ˌɛpɪfəˈdʒiə/ noun an unusual symptom which may not be caused by a disease
epiphora /ˌɛpɪˈfɔrə/ noun a condition in which the eye fills with tears either because the lacrimal duct is blocked or because excessive tears are being secreted
epiphysial /ˌɛpɪˈfɪziəl/ adjective referring to epiphysis
epiphysial cartilage /ˌɛpɪˈfɪziəl ˈkɑrtɪlidʒ/ 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 /ˌɛpɪˈfɪziəl ˈlайн/ noun a plate of epiphysial cartilage separating the epiphysis and the diaphysis of a long bone
epiphysitis /ˌɛpɪˈfɪsɪtɪs/ 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 /ˌɛpɪˈfɪsɪs kəˈrɛbrɪ/ noun the pineal gland. See illustration at BONE STRUCTURE in Supplement
epiphysial /ˌɛpɪfɪˈsɪəl/ adjective referring to an epiphysis
epipo- /ˌɛpɪˈpəʊ/- prefix referring to the omentum
epiplocele /ˌɛpɪˈplɔsɪəl/ noun a hernia containing part of the omentum
epiploic /'epiˌplɔːIk/ adjective referring to the omentum
epiploon /ˈepɪpluən/ noun same as omentum
episclera /ˌepɪskleərə/ noun the outer surface of the sclera of the eyeball
episcleritis /ˌepɪskləˈrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the outer surface of the sclera in the eyeball
episiotomy /ˌepɪsiˈəʊtəmi/ noun a surgical cut of the perineum near the vagina to prevent tearing during childbirth
episode /ˌepɪˈsaʊd/ noun a separate occurrence of an illness
episodic /ˌepɪˈsɒdɪk/ adjective happening in separate but related incidents, e.g. asthma which occurs in separate attacks
epispidias /ˌepɪˈspepdiəs/ noun a congenital condition where the urethra opens on the top of the penis and not at the end. Compare hypospidias
epispastis /ˌepɪˈspeɪstɪks/ noun same as vesicant
epistaxis /ˌepɪˈstekeɪks/ noun same as nosebleed
epithalamus /ˌepɪˈθeləməs/ noun the part of the forebrain containing the pineal body
epithelial /ˌepɪˈθelɪəl/ adjective referring to the epithelium
epithelialisation /ˌepɪˈθelɪəliəˈzɪʃən/ noun the growth of skin over a wound
epithelial layer /ˌepɪˈθelɪəl /ˈlɛər/ noun the epithelium
epithelial tissue /ˌepɪˈθelɪəl /ˈtʃuːz/ noun epithelial cells arranged as a continuous sheet consisting of one or several layers
epitheloma /ˌepɪˈθeləmə/ noun a tumour arising from epithelial cells
epithelium /ˌepɪˈθeləm/ 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 little hairs, 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 /ˌepɪˈtuːbəkjuˈlərəs/ noun-swelling of the lymph node in the thorax, due to tuberculosis
epony /ˌepəˈnɒni/ 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 /ˌEpəm ˈsɒdɪts/ noun same as magnesium sulphate
Epstein-Barr virus /ˌEpstən ˈbɑːrveɪrəs/ 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 Llewellyn Barr (1908-95), Canadian anatomist and cyologist, head of the Department of Anatomy at the University of Western Ontario, Canada.)
epulis /ˈEpəliːs/ noun a small fibrous swelling on a gum
equil- /ɪkwiːl/ prefix
equilibrium /ˌɪkwiˈlɪbrɪəm/ noun a state of balance
equino- /ˌeqwiˈnoʊ-/ prefix
equino- /ˌeqwiˈnoʊ-/ prefix
equinovarus /ˌeqwiˈnɔvərəs/ noun a state of equinus
equine /ˌeqwiˈni/ adjective referring to the part of the body which is named after a pest
erectile tissue /ˌerɛktɪl /ˈtʃuːz/ noun vascular tissue which can become erect and stiff when engorged with blood, e.g. the corpus cavernosum in the penis
ERCP abbr endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
erect /ˈerɛkt/ adjective stiff and straight
erectile /ˌerɛktɪl/ adjective able to become erect
erectile dysfunction /ˌerɛktɪl dɪˈfʌŋkʃən/ noun a condition in which a man finds it difficult or impossible to have or maintain an erection during intercourse
erectile tissue /ˌerɛktɪl /ˈtʃuːz/ noun a condition in which a man finds it difficult or impossible to have or maintain an erection during intercourse
erection /ɪˈrekʃən/ noun a state where a body part such as the penis becomes swollen because of engagement with blood

erector /ɪˈrektaʊ/ noun a small muscle which raises a body part

erector spinosus /ɛrɛktɔr ˈspɪnnəs/ noun a large muscle starting at the base of the spine, and dividing as it runs up the spine

erespis /ɪˈrespiːs/ noun a mixture of enzymes produced by the glands in the intestine, used in the production of amino acids

erethism /ɛrɛθɪzəm/ noun unusual irritability

erg /ɛrɡ/ noun apparatus which records the work of one or several muscles

ergometer /ɛrɡəˈmɛtər/ noun a device for measuring the work done by muscles

ergometrine /ɛrɡəˈmətrɪn/ noun a drug used to speed up the delivery of the placenta in childbirth and to control postnatal bleeding

ergonomics /ɛrɡəˈnɒmɪks/ noun the study of human work

ergot /ɛrɡət/ noun a disease of rye caused by the fungus Characeps purpurea

ergotamine /ɛrɡəˈtəmən/ noun a drug that causes narrowing of blood vessels and alleviates migraine, derived from the ergot fungus

ergotism /ɛrɡəˈtəsɪzəm/ noun poisoning caused by eating rye which has been contaminated with the ergot fungus

COMMENT: The symptoms of ergotism are muscle cramps and dry gangrene in the fingers and toes.

erogenous /ɛrəˈdʒəʊnəs/ adjective producing sexual excitement

erogenous zone /ɛrəˈdʒəʊnz/ noun a part of the body which, if stimulated, produces sexual arousal, e.g. the penis, clitoris or nipples

eriosis /ɛrəˈrɪəs/ noun the action of wearing away tissue or breaking down tissue

erotic /ɔrˈtɒtɪk/ adjective relating to or arousing the feeling of sexual desire

ERPC abbr evacuation of retained products of conception

eructation /ɛrʊkˈteɪʃən/ noun same as belching

erupt /ɪrəpt/ verb to break through the skin. The permanent incisors erupt before the premolars

eruption /ɪrəˈpʃən/ noun 1. something which breaks through the skin, e.g. a rash or pimple 2. the appearance of a new tooth in a gum

erup- /ɛrəp-/ prefix same as erythro-

erysipelas /ɛrɪˈspɪpələs/ noun a contagious skin disease, where the skin on the face becomes hot, red and painful, caused by Streptococcus pyogenes

erysipeloid /ɛrɪˈspɪpəlɔɪd/ noun a bacterial skin infection caused by touching infected fish or meat

erythema /ɛrɪˈθɪmə/ noun redness on the skin, caused by hyperaemia of the blood vessels near the surface

erthema ab igne /ˌɛrɪθəˈmə aɪɡn/ noun a pattern of red lines on the skin caused by exposure to heat

erythema induratum /ˌɛrɪθəˈmə ɪndʒʊərətəm/ noun a tubercular disease where ulcerating nodules appear on the legs of young women. Also called Bazin's disease

erythema multiforme /ˌɛrɪθəˈmə ˌmʌltɪfɔrmi/ noun the sudden appearance of inflammatory red patches and sometimes blisters on the skin

erythema nodosum /ˌɛrɪθəˈmə ˈnəʊdəsəm/ noun an inflammatory disease where red swellings appear on the front of the legs

erythema pernio /ˌɛrɪθəˈmə ˈpɜrnіəʊ/ noun same as chilblain

erythema serpens /ˌɛrɪθəˈmə ˈsɜrpɛns/ noun a bacterial skin infection caused by touching infected fish or meat

erythematous /ˌɛrɪθəˈmətəs/ adjective referring to erythema

eryth- /ɛrθ-/ prefix same as erythro- (used before vowel sounds)

erythraemia /ˌɛrɪθθrəˈmɪə/ noun a blood disorder where the number of red blood cells increases sharply, together with an increase in the number of white cells, making the blood thicker and slower to flow. Also called polycythaemia vera

erythrasma /ˌɛrɪθθrəˈzəmə/ noun a persistent bacterial skin infection occurring in a fold in the skin or where two skin surfaces touch, such as between the toes. It is caused by Corynebacterium.

erythro-/ˌɛrθroʊ-/ prefix red

erythroblast /ˌɛrθroʊˈblist/ noun a cell which forms an erythrocyte or red blood cell

erythroblastosis /ˌɛrθroʊˈblistəsɪs/ noun the presence of erythroblasts in the blood, usually found in haemolytic anaemia

COMMENT: Usually erythroblastosis occurs where the mother is rhesus negative and has developed rhesus positive antibodies, which are passed into the blood of a rhesus positive fetus.

erythroblastosis fetalis /ˌɛrθroʊˈblistəsɪs ˈfetəlɪs/ noun a blood disease affecting newborn babies, caused by a reaction between the rhesus factor of the mother and the fetus

erythrocytosis /ˌɛrθroʊˈsɪsəʊs/ noun red and purple patches on the skin of the thighs, often accompanied by chilblains and made worse by cold
erythrocyte  /ɪˈrɪθrəsaɪt/  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]

erthrocyte sedimentation rate  /ɪˌrɪθrəˈsɛdəˌmeɪʃən/  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

erthrocytosis  /ɪˌrɪθrəˈsɑːtəsɪs/  noun an increase in the number of red blood cells in the blood

erthroderma  /ɪˌrɪθrəˈdrɔːmə/  noun a condition in which the skin becomes red and flakes off

erthroderma  /ɪˌrɪθrəˈdrɔːmə/  noun same as acrodermatitis

erythrogenesis  /ɪˌrɪθrəˈdʒenəsɪs/  erythropoiesis  /ɪˌrɪθrəˌpɔɪˈɛsɪs/  noun the formation of red blood cells in red bone marrow

erthromalgia  /ɪˌrɪθrəˈmɔːlədʒɪə/  noun a painful swelling of blood vessels in the extremities

erthromycin  /ɪˌrɪθrəˈmaɪsɪn/  noun an antibiotic drug suitable for people who are sensitive to penicillin

erythropenia  /ɪˌrɪθrəˌpiˈnɪə/  noun a condition in which a person has a low number of erythrocytes in their blood

erthropoiesis  /ɪˌrɪθrəˌpɔɪˈɛsɪs/  noun same as erythropoiesis

erthropoietin  /ɪˌrɪθrəˌpɔɪˈɛtɪn/  noun a hormone which regulates the production of red blood cells

COMMENT: The essential fatty acids are: linoleic acid, linolenic acid and arachidonic acid.

essential fatty acid  /ˌɛsˈsɛntʃəl ˈfætɪ kərd/  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 hyperkinesia  /ˌɛsˈsɛntʃəl ˈhaɪpərˌkjɪnəsiə/  noun a condition of children where their movements are excessive and repeated

essential hypertension  /ˌɛsˈsɛntʃəl ˈhaɪpərˌhɛnsən/  noun high blood pressure without any obvious cause

essential oil  /ˌɛsˈsɛntʃəl ˈɔɪl/  noun a medicinal or fragrant oil distilled from some part of a plant

essential tremor  /ˌɛsˈsɛntʃəl ˈtremər/  noun an involuntary slow trembling movement of the hands often seen in elderly people

essential uterine haemorrhage  /ˌɛsˈsɛntʃəl ˈjuːtərən ˈhæmərɪˈrɑːdʒ/  noun heavy uterine bleeding for which there is no obvious cause

estrogen  /ɛsˈtrədʒən/  noun US same as oestrogen

Esmarch’s bandage  /ɛsˈmɑːkz ˈbændɪdʒ/  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  /ɪˌsəʊfəɡəs/  noun US spelling of oesophagus

esotropia  /ˌɛsəˈtraʊpiə/  noun a type of squint, where the eyes both look towards the nose. Also called convergent strabismus
ethambutol

ethambutol /iθæmˈbjuːtəl/ 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. α pure alcohol

ethene /ɪθɪˈnɪ/ noun same as ethylene

ether /ˈeθər/ noun an anaesthetic substance, now rarely used

ethical /ˈeθɪk(ə)l/ adjective 1. concerning ethics 2. referring to a drug available on prescription only

ethical committee /ˈeθɪk(ə)l kəˈmiːtɪ/ 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

ethnicoestradiol /ˌeθnɪkoʊˈɛstrəˈdɑːl/ noun an artificial hormone related to oestrogen that is effective in small doses. It forms part of hormone replacement therapy.

ethmoid /ˈeθmɔɪd/ ethmoidal /ˈeθmɔɪd(ə)l/ adjective referring to the ethmoid bone or near to the ethmoid bone

ethmoidal sinuses /ˈeθmɔɪd(ə)l ˈsɪnəsɪz/ plural noun air cells inside the ethmoid bone

ethmoid bone /ˈeθmɔɪd bɔːn/ noun a bone which forms the top of the nasal cavity and part of the orbits

ethmoidectomy /ˌeθmɔɪdɪˈkɛktrəm/ noun an operation to remove the lining between the sinuses

ethmoiditis /ˌeθmɔɪdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the ethmoid bone or of the ethmoidal sinuses

ethnic /ˈeθnɪk/ adjective relating to a culturally or racially distinctive group of people

ethyl alcohol /ˈeθɪl ˈælkələl/ noun same as ethanol

ethylene /ˈeθɪlɛn/ noun a gas used as an anaesthetic

ethyl ester /ˌeθɪl ˈɛstrər/ noun an anabolic steroid

eu./ju/ prefix good, well

eubacteria /juˈbɪbæktrɪə/ noun true bacteria with rigid cell walls

eucalyptol /juˌkælɪptəl/ noun a substance obtained from eucalyptus oil

eucalyptus /juˌkælɪptəs/ noun a genus of tree growing mainly in Australia, from which a strongly smelling oil is distilled

eucalyptus oil /ˈjuˌkælɪptəs 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.

eugensics /juːˈdʒɛnɪks/ noun the study of how to improve the human race by genetic selection

eunuch /ˈjuːnʌk/ noun a castrated male

eupepsia /juːˈpɛpsɪə/ noun good digestion

euphoria /juːˈfɔriə/ noun a feeling of extreme happiness

euplastic /juːˈplæstɪk/ adjective referring to tissue which heals well

Eustachian canal /juːˈstɛʃ(ə)n kəˈneɪl/ noun a passage through the porous bone forming the outside part of the Eustachian tube

Eustachian tube /juːˈstɛʃ(ə)n tjuːb/ noun the tube which connects the pharynx to the middle ear. See illustration at EAR in Supplement [Described 1562, but actually named after Eustachio by Valsalva a century later. Bartolomeo Eustachio (1520–74), physician to the Pope and Professor of Anatomy in Rome.]

COMMENT: The Eustachian tubes balance the air pressure on each side of the eardrum. When a person swallows 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.

euthanasia /ˌjuːθəˈnæsɪə/ 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.)

euthanise /juːθʌˈnaɪz/ verb to kill an incurably ill person or someone in a permanent coma

euthyroid /juːˈθaɪrɔɪd/ noun a condition where the thyroid is functioning normally

euthyroidism /juːθaɪˈrɔɪdɪz(ə)m/ noun, euthyroid state /juːθaɪˈrɔɪd stɪt/ noun the fact of having a healthy thyroid gland

eutocia /juːˈtoʊsɪə/ noun a standard childbirth evacuation /iˌvækjuəˈneɪʃən/ noun a medicine which makes a person have a bowel movement evacuation /iˌvækjuəˈneɪʃən/ verb to discharge faeces from the bowel, or to have a bowel movement

evacuate /iˌvækjuət/ verb evacuation of retained products of conception /ˌvækjuəˈɛfəs ənv ˈrɛtmɛnts əv ˈkɛnʃəprəd ˌprɒdʊksɪz əv ˈkæn ˈsepʃən/ noun a D & C operation performed after an abortion or miscarriage to ensure the uterus is left empty. Abbr ERPC
evaluate /ɪˈvɛljuət/ 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...

evaluate /ɪˈvɛljuət/ noun the act of examining and calculating the quantity or level of something ○ In further evaluation of these patients no side-effects of the treatment were noted.

evaluer /ıvəljuər/ noun a method of treating leukaemia or erythroleukosis in newborn babies, where almost all the blood is removed from the body and replaced with healthy blood

evulsion /ɪvəlsən/ noun the pushing of the intestine through the wall of the abdomen

eversion /ɪvərsən/ noun 1. the act of turning towards the outside or turning inside out. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement □ eversion of the cervix a condition after laceration during childbirth, where the edges of the cervix sometimes turn outwards
evertor /ɪvərtər/ noun a muscle which makes a limb turn outwards

evulsion /ɪvəlsən/ noun the act of turning towards the outside or turning inside out. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement □ eversion of the cervix a condition after laceration during childbirth, where the edges of the cervix sometimes turn outwards

exacerbation /ɪɡˈzɛsəˌbeʃən/ noun 1. the fact of making a condition worse 2. a period when a condition becomes worse... patients were 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]

examination /ɪɡˈzaːmən/ noun 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.)

examine /ɪɡˈzaːmən/ verb 1. to look at or to investigate someone or something carefully ○ The tissue samples were examined in the laboratory, 2. to look at and test someone to find out what is wrong with him or her ○ The doctor examined the patient’s heart.

exangium /ɪɡˈzæŋjəm/ noun a skin rash found with infectious diseases like measles or chickenpox

exanthematous /ɪksənˈθemətəs/ adjective referring to an exanthem or like an exanthem

exanthem subitum /ɪɡˈzæŋtəm səˈbɪtəm/ noun same as roseola infantum

exucator /ɪkˈskævətər/ noun a surgical instrument shaped like a spoon

exchange transfusion /ɪkˈsɛnsfɛsɪfjuːn/ noun, something that does not fit into or is excluded from a general rule or pattern 2. the act or condition of being excluded

excess /ɪksˈes/ noun too much of a substance ○ The gland was producing an excess of hormones. ○ The body could not cope with an excess of blood sugar. ○ in excess of more than ○ Short men who weigh in excess of 100 kilos are very overweight

excessive /ɪkˈsesɪv/ adjective more than normal ○ The patient was passing excessive quantities of urine. ○ The doctor noted an excessive amount of bile in the patient’s blood.

excessively /ɪkˈsesɪvli/ adverb too much ○ She has an excessively high blood pressure. ○ If the patient sweats excessively, it may be necessary to cool his body with cold compresses.

exchange transfusion /ɪkˌsɛnʃənˌtræns/ noun a method of treating leukaemia or erythroleukosis in newborn babies, where almost all the blood is removed from the body and replaced with healthy blood

excipient /ɪkˈsəpiənt/ noun a substance added to a drug so that it can be made into a pill

excise /ɪkˈsaɪz/ verb to cut something out
exercise /ɪkˈsɜːtʃər/ noun an operation by a surgeon to cut and remove part of the body such as a growth. Compare incision

excitement /ɪkˈsɪtəmənt/ noun the act of being excited 2. the second stage of anaesthesia

exercise /ɪkˈsɜːtʃɔr/ noun 1. the act of being excited 2. the second stage of anaesthesia

exertion /ɪkˈzɜːʃən/ noun the act of using and something or something being excited

exercise-induced asthma /ɪkˈsɜːtʃɔr dɪˈstʃən/ noun asthma which is caused by exercise such as running or cycling. Abbreviation EIA

exudation /ɪkˈzjuːdəʃən/ noun physical activity

exfoliation /ɪkˈsəʊləʃən/ noun the loss of layers of tissue such as sunburnt skin

exfoliative /ɪkˈsəʊliətɪv/ adjective referring to exfoliation

exfoliative dermatitis /ɪkˈsəʊliətɪv dəˈmaːtətɪtɪs/ noun a typical form of dermatitis where the skin becomes red and comes off in flakes

exhalation /ɪkˈʃeɪleɪʃən/ noun 1. the act of breathing out 2. air which is breathed out opposite inhalation

exhaust /ɪkˈzɔːst/ verb to tire someone out

exhaustion /ɪkˈzɔːʃən/ noun extreme tiredness or fatigue

exhibitionism /ɪkˈsɪbɪʃənɪzəm/ noun a desire to show the genitals to a person of the opposite sex

exo- /ɪkˈsəʊ/ prefix out of, outside

exocrine /ɪkˈsɜːkrən/ adjective exocrine secretions of the pancreas enzymes carried from the pancreas to the second part of the duodenum.

exocrine gland /ɪkˈsɜːkrən glænd/ noun a gland with ducts which channel secretions to particular parts of the body such as the liver, the sweat glands, the pancreas and the salivary glands. Compare endocrine gland

exogenous /ɪkˈsəʊnjən/ adjective developing or caused by something outside the organism. Compare endogenous

exophthalmos /ɪkˈsəʊfələməs/ noun protruding eyeballs

exoskeleton /ɪkˈsəʊskələn/ noun the outer skeleton of some animals such as insects.

exotropia /ɪkˈsəʊtrəpiə/ noun vergent strabismus

exotoxin /ɪkˈsəʊtoʊtɪn/ noun a poison produced by bacteria, which affects parts of the body away from the place of infection, e.g. the toxins which cause botulism or tetanus.

exposure /ɪkˈsəʊprrəʊ/ noun a form of hyperthyroidism, in which the neck swells and the eyes protrude. Also called Graves' disease

exostosis /ɪkˈsəʊstəsɪs/ noun a benign growth on the surface of a bone

exotic /ɪkˈsɔtɪk/ adjective referring to a disease which occurs in a foreign country

exotoxin /ɪkˈsəʊtoʊtɪn/ noun a poison produced by bacteria, which affects parts of the body away from the place of infection, e.g. the toxins which cause botulism or tetanus.

exstrophy /ɪkˈsɔtəfrɪpə/ noun same as diverticulum
expectorate /ɪkˈspektaɪrət/ verb to cough up phlegm or sputum from the respiratory passages
expectoration /ɪkˈspektaɪrəʃən/ noun the act of coughing up fluid or phlegm from the respiratory tract
expel /ɪkˈspiːl/ verb to send something out of the body ○ Air is expelled from the lungs when a person breathes out.

The report exposed a
1. the fact of being damp, cold and with no protection from the weather ○ The survivors of the crash were all suffering from exposure after spending a night in the snow.
2. to squeeze liquid or air out of something, especially to squeeze out breast milk for a baby to feed on later

expression /ɪkˈspresʃən/ noun 1. the look on a person’s face which shows what he or she thinks and feels ○ His expression showed that he was annoyed. 2. the act of pushing something out of the body ○ the expression of the fetus and placenta during childbirth

exquisitely tender /ɪkˌskwɪzɪtli ˈtendər/ adjective producing a sharp localised pain or tenderness when touched
exsanguinate /ɪkˈsæŋgwɪneɪt/ verb to drain blood from the body

The patient is una-
1. a surgical operation to bring an internal organ to the outside surface of the body
2. The look
1. to send something out of the body ○ The patient is unable to extend his arms fully.

extension /ɪkˈstɛnʃən/ noun 1. the stretching or straightening out of a joint 2. the stretching of a joint by traction

external /ɪkˈstərɪəl/ adjective ○ the outside of the body ○ external iliac artery

exsufflation /eksəˈsʌfləʃən/ noun an act of forcing breath out of the body

Exsufflation, the act of being exposed to something
1. The process of learning from exposure ○ The scientist did some experiments to try the new drug on a small sample of people.

expert patient /ɪkˈspɜːrt ˈpeɪʃnt/ noun a patient with a long-term illness who has been taught how to manage his or her own medical care

The patient was exposed to a lethal dose of radiation.

 expiration /ɪkˈspɛrəʃən/ noun 1. the act of breathing out, or pushing air out of the lungs ○ Expiration takes place when the chest muscles relax and the lungs become smaller. Opposite inspiration 2. dying 3. to cough up phlegm or sputum from the respiratory tract

expiratory /ɪkˈspɛrətɔrɪ/ adjective referring to the process of breathing out

expire /ɪkˈspɛrə/ verb 1. to breathe out 2. to die

explosion /ɪkˈsplɔzən/ noun tissue taken from a body and grown in a culture in a laboratory 1. to take tissue from a body and grow it in a culture in a laboratory 2. to remove an implant

explication /ɪkˈsplɪkʃən/ noun a procedure or surgical operation where the aim is to discover the cause of symptoms or the nature and extent of an illness

exploratory /ɪkˈsplɔrətɔrɪ/ adjective referring to an exploration

exploratory surgery /ɪkˈsplɔrətɔrɪ ˈsɜːrərɪ/ noun a surgical operation in which the aim is to discover a person’s symptoms or the nature and extent of an illness

explore /ɪkˈsplɔr/ verb to examine a part of the body in order to make a diagnosis

expose /ɪkˈspɔzə/ verb 1. to show something which was hidden ○ The operation exposed a generalised cancer. ○ The report exposed a lack of medical care on the part of some of the hospital staff. 2. to place something or someone under the influence of something ○ He was exposed to the disease for two days. ○ She was exposed to a lethal dose of radiation.

exposure /ɪkˈspɔrəsən/ noun 1. the fact of being exposed to something ○ His exposure to radiation 2. the fact of being damp, cold and with

The body in order to make a diagnosis

external auditory canal /ɪkˈstɛrɪəli ˈɔːdɪtɔrɪ ˈkænəl/ noun a tube in the skull leading from the outer ear to the eardrum. See illustration at Ears in Supplement

external cardiac massage /ɪkˈstɛrɪəl ˈkærdɪk ˈmeɪsʒər/ noun a method of making someone’s heart start beating again by rhythmic pressing on the breastbone

external ear /ɪkˈstɛrɪəl ˈɛər/ noun same as outer ear

external haemorrhoids /ɪkˈstɛrɪəli ˈhɛmərərəʊdɪz/ plural noun haemorrhoids in the skin just outside the anus

external iliac artery /ɪkˈstɛrɪəli ˈɛlɪək ˈɛərɪə/ noun an artery which branches from the aorta in the abdomen and leads to the leg
external jugular

138

external jugular /ɪkˈstrækʃəlˈdʒʊlər/ noun the main jugular vein in the neck, leading from the temporal vein

externally /ɪkˈstrækʃənl/ adverb on the outside of the body. The ointment should only be used externally.

external nares plural noun same as anterior nares

external oblique /ɪkˈstrækʃənl/ noun an outer muscle covering the abdomen

external otitis /ɪkˈstrækʃənl/ noun same as otitis externa

external respiration /ɪkˈstrækʃənl/ verb to remove something by surgery

extirpation /ɪkˈstræpʃən/ noun the total removal of a structure, an organ or growth by surgery

extra- /ɪkstrə/ prefix outside

extracapsular /ɪkˈstrækpsjʊlər/ adjective outside a capsule

extracapsular fracture /ɪkˈstrækpsjʊlər ˈfræktʃən/ noun a fracture of the upper part of the femur, which does not involve the capsule round the hip joint

extracapsular fluid /ɪkˈstrækpsjʊlər ˈfluːd/ noun a fluid which surrounds cells

extract noun /ɪkˈstrækt/ a preparation made by removing water or alcohol from a substance, leaving only the essence. Liver extract concentrated essence of liver. ■ verb /ɪkˈstrækt/ to take out something. 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 /ɪkˈstrækʃən/ 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 /ɪkˈstrædʒʊrəl/ adjective same as epidural

extradural haematoma /ɪkˈstrædʒʊrəl hɪˈmətəmə/ noun a blood clot which forms in the head outside the dura mater, caused by a blow

extradural haemorrhage /ɪkˈstrædʒʊrəl ˈhemərədʒ/ noun a serious condition where bleeding occurs between the dura mater and the skull

extraembryonic /ɪkˈstræmbriˈɒnɪk/ adjective referring to part of a fertilised ovum, such as the amnion, allantois and chorion which is not part of the embryo

extraembryonic membranes /ɪkˈstræmbrɪˈɒnmənз/ noun membranes which are not part of the embryo.

extrapleural /ɪkˈstræpljʊrəl/ adjective outside the pleural cavity

extrapyramidal /ɪkˈstræpɪrəmɪd/ adjective outside the pyramidal tracts

extrapyramidal system /ɪkˈstræpɪrəmɪd/ noun a motor system which carries motor nerves outside the pyramidal system

extrapyramidal tracts /ɪkˈstræpɪrəmɪd/ noun same as extrapyramidal system

extravesical /ɪkˈstrævɛsɪkəl/ adjective involving perception by means other than the usual five senses

extravasation /ɪkˈstrævəˈseɪʃən/ noun a situation where a bodily fluid, such as blood or secretions, escapes into tissue

extraversion /ɪkˈstrævɜːrsən/ noun same as extroversion

extravert /ɪkˈstrævɜːrnt/ noun same as extrovert

extremities /ɪkˈstrɛmətɪz/ plural noun the parts of the body at the ends of limbs, e.g. the fingers, toes, nose and ears

extremity /ɪkˈstrɛməti/ noun 1. a limb. 2. the part of a limb furthest away from the body, especially the hand or foot. 3. a situation or state of great distress or danger. 4. the greatest intensity of something

extrinsic /ɪksˈtrɪンsk/ adjective external, originating outside a structure

extrinsic allergic alveolitis /ɪksˌtrɪnsɪk aˈlɪvɪəlɪtɪs/ noun a condition in which the lungs are allergic to fungus and other allergens

extrinsic factor /ɪksˌtrɪnsɪk ˈfæktər/ noun a former term for vitamin B12, which is necessary for the production of red blood cells

extrinsic ligament /ɪksˌtrɪnsɪk ˈlɪgəmənt/ noun a ligament between the bones in a joint which is separate from the joint capsule

extrinsic muscle /ɪksˌtrɪnsɪk ˈmjʊsəl/ noun a muscle which is some way away from the point at which it operates

extroversion /ɪkˈstrævɜːrsən/ 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 the result of a condition or disease

extroverted /əkstrəvət/ adjective 1. (of a person) interested in people and things other than oneself 2. (of an organ) turned inside out

extudation /eksjju'deʃən/ noun the escape of material such as fluid or cells into tissue as a defence mechanism

eyeball /ə'baːl/ noun the round ball of tissue through which light passes, located in the eye socket and controlled by various muscles

COMMENT: Light rays enter the eye through the cornea, pass through the pupil and are refracted through the aqueous humour onto the lens, which then focuses the rays through the vitreous humour onto the retina at the back of the eyeball. Impulses from the retina pass along the optic nerve to the brain.

eye bank /ə'baŋk/ noun a place where parts of eyes given by donors can be kept for use in grafts

eyebath /ə'bɒθ/ noun a small dish into which a solution can be put for bathing the eye

eye ointment /ə'nɔntmənt/ noun an ointment in a special tube to be used in eye treatment

eyesight /ə'saɪt/ noun the ability to see
He has got very good eyesight. ○ Failing eyesight is common in elderly people.

eye specialist /ə'stsɛ'lɪst/ noun same as ophthalmologist

eyestrain /ə'streɪn/ noun tiredness in the muscles of the eye with a headache, which may be caused by an activity such as reading in bad light or working on a computer screen. Also called asthenopia

eye test /ə'test/ noun an examination of the inside of an eye to see if it is working correctly, and if the person needs glasses

eyetooth /ə'tɒθ/ noun a canine tooth, one of two pairs of pointed teeth next to the incisors

(Note: The plural is eyeteeth.)
Faab: Fahrenheit

face /feis/ noun the front part of the head, where the eyes, nose and mouth are placed  
verb to have your face towards or to look towards something  

face delivery /'feis d3ˈliːvəri/ noun a birth where the baby's face appears first

face lift /'feis lɪft/ face-lifting operation /ˈfeɪs ˈlɪftɪŋ əˈpɜːrəni/ noun a surgical operation to remove wrinkles on the face and neck

face mask /ˈfeɪs mɑːsk/ noun 1. a rubber mask 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

face presentation /ˈfeɪs ˈprɛzən(t)/ noun a position of a baby in the uterus where the face will appear first at birth

face /ˈfeɪs/ noun a flat surface on a bone

facet syndrome /ˈfeɪset ˌsɪndrəʊm/ noun a condition in which a joint in the vertebrae becomes dislocated

facial /ˈfeɪʃ(ə)l/ adjective relating to, or appearing on, the face  
The psychiatrist examined the patient's facial expression.

facial artery /ˈfeɪʃ(ə)rət/ noun an artery which branches off the external carotid into the face and mouth

facial nerve /ˈfeɪʃ(ə)l nɜːrv/ noun the seventh cranial nerve, which governs the muscles of the face, the taste buds on the front of the tongue and the salivary and lacrimal glands

fainting /ˈfeɪnt/ noun, -ing verb to lose consciousness through lack of blood to the brain

facial paralysis /ˈfeɪʃ(ə)l ˈpɑːrələsɪs/ noun same as Bell's palsy

facial vein /ˈfeɪʃ(ə)l ˈvɛn/ noun a vein which drains down the side of the face into the internal jugular vein

facial incision /ˈfeɪʃ(ə)l ɪnˈsɪʃn/ noun a surgical incision made in the face or neck

facilities /ˈfeɪʃələtɪz/ plural noun something such as equipment, accommodation, treatment or help that is provided for people who need them  
The provision of aftercare facilities

factor /ˈfæktər/ noun 1. something which has an influence or which makes something else take place 2. a substance, variously numbered, e.g. Factor I, Factor II, in the plasma, which makes the blood coagulate when a blood vessel is injured

Factor IX /ˈfæktoʊr ˈɪx/ noun a protein in plasma which promotes the clotting of blood and is lacking in people with haemophilia B. Also called Christmas factor

Factor VIII /ˈfæktoʊr ˈwɛt/ noun a protein in plasma which promotes the clotting of blood and is lacking in people with haemophilia A

Factor XII /ˈfæktoʊr ˈtwɛlভ/ noun a protein in plasma which promotes the clotting of blood and is lacking in people with haemophilia C

face /feɪs/ verb to be in the process of dying (informal)

facial /ˈfɛs(ə)l/ adjective referring to faces

faecal /ˈfɛkləl/ adjective referring to faeces

faecal impaction /ˈfɛkləl ɪmˈpækʃən/ noun a condition in which a hardened mass of faeces stays in the rectum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>baby</td>
<td>An immature infant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall ill</td>
<td>To become ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall asleep</td>
<td>To go to sleep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fall</td>
<td>To descend or to lose height.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family therapy</td>
<td>A type of psychotherapy where members of the family are treated together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>familial</td>
<td>Pertaining to or affecting a family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family planning clinic</td>
<td>A clinic that provides advice on contraception.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family doctor</td>
<td>A doctor who provides medical care to a family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family planning</td>
<td>The use of contraception to control the number of children in a family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>false</td>
<td>Not true or not real.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>false pains</td>
<td>Pains which appear to be labour pains but are not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>false pregnancy</td>
<td>A condition in which a woman believes wrongly that she is pregnant and displays symptoms and signs of pregnancy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>false rib</td>
<td>One of the bottom five ribs on each side which are not directly attached to the breastbone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>false teeth</td>
<td>Artificial teeth made of plastic, which fit in the mouth and take the place of teeth which have been extracted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>false vocal cords</td>
<td>Cords which are not used in speech but that can produce sound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>falsify</td>
<td>To alter or to make false.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>falsification</td>
<td>The act of falsifying or the state of being falsified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faeces</td>
<td>Waste matter from the bowels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faecolith</td>
<td>Faecal matter that is solid and hard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>failure to thrive</td>
<td>A condition in which a child does not grow or develop as expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faecostolith</td>
<td>Faecal solid matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fagenbach's splint</td>
<td>A splint used to support the foot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fagenbach's palsy</td>
<td>A neurological disorder affecting the foot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>falciform</td>
<td>In the shape of a sickle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallopian tube</td>
<td>One of two tubes that connect the ovaries to the uterus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMENT:**

- To convert degrees Fahrenheit into Celsius, subtract 32 and divide the number by 1.8.
- To convert degrees Celsius into Fahrenheit, multiply the number by 1.8 and add 32.
- The degree sign: °F.
- Fahrenheit scale: °F (common in the UK. Usually written as an ‘F’ after the degree sign: 32°F (say: ‘thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit’).)

**NOTE:**

- United States: To convert degrees Fahrenheit into Celsius, subtract 32 and divide the number by 1.8.
- United States: To convert degrees Celsius into Fahrenheit, multiply the number by 1.8 and add 32.
- United States: The symbol °F is 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’).
famotidine

family of a person with a disorder meet a therapist 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 /fænˈkaʊni ˌsɪmɑːrəʊni/ noun a kidney disorder where amino acids are present in the urine (Described 1927. After Giulio Fanconi (b.1892), Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Zurich, Switzerland.)

fantasise /ˈfænstəsaɪz, ˈfæntəsaɪz/ verb to imagine that something has happened

fantasy /ˈfæntəsɪ/ noun a series of imaginary events which someone believes really took place

FAP abbr familial adenomatous polyposis

farcy /ˈfɑːsɜːri/ noun a form of glanders which affects the lymph nodes

farinaceous /ˈfærɪneɪʃəs/ 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 fasciae.)

fascia lata /ˈfæʃə lətə/ noun a wide sheet of tissue covering the thigh muscles

fasciculation /ˈfæskɪʃjuːleɪʃən/ noun small muscle movements which appear as trembling skin

fasciculus /ˈfæskɪkələs/ noun a bundle of nerve fibres (NOTE: The plural is fasciculi.)

fascilitis /ˈfæskɪlətɪs/ noun an inflammation of the connective tissue between muscles or around organs

fascioliasis /ˈfæskɪləˌlɑːsɪs/ noun a disease caused by parasitic liver flukes

fascioliosis /ˈfæskɪloʊsɪs/ noun a type of liver fluke, often found in the Far East, which is transmitted to humans through contaminated waterplants

fast /fæst/ noun a period of going without food, e.g. to lose weight or for religious reasons

fasting /ˈfæstɪŋ/ noun the highest temperature during a bout of fever

fat /fæt/ adjective big and round in the body (NOTE: Fat has no plural when it means the substance: 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-)

fatality /fəˈteɪlɪti/ noun a death as the result of something other than natural causes

fatally /ˈfetəli/ adverb in a way which causes death (NOTE: His heart was fatally weakened by the lung disease.)

father /ˈfɑːðər/ noun a biological or adoptive male parent

fatigue /ˈfætɪdʒ/ noun very great tiredness

fat-soluble /ˈfæt ˌsɒljəb/ adjective able to dissolve in fat

fat-soluble vitamin D is fat-soluble.

fatty acid /ˈfætɪ ˈæsɪd/ noun an organic acid belonging to a group that occurs naturally as fats, oils and waxes

essential fatty acid

fatty degeneration /ˈfætɪ diˌdʒɛnərəʃən/ noun same as adipose degeneration

fauces /ˈfɔːsɪz/ noun an opening between the tonsils at the back of the throat, leading to the pharynx

favism /ˈfævɪzɪzm/ noun a type of inherited anaemia caused by an allergy to beans

faux /fɔːx/ noun a highly conspicuous type of ringworm caused by a fungus which attacks the scalp

FDA abbr US Food and Drug Administration

feed /fiːd/ noun a state where a person is afraid of something (NOTE: Fear of flying)

febricula /ˈfiːbrɪkjuːlə/ noun a low fever

febrifuge /ˈfiːbrɪfjʊdʒ/ noun a drug which prevents or lowers a fever, e.g. aspirin

febrile /ˈfiːbrɪl/ adjective referring to a fever, or caused by a fever

febrile convulsion /ˈfiːbrɪl kənˈvʌlsʃən/ noun a convulsion in a child, lasting a short time, associated with a fever

febrile disease /ˈfiːbrɪl dɪzəs/ noun a disease which is accompanied by fever
fécal /ˈfɪk(ə)l/ adjective US same as faecal

faecation /ˈfɛkər desʃən/ noun the act of bringing male and female reproductive material together. Also called fertilisation

feeble /ˈfiːb(ə)l/ adjective very weak

feed /fiːd/ verb to give food to someone He was to be fed with a spoon. The baby has reached the stage when she can feed herself. (NOTE: feeding – fed)

feedback /ˈfiːdbæk/ noun 1. information or comments about something that has been done The patients’ responses were fed back to the students.

Fehling’s test /ˈfɛlinz test/ noun a test for a solution used in Fehling’s test to detect sugar in urine [Described 1848. After Hermann Christian von Fehling (1812–85), Professor of Chemistry at Stuttgart, Germany.]

Fehling’s solution /ˈfɛlinz sə ljuːʃən/ noun a solution used in Fehling’s test to detect sugar in urine [Described 1848. After Hermann Christian von Fehling (1812–85), Professor of Chemistry at Stuttgart, Germany.]

femoral /ˈfɛmərəl/ adjective referring to the femur or to the thigh

femoral artery /ˈfɛmərəl ˈætərɪ/ noun a continuation of the external iliac artery, which runs down the front of the thigh and then crosses to the back of the thigh

femoral canal /ˈfɛmərəl kə ˈneɪl/ noun the inner tube of the sheath surrounding the femoral artery and vein

femoral head /ˈfɛmərəl ˈhead/ noun the head of the femur, the rounded projecting end part of the thigh bone which joins the acetabulum at the hip

femoral hernia /ˈfɛmərəl ˈhɜrniə/ noun a hernia of the bowel at the top of the thigh

femoral neck /ˈfɛmərəl ˈnek/ noun the narrow part between the head and the diaphysis of the femur. Also called neck of the bone

femoral nerve /ˈfɛmərəl nərv/ noun a nerve which governs the muscle at the front of the thigh

femoral pulse /ˈfɛmərəl ˈpɔls/ noun a pulse taken in the groin

femoral triangle /ˈfɛmərəl ˈtræŋɡəl/ noun a slight hollow in the groin which contains the femoral vessels and nerve. Also called Scarpa’s triangle

femoral vein /ˈfɛmərəl vɛn/ noun a vein running up the upper leg, a continuation of the popliteal vein

femoris /ˈfɛmərəs/ noun femur /ˈfɛmərə/ plural of femur

femur /ˈfɛmər/ noun the bone in the top part of the leg which joins the acetabulum at the hip and the tibia at the knee. Also called thighbone. See illustration at Pelvis. [NOTE: The plural is femora.]

fen /fɛn/ suffix used in names of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs ibuprofen

fenestration /fənˈɛstrəʃən/ noun a surgical operation to relieve deafness by making a small opening in the inner ear

fentanyl /fənˈtɛnəl/ noun a narcotic drug that is a powerful painkiller

fermentation /fərˌmɛnˈteɪʃən/ noun a process where carbohydrates are broken down
Ferric /ˈfɜːrɪk/ adjective containing iron with a valency of three

Ferritin /ˈfɜːrtɪn/ 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 /ˈfɜːrəs/ adjective containing iron with a valency of two

Ferrous sulphate /ˌfɜːrəs ˈsʌlfət/ noun a white or pale green iron salt that is used in the treatment of iron-deficient anaemia

Ferrule /ˈfɜːrəl/ 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 /ˈfɜːtrəl/ adjective able to produce children. Opposite sterile

Fertilisation /ˌfɜːtrəˈlɪzəʃən, -ˈlɪtərəʃən/; fertilization noun the joining of an ovum and a sperm to form a zygote and so start the development of an embryo

Fertilise /ˈfɜːtrəlaɪz/, fertilize verb (of a sperm) to join with an ovum

Fertility /ˈfɜːtrəlɪti/ noun the fact of being fertile. Opposite sterility

Fertility drug /ˈfɜːtrəlti ˈdrʌg/ noun a drug that stimulates ovulation, given to women undergoing in vitro fertilisation

Fertility rate /ˈfɜːtrəlti ˈreɪt/ noun the number of births per year calculated per 1000 females aged between 15 and 44

FESS abbr functional endoscopic sinus surgery

Fester /ˈfɛstər/ verb (of an infected wound) to become inflamed and produce pus. ■ His legs were covered with festering sores.

Festation /ˌfɛstəˈneɪʃən/ noun a way of walking in which a person takes short steps, seen in people who have Parkinson’s disease

Fetal /ˈfɛttəl/ adjective referring to a fetus

Fetal alcohol syndrome /ˈfɛtt(ə)l əˈlɑːkəl sɪˈrɒndrəʊm/ 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. Abbreviation FAS

Fetal distress /ˈfɛtt(ə)l dɪˈstres/ noun a condition, e.g., a heart or respiratory problem, in which a fetus may not survive if the condition is not monitored and corrected

Fetal dystocia /ˌfɛtt(ə)l dɪˈstɑːsɪə/ noun a difficult childbirth caused by a malformation or malpresentation of the fetus

Fetal heart /ˈfɛtt(ə)l ˈhɑːrt/ noun the heart of the fetus

Fetalis /ˈfɛttəlɪs/ eurhythmiastis

Fetal monitor /ˌfɛtt(ə)l ˈmɒnɪtər/ noun an electronic device which monitors the fetus in the uterus

Fetal position /ˈfɛtt(ə)l pəˈzɪʃən/ noun a position where a person lies curled up on his or her side, like a fetus in the uterus

Fetishism /ˌfɛtʃɪzəm/ noun a psychological disorder in which someone gets sexual satisfaction from touching objects

Fetishist /ˈfɛtʃɪst/ noun a person who has fetishism

Feto- /ˌfɛtəʊ-/ prefix fetus

Fetoprotein /ˌfɛtəʊprəˈtɪ prot/ noun • alpha-fetoprotein

Fetor /ˈfɛtor/ noun a bad smell

Fetoscope /ˌfɛtəskəʊp/ noun a stethoscope used in fetoscopy

Fetoscopy /ˌfɛtəskəʊpi/ noun an examination of a fetus inside the uterus, taking blood samples to diagnose birth defects

Fetus /ˈfɛtəs/ noun an unborn baby from two months after conception until birth, before which it is called an embryo

FEV abbr forced expiratory volume

Fever /ˈfɪvər/ noun 1. a rise in body temperature. ■ You are 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 37.2°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 include cat-scratch fever, dengue, malaria, meningitis, psittacosis, Q fever, rheumatic fever, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, scarlet fever, septicaemia, typhoid fever, typhus and yellow fever.

Fever blister /ˈfɪvər ˈblɪstər/ noun same as fever sore

Feverfew /ˈfɪvər fjuː/ noun a herb, formerly used to reduce fevers, but now used to relieve migraine

Feverish /ˈfɪvərɪʃ/ adjective with a fever. ■ He felt feverish and took an aspirin. ■ She is in bed with a feverish chill.

Fever sore /ˈfɪvər sɔr/ noun a cold sore or burning sore, usually on the lips

Fiber /ˈfaɪbr/ noun US same as fibre

Fibr- /ˈfaɪbr-/ prefix referring to fibres, fibrous (used before vowels)

Fibrate /ˈfaɪbrɪt/ suffix used in names of lipid-lowering drugs

Fibre /ˈfaɪbr/ noun 1. a structure in the body shaped like a thread, same as dietary fibre

Fibre optics /ˈfaɪbər ˈɒptɪks, ˈfaɪbrəˌɒptɪks/ fiberoptics noun the use of thin fibres which conduct light and images to examine internal organs

Fibrescope /ˌfaɪbərˈskəʊp/ noun a device made of bundles of optical fibres which is passed into the body, used for examining internal organs

Fibril /ˈfaɪbrəl/ noun a very small fibre
fibrillate /fəbriˈleɪt/ verb to undergo rapid irregular uncontrolled contractions, or make the heart or muscles undergo this type of contraction

fibrillating /fəbriˈleɪtɪŋ/ adjective with fluttering of a muscle. They applied a defibrillator to correct a fibrillating heartbeat.

fibrillation /fəbriˈleɪʃən/ 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 /ˈfɪbrɪn/ noun a protein produced by fibrinogen, which helps make blood coagulate. Removal of fibrin from a blood sample is called defibrination.

fibrin foam /fibrɪn fɔʊm/ noun a white material made artificially from fibrinogen, used to prevent bleeding

fibrinogen /ˈfɪbrɪnədʒɪn/ noun a substance in blood plasma which produces fibrin when activated by thrombin

fibrinolysin /fɪbrɪnəˈlɒsɪn/ noun an enzyme which digests fibrin. Also called plasmin

fibrinolysis /fɪbrɪnəˈlɒsɪs/ noun the removal of blood clots from the system by the action of fibrinolysin on fibrin. Also called thrombolysis

fibrinolytic /ˌfɪbrɪnəˈlɒtɪk/ adjective referring to fibrinolysis. Also fibrinolytic drugs. Also called thrombolytic

fibre /ˈfaɪbər/ noun referring to fibres

fibre /ˈfaɪbər/ noun a joint where fibrous tissue holds two bones together so that they cannot move, as in the bones of the skull

fibrous /ˈfaɪbərəs/ adjective made of fibres, or like fibre

fibrous capsule /ˌfaɪbərəs ˈkæpsjʊl/ noun fibrous tissue surrounding a kidney. Also called renal capsule

fibrous joint /ˌfaɪbərəs ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint where fibrous tissue holds two bones together so that they cannot move, as in the bones of the skull

fibrous degeneration /ˌfaɪbərəs dɪˈdʒɛnərəʃən/ noun the change of healthy tissue to fibrous tissue, e.g. as in cirrhosis of the liver

fibroid /ˈfaɪbroid/ noun a benign tumour in the muscle fibres of the uterus. Also called uterine fibroid, fibromyoma

fibroma /ˈfaɪbrəʊma/ noun a small benign tumour formed in connective tissue

fibromuscular /ˌfaɪbərəʊˈmjuːskjʊlər/ adjective referring to fibrous tissue and muscular tissue

fibromyxoma /ˌfaɪbərəʊˈmɪksoʊmə/ noun same as fibroid tumour

fibrosis /ˈfaɪbərəsɪs/ noun the process of replacing damaged tissue by scar tissue

fibrositis /ˈfaɪbərəsɪtɪs/ noun a painful inflammation of the fibrous tissue which surrounds muscles and joints, especially the muscles of the back

fibrous /ˈfaɪbərəs/ adjective referring to a thread

filament /ˈfɪləmənt/ noun a long thin structure like a thread
filamentous /'filǝ'me ntəs/ adjective like a thread
Filaria /fil'rēəriə/ 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 /fil'rēərəsɨs/ noun a tropical disease caused by parasitic threadworms in the lymph system, transmitted by mosquito bites

FILFORM /'filfrəm/ adjective shaped like a thread

FILFORM PAPILLAE /'filfrəmpəpiləi/ plural noun papillae on the tongue which are shaped like threads, and have no taste buds

FILIPUNCTURE /'filıpəŋktə/ noun the procedure of putting a wire into an aneurysm to cause blood clotting

FILL /fil/ verb ☞ to fill a tooth to put metal into a hole in a tooth after it has been drilled

FILLING /'filın/ 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 /'film/ noun a very thin layer of a substance covering a surface

FILTER /'filtə/ noun a piece of paper or cloth through which a liquid is passed to remove any solid substances in it ☞ verb to pass a liquid through a membrane, piece of paper or cloth to remove solid substances ☞ IMPURITIES are filtered from the blood by the kidneys.

FILTRATE /'filtret/ noun a substance which has passed through a filter

FILTRATION /'filtrəʃən/ noun the action of passing a liquid through a filter

FILUM /'fi/ləm/ noun a structure which is shaped like a thread

FILUM TERMINALE /'fi/ləm'tərəniəlɛ/ noun the thin end section of the pia mater in the spinal cord

FIM abbr functional independence measure

FIMBRIA /'fimbrɪə/ 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 /'fi:mnə(kə)l, kə'mən pˈæθweɪ/ noun linked neurons which take all impulses from the central nervous system to a muscle

FINE /'fain/ adjective 1. healthy ☞ He was ill last week, but he's feeling fine now, 2. referring to something such as hair or thread which is very thin ☞ There is a growth of fine hair on the back of her neck. ☞ Fine sutures are used for delicate operations.

FINGER /'fɪŋɡər/ 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: thumb, index finger, middle finger, ring finger, little finger)

COMMENT: Each finger is formed of three finger bones (the phalanges), but the thumb has only two.

FINGERNAIL /'fɪŋɡə'nɛl/ noun a hard thin growth covering the end of a finger ☞ ridged and damaged fingernails

FINGER-NOSE TEST /'fɪŋɡər-'nɔzd test/ 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 /'fɪŋɡəpərnt/ noun a mark left by a finger when something is touched. ☞ GENETIC FINGERPRINT /'fɪŋɡəstæktəl/ noun a cover for an infected finger, attached to the hand with strings

FIREMAN’S LIFT /'faɪrmənən 'lɪft/ noun a way of carrying an injured person by putting their body over one shoulder

FIRM /'fɜrm/ 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 /'faɪst ɪəd/ noun help given by a non-medical person to someone who is suddenly ill or injured before full-scale medical treatment can be given ☞ She gave him first aid in the street until the ambulance arrived.

FIRST-AIDER /'faɪst ədə/ noun a person who gives first aid to someone who is suddenly ill or injured

FIRST-AID KIT /'faɪst əd ˈki/t/ noun a box with bandages and dressings kept ready to be used in an emergency

FIRST-AID POST /'faɪst əd poʊst/ noun a place where injured people can be taken for immediate care

FIRST-DEGREE BURN /'faɪst dɪˈɡri ˈbɜrn/ noun a former classification of the severity of a burn, where the skin turns red

FIRST-DEGREE HAEMORRHOIDS /'faɪst dɪˌɡri həˌmərərðz/ plural noun haemorrhoids which remain in the rectum

FIRST-DEGREE RELATIVE /'faɪst dɪˌɡri ˈrɛlɪtɪv/ noun a relative with whom an individual shares 50% of their genes, e.g. a father, mother, sibling or child

FIRST-EVER STROKE /'faɪst ˈɛvər strəʊk/ noun a stroke which someone has for the first time in his or her life

FIRST INTENTION /'faɪst ɪnˈtenʃən/ noun the healing of a clean wound where the tissue forms again rapidly and no prominent scar is left

FIRST-LEVEL NURSE /'faɪst ˈlevəl ˈnɜrs/ 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 /fisəl/ adjective able to split or be split
fission /fɪʃn/ noun the act of dividing into two or more parts
fissure /fɪʃər/ 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 /fɪst/ noun a hand which is tightly closed
fungus /ˈfʌŋɡəs/ noun a microorganism that lacks chlorophyll and obtains its nourishment in various ways
fistula /ˈfɪstjʊlə/ noun a passage or opening which has been made unusually between two organs, often near the rectum or anus
fistula in ano /ˈfɪstjʊlə ɪn əˈnɔʊ/ noun the 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 is still too ill to work. □ He had a fit of coughing. □ He had an epileptic fit. □ The baby had a series of fits. □ One 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 a brassiere. 3. to have convulsions □ The patient has had fits 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 /fɪksɪd/ adjective referring to a person who has too close an attachment to another person, often to a parent
fixation /fɪkˈseɪʃən/ noun a psychological disorder where a person does not develop beyond a particular stage
fixative /fɪkˈseɪtɪv/ noun a chemical used in the preparation of samples on slides
fixator /fɪkˈseɪtər/ noun a metal rod placed through a bone to keep a part of the body rigid
fixed /fɪksɪd/ adjective soft fat flesh (informal) □ He’s doing exercises to try to fight the flab.
flabby /ˈflæbɪ/ adjective with soft flesh □ She looked so flabby from sitting at her desk all day.
flaccid /ˈflæksɪd/ adjective soft or flabby
flaccidity /ˈflæksɪdi/ti noun the state of being flaccid
flaccid /ˈflækɪd/ adjective a type of parasitic protozoan which uses whip-like hairs to swim, e.g. Leishmania
flagellate /ˈflæɡələt/ noun a type of parasitic protozoan which uses whip-like hairs to swim, e.g. Leishmania
flagellum /ˈflæɡələm/ noun a tiny growth on a microorganism, shaped like a whip (NOTE: The plural is flagella.)
flagyl /ˈflæɡɪl/ a trade name for metronidazole
flail /fleɪl/ verb to thrash around with uncontrolled or violent movements, particularly of the arms
flail /fleɪl/ noun a condition in which the chest is not stable, because several ribs have been broken
flame /fleɪm/ 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 /fleə/ noun reddened colouring of the skin at an infected spot or in urticaria
flashback /ˈflæʃbæk/ noun a repeated and very vivid memory of a traumatic event
flash burn /ˈflæʃ bɜːrn/ noun a burn caused when a body part is briefly exposed to a source of intense heat
flat foot /ˈflæt ˈfʊt, ˈflæt ʃʊt/ 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 /ˈflætlain/ verb to fail to show on a monitor any of the electrical currents associated with heart or brain activity □ a monitor readout on an EEG or ECG indicating total cessation of brain or cardiac activity, respectively
flatulence /ˈflætʃələns/ 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).
flautent /ˈflɔːtələnt/ adjective having flatulence, or caused by flatulence
flatworm /ˈflætəwɜːrn/ noun any of several types of parasitic worm with a flat body, e.g. a tapeworm. Compare roundworm
flea /flɪə/ 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 /ˈflɛkˌkeɪnəd/ noun a drug that helps to correct an irregular heartbeat
flesh /ˈfleʃ/ noun tissue containing blood, forming the part of the body which is not skin, bone or organs.

flesh wound /ˈfleʃ wʊnd/ noun a wound which only affects the fleshy part of the body. She had a flesh wound in her leg.

dental floss /ˈdental fʌʊrəs/ noun a type of floss used to clean between the teeth (also called dental tape).

dental floss /ˈdental fʌʊrəs/ noun a type of floss used to clean between the teeth (also called dental tape).

flex /ˈfleks/ verb to bend something □ to flex a joint to use a muscle to make a joint bend.

flexible /ˈfleksəbəl/ adjective having the ability to bend or stretch.

flexibility /ˈfleksəbɪləti/ noun the state of being flexible.

flexor /ˈfleksə/ noun a muscle which causes the act of bending a joint.

f lexor muscle /ˈfleksər mjuˈskjuːl/ noun a type of muscle that causes the joint to bend. Compare extensor.

flexure /ˈfleksər/ noun a bend in an organ, a fold in the skin.

floaters /ˈfleʊtəz/ plural noun same as microvolitantes.

floating kidney /ˈfleɪtɪŋ ˈkɪndi/ noun same as nephropathis.

floating rib /ˈfleɪtɪŋ rɪb/ noun one of the two lowest ribs on each side, which are not attached to the breastbone.

floccitation /ˈflɔ/ noun the act of bending a joint.

floccillation /ˈflɔ/ noun the act of bending a joint.

flocculation /ˈflɔ/ noun the act of bending a joint.

floppy baby syndrome /ˈfʌpi ˈbei bi ˌsɪn drəʊn/ noun same as amyotonia congenita.

flora /ˈflɔrə/ noun the bacteria which exist in a particular part of the body.

florid /ˈflɔrid/ adjective with an unhealthy, glowing pink or red complexion.

floss /flʌs/ noun same as dental floss.

flow /flɔ/ noun 1. a movement of liquid or gas. □ They used a tourniquet to try to stop the flow of blood. 2. the amount of liquid or gas which is moving. □ The meter measures the flow of water through the pipe.

flowmeter /ˈflɔ/ noun a meter attached to a pipe, e.g. as in anaesthetic equipment, to measure the speed at which a liquid or gas moves in the pipe.

flu /ˈfluː/ noun 1. same as influenza, a very bad cold. (informal) (NOTE: Sometimes written ‘flu to show it is a short form of influenza.)

fluconazole /ˈflʊkɔnəʊˌzɔl/ noun a drug used to treat fungal infections such as candidiasis.

fluid /ˈfluːd/ noun 1. a liquid. 2. any gas, liquid or powder which flows.

fluid balance /ˈfluːd ˈbæləns/ noun the maintenance of the balance of fluids in the body during dialysis or other treatment.

fluke /ˈflʌk/ noun a parasitic flatworm which settles inside the liver, in the bloodstream and in other parts of the body. flunitrazepam /ˈflʌnɪtrəzəpəm/ noun a tranquilliser that, because of its association with ‘date rape’ cases, is a controlled drug in the UK.

fluorescence /ˈfluːərəsəns/ noun the sending out of light from a substance which is receiving radiation.

fluorescent /ˈfluːərəsnt/ adjective referring to a substance which sends out light.

fluoridate /ˈfluːərɪdət/ verb to add fluoride to a substance, usually to drinking water, in order to help prevent tooth decay.

fluoride /ˈfluɔrɪd/ noun a chemical compound of fluorine and sodium, potassium or tin. □ fluoride toothpaste

fluoroscope /ˈfluɔrəskəpi/ noun an apparatus which projects an X-ray image of a part of the body onto a screen, so that the part of the body can be examined as it moves.

fluoroscopy /ˈfluɔrəskəpi/ noun an examination of the body using X-rays projected onto a screen.

fluorosis /ˈfluɔrəsɪs/ noun a condition caused by excessive fluoride in drinking water. (NOTE: At a low level, fluorosis causes discolouration of the teeth, and as the level of fluoride rises, ligaments can become calcified.)

fluoxetine /ˈfluɔˌkɛksətən/ noun a drug that increases serotonin in the brain and is used to treat anxiety and depression.

flush /flʌʃ/ noun a red colour on the skin. □ verb 1. to wash a wound with liquid. (of person) to turn red.

flushed /ˈflʌʃt/ adjective with a red skin, e.g. due to heat, emotion or overeating. □ Her face was flushed and she was breathing heavily.

flutter /ˈflʌtər, ˈflʌtərɪŋ/ noun a rapid movement, especially of the atria of the
heart, which is not controlled by impulses from the sinoatrial node

**flux**发财/noun an excessive production of liquid from the body

**focal**发财/adj adjective referring to a focus

**focal distance**发财/length/noun the distance between the lens of the eye and the point behind the lens where light is focused

**focal epilepsy**发财/epilepsy/noun epilepsy arising from a localised area of the brain

**focus**发财/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 (Note: He has difficulty in focusing on the object)

**focal group**发财/group/noun a discussion group of lay people brought together under professional guidance to discuss issues such as care

**fetal**发财/adj another spelling of foetal

**fetal myopathy**发财/myopathy/noun destruction of muscle tissue caused by a substance injected in an intramuscular injection

**fetus**发财/noun another spelling of fetus

**fetus**发财/noun another spelling of foetus

**fetid**发财/adj adjective of another spelling of fetor

**feticide**发财/verb to check on someone who has been examined before in order to assess the progress of a disease or the results of treatment

**fetoprotein**发财/protein/noun an antigen found in the blood of pregnant women

**fetoprotein test**发财/test/noun a test which measures the amount of the substance in the blood

**fetoscopy**发财/scope/noun another spelling of foetoscope

**fetoscope**发财/scope/noun another spelling of foetoscope

**fetor**发财/noun another spelling of foetor

**fetal**发财/adj another spelling of foetal

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**focal distance**发财/length/noun the distance between the lens of the eye and the point behind the lens where light is focused

**focal myopathy**发财/myopathy/noun a disease which can then be the means of passing on the disease to others

**foam**发财/noun the soft cartilage between the bony sections of a baby’s skull

**fontanel**发财/noun another spelling of fontanelle

**fontanelle**发财/noun the soft cartilage between the bony sections of a baby’s skull

**food allergen**发财/allergen/noun a substance in food which produces an allergy

**food allergy**发财/allergy/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**发财/canal/noun the passage from the mouth to the rectum through which food passes and is digested

**food intolerance**发财/intolerance/noun an adverse reaction to some foods such as oranges, eggs, tomatoes and strawberries

**food poisoning**发财/poison/noun an illness caused by eating food which is contaminated with bacteria

**food**发财/noun the end part of the leg on which a person stands

**foot**发财/noun a device to reduce the risk of post-operative deep-vein thrombosis by mechanical use of leg muscles
foramen /fərəmən/ noun a natural opening in the body, e.g. the opening in a bone through which veins or nerves pass (NOTE: The plural is foramina.)

foramen magnum /fərəmən ‘mægnəm/ noun the hole at the bottom of the skull where the brain is joined to the spinal cord

foramen ovale /fərəmən əv’vələ/ 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 /fərəmənə/ plural of foramen

forced expiratory volume /fɔrst ɪk ’səriər(ə)rɪ ˈvɔljuːm/ noun the maximum amount of air that can be expelled in a given time. Abbr FEV

force-feed /fɔrʃ ˈfiːd/ 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 ˈdɪlɪv(ə)ri/ noun childbirth where the doctor uses forceps to help the baby out of the mother’s uterus.

fore-/fɔr/ prefix in front.

forearm /fɔrərm/ noun the lower part of the arm from the elbow to the wrist.

forehead /fɔrəhed/ noun the part of the face above the eyes.

foreign /fɔrni/ 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 /fɔrni 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. The X-ray showed the presence of a foreign body. □ swallowed foreign bodies something which should not have been swallowed, e.g. a pin, coin or button.

foremilk /fɔr’milk/ noun the relatively low-fat milk with a high sugar content that is produced by a woman at the beginning of a breast feed.

forensic /fɔr’nsɪsk/ adjective relating to the use of science in solving criminal investigations or settling legal cases.

forensic medicine /fɔr’sɪnsk ’mɛdɪʃən/ 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.

forensic medicine /fɔrnsik /noun the skin covering the top of the penis, which can be removed by circumcision. Also called prepuce.

forewaters /fɔr’swɔtəz/ plural noun fluid which comes out of the vagina at the beginning of childbirth when the amnion bursts.

forehead /fɔr′hed/ noun the front part of the face.

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forebrain /fɔrbrɛn/ noun the front part of the brain in an embryo.

forefinger /fɔr′fɪŋgər/ noun the first finger on the hand, next to the thumb.

foregut /fɔr′ɡʌt/ noun the front part of the gut in an embryo.

forehead /fɔr′hed/ noun the part of the face above the eyes.

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falseness

falseness

fragility /ˈfræɡəlɪtɪ/ noun patterns of coloured light, seen as part of the aura before a migraine attack occurs

foscarnet /ˈfɔskərnt/ 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 /ˈfɒsə/ noun a shallow hollow in a bone or the skin

foster children /ˈfɒstər tʃɪldrən/ plural noun children brought up by people who are not their own parents

foster parent /ˈfɒstər pərənt/ noun a woman or man who brings up a child born to other parents

Fothergill’s operation /ˈfɔθərgəlz əpəˌrəʃən/ noun a surgical operation to correct prolapse of the uterus [After W. E. Fothergill (1865–1926), British gynaecologist.]

foundation hospital /ˈfɔʊndəʃən ˌhɒspɪtəl/ noun in the UK, a proposed type of hospital that would be independent of its Local Health Authority in financial matters

fourchette /ˈfɔɹʃet/ noun a fold of skin at the back of the vulva

fovea /ˈfɔviə/ fovea centralis /ˈfɔviə ˈsɛntrəlɪs/ noun sen tralfovea sen depression in the retina which is the point where the eye sees most clearly. See illustration at fovea in Supplement

FP10 /əf ˈpiː tʃiːn/ noun in the UK, an NHS prescription from a GP

fracture /ˈfræktʃər/ verb 1. (of bone) to break ○ The tibia fractured in two places. 2. to break a bone ○ He fractured his wrist. ○ noun a break in a bone ○ rib fracture or fracture of a rib

fractured /ˈfræktʃərd/ adjective broken ○ He had a fractured skull. ○ She went to hospital to have her fractured leg reset.

fragile /ˈfrædʒaɪl/ adjective easily broken ○ Elderly people’s bones are more fragile than those of adolescents.

fragile-X syndrome /ˈfrædʒaɪl eks ˈsɪniəm/ noun a hereditary condition in which part of an X chromosome is constricted, causing mental impairment

fragilitas /ˈfrædʒɪlɪtəs/ noun fragility or brittleness

fragilitas ossium /ˈfrædʒɪlɪtəs ˈɔsjuəm/ noun a hereditary condition where the bones are brittle and break easily, similar to osteogenesis imperfecta

frail /frɛl/ adjective weak, easily broken ○ Grandfather is getting frail, and we have to look after him all the time. ○ The baby’s bones are still very frail.

framboesia /ˈfræmboʊəsіə/ noun same as yaws

frame /freɪm/ noun 1. the particular size and shape of someone's body. ○ walking frame, Zimmer frame

framework /ˈfremwɜːk/ noun the main bones which make up the structure of part of the body

franciscan /ˈfrænsɪskən/ noun an animal kept for meat

fraternal twins /ˈfrɑːtərnl ˈtwɪnz/ plural noun same as dizygotic twins

freckle /ˈfrektəl/ noun a harmless small brownish patch on the skin that becomes more noticeable after exposure to the sun. Freckles are often found in people with fair hair. Also called lentigo ○ verb to mark something, or become marked with freckles

freckled /ˈfrɛktəld/ adjective with brown spots on the skin

freeze /ˈfrɪz/ verb to anaesthetise part of the body (informal) ○ They froze my big toe to remove the nail.

freeze dry, /ˈfrɪz drɛər/ verb to freeze something rapidly then dry it in a vacuum

freeze drying /ˈfrɪz ˌdriːŋ/ noun a method of preserving food or tissue specimens by freezing rapidly and drying in a vacuum

Freber's disease /ˈfriːbərz dɪˈziːz/ noun osteochondritis of the head of the second metatarsus [Described 1914. After Albert Henry Freberg (1869–1940), US surgeon.]

Frei test /ˈfriː tɛst/ noun a test for the vertebral disease lymphogranuloma inguinale [Described 1925. After Wilhelm Siegmund Frei (1885–1943), Professor of Dermatology at Berlin, Germany. He settled in New York, USA.]

fremilus /ˈfremɪləs/ noun vibrations or trembling in part of someone’s body, felt by the doctor’s hand or heard through a stethoscope

French letter /ˈfrɛŋkliət/ noun a mark on the body (informal)

frenectomy /ˈfriːnɛktəmi/ noun an operation to remove a frenum

Frenkel's exercises /ˈf rent kəlз ɛksəˈzɜːz/ plural noun exercises for people who have locomotor ataxia, to teach coordination of the muscles and limbs

frenotomy /ˈfriːnətəmə/ noun an operation to split a frenum

frenum /ˈfrɛnəm/, frenulum /ˈfrɛnjuːləm/ noun a fold of mucous membrane under the tongue or by the clitoris

frequency /ˈfrɛnsɪkwəns/ 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 /ˈfrel/ noun open air ○ They came out of the hospital into the fresh air.

fresh frozen plasma /ˈfreʃ frəznəl zəʊn/ noun plasma made from freshly donated blood, and kept frozen
fretful /fret(f)əl/ adjective referring to a baby that cries, cannot sleep or seems unhappy
Freudian /frʌɪdɪən/ adjective understandable in terms of Freud’s theories, especially with regard to human sexuality. noun someone who is influenced by or follows Freud’s theories or methods of psychoanalysis
frangible /frʌŋəbəl/ adjective easily broken up into small pieces
friar’s balsam /ˈfriərz ˈbɔːlsəm/ noun a mixture of various plant oils, including benzoin and balsam, which can be inhaled as a vapour to relieve bronchitis or congestion
friction /frɪkʃn/ noun the rubbing together of two surfaces
friction murmur /ˈfrɪkʃn ˈmɜːrmər/ noun a scratching sensation felt when the hand is placed on the chest of someone who has pericarditis
friction murmur /ˈfrɪkʃən ˈmɜːrmər/ noun the rubbing together, heard with a stethoscope in someone who has pericarditis or pleurisy
Friedländer’s bacillus /ˈfriːdˌlændərz ˈbæsəlɪs/ 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 /ˈfrɪdmanz ˈtest/ noun a test for pregnancy [After Maurice H. Friedman (b. 1903), US physician.]
Friedrich’s ataxia /ˈfrɪdrɪkz əˈteɪksiə/ 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 adioposogenitalis [Described 1863. After Nicholas Friedrich (1825–82), Professor of Pathological Anatomy at Würzburg, later Professor of Pathology and Therapy at Heidelberg, Germany.]
frigidity /ˈfrɪdʒɪdɪti/ noun the fact of being unable to experience orgasm, sexual pleasure or sexual desire
fringe medicine /ˈfrɪŋ miˈdɛs(ə)n/ noun types of medical practice which are not usually taught in medical schools, e.g. homeopathy or acupuncture (informal)
frog plaster /ˈfrɔɡ ˈpleɪstər/ noun a plaster cast made to keep the legs in an open position after an operation to correct a dislocated hip
Fröhlich’s syndrome /ˈfrʊhlɪks ˈsɪndrəʊm/ 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 /ˈfrɒn(t)əl/ adjective referring to the forehead or to the front of the head. Opposite occipital
fungus /fungəs/ noun a disease caused by a fungus
fungus poisoning /fungəs poʊzənɪŋ/ noun poisoning by eating a poisonous fungus
fungus disease /fungəs diʒiːz/ noun a disease caused by a fungus
fungicidal /fungəs dɪˈkɪdəl/ adjective relating to fungi
fungicide /ˈfjuːnmɪdʒər/ verb to kill insects in an area by using gas or smoke
fungicide /ˈfjuːnmɪdʒər/ noun the process of killing insects in an area with gas or smoke
fungus disease /ˈfjuːnmɪdʒəs dɪʒiːz/ noun a disease caused by a fungus
fungus poisoning /ˈfjuːnmɪdʒə poʊzənɪŋ/ noun poisoning by eating a poisonous fungus
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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 /gɛin/ 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 /gɛt/ noun a way of walking

galact- /gælækt-/ prefix same as galacto- (used before vowels)
galactagogue /gælæktəʊˈgeɪdʒ/ noun a substance which stimulates the production of milk.
galacto- /gælæktəʊ/ prefix referring to milk

galactocele /gælæktəʊsəl/ noun a breast tumour which contains milk

galactorrhoea /gælæktəˈrəʊə/ noun the excessive production of milk

galactosaemia /gælæktəˈsəʊmɪə/ 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 /ˈɡæliə/ 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 /ˈɡæl ˈbledə/ noun a sac situated underneath the liver, in which bile produced by the liver is stored. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement

COMMENTS: Bile is stored in the gall bladder until required by the stomach. If fatty food is present in the stomach, bile moves from the gall bladder along the bile duct to the stomach. Since the liver also secretes bile directly into the duodenum, the gall bladder is not an essential organ and can be removed by surgery.

Gallie's operation /ˈɡælɪz ˈnpraˌrɪʃ/ noun a surgical operation where tissues from the thigh are used to hold a hernia in place. [Described 1921. After William Edward Gallie (1882–1959), Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto, Canada.]
gallipot /ˈɡælipɒt/ noun a little container for ointment

gallium /ˈɡæliəm/ 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 /ˈɡæləp ˈrɪðəm/ noun the rhythm of heart sounds, three to each cycle, when someone is experiencing tachycardia

gallstone /ˈɡælstəʊn/ noun a small stone formed from insoluble deposits from bile in the gall bladder.
galvanism /ˈɡælvænɪzəm/ noun the removal of diseased tissue using an electrically heated needle or loop of wire. Also called electrocautery

game /ˈɡæmɪt/ noun a cell, either a spermatogonium or an ovum

gamete intrafallopian transfer /ˌɡæmɪt ˈɪntrəˈfæləpɪən ˈtrɜːnsfər/ noun a technique to combine eggs and sperm outside the body and then insert them into the Fallopian tubes. Abbrev GIFT

gametocidal /ˈɡæmɪtəˌsɔʊdəl/ noun a drug which kills gametocytes

gametocyte /ˈɡæmɪtəˌsɔʊt/ noun a cell which is developing into a gamete

gametogenesis /ˌɡæmɪtəˌdʒenəˈsɪs/ noun the process by which a gamete is formed
gamma tissue /'ɡæmdʒiː tiʃ/ noun a surgical dressing, formed of a layer of cotton wool between two pieces of gauze

gamma /'ɡæmə/ noun the third letter of the Greek alphabet

gamma aminobutyric acid /'ɡæmə əˌmɪnəˈbjuːtrɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun an amino acid neurotransmitter. Abbr GABA

gamma camera /'ɡæmə ˈkærəmə/ noun a camera for taking photographs of parts of the body into which radioactive isotopes have been introduced

gamma globulin /'ɡæmə ˈɡlɒbljuːlən/ noun a protein found in plasma, forming antibodies as protection against infection

Comment: Gamma globulin injections are sometimes useful as a rapid source of protection against a wide range of diseases.

gamma ray /'ɡæmə rɛɪ/ noun a ray which is shorter than an X-ray and is given off by radioactive substances

ganglionic /ˈɡæŋglɪənɪk/ adjective referring to ganglia

ganglion /ˈɡæŋɡliən/ noun 1. a mass of nerve cell bodies and synapses usually covered in connective tissue, found along the peripheral nerves with the exception of the basal ganglia 2. a cyst of a tendon sheath or joint capsule, usually at the wrist, which results in a painless swelling containing fluid (NOTE: [all senses] The plural is ganglia.)

ganglionectomy /ˈɡæŋɡliənɛktəmi/ noun the surgical removal of a ganglion

ganglionic /ˈɡæŋɡlɪənɪk/ adjective referring to a ganglion. > postganglionic

gangrene /ˈɡæŋɡɡrɪn/ 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 OR After she had fistulae, gangrene set in and her toes had to be amputated.

gangrenous /ˈɡæŋɡɡrɪnəs/ adjective referring to, or affected by, gangrene

Ganser state /ˈɡænza ˈsteɪt/ noun same as pseudodementia [After Sigbert Joseph Maria Ganser (1853–1931), psychiatrist at Dresden and Munich, Germany]

gargle /ˈɡɑːɡl/ noun a mildly antiseptic solution used to clean the mouth. > verb to put some antiseptic liquid solution into the back of the mouth and then breathe out air through it

gargoylism /ˈɡɑːɡɔɪlɪzəm/ noun a congenital condition of the metabolism which causes polysaccharides and fat cells to accumulate in the body, resulting in mental impairment, swollen liver and coarse features. Also called Hurlier’s syndrome

gas /ɡæs/ noun 1. a substance such as nitrogen, carbon dioxide or air, which is neither solid nor fluid at ordinary temperatures and can expand infinitely (NOTE: The plural gases is used only when referring to different types of gas.) 2. gas which accumulates in the stomach or alimentary canal and causes pain

gas and air analgesia /ˈɡæs ənd ˈæərəˌnɛlɡəˈziə/ noun a form of analgesia used when giving birth, in which a mixture of air and gas is given

gas chromatography /ˈɡæs ˈkraʊmətərədʒi/ noun a method of separating chemicals by passing them through a gas, used in analysing compounds and mixtures

gas exchange /ˈɡæs ɪksəˌfɛns/ noun the process by which oxygen in the air is exchanged in the lungs for waste carbon dioxide carried by the blood

gas gangrene /ˈɡæs ˈɡæŋɡɡrɪn/ noun a complication of severe wounds in which the bacteria Clostridium welchii breeds in the wound and then spreads to healthy tissue which is rapidly decomposed with the formation of gas

gash /ɡæʃ/ noun a long deep cut made accidentally by something sharp OR She had to have three stitches in the gash in her thigh. > verb to make a long deep cut in something accidentally OR She gashed her hand on the broken glass.

gasp /ɡæsp/ noun a short breath taken with difficulty OR His breath came in short gasps. > verb to breathe with difficulty taking quick breaths OR She was gasping for breath.

gas pain /ˈɡæs ˈpeɪn/ noun a pain caused by excessive formation of gas in the stomach or intestine. > flatus

gas poisoning /ˈɡæs ˈpɔsəˌnɪŋ/ noun poisoning by breathing in carbon monoxide or other toxic gas

Gasserian ganglion /ˈɡæsərɪən ˈɡæŋɡliən/ 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.]

gastr- /ˈɡæstr-/ prefix same as gastro- (used before vowels)

gastralgia /ˈɡæstrəlʤiə/ noun pain in the stomach

gastrectomy /ˈɡæstrɛktəmi/ noun the surgical removal of the stomach

gastric /ˈɡæstrɪk/ adjective referring to the stomach

gastric acid /ˈɡæstrɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun hydrochloric acid secreted into the stomach by acid-forming cells

gastric artery /ˈɡæstrɪk ˈɛtərɪ/ noun an artery leading from the coeliac trunk to the stomach

gastric flu /ˈɡæstrɪk flju/ noun any mild stomach disorder (informal)

gastric juice /ˈɡæstrɪk dʒuːs/ noun the mixture of hydrochloric acid, pepsin, intrinsic factor and mucus secreted by the cells of the lin-
gastric lavage /ˈɡɛstrɪk lɑvɪdʒ/ noun a lavage of the stomach, usually to remove a poisonous substance which has been absorbed.

Also called stomach washout

Gastroenterology /ˈɡɛstrəʊnətələlɪ/ noun the study of the digestive system and its disorders

Gastroenteroscopy /ˈɡɛstrəʊnətəsˈkɒpi/ noun a surgical operation to join the small intestine directly to the stomach so as to bypass a peptic ulcer

Gastroepiploic /ˈɡɛstrəʊeɪpiˈplɔɪk/ adjective referring to the stomach and greater omentum

Gastrojejunal /ˈɡɛstrəʊdʒiˈnʊnl/ noun an opening into the jejunum to the stomach

Gastrology /ˈɡɛstrəʊlɒdʒi/ noun surgery to correct a deformed stomach

Gastroplasty /ˈɡɛstrəʊplæstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to attach the stomach to the wall of the abdomen

Gastroplasty /ˈɡɛstrəʊplæstɪ/ noun surgery to correct a deformed stomach

Gastroptosis /ˈɡɛstrəʊptəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the stomach hangs down

Gastroprophylaxis /ˌɡɛstrəʊdʒrɒfɪˈlæksɪs/ noun an examination of the stomach and duodenum

Gastroproctology /ˈɡɛstrəʊdʒrɒktəlɒdʒi/ noun a surgical operation to join the duodenum to the stomach so as to bypass a blockage in the pylorus

Gastroproctoscopy /ˈɡɛstrəʊdʒrɒktəsˈkɒpi/ noun an examination of the stomach and intestines and the stomach, caused by a viral infection and resulting in diarrhea and vomiting

Gastroenterologist /ˈɡɛstrəʊnətələr/ noun a doctor who specialises in the digestive system and its disorders
Gaucher’s disease is 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 Ernest Gaucher (1854–1918), French physician and dermatologist.]

Ernest Gaucher (1854–1918), French physician who made capsules for medicines.

Gehrig’s disease is a unit of DNA on a chromosome which governs the synthesis of a protein sequence and determines a particular characteristic.

Gathering is a thin light material used to make dressings.

Gauze dressing is a dressing of thin light material.

Gavage is the forced feeding of someone who cannot eat or who refuses to eat.

Gay is adjective relating to sexual activity among people of the same sex.

GDC is the General Dental Council.

General Dentist Council is the official body that licenses qualified doctors to practise medicine. Abbr GMC.

General Hospital is a hospital which does not specialise in particular types of illness or particular age groups.

General anaesthetic is a substance given to make someone lose consciousness so that a major surgical operation can be carried out.

General Medical Council is the official body that licenses qualified dentists. Abbr GDC.

General anaesthesia is a sudden and complete loss of memory, to the extent that a person does not even remember who he or she is.

General Practice is the replacement of missing genes or damaging gene variations in cells by the insertion of appropriate genes to cure genetic disease.

Gene therapy is a medical practice where doctors offer first-line medical care for all types of illness to people who live locally, refer them to hospital if necessary and encourage health promotion.

Gene replacement therapy is the replacement of missing genes or damaging gene variations in cells by the insertion of appropriate genes to treat a genetic disorder. Also called gene therapy.

General amnesia is a sudden and complete loss of memory, to the extent that a person does not even remember who he or she is.

Generic is a substance given to make someone lose consciousness so that a major surgical operation can be carried out.

Generic has been used successfully in animals, and is in the early stages of research in humans, but may be useful in the future treatment of cystic fibrosis, thalassaemia and other genetic disorders.

Generic is adjective 1. referring to medicine which does not have a special trade-
mark or brand name given to it by its manufactur er 2. referring to a genus © The generic name of this type of bacterium is Staphylococ cus.

-genesis /dsγenəsɪs/ suffix production or origin
gene therapy /dʒiːn ˈterəpi/ noun same as gene replacement therapy
genetic /dʒiːnˈetɪk/ adjective referring to genes
genetic code /dʒiːnˈetɪk ˈkəʊd/ 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.
genetic counselling /dʒiːnˈetɪk ˈkʌnsəlɪŋ/ noun advice and support given to people if they or their children might be affected by inherited genetic disorders.
genetic disorder /dʒiːnˈetɪk ˈdɪzər/ noun a disorder or disease caused by a damaging gene variation that may be inherited.
genetic engineering /dʒiːnˈetɪk ˈɛnɜrdʒɪŋ/ noun same as genetic modification (informal).
genetic fingerprint /dʒiːnˈetɪk ˈfɪŋktrɪnt/ noun the pattern of sequences of genetic material unique to an individual. Also called DNA fingerprint.
genetic fingerprinting /dʒiːnˈetɪk ˈfɪŋktrɪntɪŋ/ noun a method of revealing an individual’s genetic profile, used in paternity inquiries and criminal investigations. Also called DNA fingerprinting.
geneticist /dʒiːnˈetɪst/ 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 noun the combination of genetic material from different sources to produce organisms with altered characteristics.
genetics /dʒiːnˈetɪks/ noun the study of genes, and of the way characteristics and diseases are inherited through the genes.
genetic screening /dʒiːnˈetɪk ˈskrɛnɪŋ/ noun the process of testing large numbers of people to see if anyone has a particular genetic disorder.
genereal tracking /dʒiːnˈtrækɪŋ/ noun the method used to trace throughout a family the inheritance of a gene such as those causing cystic fibrosis or Huntington’s Chorea, in order to diagnose and predict genetic disorders.
-genetic /dʒiːnˈetɪk/ suffix referring to a product or something which produces.
genicular /dʒiːnˈɪkjʊələr/ adjective referring to the knee.
genital /dʒiːnˈtɛl(ə)l/ adjective referring to the reproductive organs. plural noun genitals same as genital organs.
genitalia /dʒiːnˈtɛlɪə/ noun the genital organs.
genital organs /dʒiːnˈtɛl(ə)l ˈɔrɡənz/ plural noun the external organs for reproduction, i.e. the penis and testicles in males and the vulva in females. Also called genitals, genitalia.
genital wart /dʒiːnˈtɛl(ə)l ˈwɔrt/ noun a wart in the genital or anal area, caused by a sexually transmitted virus.
genito- /dʒiːnˈtəʊ/ prefix referring to the reproductive system.
genitourinary /dʒiːnˈtəʊjʊərɪnərɪ/ adjective referring to both the reproductive and urinary systems. Also called GU.
genitourinary system /dʒiːnˈtəʊjʊərɪnərɪ sɪstəm/ noun the organs of reproduction and urination, including the kidneys.
genome /dʒiːnəʊm/ noun the set of all the genes of an individual.
genotype /dʒiːnəʊtʌɪp/ noun the genetic makeup of an individual. Compare phenotype.
gentamicin /dʒiːnˈtəməsɪn/ noun an antibiotic that is effective against a variety of different disease-causing organisms. Patients usually receive it by injection and it can cause serious side effects.
gentian violet /dʒiːnˈʃiən ˈvaːzəlɪt/ noun an antiseptic dye, used to paint on skin infections and also to stain specimens. Also called crystal violet.
genu /dʒiːnjuː/ noun the knee.
genual /dʒiːnjuːəl/ adjective referring to the knee.
genucubital position /dʒiːnjuːˈkjuːbɪtəl/ noun the position of someone resting on their knees and elbows.
genupectoral position /dʒiːnjuːˈpɛktərəl/ noun the position of someone resting on their knees and upper chest.
genus /dʒiːnəs/ noun a category of related living organisms. A genus is divided into different species. (Note: The plural is genera.)
genus valgum /dʒiːnjuː ˈvælɡəm/ noun same as knock-knee.
genus varum /dʒiːnjuː ˈvɛərəm/ noun same as bow legs.
ger- /dʒɛr-/ prefix referring to old age.
geriatric /dʒɛrɪˈætrɪk/ adjective 1. referring to old people 2. specialising in the treatment of old people. Also geriatric unit.
geriatrician /dʒɪˈɛrɪətrɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a doctor who specialises in the treatment or study of diseases of old people.
geriatrics /dʒɛrɪˈætrɪks/ noun the study of the diseases and disorders of old people.
-germ /dʒɛrm/ noun 1. a microorganism which causes a disease, e.g. a virus or bacterium (informal) 2. Germs are not visible to the naked
developing into a new organism to an embryo develops in the mother's womb. Also called conception to birth, during which the baby develops from conception to birth, having got better.

get dressed / get 'drest/ verb to put your clothes on. This patient still needs help to get dressed.

got on with / get 'on wi/ verb to continue to do some work. I must get on with the blood tests.

got over / get 'əʊvə verb to become better after an illness or a shock. He got over his cold. She never got over her mother's death.

got up / get 'ʌp 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?

got well / get 'wel 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 /'ɡoʊnz/ 'foʊks/ noun 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 /'dʒænt/ 'sɛl/ noun a very large cell, e.g. an osteoclast or megakaryocyte

Giant-cell arteritis /'dʒænt/ 'selədʒət/ noun a disease of old people, which often affects the arteries in the scalp

This patient still needs help to get dressed.
gigantism /ˈdʒɪɡəntɪz/ noun a condition in which someone grows very tall, caused by excessive production of growth hormone by the pituitary gland

gilbert 's syndrome /ˈɡɪlbərtz/ noun an inherited disorder where the liver does not deal with bilirubin correctly

gilles de la tourette 's syndrome /ʒiːl ə lɔːr ə təz/ noun same as 'tourette 's syndrome

gilliam 's operation /ˈɡɪlɪəm/ noun a surgical operation to correct retroversion of the uterus [After David Tod Gilliam (1844–1923), physician, Columbus, Ohio, USA]
gingiv- /dʒɪŋɡɪv-/ prefix referring to the gums

gingivae /dʒɪŋɡɪˈveɪ/ a flat area of bone in the middle section of the sternum

gland /ɡlænd/ noun an organ in the body containing cells that secrete substances such as hormones, sweat or saliva which act elsewhere

glander /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 /ɡlændjuəl/ adjective referring to glands

glandular fever /ɡlændjuəl ˈfɪvr/ noun same as infectious mononucleosis

glans /ɡlænz/ noun a rounded part at the end of the penis or clitoris. See illustration at uro-genital system (male) in Supplement

glare /ɡlɑːr/ 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 /ˈɡlæskəʊ/ noun a seven-point scale for evaluating someone’s level of consciousness

glaucoma /ɡlɔːkəʊmə/ noun a condition of the eyes, caused by unusually high pressure of fluid inside the eyeball, resulting in disturbances of vision and blindness

gleet /ɡliːt/ noun 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 /ɡlɛnəˈhjuːmərəl ˈdʒɒɪnt/ noun the shoulder joint

glenoid /ˈɡlɛnəɪd/ adjective shaped like a small shallow cup or socket

glenoid cavity /ˈɡlɛnəɪd ˈkæviɪtɪ/ noun the glenoid fossa in the shoulder joint into which the head of the humerus fits

glia /ɡliːə/ noun connective tissue of the central nervous system, surrounding cell bodies, axons and dendrites. Also called neuroglia

glial cell /ˈɡlɪəl ˈsɛl/ noun a cell in the glia
glial tissue /ˈɡlɪəl ˈtrɪs/ noun same as glia

glibenclamide /ˈɡlɪbɛnklɛməd/ noun a sulphonylurea drug used to treat Type II diabetes mellitus

glicerazide /ˈɡlɪkaɪrɛzɪd/ noun an antibacterial drug used to treat Type II diabetes mellitus

glio- /ɡlɪəʊ-/ prefix referring to brain tissue

glioblastoma /ˈɡlɪəʊbлаstəʊmə/ noun a rapidly developing malignant tumour of the glial tissue in the brain or spinal cord. Also called spongioblastoma

glioma /ˈɡlɪəʊmə/ noun any tumour of the glial tissue in the brain or spinal cord

gliomyoma /ˈɡlɪəʊməʊmə/ noun a tumour of both the nerve and muscle tissue

glipizide /ˈɡlɪpɪzɪd/ noun a drug used to reduce the glucose level in the blood

glisson 's capsule /ˈɡlɪsənz/ noun a tissue sheath in the liver containing the blood vessels [After Francis Glisson (1597–1677), philosopher, physician and anatomiast at Cambridge and London, UK]
glands and part of the tongue which controls the pharynx, the salivary glands and part of the tongue in blood, belonging to a group that includes antibodies.

globulin /ˈɡloʊbjʊln/ noun a protein, present in blood, belonging to a group that includes antibodies.

globulinaemia /ˈɡloʊbjʊli neɪəmə/ noun the presence of globulins in the urine.

globus /ˈɡloʊbəs/ noun any ball-shaped part of the body.

globus hystericus /ˈɡloʊbəs hɪˈstərɪkəs/ noun a feeling of not being able to swallow, caused by worry or embarrassment.

glossangioma /ɡlɒs,ændʒɪəˈma/ noun a tumour of the skin at the ends of the fingers and toes.

glossal /ˈɡlɒsəl/ adjective referring to a glottis.

glossal capsule /ɡlɒsəl,ˈkæpsjʊl/ noun same as Bowman’s capsule.

glossal filtration rate /ɡlɒsəlˈfɪlərəʃən ˈreɪt/ noun the rate at which the kidneys filter blood and remove waste matter.

glossal tuft /ɡlɒsəlˈtuft/ noun a group of blood vessels in the kidney which filters the blood.

glosserulii /ɡlɒsəˈrʊli/ plural of glomerulus.

glosserulitis /ɡlɒsəˈrʊlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation causing lesions of glomeruli in the kidney.

glosserulonephritis /ɡlɒsəˈrʊlnəˈfɪtɪs/ noun same as Bright’s disease.

glosserulus /ɡlɒsəˈlʊlus/ noun a group of blood vessels which filter waste matter from the blood in a kidney (NOTE: The plural is glomeruli.)

glos- /ˈɡlɒs-/ prefix same as glosso- (used before vowels).

glossal /ˈɡlɒsəl/ noun same as tongue.

glossal /ˈɡlɒsəl/ adjective relating to the tongue.

glossectomy /ɡlɒsəˈektəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the tongue.

glossinina /ˈɡlɒsɪnɪnə/ noun a genus of African flies which cause trypanosomiasis, e.g. the tsetse fly.

glossitis /ˈɡlɒsɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the surface of the tongue.

glosso- /ˈɡlɒsəʊ-/ prefix referring to the tongue.

glossodynia /ˈɡlɒsəˌdəniə/ noun pain in the tongue.

glossopharyngeal /ˈɡlɒsəfərənˈdʒɪəl/ adjective relating to the tongue and pharynx.

glossopharyngeal nerve /ˈɡlɒsəfərənˈdʒɪəl nɜːv/ noun the ninth cranial nerve which controls the pharynx, the salivary glands and part of the tongue.

glossopathy /ˈɡlɒsəpəθi/ noun a condition affecting the pharynx.

glossoplasia /ˈɡlɒsəpləsɪə/ noun paralysis of the tongue.

glossotomy /ˈɡlɒsətəmi/ noun a surgical incision into the tongue.

glotis /ˈɡlɒtɪs/ noun an opening in the larynx between the vocal cords, which forms the entrance to the main airway from the pharynx.

gluc- /ˈɡljuːk-/ prefix referring to glucose.

glucagon /ˈɡljuːkəgɒn/ 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.

gluca- /ˈɡluːkə-/ prefix referring to glucose.

glucocorticoid /ˈɡluːkəˌkɔrɪtˈrɪkəd/ noun any corticosteroid which breaks down carbohydrates and fats for use by the body, produced by the adrenal cortex.

gluconeogenesis /ˈɡluːkəˌnɪdʒəˈniːsɪs/ noun the production of glucose in the liver from protein or fat reserves.

glucose /ˈɡluːkəs/ noun a simple sugar found in some fruit, but also broken down from white sugar or carbohydrate and absorbed into the body or secreted by the kidneys. Also called dextrose.

Comment: Combustion of glucose with oxygen to form carbon dioxide and water is the body’s main source of energy.

glucose tolerance test /ˈɡluːkəs ˈtolərəns ˈtest/ noun a test for diabetes mellitus, in which someone eats glucose and his or her urine and blood are tested at regular intervals. Abbrev GTT.

glucosuria /ˈɡluːkəsˌʊrəˈjʊərɪə/ noun same as glycosuria.

glucuronic acid /ˈɡluːkərəʊnɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun an acid formed by glucose that acts on bilirubin.

glue ear /ˈɡluː ˈɪər/ noun a condition in which fluid forms behind the eardrum and causes deafness. Also called otitis media.

glue ear /ˈɡluː ˈɪər/ noun a condition in which fluid forms behind the eardrum and causes deafness. Also called otitis media.

glue ear /ˈɡluː ˈɪər/ noun a condition in which fluid forms behind the eardrum and causes deafness. Also called otitis media.

glue ear /ˈɡluː ˈɪər/ noun a condition in which fluid forms behind the eardrum and causes deafness. Also called otitis media.

Glume snuffing /ˈɡluː, ˈsnʌfɪŋ/ noun solvent abuse.

glutamic acid /ˈɡluːtəmɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun an amino acid.

glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase /ˈɡluːtəmɪk ˈɒksəˌləʊˌeɪˈseɪtɪs ˈtrænsəˌmeɪˈnəz/ noun an enzyme used to test for viral hepatitis.

glutamic pyruvic transaminase /ˈɡluːtəmɪk ˈpɜːvrɪk ˈtrænsəˌmeɪˈnəz/ noun an enzyme produced in the liver and released into the blood if the liver is damaged.

glutaminase /ˈɡluːtəməˌnəz/ noun an enzyme in the kidneys that helps to break down glutamine.

glutamine /ˈɡluːtəmən/ noun an amino acid.

gluteal /ˈɡljuːtəl/ adjective referring to the buttocks.
Gluteal artery

Gluteal artery /ˈglʌtiəl ˌɡʌtərɪəl/ noun one of the two arteries supplying the buttocks, the inferior gluteal artery or the superior gluteal artery.

Gluteal muscle /ˈglʌtiəl ˈmʌs(ə)l/ noun a muscle in the buttock. **gluteus**

Gluteal vein /ˈglʌtiəl ˈviːn/ noun one of two veins draining the buttocks, the inferior gluteal vein and the superior gluteal vein.

Gluten /ˈɡluːtən/ 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 /ˈɡluːtən fri/ noun or diet containing only food containing no gluten.

Gluten-induced enteropathy /ˈɡluːtən ɪnˈdjuːstə ˈɛntrəpəθi/ 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 swolled abdomen, pale diarhoea, abdominal pain and anaemia.) **gluteus medius**

Gluten /ˈɡluːtən/ noun one of three muscles in the buttocks, responsible for movements of the hip. The largest is the glutus maximus, while the glutus medius and glutus minimus are smaller.

Glyc- /ˈɡlæk/ prefix same as glyco- (used before vowels)

Glycaemia /ˈɡlæsɪˈmiə/ noun the level of glucose found in the blood. **glycosuria**

Glycosuria /ˈɡlæskəˈjuəriə/ 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 /ˈnæθəˈplæstɪ/ noun surgery on the jaw.

Gnawing /ˈnəʊɪŋ/ adjective referring to a physical or emotional feeling that is persistent and uncomfortable. **goiter**

Goitrogen /ˈɡɔɪtrədʒən/ noun a substance which causes goitre

Gold /ɡɔʊld/ 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 /ˈɡɔʊldən ˈau ˈɔintmənt/ noun a yellow ointment, made of an oxide of mercury, used to treat inflammation of the eyelids.

Gold injection /ˈɡɔʊld ɪnˈdʒekʃən/ noun an injection of a solution containing gold, used to relieve rheumatoid arthritis

Golfer’s elbow /ˈɡɔlfəz ˈelbəʊ/ noun inflammation of the tendons of the elbow

Golgi apparatus /ˈɡɔlɡɪ əˈpærətəs/ 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 /ˈɡɔlɡɪ 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)

Gompohsis /ˈɡɔmpəʊθɪs/ noun a joint which cannot move, like that between a tooth and the jaw.

Gonad /ˈɡɔʊnəd/ noun a sex gland which produces gametes and also sex hormones, e.g. a testicle in males or an ovary in females.
gram-negative bacterium

- gout (gou̇t) noun a disease in which unusual quantities of uric acid are produced and form crystals in the cartilage round joints. Also called podagra

  COMMENT: Gout was formerly associated with drinking strong wines such as port, but is now believed to arise in three ways: excess uric acid in the diet, overproduction of uric acid in the body and inadequate excretion of uric acid. It is likely that both overproduction and inadequate excretion are due to inherited biochemical developments. Excess intake of alcohol can provoke an attack by interfering with the excretion of uric acid.

gown (goun) noun a long robe worn over other clothes to protect them. The surgeons were wearing green gowns.

  The patient was dressed in a theatre gown, ready to go to the operating theatre.

GP abbr general practitioner

GP co-op abbr a group of GPs who work together to provide out-of-hours care without making any profit

gr symbol grain

Graafian follicle /ˌɡreɪfɪən ˈfɒlɪk(ə)l/ noun same as ovarian follicle (After Rejean de Graaf (1641–73), Dutch physician)

gracilia /ˈɡreɪsɪliə/ noun a thin muscle running down the inside of the leg from the top of the leg down to the top of the tibia

graft (græft/ 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. [Described 1919. After Ernst William Goodpasture (1886–1960), US pathologist].

goose bumps /ˈɡʊs bʌmpz/ 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 pilis muscles. Also called cutis anserina

gordh needle /ˈɡɔrd, ˈnɪdɪl/ noun a needle with a bag attached, so that several injections can be made one after the other

gorget /ˈɡɔrdʒɪt/ 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 /ˈɡʊndu/ noun a condition caused by yaws, in which growths form on either side of the nose
conscious and falls down, while the muscles become flaccid.

Gram’s stain: Gram’s staining 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 sample is first stained with a violet dye, then counterstained with a red dye.

grand mal /ˌgran’dəm/ noun a type of epilepsy, in which someone becomes unconscious and falls down, while the muscles become stiff and twitch violently.

grand multiparity /ˈɡrænmɪltəpərətɪ/ noun the fact of having given birth to more than four children.

granular /ˈɡrænjuələr/ adjective made up of granules.

granular cast /ˈɡrænjuələr ˈkæst/ noun a cast composed of cells filled with protein and fatty granules.

granular leucocyte /ˈɡrænjuələr ˈluːsəsət/ noun same as granulocyte.

granulation /ˌɡrænjuələˈleɪʃən/ 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 /ˌɡrænjuələˈleɪʃən ˈtjuːz/ noun soft tissue, consisting mainly of tiny blood vessels and fibres, which forms over a wound.

granule /ˈɡrænjuːl/ noun a very small piece of something hard.

granulocyte /ˈɡrænjuələʊsaɪt/ noun a type of leucocyte or white blood cell which contains granules, e.g. a basophil, eosinophil or neutrophil.

granulocytopenia /ˌɡrænjuələˈsɪtəpəniə/ noun a usually fatal disease caused by the lowering of the number of granulocytes in the blood due to bone marrow dysfunction.

granuloma /ˌɡrænjuələˈləʊmə/ noun a mass of granulation tissue which forms at the site of bacterial infections [NOTE: The plural is granulomata or granulomas.]

granuloma inguinale /ˌɡrænjuələˈməʊliˌgninjuəleɪ/ noun a sexually transmitted disease affecting the anus and genitals in which the skin becomes covered with ulcers, usually occurring in the tropics.

granulomatosis /ˌɡrænjuələˈməʊtəsəsɪsɪsɪs/ noun persistent inflammation leading to the formation of nodules.

granulopoiesis /ˌɡrænjuələˈpɔɪsiʃəs/ noun the normal production of granulocytes in the bone marrow.

graph /ɡrɑːf/ noun a diagram which shows the relationship between quantities as a line.

-graph /ˈɡræfə/ suffix a machine which records something as pictures.

-grapher /ˈɡræfər/ noun a technician who operates a machine which records.

-graphy /ˈɡræfi/ suffix the technique of study through pictures.

grand mal /ˌɡrænmɪl/ noun a procedure that involves scraping the surface of an ulcer which is healing slowly to make it heal more rapidly.

greavel /ˈɡreɪvl/ noun small stones which pass from the kidney to the urinary system, causing pain in the ureter.

Graves’ disease /ˈɡreɪvz diˌzɪz/ 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.

gravidies multiparae /ˌɡrævɪdiəz ˌmʌltəˈpərətɪ/ 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.

Grawitz tumour /ˈɡreɪvɪts, ˈɡraʊtʃɪz/ noun a malignant tumour in kidney cells [Described 1883. After Paul Albert Grawitz (1850–1932), Professor of Pathology at Greifswald, Germany.]

gray /ˈɡreɪ/ noun an SI unit of measurement of absorbed radiation equal to 100 rad. Symbol Gy. 0 rad.

graze /ˈɡreɪz/ noun a scrape on the skin surface, making some blood flow. a method to scrape the skin surface accidentally.

great cerebral vein /ˈɡreɪt ˈsɜəbrəl vɪn/ noun a median vein draining the choroid plexuses of the lateral and third ventricles.

greater curvature /ˈɡreɪtər kɜərətʃuər/ noun a convex line of the stomach.

great vestibular glands /ˈɡreɪt vɛsˈtɪbjuələl ɡlændz/ noun same as Bartholin’s glands.

greater toe /ˈɡreɪtər təʊ/ noun same as big toe.

green monkey disease /ˈɡreɪn ˈmæŋki diˌzɪz/ noun same as Marburg disease.

greenstick fracture /ˈɡriːnstɪk frækˈtʃuər/ noun a type of fracture occurring in children, where a long bone bends, but is not completely broken.

grey commissure /ˈɡreɪ ˈkɒmɪʃjʊər/ noun part of the grey matter nearest to the central canal of the spinal cord, where axons cross over each other.

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'.

of patients were waiting in the surgery.

of the middle ear, usually to allow fluid to drain passed from the external auditory meatus into

creasing in size

from his chin.

had an operation to remove a small growth

A build-up of tartar can lead to gum disease. Also called gingivitis (NOTE: For other terms referring to the gingiv-)

Groh, see

2. growing pains

A group

A type

A collection of unexplained symptoms, including fatigue, skin disorders, and muscle pains, affecting some soldiers who fought in the Gulf War in 1991

Guillain-Barré syndrome

Guillain-Barré syndrome (described 1916. After Georges Guillain (1876–1961), Professor of Neurology in Paris, France, Jean Alexandre Barré (1880–1967), Professor of Neurology in Strasbourg, France.)

Guillotine /ˈɡɪlətɪn/ noun a surgical instrument for cutting out tonsils

Guinea worm /ˈɡɪnɪ wɜːrm/ noun same as Dracunculus

Gulf War syndrome /ˈɡulf wɔːr/ noun a collection of unexplained symptoms, including fatigue, skin disorders, and muscle pains, affecting some soldiers who fought in the Gulf War in 1991

Gull, see

Guilt /ɡaɪlt/ noun same as oesophagus

Gum /ɡʌm/ noun the soft tissue covering the part of the jaw which surrounds the teeth ○ Her gums are red and inflamed. ○ A build-up of tartar can lead to gum disease. Also called gingiva (NOTE: For other terms referring to the gums, see words beginning with gingiv-.)

Gumball /ˈɡʌmbɔːl/ noun an abscess on the gum near a tooth

Gumma /ˈɡʌmə/ noun an abscess of dead tissue and overgrown scar tissue, which develops in the later stages of syphilis

Gustation /ˌɡʌstəˈteɪʃən/ noun the act of tasting

Gustatory /ˌɡʌstəˈtɔrē adj adjective referring to the sense of taste

Gut /ɡʌt/ noun 1. the tubular organ for the digestion and absorption of food. Also called intestine 2. a type of thread, made from the intestines of sheep. It is used to sew up internal
Guthrie test /ˈɡʌθri/ test/ noun a test used on babies to detect the presence of phenylketonuria [After R. Guthrie (b. 1916), US paediatrician.]

gutta /ˈɡʌtə/ noun a drop of liquid, as used in treatment of the eyes (note: The plural is guttae.)

gutter splint /ˈɡʌtər splɪnt/ noun a shaped container in which a broken limb can rest without being completely surrounded

GVHD abbr graft versus host disease

gynae- /ɡɪn/ prefix same as gynaecae- (used before a vowel)

gynaecological /ˌɡɪnəˈkɒlədʒɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to the treatment of diseases of women

gynaecologist /ˌɡɪnəˈkɒlədʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the treatment of diseases of women

gynaecology /ˌɡɪnəˈkɒlədʒi/ noun the study of female sex organs and the treatment of diseases of women in general

gynaecomastia /ˌɡɪnəˈkɒməstɪə/ noun the unusual development of breasts in a male

gyne /ɡɪn/ same as gynaecology, gynaecological (informal) or a gyn appointment

gypsum /ˈdʒɪpsəm/ noun calcium sulphate, used as plaster of Paris

gyrus /ˈdʒɜrəs/ noun a raised part of the cerebral cortex between the sulci
habit /'heɪbɪt/ noun 1. an action which is an automatic response to a stimulus 2. a regular way of doing something. He got into the habit of swimming every day before breakfast. She's got out of the habit of taking any exercise. From force of habit because you do it regularly. I wake up at 6 o'clock from force of habit.

habit-forming /'heɪbɪt, fərmin/ adjective making someone addicted

habit-forming drug /'heɪbɪt, fərmin druː/ noun a drug which is addictive

habitual /'heɪbɪtʃuəl/ adjective done frequently or as a matter of habit

habitual abortion /'heɪbɪtʃuəl əbərʃən/ noun a condition in which a woman has abortions with successive pregnancies

habitation /'heɪbɪtʃeɪʃən/ noun the fact of being psychologically but not physically addicted to or dependent on a drug, alcohol or other substance

habitus /'heɪbɪtəs/ noun the general physical appearance of a person, including build and posture

hacking cough /'hækɪŋ 'kɒf/ noun a continuous short dry cough

haem /'heɪm/ noun a molecule containing iron which binds proteins to form haemoproteins such as haemoglobin and myoglobin

haem- /'heɪm-/ prefix same as haemo- (used before vowels) (note: in US English, words beginning with the prefix haem- are spelled hem-)

haemagglutination /'heɪməɡɡlʊtɪneɪʃən/ noun the clumping of red blood cells, often used to test for the presence of antibodies

haemangiom a /'heɪməndʒɪəmə/ noun a harmless tumour which forms in blood vessels and appears on the skin as a birthmark

haemarthrosis /'heɪməθɑːrθrəʊsɪs/ noun pain and swelling caused by blood leaking into a joint

haematemesis /'heɪmətɛməsɪs/ noun a condition in which someone vomits blood, usually because of internal bleeding

haemato- /'heɪmətəʊ-/ prefix referring to blood

haematocoele /'heɪmətəʊsɪl/ noun a swelling caused by blood leaking into a cavity, especially the scrotum

haematocolpos /'heɪmətɒkɒlʊps/ noun a condition in which the vagina is filled with blood at menstruation because the hymen has no opening

haematocrit /'heɪmətɒkrɪt/ noun 1. same as packed cell volume 2. an instrument for measuring haematocrit

haematocyst /'heɪmətəʊsɪst/ noun a cyst which contains blood

haematogenous /'heɪmətəʊdʒənəs/ adjective 1. producing blood 2. produced by blood

haematological /'heɪmətələdʒɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to haematology

haematologist /'heɪmətələdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in haematology

haematology /'heɪmətɒlədʒi/ noun the scientific study of blood, its formation and its diseases

haematoma /'heɪmətməʊm/ noun a mass of blood under the skin caused by a blow or by the effects of an operation

haematometra /'heɪmətmətrə/ noun 1. excessive bleeding in the uterus 2. a swollen uterus, caused by haematocolpos

haematomyelia /'heɪmətəməʊlɪə/ noun a condition in which blood leaks into the spinal cord

haematopoiesis /'heɪmətəpəʊiəsɪs/ noun same as haemopoiesis
haematoporphyrin /ˈhɛmətəˈpɔrpərərɪn/ noun porphyrin produced from haemoglobin

haematosalpinx /ˈhɛmətəˌsɔləpɪŋks/ noun same as haemosalpinx

haematosperma /ˈhɛmətəˌsɔpərˈmə/ noun the presence of blood in the sperm

haematozoan /ˈhɛmətəˌzoʊən/ noun a parasitic living in the blood (NOTE: The plural is haematozoa.)

haematuria /ˈhɛmətəˈjuːriə/ noun the unusual presence of blood in the urine, as a result of injury or disease of the kidney or bladder

haemin /ˈhɛmən/ noun a salt derived from haemoglobin, used in the treatment of porphyria

haemochromatosis /ˈhɛməkroʊmətəsɪs/ 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

haemoconcentration /ˈhɛməˌkɔnəˌsɛntrəʃən/ noun an increase in the percentage of red blood cells because the volume of plasma is reduced. Compare haemodilution

haemocyteblast /ˈhɛməˌsaɪtəˈblɑːst/ noun an embryonic blood cell in the bone marrow from which red and white blood cells and platelets develop

haemodialyser /ˈhɛməˌdɪəlaɪzə/ noun a glass jar in which a sample of blood is diluted and the blood cells counted

haemodialyse /ˈhɛməˌdɪəlaɪz/ verb to remove waste matter from the blood using a dialysing (kidney machine)

haemodialysed patient /ˈhɛməˌdɪəlaɪzd/ noun a person who has undergone haemodialysis

haemodialysis /ˈhɛməˌdɪəlaɪsɪs/ noun same as kidney dialysis

haemodilution /ˈhɛməˌdɪəljuˈʃən/ noun a decrease in the percentage of red blood cells because the volume of plasma has increased. Compare haemocentration

haemoglobin /ˈhɛməˌɡloʊbən/ 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. & ox-haemoglobin, carboxyhaemoglobin

haemoglobinopathy /ˈhɛməˌɡloʊbləˈpəθi/ noun an inherited disease of a group which result from damaging variations in the production of haemoglobin, e.g. sickle-cell anaemia

haemoglobinuria /ˈhɛməˌɡloʊbəlnəˈjʊəriə/ noun a condition in which haemoglobin is found in the urine

haemogram /ˈhɛməˌɡrɑːm/ noun the printed result of a blood test

haemolysis /ˈhɛməˌlaɪsɪs/ noun the destruction of red blood cells

haemolysin /ˈhɛməˌlaɪsɪn/ noun a protein which destroys red blood cells

haemolytic /ˈhɛməˌlɪtɪk/ adjective destroying red blood cells. ■ noun a substance which destroys red blood cells, e.g., snake venom

haemolytic anaemia /ˈhɛməˌlɪtɪk əˈnəmiə/ 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 /ˈhɛməˌlɪtɪk dəˈznəl/ 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 /ˈhɛməˌlɪtɪk ˈdʒɔndɪs/ noun jaundice caused by haemolysis of the red blood cells. Also called prehepatic jaundice

haemolytic uraemic syndrome /ˈhɛməˌlɪtɪk juˈrəmɪk ˈsɜndrəmi/ noun a condition in which haemolytic anaemia damages the kidneys

haemopericardium /ˈhɛməˌpərɪkɑrˈdiəm/ noun a condition in which blood is found in the pericardium

haemoperitoneum /ˈhɛməˌpərɪtəˈnəʊrəm/ noun a condition in which blood is found in the peritoneal cavity

haemophilia /ˈhɛməˌfɪliə/ 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 /ˈhɛməˌfɪliə 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

haemophilia B /ˈhɛməˌfɪliə ˈbiː/ noun a less common type of haemophilia, in which the inability to synthesise Factor IX, a protein that promotes blood clotting, means that the blood clots very slowly. Also called Christmas disease

haemophilac /ˈhɛməˌfɪliək/ noun a person who has haemophilia

haemophilic /ˈhɛməˌfɪlɪk/ adjective referring to haemophilia

Haemophilus /ˈhɛməˌfɪləs/ noun a genus of bacteria which needs specific factors in the blood to grow

Haemophilus influenzae /ˈhɛməˌfɪləs ˈɪnʃəluˈniːz/ noun a bacterium which lives in
hemorrhoids

medical conditions

Haemophilus influenzae type b

Haemophilus influenzae type b

Haemophilus influenzae type b

Haemophilus influenzae type b

Haemophilus influenzae type b

Haemophilus influenzae type b

hallux valgus
haloperidol /hələˈpɛrdɪdəl/ noun a tranquiliser used in the treatment of schizophrenia, mania and psychoses
halo splint /ˈhɛləu ˈsplɪnt/ noun a device used to keep the head and neck still so that they can recover from injury or an operation
halothane /ˈhæləθiːn/ noun a general anaesthetic that is given by inhalation
hamartoma /ˌhæməˈtɔːmə/ noun a benign tumour containing tissue from any organ
hamate /ˈhæmət/; hamart /hæmət/ bone /hæmət bɔːn/ noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist, shaped like a hook. Also called unciform bone. See illustration at hand in Supplement
hammer /ˈhæmər/ noun same as malleus
hammer toe /ˈhæmər tuː/ 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
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.)
hand, foot and mouth disease /ˈhænd fʊt ən ˈmuːdf d, ˈzuː/ noun a mild viral infection in children, causing small blisters
handicapped /ˈhændɪkæpt/ adjective referring to a person who has a disability (NOTE: The word ‘handicapped’ is now usually avoided.)
hangnail /ˈhæŋnɛl/ noun a piece of torn skin at the side of a nail
hangover /ˈhæŋnuːv/ noun a condition occurring after a person has drunk too much alcohol, with dehydration caused by inhibition of the antidiuretic hormone in the kidneys. The symptoms include headache, inability to stand noise and trembling of the hands.
Hansen’s bacillus /ˈhænəs bɑːˈsʌləs/ noun the bacterium which causes leprosy. Mycobacterium leprae [Discovered 1873. After Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen (1841–1912), Norwegian physician.]
Hansen’s disease /ˈhænəs dɪs, dʒiˈzɪ/ noun same as leprosy
haptoid /ˈhæptɔɪd/ adjective referring to a cell such as a gamete where each chromosome occurs only once. In humans the haploid number of chromosomes is 23.
haπtpt /ˈhæpt/ prefix relating to the sense of touch
hapten /ˈhæptn/ noun a substance which causes an allergy, probably by changing a protein so that it becomes antigenic
hardening of the arteries /ˈhɑːrdɪŋ əv ˈɑːθərsklərəsi/ noun hard of hearing /ˈhɑːrd əv ˈheərɪŋ/ adjective same as hearing-impaired
hard palate /ˈhɑːrd ˈpælət/ noun the front part of the roof of the mouth between the upper teeth
harelip /ˈhɑːrlɪp/ noun same as cleft lip
harm /hɑːrm/ 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 /ˈhɑːrmful/ adjective causing injury or damage Bright light can be harmful to your eyes. Sudden violent exercise can be harmful.
harmless /hɑːrmliːs/ adjective causing no injury or damage These herbal remedies are quite harmless.
Harrison’s sulcus /ˈhɑrəznz ˈsʌlkəs/, Harrison’s groove /ˈhɑrəznz ˈgrauv/ 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 /ˈhɑrəz əpəˈreɪʃən/ noun the surgical removal of the prostate gland [After S.H. Harris (1880–1936), Australian surgeon.]
Hartmann’s solution /ˈhɑrtmænз ˈsəljuːn/ 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 (1898–1964), paediatrician, St Louis, Missouri, USA.

Hartnup disease /ˈhɑːtnʌp/ 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 /ˈhaːrvɪst/ verb to take something for use elsewhere, e.g. a piece of skin for a graft or eggs for IVF

Hashimoto's disease /ˈhæʃɪmətəʊz/ 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 Hakuru Hashimoto (1881–1934), Japanese surgeon.]

hashish /ˈhæʃɪʃ/ noun cannabis

haustrum /ˈhɔːstrəm/ noun a sac on the outside of the colon (NOTE: The plural is haustra.)

HAV abbr hepatitis A virus

Haversian canal /ˈhɑːvərˈziːən/ kənˌeɪl/ noun a fine canal which runs vertically through the Haversian systems in compact bone, containing blood vessels and lymph ducts [Described 1689. After Clifton Havers (1657–1702), English surgeon.]

Haversian system /ˈhɑːvərˈziːən/ sɪˈstɛm/ 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

hay fever /ˈheɪ,feɪvər/ 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 /hɛd/ 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. Also head of humerus

headache /ˈhɛdɛk/ 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.

head cold /hɛd kəʊld/ noun a minor illness, with inflammation of the nasal passages, excess mucus in the nose and sneezing

head louse /ˈhɛd laʊs/ 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 tɛst/ 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. 2. A minor cut will heal faster if it is left without a bandage.

healing /ˈhiːlɪŋ/ noun the process of getting better. 2. a substance which will accelerate the healing process

healing by first intention /ˈhiːlɪŋ bai ˈfɜːrst ɪntɪʃən/ noun the healing of a clean wound where the tissue reforms quickly

healing by second intention /ˈhiːlɪŋ bai ˈsɛkənd ɪntɪʃən/ noun the healing of an infected wound or ulcer, which takes place slowly and may leave a permanent scar

health /hɛθ/ noun the general condition of the mind or body. He’s in good health.

he had suffered from bad health for some years. 2. The council said that fumes from the factory were a danger to public health. 3. All cigarette packets carry a government health warning.

health action zone /ˈhelθ ækˈʃən zoʊn/ noun in the UK, a government health organisation responsible for overseeing the health and safety of workers.

Health and Safety at Work Act /ˈhelθənd seɪˈfəti ət wɜːk/ noun in the UK, an Act of Parliament which rules how the health of workers should be protected by the companies they work for

Health and Safety Executive /ˈhelθənd seɪˈfəti əkˈspektɪv/ noun in the UK, a government body which enforces the Health and Safety at Work Act

health authority /ˈhelθ ɔrˈθɔrəti/ noun

Strategic Health Authority

healthcare /ˈhelθkeər/, health care noun the general treatment of people with medical disorders, especially the use of measures to stop a disease from occurring

healthcare assistant /ˈhelθkeərəstənt/ noun someone who assists healthcare professionals in looking after a sick or dependent person

healthcare delivery /ˈhelθkeər dɪˈlɪvərɪ/ noun the provision of care and treatment by the healthcare service

healthcare professional /ˈhelθkeər prəˈfesənəl/ noun a qualified person who works in an occupation related to health care, e.g. a nurse
healthcare system

healthcare system /'helθkeə sɪstəm/ noun any organised set of health services
health centre /'helθ ,sente/ noun a public building in which a group of doctors practise
health education /helθ ,edʒuˈkeɪʃ(ə)n/ 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 /helθ ,edʒuˈkeɪʃ(ə)n əˈrɪs,brɪtʃ/ 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 /'helθ fuːd/ noun food that is regarded as good for health, especially containing ingredients such as cereals, dried fruit and nuts and without additives
health inequality /helθ ,ɪnˈeɪvəl/ noun the differences that exist in health across the social classes, with poorer people tending to experience poorer health
health information service /helθ ,ɪnˈfɔrmeɪʃ(ə)n sərvɪs/ noun a nation-wide information service delivered via a free telephone helpline. Abb HIS
health insurance /helθ ɪnˈʃʊrəns/ noun insurance which pays the cost of treatment for illness
Health Ombudsman /'helθ ,əmbədzmən/ noun same as Health Service Commissioner
Healthcare system /'helθ keər ˈsɪstəm/ noun an or- ganisation 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 Promotion Authority /helθ prəˈteknəl,ɪŋˈdʒɔrəns/ noun a national organisation for the provision of local health care, through the management of hospital, GP, and community health services

health service planning /helθ ,səˈsvɪs ˈplænɪŋ/ 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 /helθ ,vɪzətə/ 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 /ˈhɛərɪŋ/ 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 withaudio- audio-]
hearing aid /ˈhɛərɪŋ eɪd/ noun a small electronic device fitted into or near the ear, to improve someone’s hearing by making the sounds louder
hearing-impaired /ˈhɛərɪŋ ɪmˈpɛrəd/ adjective having a degree of hearing loss
hearing loss /ˈhɛərɪŋ ləs/ 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 withcardi- cardio-]

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 it 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 heartbeat is 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  /haːtˈɑːtæk/ 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  /haːtˈbiːt/ noun the regular noise made by the heart as it pumps blood

heart block  /haːtˈblok/ 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  /ˈhaːtbrən/ noun indigestion which causes a burning feeling in the stomach and oesophagus, and a flow of acid saliva into the mouth (informal)

heart bypass operation  /haːtˈbiːpsɪs ˈɒpərəʃən/ noun same as coronary artery bypass graft

heart disease  /haːt dɪˈziːz/ noun any disease of the heart in general

heart failure  /haːtˈfeɪlər/ 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  /ˈkɒŋstətiv ˈhɑːrt ˈfeɪlər/ noun a condition in which the heart is enlarged because the veins joining the heart to the body are unable to return blood during heart surgery.

heart-lung machine  /haːtˈlaŋ ˈmɑːʃən/ 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  /haːtˈlaŋˈtrænsplənt/ noun an operation to transplant a new heart and lungs into someone

heart massage  /haːtˈmeɪsʒə/ noun a treatment which involves pressing on the chest to make a heart which has stopped beating start working again

heart murmur  /haːtˈmɜːrmər/ noun an unusual sound made by turbulent blood flow, sometimes as a result of valve disease

heart rate  /haːt rɛt/ noun the number of times the heart beats per minute

heart sounds  /haːtˈsɔʊndz/ plural noun two different sounds made by the heart as it beats.

lubb-dupp

heart stoppage  /haːtˈstɑːpɪdʒ/ noun a situation where the heart has stopped beating

heart surgeon  /haːtˈsɜːdrɪnər/ noun a surgeon who specialises in operations on the heart

heart surgery  /haːtˈsɜːdrɪkəri/ noun a surgical operation to remedy a condition of the heart

heart tamponade  /haːtˈtæmpəˌneɪd/ noun same as cardiac tamponade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>heart transplant</td>
<td>a surgical operation to transplant a heart into someone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heat cramp</td>
<td>heat cramp produced by loss of salt from the body in very hot conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heat exhaustion</td>
<td>collapse caused by physical exertion in hot conditions, involving loss of salt and body fluids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heat rash</td>
<td>little red spots which develop on the face in very hot weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heat stroke</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heat therapy</td>
<td>heat treatment same as thermotherapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heavy period</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hebephrenia</td>
<td>/hebɪˈfɪrniə/ same as hebephrenic schizophrenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hebephrenic schizophrenia</td>
<td>/hebɪˈfɪrniək sɪkˈtræmɪəˈfrɪnɪə/ 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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Heberden’s node  /haˈbɜːdənz ‘nɒd/ noun a small bony lump which develops on the end joints of fingers in osteoarthritis. Described by William Heberden (1767–1849), British physician, specialist in rheumatic diseases.]

hebetude /hebɪˈtjuːd/ 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 /ˈhektɪk/ adjective recurring regularly

hectic fever | /ˈhektɪk ˈfɪvə/ noun an attack of fever which occurs each day in someone who has tuberculosis |

heel /hiːl/ noun the back part of the foot

heel bone | /hiːl bɔːrn/ noun the bone forming the heel, beneath the talus. Also called calcaneus |

Hegar’s sign  /ˈheɡər, sɛnt/ 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 |

Heimlich manoeuvre  /ˈheɪmlɪk məˈnɔːvər/ noun an emergency treatment for choking, in which a strong upward push beneath the
hemiarthroplasty /ˌhemiːəˈθrɔːrɔʊplæstɪ/ noun an operation to repair a joint which replaces one of its surfaces with an artificial substance, often metal
hemiatrophy /ˌhemiːəˈtroʊfri/ noun a condition in which half of the body or half of an organ or part is atrophied
hemiballismus /ˌhemiˈbælɪzməs/ noun a sudden movement of the limbs on one side of the body, caused by a disease of the basal ganglia
hemiconectomy /ˈhɛmɪsˌkɒntɪməti/ noun the surgical removal of part of the colon
hemicrania /ˌhɛmɪˈkræniə/ noun a headache in one side of the head, as in migraine
hemimelia /ˌhɛmɪˈmiːliə/ noun a congenital condition in which someone has absent or extremely short arms or legs
hemiparesis /ˌhɛmɪˈpærəsɪs/ noun slight paralysis of the muscles of one side of the body
hemisphere /ˌhɛmɪˈsfɪər/ noun half of a sphere
hemo- /hɪməʊ-/ prefix US spelling of haemo-
hemolysis-elevated liver enzymes-low platelet count syndrome
helminth /ˈhɛlmɪnt/ noun a parasitic worm, e.g. a tapeworm or fluke
helminthiasis /ˌhɛlmɪntθˈɛərəsɪs/ noun infestation with parasitic worms
heloma /ˈheləmə/ noun same as corn
helper /ˈhɛlpər/ noun a person who helps someone to do something, especially without payment
helper T-cell /ˈhɛlpər tˈsiːl/ noun a type of white blood cell that stimulates the production of cells that destroy antigens
hemeralopia /ˌhɛmərəˈlopɪə/ noun a usually congenital condition in which someone is able to see better in bad light than in ordinary daylight. Also called day blindness
hem- /hɛm-/ prefix half
hemianopia /ˌhɛmɪəˈnɔʊpiə/ noun a state of partial blindness in which someone has only half the usual field of vision in each eye
helico- 174
breastbone of a patient clasped from behind to force the blockage out of the windpipe
helico- /hɛlɪkəʊ-/ prefix relating to an ulcer
helicoiplasty /ˌhɛlɪkəʊˈpəʊlæstɪ/ noun a skin graft to cover an ulcer to aid healing
Helicobacter pylori /ˌhɛlɪkəˈbæktrərəl/ noun a bacterium found in gastric secretions, strongly associated with duodenal ulcers and gastric carcinoma
helicopter-based emergency medical services /ˌhɛlɪˈkɔptɚˌbiːzd / noun medical help provided by an emergency medical helicopter and its medical staff
hemi-/ hemi-/ prefix relating to the sun
heliotrope /ˈhɛliəˌtrop/ noun treatment by sunlight or sunbathing
helium /ˈhɛliəm/ noun a very light gas used in combination with oxygen, especially to relieve asthma or sickness caused by decompression (note: The chemical symbol is He.)
helix /ˈhɛlɪks/ noun the curved outer edge of the ear
Heller’s operation /ˈhɛləz ˈɒpərəʃən/ noun same as cardiotomy
Heller’s test /ˈhɛləz tɛst/ noun a test for protein in the urine [After Johann Florenz Heller (1813–71), Austrian physician]
Hellin’s law /ˈhɛlinz ˈlɔːr/ noun a finding which states that twins should occur naturally once in 90 live births, triplets once in 8,100 live births, quadruplets once in 729,000 live births, and quintuplets once in 65, 610, 000 live births (note: Since the 1960s the numbers have changed due to fertility treatment. For example, twins now occur once in only 38 births.)
HELLP syndrome /ˈhɛlp ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a serious pre-eclamptic disorder which makes it necessary to terminate a pregnancy. Full form haemolysis-elevated liver enzymes-low platelet count syndrome
helminth /ˈhelminθ/ noun a parasitic, often long worm, as in a tapeworm or fluke
helminthiasis /ˌhɛlmɪnθˈɛərəsɪs/ noun infestation with parasitic worms
heloma /ˈheləmə/ noun same as corn
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helico- 174
al cell of the liver acini contact with infected blood or other body fluids.

The portal vein, which brings blood from the alimentary canal to the liver, contacts the liver with infected blood, often carrying the hepatitis virus.

The liver deals with many different substances, including some anticoagulants like heparin.

The hepatitis viruses have also been identified.

Infectious hepatitis and serum hepatitis are caused by different viruses called A and B, and having had one does not give immunity against another.

Other hepatitis viruses have also been identified.

A mild form of viral hepatitis is transmitted through contaminated food and water by different viruses called A and B.

A viral disease that is transmitted by contact with infected blood or other body fluids is hepatitis B.
**herd immunity**

Herd immunity /ha:rd ɪˌmjuːnəti/ 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** /həˈredətɪ/ adjective passed as from parents to children through the genes.

**hereditary spherocytosis** /həˈredətɪdri ˈsɛfərətəsəs/ noun same as acholic jaundice.

**heredity** /həˈredətɪ/ noun the process by which genetically controlled characteristics pass from parents to children.

**Hering-Breuer reflexes** /ˈhɛrɪŋ ˈbriər, ˈriːflɛkszəs/ plural noun the reflexes which maintain the normal rhythmic inflation and deflation of the lungs.

**hermaphrodite** /hərˈmæfərdət/ noun a person with both male and female characteristics.

**hermaphroditism** /hərˈmæfərdətɪzəm/ noun a condition in which a person has both male and female characteristics.

**hernia** /ˈhɛrniə/ noun a condition in which an organ bulges through a hole or weakness in the wall which surrounds it. Also called rupture or reduction of a hernia putting a hernia back into the correct position.

**hernial** /hərˈniəl/ adjective referring to a hernia.

**hernial sac** /hərˈniəl ˈsæk/ noun a sac formed where a membrane has pushed through a cavity in the body.

**herniated** /hərˈniətɪd/ adjective referring to an organ which has developed a hernia.

**herniated disc** /hərˈniətɪd ˈdɪsk/ noun a displaced intervertebral disc.

**herniation** /hərˈniəʃən/ noun the development of a hernia.

**hernio-** /hərˈniəʊ-/ prefix relating to a hernia.

**hernioplasty** /hərˈniəploʊstə/ noun a surgical operation to reduce a hernia.

**herniorrhaphy** /hərˈniərəˈfæ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a hernia and repair the organ through which it protruded.

**herniotomy** /hərˈniətəmə/ noun a surgical operation to remove a hernial sac.

**heroin** /ˈhɛrəʊɪn/ noun a narcotic drug in the form of a white powder derived from morphine.

**herpangina** /hərpˈæŋɡənə/ noun an infectious disease of children, where the tonsils and back of the throat become inflamed and ulcerated, caused by a Coxsackie virus.

**herpes** /hərˈpəz/ noun inflammation of the skin or mucous membrane, caused by a virus, where small blisters are formed.

**herpes simplex** /hərˈpəs 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** /hərˈpɛz vəˈrəs/ noun one of a group of viruses which cause herpes and chickenpox (herpesvirus Type I), and genital herpes (herpesvirus Type II).

**herpes zoster** /hərˈpɛz ˈzɔstər/ noun inflammation of a sensory nerve, characterised by pain along a 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** /hərˈpɛtɪfɔrˌmɪs/ adjective referring to herpes.

**heterologous** /həˈtəroʊloʊgəs/ adjective having different characteristics or qualities (Note: Do not confuse with heterogenous.)

**heterogenous** /həˈtəroʊˈɡɑːnəs/ adjective coming from a different source (Note: Do not confuse with heterogeneous.)

**heterograft** /həˈtəroʊɡraft/ noun tissue taken from one species and grafted onto an individual of another species. Compare homograft.

**heterologous** /həˈtərəˈlɑːɡəs/ adjective of a different type.

**heterophoria** /həˈtəroʊˈfɔrɪə/ noun a condition in which an eye is covered it tends to squint.

**heteroplasty** /həˈtəroʊˈpləstɪ/ noun same as heterograft.

**heteropsis** /həˈtəroʊˌpɔsɪs/ noun a condition in which the two eyes see differently.

**heterosexual** /həˈtəroʊsɛksˈjuːəl/ adjective attracted to people of the opposite sex or relating to relations between males and females.

**heterosexual** /həˈtəroʊsɛksˈjuːəl/ adjective attracted to people of the opposite sex or relating to relations between males and females.

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**heterosexual** /həˈtəroʊsɛksˈjuːəl/ adjective attracted to people of the opposite sex.

**heterotopia** /həˈtəroʊˈtɒpiə/ noun a state where an organ is placed in a different position from usual or is malformed or deformed.
gus passes a tube which is put into the large vein above the phoribosyl transferase.

After Alfred Higginson invented the Hickman line, which allows flow in one direction only, used for high-risk patients who have tumour tissue containing mostly foods high in protein and low in carbohydrates and saturated fat, adopted by people who are trying to lose weight.

COMMENT: Many cures have been suggested for hiccups, but the main treatment is to try to get the patient to think about something else. Also called a spasm in the diaphragm muscle through which the oesophagus passes.

Hib vaccine /hɪb ˈvækstʃɪn/ noun a vaccine used to inoculate against the bacterium Haemophilus influenzae that causes meningitis. Also called Higuain's syringe /ˌhaɪgjuːəˈnɪns/ noun a syringe with a rubber bulb in the centre that allows flow in one direction only, used mainly to give enemas after Alfred Higuain (1808–84), British surgeon.

high-altitude sickness /ˌhæɪəlˈætɪdətˈsɪŋkəs/ noun same as altitude sickness

high blood pressure /ˈhaɪbʌldpɜːrˈɛsər/ noun same as hypertension

Hippocratic oath

high-calorie diet /ˌhaɪkələriˈdaɪt/ noun a diet containing over 4000 calories per day

high-density lipoprotein /ˌhaɪdɛnˈstɪliˈpərəproʊtˈɪn/ noun a lipoprotein with a low percentage of cholesterol. Also called HDL.

high-energy food /ˌhaɪˈɛnərɪˈfoʊd/ noun food such as fats or carbohydrates which contain a large number of calories and give a lot of energy when they are broken down in the body.

high-fibre diet /ˌhaɪfɜːbİRˈdɛt/ noun a diet which contains a high percentage of cereals, nuts, fruit and vegetables.

high-protein diet /ˌhaɪprəˈtɪn ˈdaɪt/ noun a diet containing mostly foods high in protein and low in carbohydrates and saturated fat, adopted by people who are trying to lose weight.

high-risk /ˌhaɪrɪsk/ adjective referring to someone who is very likely to catch or develop a disease, develop a cancer or have an accident.

high-risk patient /ˌhaɪrɪsk ˈpɛrəfənt/ noun a patient who has a high risk of catching an infection or developing a disease.

Hib vaccine /hɪb ˈvækstʃɪn/ noun a vaccine used to inoculate against the bacterium Haemophilus influenzae that causes meningitis.

hiccups /ˈhɪkəps/ plural hiccups or hiccough noun a spasm in the diaphragm which causes a sudden inhalation of breath followed by sudden closure of the glottis which makes a characteristic sound o. She had an attack of hiccups or had a hiccupping attack or got the hiccups. Also called singultus /ˈsɪŋɡəltəs/ noun to make a hiccup.

COMMENT: Many cures have been suggested for hiccups, but the main treatment is to try to get the patient to think about something else. A drink of water, holding the breath and counting, breathing into a paper bag, are all recommended.

Hickman catheter /ˈhɪkman ˈkæθɪtər/ Hickman line /ˈhɪkman ˈlɑːn/ noun 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.

hidr- /ˈhaɪdr-/ prefix referring to sweat

hidradenitis /ˌhaɪdredəˈnɛtɪs/ noun inflammation of the sweat glands

hidrosis /ˌhaɪdɹəˈrɒsɪs/ noun sweating, especially when it is excessive.

hidrotic /ˈhaɪdrotɪk/ adjective referring to sweating, n. a noun a substance which makes someone sweat.

Higgens's syringe /ˈhɪgənsz ˈsɜːrm/ noun a syringe with a rubber bulb in the centre that allows flow in one direction only, used mainly to give enemas after Alfred Higgens (1808–84), British surgeon.

high-altitude sickness /ˌhaɪəlˈætɪdətˈsɪŋkəs/ noun same as altitude sickness

high blood pressure /ˌhaɪbʌld ˈpɜːrˈɛsər/ noun same as hypertension.
Medicine.fm  Page 178  Thursday, November 20, 2003  4:26 PM

welfare first and not discuss openly the details of a patient’s case.

histamine /hɪstəmən/ noun a substance released in response to allergens from mast cells throughout the body. Histamines dilate blood vessels, constrict the cells of smooth muscles involved in allergic reactions, and are involved in gastric acid secretion.

histamine receptor /hɪstəmən ˈrektər/ noun a cell which is stimulated by histamine. H1 receptors in blood vessels are involved in allergic reactions, whereas H2 receptors in the stomach are involved in gastric acid secretion.

histamine test /hɪstəmən ˈtest/ noun a test to determine the acidity of gastric juice.

histaminic /hɪstəmɪnɪk/ adjective referring to histamines.

histaminic headache /hɪstəmɪnɪk ‘heɪ dɪk/ noun Horton’s syndrome.

histidine /hɪstədɪn/ noun an amino acid from which histamine is derived.

histiocytoma /ˈhɪstɪʊsɪtəʊmə/ noun a tumour containing histiocytes.

histiocytosis /ˈhɪstɪʊsɪtɒsɪs/ noun a condition in which histiocytes are present in the blood.

histiocytosis X /ˈhɪstɪʊsɪtɒsɪs ˈeks/ noun any form of histiocytosis where the cause is not known, e.g. Hand-Schüller-Christian disease.

Hirschi sprung’s disease /ˈhɜrsprʌŋz ˈdɪzəs/ 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.]

hirudin /haɪrːdɪn/ noun a substance produced by leeches, which is injected into the bloodstream while the leech is feeding on a body.

hirsute /ˈhɜrsjʊt/ adjective with a lot of hair.

HIV /ˈhɪv/ abbreviation human immunodeficiency virus.

histocompatibility /ˈhɪstəkəmpəˌtæləti/ noun compatibility between the antigens of tissues from two individuals, important in transplants.

histocompatible /ˈhɪstəkəmpəˌtæbl/ adjective referring to tissues from two individuals which have compatible antigens.

histogenesis /ˈhɪstəˌdʒenəsɪs/ noun the formation and development of tissue from the embryological germ layer.

histogram /ˈhɪstəɡrəm/ noun a way of displaying frequency values as columns whose height is proportional to the corresponding frequency. 

histology /ˈhɪstəlɒdʒi/ noun the study of the anatomy of tissue cells and minute cellular structure.

histolysis /ˈhɪstəlɒsɪs/ noun the disintegration of tissue.

histolytica /ˈhɪstəlɒtɪkə/ Entamoeba histolytica. A lung disease caused by infection with the fungus Histoplasma.

histoplasmosis /ˈhɪstəpləsəzˌməʊsɪs/ noun a lung disease caused by infection with the fungus Histoplasma.

histotoxic /ˈhɪstəʊtrəkstsɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which is poisonous to tissues.

HIV abbr human immunodeficiency virus. ‘HIV-associated dementia is characterized by psychomotor slowing and inattention’ [British Journal of Nursing].

Comment: HIV is the virus which causes AIDS. Three strains of HIV virus have been identified: HIV-1, HIV-2 and HIV-3.

hives /ˈhaɪvz/ noun same as urticaria (NOTE: Takes a singular verb.)
HIV-negative /ˈɛktf ət , vɪː ˈneɡətɪv/ adjective referring to someone who has been tested and shown not to have HIV
HIV-positive /ˈɛktf ət , vɪː ˈprɪzdətɪv/ adjective referring to someone who has been tested and shown to have HIV
HLA abbr human leucocyte antigen
HLA system /ˈɛktf əl ˈɛtˌsɪstem/ 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 abbr US Health Maintenance Organization
hoarse /ˈhɔːrəs/ adjective referring to a voice which is harsh and rough
hoarseness /ˈhɔːʀəns/ noun a harsh and rough sound of the voice, often caused by laryngitis
hobnail liver /ˈhɒbˌnɛɪl ˈlɪvər/ noun same as atrophic cirrhosis
Hodgkin’s disease /ˈhɒdɡkɪnズ dɪˈzɪz/ 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 Thomas 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 ˈθeər/ noun same as septal defect (informal)
Holger-Nielsen method /ˌhɒlɡər ˈnɪlsən/ noun a formerly used method of giving artificial respiration by pressing a person’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 /hɔlˈɪstɪk/ 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 /hɔlˈɪstɪk ˈkeər/ noun the care and treatment of a whole person rather than just of his or her medical symptoms
holo- /hɒləʊ/ prefix entire, complete
holocrine /ˈhɒlkrən/ adjective referring to a gland where the secretions are made up of disintegrated cells of the gland itself
Homans’ sign /ˈhɒmənz sɛn/ 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- /ˈhɑməʊ/ prefix like or similar to homeopathy /ˌhɑməʊɨˈpɑθɪk/ homoeopathic /ˌhɑməʊɨˈpɑθɪk/ adjective 1. referring to homeopathy ○ a homeopathic clinic ○ She is having a course of homeopathic treatment. 2. referring to a drug which is given in very small quantities
homeopathist /ˌhɑməʊɨˈpɑθɪst/ noun a person who practises homeopathy
homeopathy /ˌhɑməʊɨˈpɑθi/ noun the treatment of a condition by giving the person very small quantities of a substance which, when given to a healthy person, would cause symptoms like those of the condition being treated. Compare allopathy
homeostasis /ˌhɑməʊˌstəˈseɪs/ noun the process by which the functions and chemistry of an organ or internal organ are kept stable, even when external conditions vary greatly
homeo- /ˈhɑməʊ/ prefix the same
homeo- /ˈhɑməʊ/ prefix another spelling of homeo- (used before vowels)
homogenise /ˌhɒməˈɡənɪz/ noun the graft of an organ or tissue from a donor to a recipient of the same species, e.g. from one person to another. Also called allograft. Compare heterograft
homolateral /ˌhɒmələˈtələr/ adjective same as ipsilateral
homologous /ˌhɑməˈlɑɡəs/ adjective 1. of the same type 2. referring to chromosomes which form a pair
homonymous /ˌhɑməˈnʌməs/ adjective affecting the two eyes in the same way
homonymous hemianopia /ˌhɑməˈnʌməs ˌhɛmɪəˈnɪpəʊə/ noun a condition in which the same half of the field of vision is lost in each eye
homoplastic /ˌhɑməˈplæstɪk/ noun surgery to replace lost tissues by grafting similar tissues from another person
homosexual /ˌhɑməˈsɛksjuəl/ adjective referring to homosexuality ○ a person who is sexually attracted to people of the same sex. Compare bisexual, heterosexual [NOTE: Although homosexual can apply to both males and females, it is commonly used for males only, and lesbian is used for females.]
homosexuality /ˌhɑməˈsɛksjuələtɪ/ noun sexual attraction to people of the same sex or sexual relations with people of the same sex
homozygous /ˌhɑməʊˌzaɪɡəs/ adjective having two identical versions of a specific gene. Compare heterozygous
hook /hʊk/ noun a surgical instrument with a bent end used for holding structures apart in operations
hookworm /ˈhɔkwɜrm/ noun a parasitic worm
hookworm disease /ˈhɔkwɜrm dɪˈzɪz/ noun an acyclostomiasis
hordeolum /ˌhɔrdəˈləm/ noun an infection of the gland at the base of an eyelash. Also called stye
horizontal /ˈhɔrɪznɔl/ adjective lying flat or at a right angle to the vertical
horizontal fissure /ˈhɔrɪznɔl ˈfɪʃ/ noun an horizontal groove between the superior and middle lobes of a lung. See illustration at lungs in Supplement
horizontal plane /ˈhɔrɪznɔl ˈplɛn/ adjective same as transverse plane, see illustration at anatomical terms in Supplement
hormonal /ˈhɔr mónl/ adjective referring to hormones
hormone /ˈhɔr məʊn/ 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 /ˈhɔr məʊn rɪˈpleɪsmənt ˌhərəpəl/ hormone therapy /ˈhɔr məʊn ˌhərəpəl/ 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 ▶ Abb HRT
horn /hɔrn/ noun 1. (in human) 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 cusp
Homer’s syndrome /ˈhɔmrəz ˈsɜndraʊm/ 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 /ˈhɔrni/ adjective referring to skin which is very hard [Note: For terms referring to horny tissue, see words beginning with kerat-, kerato-]
horseshoe kidney /ˈhɔrsʃu/ˈkiːdnɪ/ noun a congenital condition of the kidney, where sometimes the upper but usually the lower parts of both kidneys are joined together
Horton’s syndrome /ˈhɔrtənz ˌsɜndraʊm/ 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 /hɔz/ noun 1. a long rubber or plastic tube 2. a support hose
hospice /ˈhɒспɪs/ noun a hospital which offers palliative care for terminally ill people
hospital /ˈhɒspɪtəl/ 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 ▶ A hospital bed is needed if the patient has to have traction. 2. a place in a hospital which can be occupied by one patient ▶ There will be no reduction in the number of hospital beds.
hospital-acquired infection /ˈhɒspɪtəl əkrɪˈtɪv/ ˌɪnˈfɛktʃən/ noun a disease caught during a stay in hospital
Hospital Activity Analysis /ˈhɒspɪtəl əkrɪˈtɪv ˌækeləˈnɪzɪs/ noun a regular detailed report on patients in hospitals, including information about treatment, length of stay and outcome
hospital care /ˈhɒspɪtəl ˈkeə/ noun treatment in a hospital
hospital chaplain /ˈhɒspɪtəl ˈtʃeplən/ 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 /ˈhɒspɪtəl ˈkɔrnər/ noun a way of folding the overlapping bedding at each corner of a bed that keeps it tight
hospital doctor /ˈhɒspɪtəl ˈdɒktər/ noun a doctor who works only in a hospital and does not receive people in his or her own surgery
hospital gangrene /ˈhɒspɪtəl ˈɡæŋɡrəni/ noun gangrene caused by insanitary hospital conditions
hospital infection /ˈhɒspɪtəl ɪnˈfɛktʃən/ noun an infection which someone gets during a hospital visit, or one which develops among hospital staff
hospitalisation /ˈhɒspɪtəl əˈzeɪʃən/ noun the act of sending someone to hospital ▶ The doctor recommended immediate hospitalisation
hospitalise /ˈhɒspɪtəl əˌzeɪʃən/ verb to send someone to hospital ▶ He is so ill that he has had to be hospitalised.
hospital orderly /ˈhɒspɪtəl əˈɔrdləri/ noun a person who does heavy work in a hospital, such as wheeling patients into the operating theatre or moving equipment about
hospital trust /ˈhɒspɪtəl trʌst/ noun same as self-governing hospital
host /hɔst/ noun a person or animal on which a parasite lives
hot /hɒt/ adjective very warm or having a high temperature
hot flush /hɒt 'flʌʃ/ noun a condition in menopausal women, in which the woman becomes hot and sweaty, and which is often accompanied by redness of the skin
hot pack /hɒt pæk/ 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, tri:tmaent/ noun a treatment for arthritis in which the joints are painted with hot liquid wax
hourglass contraction /ˈhinəglaʊs ˈkɒn trəʊʃə/ noun a condition in which the wall of the stomach is constricted in the centre
house mite /ˈhauzmait/ noun a tiny insect living mainly in bedding and soft furnishings, that can cause an allergic reaction
house officer /ˈhauz ˈɒfsər/ 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 HGPRT (hypoxanthine guanine phosphoribosyl transferase)
HPV abbr human papillomavirus
HRT abbr hormone replacement therapy
Hühner’s test /ˈhuːnaɪə, ˈteɪst/ noun a test carried out several hours after sexual intercourse to determine the number and motility of spermatozoa [After Max Hühner (1873–1947), US urologist]
human /ˈhjuːmən/ adjective referring to any man, woman or child noun a person ○ Most animals are afraid of humans.
human anatomy /ˈhjuːmən əˈneɪtəməni/ noun the structure, shape and functions of the human body
human being /ˈhjuːmən ˈbɪzɪŋ/ noun a person
human chorionic gonadotrophin /ˈhjuːmən kərˈɔɪn, ˈgəʊnədətɹəʊtʃɪn/ 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 /ˈhjuːmən ˈkrʌtʃ/ 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 /ˈhjuːmən ɪˌmjuːnəʊdɪˈfɪsiənsi vɜːs/ noun a virus which causes AIDS. Abbr HIV
human leucocyte antigen /ˈhjuːmən ˈliːʃəʊs ˈeɪntəɡən/ 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 /ˈhjuːmən ˈnɛrtri/ noun the general behavioural characteristics of human beings
human papillomavirus /ˈhjuːmən pæpɪˌlɔɪməvərʒəs/ noun a virus that causes genital warts in humans. Abbr HPV
humectant /ˈhjuːməktənt/ noun a substance able to absorb or retain moisture ○ noun a substance that can absorb or retain moisture, e.g. a skin lotion
humeral
humerus /ˈhjuːmərəs/ noun the bone in the arm, running from the shoulder to the elbow (NOTE: The plural is humeri)
humid /ˈhjuːmɪd/ adjective, adverb happening every hour
humor /ˈhjuːmər/ noun a gland, containing moisture vapour
humoral /ˈhjuːmərəl/ adjective relating to human body fluids, in particular blood serum
humour /ˈhjuːmər, ˈhjuːmər/ noun a fluid in the body
hunchback /ˈhʌŋtʃbæk/ noun a kyphosis
hunger /ˈhʌŋgər/ noun a need to eat
hunger pains /ˈhʌŋgər peɪns/ plural noun pains in the abdomen when a person feels hungry, sometimes a sign of a duodenal ulcer
Hunter’s syndrome /ˈhʌntər ˌsɜːndrəʊm/ 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.]
Hurley’s syndrome /ˈhɜːlɪz, ˈsɜːndrəʊm/ noun same as gargoylism [Described 1920. After Gertrud Hurley, German paediatrician.]
hurt /hɜːt/ 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
husky

hurting so much he can’t write. ◎ She fell down and hurt herself. (NOTE: hurting – hurt)
• adjective 1. feeling physical pain ○ He was slightly hurt in the car crash. ○ Two players got hurt in the football game. 2. feeling emotional pain ○ Her parents’ divorce hurt her deeply.
husky /ˈhʌski/ adjective slightly hoarse

Hutchinson’s tooth /ˈhʌtʃɪznz/ tooth 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- /ˈhɛəl-/: prefix like glass (used before vowels)

hyalin /ˈhælɪn/ noun a transparent substance produced from collagen and deposited around blood vessels and scars when some tissues degenerate

hyaline /ˈhælɪn/ adjective nearly transparent like glass

hyaline cartilage /ˈhælɪn kɑrtɪldʒ/ 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 /ˈhælɪn ˈmembrɪn dʒi,zi/ noun same as respiratory distress syndrome

hyalitis /ˈhælɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the vitreous humour or the hyaloid membrane in the eye. Also called vitritis

hyaloïd membrane /ˈhæləʊɪd ˈmembrɪn/ noun a transparent membrane round the vitreous humour in the eye

hyaluronic acid /ˈhælərəʊnɪk ˈæsید/ noun a substance which binds connective tissue and is found in the eyes

hyaluronidase /ˈhælərəʊneɪdəz/ noun an enzyme which destroys hyaluronic acid

hybrid /ˈhɛbrɪd/ noun an organism that is a result of a cross between individuals that are not genetically the same as each other

HYCOSY abbr heterosapaplingo-contrast sonography

hydatid /ˈhɛdətɪd/ noun any cyst-like structure

hydatid cyst /ˈhɛdətɪd ˈsɪst/ noun the larval form of the tapeworms of the genus Echinooccus

hydatid disease /ˈhɛdətɪd ˈdɪzəsɪs/ noun an infection, usually in the lungs or liver, caused by expanding hydatid cysts that destroy the tissues of the infected organ

hydatid mole /ˈhɛdətɪd ˈməʊl/ noun an abnormal pregnancy from a pathologic ovum, resulting in a mass of cysts shaped like a bunch of grapes

hydro- /ˈhædrəʊ/ prefix same as hydro- (used before vowels)

hydroa /ˈhædrəʊə/ noun an eruption of small itchy blisters, e.g. those caused by sunlight

hydrocele /ˈhædrəʊsɪl/ noun the collection of watery liquid found in a cavity such as the scrotum

hydrocephalus /ˈhædrəʊˌkefələs/ noun an excess quantity of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain

hydrocholic acid /ˈhædrəʊklərɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun an acid found in the gastric juices which helps to break apart the food

hydrocolloid strip /ˈhædrəʊkɒləʊd ˈstrɪp/ noun a waterproof gel dressing that seals a wound, retaining moisture and preventing access to germs and dirt

hydrocolpos /ˈhædrəʊˌkɒlpəs/ noun a cyst in the vagina containing clear fluid

hydrocortisone /ˈhædrəˌkɒrˌtɪsən/ noun a steroid hormone secreted by the adrenal cortex or produced synthetically, used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory and allergic conditions

hydrocyanic acid /ˈhædrəʊˌkʌnɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun an acid which forms cyanide. Abbrev HCN

hydrogen /ˈhædrəˌdʒɪn/ 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 /ˈhædrəˌdʒɪn ˈpɜrəʊk ˈsɪd/ noun a solution used as a disinfectant

hydrolysis /ˈhædrəˌlɪsɪs/ 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 /haˈdroma/ noun same as hygroma
hydrometer /haˈdromətər/ noun an instrument which measures the density of a liquid
hydromelia /ˌhaɪdruˈmɪliə/ noun a condition in which fluid swells the central canal of the spinal cord
hydrenephrosis /ˌhaɪdrəˈnɛfroʊsɪs/ noun swelling of the pelvis of a kidney caused by accumulation of water due to infection or a kidney stone blocking the ureter
hydropathy /haˈdρɒpəθi/ noun the treatment of injuries or disease by bathing in water or drinking mineral waters
hydropericarditis /ˌhaɪdروʊˈpɛrɪkaːrdətɪs/ hydropericardium /ˌhaɪdروʊˈpɛrɪkaːrdjʊəm/ noun an accumulation of liquid round the heart
hydroperitoneum /ˌhaɪdروʊˈpɛrɪtoʊˈnɪəm/ noun a build-up of fluid in the peritoneal cavity (NOTE: The plural is hydroperitoneums or hydroperitonea.)
hydrophobia /ˌhaɪdروʊˈfəʊbiə/ noun same as oedema
hydrophobia /ˌhaɪdروʊˈfəʊbiə/ noun same as oedema

183

hyperacusis

hydroxyproline /ˌhaɪdروʊˌkɛksɪˈpɹəʊlɪn/ noun an amino acid present in some proteins, especially in collagen
hygiene /ˈhaɪdʒɪn/ noun 1. the procedures and principles designed to keep things clean and to keep conditions healthy 2. Nurses have to maintain a strict personal hygiene. 2. the science of health
hygienist /ˈhaɪdʒɪnɪst/ noun a person who specialises in hygiene and its application
hydrops /ˌhaɪdروʊpɔs/ noun (used before vowels)
hydros /haˈdros/ noun same as oedema (NOTE: The plural is hydropses.)
hydrosalpinx /ˌhaɪdروʊˈsælpɪŋks/ noun an occasion when watery fluid collects in one or both of the Fallopian tubes, causing swelling (NOTE: The plural is hydrosalpinges.)
hydrotherapy /haˈdrosəθərəpi/ noun a type of physiotherapy involving treatment in water, where people are put in hot baths or are encouraged to swim
hydrothorax /ˌhaɪdروʊˈθɔræks/ noun the collection of liquid in the pleural cavity
hidrotubation /ˌhaɪdروʊˈtjuːbəʃən/ noun an act of putting a fluid through the neck of the uterus and the Fallopian tubes under pressure to check whether the tubes are blocked
hydroureter /ˌhaɪdروʊˈjʊrərɛtər/ noun a condition in which water or urine collect in the ureter because it is blocked
hydroxide /haɪdروʊˈsɛksɪd/ noun a chemical compound containing a hydroxyl group
hyperadrenalinism /ˌhʌpədrəˈarlɪnəlɪzəm/ 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

hyperaesthesia /ˌhʌpəˈæstɪθiə/ noun an extremely high sensitivity in the skin

hyperalimentation /ˌhʌpərəˈailməntəʃən/ noun the feeding of large amounts of nutrients by mouth or intravenously to someone with serious nutritional deficiency

hyperandrogenism /ˌhʌpərəˈændrədʒənɪzəm/ 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 /ˌhʌpərəˈbærɪk/ adjective referring to a treatment in which someone is given oxygen at high pressure, used to treat carbon monoxide poisoning

hypercalciemia /ˌhʌpərəˈkælsɪəmɪə/ noun an excess of calcium in the blood

hypercalcinuria /ˌhʌpərəˈkælsɪnjuəriə/ noun a condition in which an unusually high amount of calcium occurs in the urine

hypercapnia /ˌhʌpərəˈkæpniə/ noun an unusually high concentration of carbon dioxide in the bloodstream

hypercapabolism /ˌhʌpərəˈkæpəˌbæləbɪlzəm/ noun a condition in which the body breaks down its own tissues or a particular substance too much. It causes weight loss and wasting

hyperchloremia /ˌhʌpərəˈklɔɪəmɪə/ noun a condition in which there is too much chloride in the blood

hyperchlorhydria /ˌhʌpərəˈklɔʊərəˈhɪdrɪə/ noun an excess of hydrochloric acid in the stomach

hyperdactyly /ˌhʌpərəˈdæktəlɪzəm/ noun the condition of having more than the usual number of fingers or toes. Also called polydactyly

hyperextension /ˌhʌpərəˈɛkstənsiən/ noun the act of stretching an arm or leg beyond its usual limits of movement

hyperextension /ˌhʌpərəˈfleksjən/ noun the act of flexing a joint beyond the usual limit or a hyperflexion injury

hyperfunction /ˌhʌpərəˈfʌŋkʃən/ noun excessive activity of a gland or other organ of the body

hypergalactia /ˌhʌpərəˈɡæləktɪə,ˌhʌpərəˈɡæləktɪəs/ noun a condition in which too much milk is secreted

hyperglycaemia /ˌhʌpərəˈɡlɪkəˈsiəmɪə/ noun an excess of glucose in the blood

hyperhidrosis /ˌhʌpərəˈhɪdrəˌroʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which too much sweat is produced

hyperinsulinism /ˌhʌpərəˈɪnsjʊlɪnɪzm/ 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 /ˌhʌpərəˈkɜrətəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the outer layer of the skin becomes unusually thickened

hyperkinesia /ˌhʌpərəˈkɪnɪziə/ noun a condition in which there is unusually great strength or movement

hyperkinetic syndrome /ˌhʌpərəˈkɪnɛtɪkˌsəʊndrəʊm/ noun a condition in which someone experiences fatigue, shortness of breath, pain under the heart and palpitation

hyperlipidaemia /ˌhʌpərəˈlɪpɪdəˈmiə/ noun the pathological increase of the amount of lipids, or fat, in the blood

hypermetabolism /ˌhʌpərəˌmɛtəˈbɒlɪzəm/ 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 /ˌhʌpərəˌnɛfrəˈmoʊmə/ noun same as Grawitz tumour

hyperopia /ˌhʌpərəˈpəʊriə/ noun same as hypermetropia

hyperostosis /ˌhʌpərəˈɔstrəsɪs/ noun excessive growth on the outside surface of a bone, especially the frontal bone

hyperparathyroidism /ˌhʌpərəˌpærəˈθɛrərɔɪdɪzəm/ noun an unusually high concentration of parathyroid hormone in the body. It causes various medical problems including damage to the kidneys

hyperphagia /ˌhʌpərəˈfædʒiə/ noun long-term compulsive overeating

hyperpiesia /ˌhʌpərəˈpɪəsɪə/ noun same as hyperpension
**hyperpiesis** /hærpəˈpiːsɪs/ noun unusually high pressure, especially of the blood

**hyperpituitarism** /hærpəˈpɪtjuːtərɪəm/ noun a condition in which the pituitary gland is overactive

**hyperplasia** /hærpəˈplɛzɪəs/ noun a condition in which there is an increase in the number of cells in an organ

**hyperpnoea** /hærpəˈpnoʊə/ noun unusually deep or fast breathing, e.g. after physical exercise

**hyperpyrexia** /hærpəˈpɜːrɛksɪə/ noun a body temperature of above 41.1°C

**hypersecretion** /hærpəˈsɛrɛʃən/ noun a condition in which someone reacts more strongly to something such as an allergic substance

**hypersensitivity** /hærpəˈsɛnsɪtɪv/ adjective referring to a person who reacts more strongly than usual to an antigen

**hamaurosis** /hærpəˈrəʊərɔsɪs/ noun a condition in which the mucous membranes in the nose become thicker

**hypertension** /hærpəˈtɛnʃən/ noun arterial blood pressure that is higher than the usual range for gender and age. Also called high blood pressure, hyperpiesis. Compare hypotension.

**hypertrophic rhinitis** /hærpətruːfɪk raiˈnɪtɪs/ noun a condition in which the mucous membranes in the nose become thicker

**hypertensive** /hærpəˈtɛnsɪv/ adjective referring to high blood pressure

**hypertensive headache** /hærpəˈtɛnsɪvˈhedɛk/ noun a headache caused by high blood pressure

**hypertensive retinopathy** /hærpəˈtɛnsɪvˈrɛtɪnəpəθi/ noun changes in the retina caused by local bleeding and a restricted blood supply that threaten eyesight, as the condition indicates that the blood pressure is excessively high

**hyperthermia** /hærpəˈθɜːrmiə/ noun a very high body temperature

**hyperthyroidism** /hærpəˈθaɪrədʒɪz(ə)m/ noun a condition in which the thyroid gland is too active and releases unusual amounts of thyroid hormones into the blood, giving rise to a rapid heartbeat, sweating and trembling. It can be treated with carbimazole. Also called thyroidotoxicosis

**hypoerthrombocytopenia** /hærpəˈθraʊmbəˈsɪtəpənіə/ noun an increased rigidity and spasticity of the muscles

**hypertonic** /hærpəˈtɒnɪk/ adjective referring to a solution which has a higher osmotic pressure than another specified solution

**hypertrophic** /hærpəˈtrɒfɪk/ adjective associated with hypertrophy

**hyperventilation** /hærpəˈventɪləʃən/ noun very fast breathing which can be accompanied by dizziness or tetany

**hypervitaminosis** /hærpəˌvɪtəˈmənɪəsɪs/ noun a condition caused by taking too many synthetic vitamins, especially Vitamins A and D

**hypervolaemia** /hærpəˈvɒləmiə/ noun a condition in which there is too much plasma in the blood

**hypertrichosis** /hærpəˈtrɪkəsɪs/ noun unusual growth of hair on the body or on part of the body

**hypnotism** /hærpəˈnɒtɪzɪm/ noun the techniques used to induce hypnotism

**hypnotism** /hærpəˈnɒtɪzɪm/ noun the techniques used to induce hypnotism
hypnotist /ˌhɪpəˈnɔːtɪst/ noun a person who hypnotises other people ○ The hypnotist passed his hand in front of her eyes and she went immediately to sleep.

hypo /ˈhaʊpəʊ/ noun (informal) 1. same as hypodermic syringe 2. an attack of hypoglycaemia, experienced, e.g., by people who are diabetic

hypo-/ˈhaʊpəʊ/ prefix less, too little or beneath hypoaesthesia /ˌhaʊpəˈeɪziə/ noun a condition in which someone has a diminished sense of touch

hypoallergenic /ˌhaʊpəʊˈælərɡənɪk/ adjective not likely to cause an allergic reaction

hypochromic anaemia /ˌhaʊpəʊˈkraʊmɪk/ noun a condition in which the parathyroid glands do not secrete enough parathyroid hormone, leading to low blood calcium and muscle spasms hypophysarynx /ˌhaʊpəʊˈfɪzərɪks/ noun the part of the pharynx between the hyoid bone and the bottom of the cricoid cartilage (NOTE: The plural is hypophysarynxes or hypophysaryn-"
hypophyseal /ˌhaɪpəˈfɪziəl/ adjective referring to the pituitary gland
hypophyseal stalk /ˌhaɪpəfɪziəl ˈstɔːk/ noun a funnel-shaped stem which attaches the pituitary gland to the hypothalamus
hypophysectomy /haɪpəˈfɪsətɒmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the pituitary gland
hypophysis cerebri /haɪpəˈfɪsɪs ˈsɛrəbri/ noun same as pituitary gland
hypoplasia /haɪpəˈplæziə/ noun a lack of development or incorrect formation of a body tissue or an organ
hypoplastic left heart /haɪpəˈpleɪstɪk lɪft/ noun a 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 /haɪpəˈnoʊiə/ noun an unusually low sensitivity to stimuli
hypopension /haɪpəˈpɛnʃən/ noun a condition in which the pressure of the blood is unusually low. Also called low blood pressure. Compare hypertension
hypotensive /haɪpəˈtɛnsɪv/ adjective having low blood pressure
hypothalamic /haɪpəˈθælmək/ adjective referring to the hypothalamus
hypothalamic hormone /haɪpəˈθælmək ˈhɔrəmən/ noun same as releasing hormone
hypothalamus /haɪpəˈθæləməs/ 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
hypothalmus /haɪpəˈθælməs/ noun (Note: the plural is hypothalami)
hypotenar /haɪpəˈθɛnər/ adjective referring to the soft fat part of the palm beneath the little finger
hypotenar eminence /haɪpəˈθɛnər ˈɛmənəns/ noun a lump on the palm beneath the little finger. Compare thenar
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hypovitaminosis /haʊpəˌvɪtəməˈnɒsɪs/ noun a lack of vitamins
hypoxaemia /haʊpˌæksɪˈmeɪə/ noun an inadequate supply of oxygen in the arterial blood
hypoxanthine phosphoribosyl transferase /haʊpˌæksɪnˈθænθɪn phosˈfoʊrɪbəʊsɪl ˈtrɛnsfəˌreɪs/ noun full form of HPRT
hypoxia /haʊpˈsɪکsɪə/ 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- /ˈhɪstrə/ prefix same as hystero- (used before vowels)
hysteralgia /ˈhɪstrələdʒiə/ noun pain in the uterus
hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the uterus, often either to treat cancer or because of the presence of fibroids
hysteria /ˈhɪstrɪərɪə/ 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 /ˈhɪstrɪkl(ə)l/ adjective referring to a reaction showing hysteria (informal)
hysterically /ˈhɪstrɪkli/ adverb in a hysterical way (informal)
hysterical personality /ˈhɪstrɪkl(ə)l ˌpræsəˈneɪtrɪə/ noun the mental condition of a person who is unstable, lacks usual feelings and is dependent on others (dated)
hysteric /ˈhɪstrɪkər/ noun an attack of hysteria (dated)
hysterics /ˈhɪstrɪkəs/ noun a lack of iron in the arterial blood
hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the uterus, the uterine tubes and the ovaries
hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun prolapso de l'utérus
hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun an operation to repair a tear in the uterus or for some types of abortion.

hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the uterus and Fallopian tubes by ultrasound. Also called HYCOSY.
hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the uterus and Fallopian tubes following injection of radio-opaque material. Also called uterosalpingography.

hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun an operation to remake an opening between the uterine tube and the uterus, to help with infertility problems
hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun a tube for inspecting the inside of the uterus

hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun an examination of the uterine cavity using a hysteroscope or fibrescope

hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun a surgical incision into the uterus, as in caesarean section or for some types of abortion

hysterectomy /ˈhɪstrəˌæktrəmɪ/ noun an operation to repair a tear in the cervix
-asis /'ætəsɪs/ suffix disease caused by something. ○ amoebiasis
iatro-/'eɪtro- prefix relating to medicine or doctors
iatrogenesis /'eɪtrogənɪsɪs/ noun any condition caused by the actions of doctors or other healthcare professionals
iatrogenic /'eɪtrogənɪk/ adjective referring to a condition which is caused by a doctor’s treatment for another disease or condition ○ an iatrogenic infection
COMMENT: An iatrogenic condition can be caused by a drug, i.e. a side effect, by infection from the doctor or simply by worry about possible treatment.
IBS abbr irritable bowel syndrome
ibuprofen /'aɪbjuˈprəʊfən/ noun a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug that relieves pain and swelling, especially in arthritis and rheumatism. It is also widely used as a household painkiller.
ic/ice bag /'aɪs bæg/, icebag, ice pack /'aɪs pæk/ noun a cold compress made of lumps of ice wrapped in a cloth or put in a special bag and held against an injured part of the body to reduce pain or swelling
ichthamol /'aɪkθəməl/ noun a thick dark red liquid which is a mild antiseptic and analgesic, used in the treatment of skin diseases
ichthyosis /'aɪktθəsɪs/ noun a hereditary condition in which the skin does not form properly, resulting in a dry, non-inflammatory and scaly appearance
ICM abbr International Confederation of Midwives
ICN abbr 1. International Council of Nurses 2. infection control nurse
ICP abbr intracranial pressure
ICRC abbr International Committee of the Red Cross
ICSH abbr interstitial cell stimulating hormone
icteric /'aɪktərɪk/ adjective referring to someone with jaundice
icterus /'aɪktərəs/ noun same as jaundice
icterus gravis neonatorum /'aɪktərəs ˈgriːvəs ˌniːənəˈtɔrəm/ noun jaundice associated with erythroblastosis fetalis
ictus /'aɪktəs/ noun a stroke or fit
ICU abbr intensive care unit
id /'aɪd/ noun (in Freudian psychology) the basic unconscious drives which exist in hidden forms in a person
identification /'aɪdəˈfɪʃən/ noun the act or process of imagining or forming thoughts and ideas
identical twins /'aɪdətɪkl ˈtwɪnz/ plural noun twins who are exactly the same in appearance because they developed from the same ovum. Also called monzygotic twins, uniovular twins
identification /'aɪdəˈfɪʃən/ noun the act of discovering or stating who someone is or what something is ○ identification with someone the act of associating with and unconsciously taking on the viewpoints and behaviours of one or more other people
identity bracelet /'aɪdəˈbrɛtʃəl/, identity label /'aɪdəˈlɛbl/ noun a label attached to the wrist of a newborn baby or patient in hospital, so that he or she can be identified
ideo- /'aɪdiəʊ-/ prefix involving ideas
idio- /'aɪdɪəʊ-/ prefix referring to one particular person
idiopathic /'aɪdɪəˈpæθɪk/ adjective 1. referring to a disease with no obvious cause 2. referring to idiopathy
idiopathic epilepsy /'aɪdɪəˈpæθɪk ˈɛplɪˈlepsɪ/ noun epilepsy not caused by a brain disorder, beginning during childhood or adolescence
idiopathy /'aɪdɪəˈpæθɪ/ noun a condition which develops without any known cause
idiosyncrasy /'aɪdɪəsɪŋkraʊsɪ/ noun a way of behaving which is particular to one person
idiot savant /'aɪdɪəʊt 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
both the ileum and the colon
to the ileum and the caecum
is removed
and caecum
bladder using a piece of the combined ileum
surgical operation to make a link directly be-
vertstrokeinferior/ashntbɒdi
/vertstrokesuperior/ashntrð
ileorectal
noun
ileoproctostomy
tileocolitis
ileocolic artery
ileocaecocystoplasty
ileocaecal
noun
twelve, relating to a ileus
2.
relating to the ileum
ileal
adjective referring to the ileum
ileal bladder
/tilal / 'blædə/, ileal conduit
/tilal / 'kɒndʒʊdɪt/ 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 ab-
dominal wall
ileal pouch
/tilal / 'pauʃ/ noun a part of the small intestine
which is made into a new rec-
tum in a surgical operation, freeing someone
from the need for an ileostomy after their col-
on is removed
ileectomy
/tilɛktəmi/ noun the surgical re-
moval of all or part of the ileum
ileitis
/tilɛtɪs/ noun inflammation of the il-
eum
ileo-
prefix relating to the ileum
ileocaecal
noun
ileocaecal orifice
/tiloʊksɪʃ(ə)l / 'trɪfɪs/
noun an opening where the small intestine
joins the large intestine
ileocaecal valve
/tiloʊksɪʃ(ə)l / 'vɛlvɪ/ noun a valve at the end of the ileum, which allows
food to pass from the ileum into the caecum
ileocacocystoplasty
/tiloʊsɪkɒsɪtəsˈplæsɪ/ noun an operation to reconstruct the
bladder using a piece of the combined ileum
and caecum
ileocolic
/tiliəl /'kɒlɪk/ adjective referring to both the ileum and the colon
ileocolic artery
/tiliəl /'kɒlɪk/ˈærɪtə/ noun a branch of the upper mesenteric artery
ileocolitis
/tiliəl /'kɒlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation
of both the ileum and the colon
teccolostomy
/tiliəl /'kɒlɪstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to make a link directly be-
tween the ileum and the colon
ileoproctostomy
/tiloʊproʊkˈtəstəmi/ noun a surgical operation to create a link be-
tween the ileum and the rectum
ileorectal
noun
ileosigmoidostomy
/tiloʊˌsɪɡməʊdɒsˈtəmə/ noun a surgical operation to create a link be-
tween the ileum and the sigmoid colon
ileostomy
/tiloʊˈstəmi/ 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
ileostomy bag
/tiloʊˈstəmi bæg/ noun a bag attached to the opening made by an ileostomy,
to collect faeces as they are passed out of the body
ileum
/tiliəm/ noun the lower part of the small intestine, between the jejunum and the cae-
cum. Compare Ileum. 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
/tiliəs/ noun obstruction of the intestine, usually distension caused by loss of muscular
action in the bowel. + paralytic ileus
ill- /ɪl/- prefix same as ill- (used before vowels)
ilia
/ɪliə/ plural of ileum
ileac
/ɪlɛɪk/ / adjective 1. relating to an ileus 2.
relating to the ileum
ileo-
prefix same as ileo- (used before vow-
eloids)
iliea
/ɪliɪə/ / noun
ilease
/ɪləs/ / noun
ileal
adjective referring to both the ileum and the caecum
ileo-
prefix referring to both the ilium and the pubis
ilio-
prefix referring to both the ilium and the coccyx
ilio-
prefix referring to both the ilium and the lumbar regions
iliopectineal
/ɪliəʊˈpektɪnɪəl/ adjective referring to the ilium and the pubis
iliopectineal eminence
/ɪliəʊˈpektɪnɪəl /'emɪnəns/ noun a raised area on the inner sur-
fact of the iliac crest
iliac
/ɪliək/ / adjective referring to the ilium
iliopectineal
noun
iliac fossa
/ɪliək /ˈfɔːsə/ noun a curved top
edge of the ilium. See illustration at PELVIS in Supplement
iliac crest
/ɪliək /ˈkrest/ noun a curved top
dege of the ilium
iliac spine
/ɪliək /ˈspɛn/ noun a projection at the posterior end of the iliac crest
iliacus
/ɪliəkəs/ noun a muscle in the groin
which flexes the thigh
ilio-
prefix relating to the ilium
iliococcygeal
/ɪliəʊˌkɒkɪdʒiˈeɪl/ adjective
referring to both the ilium and the coccyx
iliolumbar
/ɪliəʊˌlʌmˈbər/ adjective referring to the iliac and lumbar regions
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iliopectineal eminence
/ɪliəʊˈpektɪnɪəl /'emɪnəns/ noun a raised area on the inner sur-
fact of the iliac crest
iliopsoas
/ɪliəˌsɔʊəs/ noun a muscle
formed from the iliacus and psoas muscles
iliopubic
/ɪliəˌpjuːˈbɪk/ adjective same as ilio-
pectineal
iliopubic eminence
/ɪliəˌpjuːˈbɪk /'emɪnəns/ noun same as iliopectineal
eminence
iliotibial tract
/ɪliəˌtɪbɪəl /ˈtrækt/ noun a thick fascia which runs from the ilium to the tibia
ilium
/ɪliəm/ noun the top part of each of the hip bones, which form the pelvis. Compare Ile-
um. See illustration at PELVIS in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is ilia.)
ill ill adjective not well ○ If you feel very ill you ought to see a doctor.

illegal abortion /ɪˈlɪgəl əˈbɔːrʃən/ noun same as criminal abortion

ill health /ɪlˈhelθ/ 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 /ɪˈlɪns/ 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.

immobilisation /ɪˌməʊbəlɪˈzeɪʃən, -ˌməbəˈlɪ-/, immobilization noun the act of preventing somebody or something from being able to move

immobilise /ɪˌməʊbəlɪzaɪz, -ˌməbəˈlaɪz/ 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 /ɪˈməʊvəb(ə)l/ adjective referring to a joint which cannot be moved

immune /ɪˈmjuːm/ 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 /ɪˌmjuːm ɪnˈdɪfiʃənsi/ noun a lack of immunity to a disease. ○ AIDS

immune reaction /ɪˌmjuːn rɪˈækʃən, ɪˈmjuːm rɪˈspʌns/ noun a reaction of a body to an antigen

immunocompromised /ˌɪmjuːnəˌkɒmprəˈmɪzd/ adjective not able to offer resistance to infection

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immunocompromised /ˌɪmjuːnəˌkɒmprəˈmɪzd/ adjective not able to offer resistance to infection
immunodeficiency, noun a lack of immunity to a disease

immunodeficiency virus, noun a retrovirus which attacks the immune system

immunologic, adjective relating to immunology

immunologue, noun a specialist in immunology

immunological, adjective relating to immunology

immunological staining, 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, noun tolerance of the lymphoid tissues to an antigen

immunologist, noun a specialist in immunology

immunology, noun the study of immunity and immunisation

immunosuppressant, noun a drug used to act against the response of the immune system to reject a transplanted organ

immunosuppression, noun the suppression of the body's natural immune system so that it will not reject a transplanted organ

immunosuppressive, adjective counteracting the immune system

immunotherapy, noun adoptive immunotherapy

immunotransfusion, noun a transfusion of blood, serum or plasma containing immune bodies

Imodium, noun a trade name for loperamide hydrochloride

impacted, adjective tightly pressed or firmly lodged against something

impacted faeces, noun extremely hard dry faeces which cannot pass through the anus and have to be surgically removed

impacted fracture, noun a fracture where the broken parts of the bone are pushed into each other

impacted tooth, noun a tooth which is held against another tooth and so cannot grow normally

impacted ureteric calculus, noun a small hard mass of mineral salts which is lodged in a ureter

impaction, noun a condition in which two things are impacted

impair /im'pɛər/ verb to harm a sense or function so that it does not work properly

impaired hearing, noun hearing which is not clear and sharp

impaired vision, noun eyesight which is not fully clear

impairment, 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.

impalpable, adjective not able to be felt when touched

impediment, noun an obstruction

imperforate, adjective not having an opening

imperforate anus, noun same as proctatresia

imperforate hymen, noun a membrane in the vagina which is missing the site for menstrual flow

impermeable, adjective not allowing liquids or gases to pass through

impetigo, 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, noun something grafted or inserted into a person, e.g. tissue, a drug, inert material or a device such as a pacemaker

implantation, noun 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

impalance
inbreeding /ˈɪnbrɪdɪŋ/ 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

incapacitated /ɪnˈkeɪpəstɪtɪd/ adjective not able to act or work ○ He was incapacitated for three weeks by his accident.

incarcerated /ɪnˈkærəsərtɪd/ adjective referring to a hermia which cannot be corrected by physical manipulation

incest /ˈɪnsɛst/ noun an act of sexual intercourse or other sexual activity with so close a relative, that it is illegal or culturally not allowed

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 /ɪnˈsɪʃn/ 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 /ɪnˈsɪʃənl/ adjective referring to an incision

incisional hernia /ɪnˈsɪʃənl hərniə/ noun a hermia which breaks through the abdominal wall at a place where a surgical incision was made during an operation

incisor /ɪnˈsaɪzər/, incisor tooth /ɪnˈsaɪzər təʊθ/ 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 bɔdiəz pluːrəl noun very small particles found in cells infected by a virus

inclusive /ɪnˈklʌsiv/ adjective (of health services) provided whether or not someone has a disability or special needs

incoherent /ɪnˈkɔrərənt/ adjective not able to speak in a way which makes sense

incompatibility /ɪnˈkæmpətɪbɪltɪ/ noun the fact of being incompatible ○ the incompatibility of the donor’s blood with that of the patient

inborn /ˈɪnbɔrn/ adjective congenital, which is in the body from birth ○ A body has an inborn tendency to reject transplanted organs.

implant material /ˈɪmplænt məˈterɪəl/ noun a substance grafted or inserted into a person

implant site /ˈɪmplænt sɪt/ noun a place in or on the body where the implant is positioned

impotent /ˈɪmpətənt/ adjective (of a man) unable to have sexual intercourse

impregnation /ɪmˈprɛɡnəʃən/ noun the action of impregnating

impression /ɪmˈprɛʃən/ 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 /ɪmˈpruːvmen/ 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 /ɪmˈpʌls/ 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 /ɪmˈpjʊərɪti/ noun a substance which is not pure or clean ○ The kidneys filter impurities out of the blood.

inn /ɪn/ preposition 1. in, into, towards 2. not

inaccessible /ɪnˈæksesəb(ə)l/ 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 /ɪnˈæktɪvɪti/ noun a lack of activity

inaniption /ɪnˈænɪʃən/ noun a state of exhaustion caused by starvation

inarticulate /ɪnˈɑːtɪklət/ 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 əːˈtɪkjuːlə ˈmɔːrtɪs/ adverb a Latin phrase meaning ‘at the onset of death’

inborn /ˈɪnbɔrn/ adjective congenital, which is in the body from birth ○ A body has an inborn tendency to reject transplanted organs.
incubation /ˈɪnkjuːbeɪʃn/ noun 1. the process of culturing cells or microorganisms in a controlled environment in an incubator before the appearance of the symptoms of the disease. Also called staging in a controlled environment in an incubator 3. the process of culturing cells or microorganisms under controlled conditions.

incubation period /ˈɪnkjuːbeɪʃn pɜːrɪˈd/ 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 staging period

incubator /ˈɪnkjuːbətər/ 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 /ɪnˈkjuːdəz/ plural of incus
incus /ɪnˈkjuːs/ noun one of the three ossicles in the middle ear, shaped like an anvil. See illustration at ear in Supplement

indicator /ɪnˈdɪkteɪr/ noun 1. a substance which shows something, e.g. a substance secreted in body fluids which shows which blood group a person belongs to 2. something that serves as a warning or guide

indigence /ɪnˈdɪdʒəns/ adjective 1. natural or inborn 2. native to or representative of a country or region

indigestion /ɪnˈdɪdʒəʃn/ noun a disturbance of the normal process of digestion, where the person experiences pain or discomfort in the stomach. He is taking indigestion tablets to relieve his indigestion or He is taking indigestion tablets.

indigo carmine /ɪnˈdɪgə kɑrˈmɪn/ noun a blue dye which is injected into a person to test how well their kidneys are working

individual /ɪnˈdɪvɪdʒəl/ 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

incapable /ɪnˈkæpəbl/ adjective not controlled by someone or something else

independent /ɪnˈdɛndənt/ adjective 1. referring to a trade name for propranolol

index finger /ˈɪndeks fɪŋə/ noun the first finger next to the thumb

indican /ɪnˈdɪkən/ noun potassium salt

indication /ɪnˈdɪkeɪʃn/ noun 1. a contraindication

indicative /ɪnˈdɪkətɪv/ adjective 1. serving as a warning or guide

indistinguishable /ɪnˌdɪstɪʃəˈnəbl/ adjective 1. causing little pain 2. referring to an ulcer which develops slowly and does not heal
infectivity /ˈɪnfektɪvɪtɪ/ 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 /ɪnˈfɪriər ˈæspekt/ noun a view of the body from below

inferiority /ɪnˈfɪriərɪtɪ/ noun the fact of being lower in value or quality, substandard. Opposite superiority

inferiority complex /ɪnˈfɪriərɪtɪ ˈkɒmplɛks/ 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 /ɪnˌfɪriər ˈmesɛntərɪk ˈɑrətərɪ/ noun one of the arteries which supply the transverse colon and rectum

inferior vena cava /ɪnˌfɪriər ˈviːnə ˈkeɪvə/ 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

infectile /ɪnˈfɛktɪl/ adjective not fertile, not able to reproduce

infertility /ɪnfɛrˈtelɪtɪ/ noun the fact of not being fertile, not able to reproduce

infest /ɪnˈfest/ verb (of parasites) to be present somewhere in large numbers ○ The child’s hair was infested with lice.

infestation /ɪnˈfestəʃən/ noun the fact of having large numbers of parasites, or an invasion of the body by parasites ○ The condition is caused by infestation of the hair with lice.

infiltrate /ɪnˈfɪlətrート/ 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 ○ noun 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]

infiltration /ɪnˈfɪlətrəʃən/ 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]

infirmary /ɪnˈfɪmərɪ/ 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 /ɪnˈfɜrmɪtɪ/ noun a lack of strength and energy because of illness or age (formal)

inflame /ɪnˈflɛm/ verb to make an organ or a tissue react to an infection, an irritation or a blow by becoming 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 /ɪnˈflɛmətɔrɪ/ adjective causing an organ or a tissue to become sore, red and swollen

inflammatory bowel disease /ɪnˌflɛmətɔrɪbɔʊl dɪˈziːd/ noun any condition, e.g. Crohn’s disease, colitis or ileitis, in which the bowel becomes inflamed

inflammatory response /ɪnˌflɛmətɔrɪrɪspʌns/ noun, inflammatory reaction /ɪnˌflɛmətɔrɪrɪˈrekʃən/ 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.

inflatable /ɪnˈflɛtərəbl/ adjective can be filled with air, or be filled with air ○ The abdomen is inflat ed with air before a colonoscopy ○ In valvuloplasty, a balloon is introduced into the valve and inflated.

influenza /ɪnˈfljuːznə/ 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 ˈpeɪʃnt/ noun a patient who has admitted himself or herself to a hospital, without being referred by a doctor

information /ɪnˈfɔːmeɪʃən/ noun facts about something ○ Have you any information about the treatment of sunburn? ○ The police won’t give us any information about how the accident happened. ○ You haven’t given me enough information about when your symptoms started. ○ That’s a very useful piece of bit of information. (note: No plural: some information; a piece of information.)

informed /ɪnˈfɔːmd/ adjective having the latest information

informed consent /ɪnˈfɔːmd ˈkɑːnsɛnt/ 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

infra- /ˈɪnfrə/ prefix below

infraortal /ɪnfrəˈɔrʊtəl/ adjective lying below the ribs

infraorbital nerve /ɪnfrəˈɔrbyteɪl/ noun a continuation of the maxillary nerve below the orbit of the eye

infraorbital vein /ɪnfrəˈɔrbyteɪl/ vein noun a vessel draining the face through the infraorbital canal to the pterygoid plexus

infrared /ˈɪnfrərɛd/ adjective relating to infrared radiation • noun invisible electromagnetic radiation between light and radio waves

infrared radiation /ˈɪnfrərɛd ˈɛrəd/ noun same as infrared rays

infrared rays /ˈɪnfrərɛd ˈɛrəz/ 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.

light therapy /ˈlaɪt θɪərəpi/ noun

infundibulum /ɪnˌfʌndɪbjuːləm/ 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 /ɪnˈfjuːʒən/ 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 /ˈɪŋɡɛəstə/ plural noun food or liquid that enters the body via the mouth

ingestion /ˈɪŋɡɛʃən/ 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 /ˈɪnɡrɛdənt/ noun a substance which is used with others to make something

ingrowing toenail /ɪnˈɡroʊɪŋ ˈtɔːnəl/ 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 sepsis and ulceration

inguinal /ˈɪŋɡwɪnəl/ adjective referring to the groin

inguinal canal /ˈɪŋɡwɪnəl ˈkænəl/ 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 /ˈɪŋɡwɪnəl/ a granuloma inguinale

inguinal hernia /ˈɪŋɡwɪnəl ˈhɜːnɪə/ noun a hernia where the intestine bulges through the muscles in the groin

inguinal ligament /ˈɪŋɡwɪnəl ˈlɪgəmənt/ noun a ligament in the groin, running from the spine to the pubis. Also called Poupart’s ligament

inguinal region /ˈɪŋɡwɪnəl ˈrɪɡəndʒ/ noun the part of the body where the lower abdomen joins the top of the thigh. • groin

INH abbr isoniazid

inhalant /ˈɪnˌhælənt/ noun a medicinal substance which is breathed in

inhalation /ˈɪnˌhæləʃən/ noun 1. the act of breathing in. Opposite exhalation 2. the action of breathing in a medicinal substance as part of a treatment

inhale /ˈɪnˈheɪl/ verb 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 /ˈɪnˌheɪlər/ noun a small device for administering medicinal substances into the mouth or nose so that they can be breathed in

inherent /ˈɪnˌhɛrənt/ adjective referring to a thing which is part of the essential character of a person or a permanent characteristic of an organism

inherit /ˈɪnˌhɛrɪt/ 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 /ˈɪnˌhɛrəns/ noun 1. the process by which genetically controlled characteristics pass from parents to offspring 2. the inheritance of chronic inflammatory bowel disease 2. all of the qualities and characteristics which are passed down from parents. 3. an unfortunate part of our genetic inheritance

inherited /ˈɪnˌhɛrətɪd/ adjective passed on from a parent through the genes. 2. an inherited disorder of the lungs

inhibit /ˈɪnˈhɪbɪt/ verb to prevent an action happening, or stop a functional process. 2. Aspirin inhibits the clotting of blood. 3. to have an inhibiting effect on something to block something, to stop something happening

inhibition /ˌɪnˈhɪbɪʃən/ 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 /ˈɪnˈhɪbɪtər/ noun a substance which inhibits

inhibitory nerve /ˈɪnˈhɪbətəri ˈnɜːv/ noun a nerve which stops a function taking place. The vagus nerve is an inhibitory nerve which slows down the action of the heart.
jecting a liquid into the body

nerves and sensory nerves supply to an organ, including both motor

vere facial injuries in the accident.

was injected with morphine.

cased to a person's body

ing for teeth

jury scoring system /vɜːrstəm

jured were taken to the nearest hospital.

growth which is benign, not malignant

quired hospital treatment.

injection /ɪnˈdʒɛkʃən/ noun the act of injecting a liquid into the body ○ He had a penicillin injection. 2. a liquid introduced into the body

injure /ˈɪnʤər/ verb to hurt someone or a part of the body ○ Six people were injured in the accident.

injured /ɪnˈdʒərd/ adjective referring to someone who has been hurt ○ plural noun ○ the injured people who have been injured ○ All the injured were taken to the nearest hospital.

injury /ˈɪnʤəri/ noun damage or a wound caused to a person's body ○ His injuries required hospital treatment. ○ He received severe facial injuries in the accident.

injury scoring system /ɪnˈdʒəri ˈskɔːrɪŋ /ɪnˈʃɜːm/ noun any system used for deciding how severe an injury is ○ a standard lung injury scoring system Abbrev: ISS

inlay /ˈɪnlɛɪ/ noun (in dentistry) a type of filling for teeth

inlet /ˈɪnlet/ noun a passage or opening through which a cavity can be entered

innards /ˈɪnərdz/ plural noun the internal organs of the body, especially the intestines

innate /ˈɪnət/ adjective inherited, which is present in a body from birth

inner /ˈɪnər/ adjective referring to a part which is inside

inner ear /ˈɪnər ˈeər/ noun the part of the ear inside the head, behind the eardrum, containing the semicircular canals, the vestibule and the cochlea

inner pleura /ˈɪnər ˈplʊərə/ noun same as visceral pleura

innervate /ɪnˈnɜrvət/ verb to cause a muscle, organ or other part of the body to act

innervation /ɪnˈnɜrvəʃən/ noun the nerve supply to an organ, including both motor nerves and sensory nerves

innocent /ˈɪnəsant/ adjective referring to a growth which is benign, not malignant

innominate /ɪnəˈmənɪnət/ adjective with no name

innominate artery /ɪnəˈmənɪnət ˈɑːrtərɪ/ noun the largest branch of the arch of the aorta, which continues as the right common carotid and right subclavian arteries

innominate bone /ɪnəˈmənɪnət ˈbɒn/ noun same as hip bone

innominate vein /ɪnəˈmənɪnət ˈvɛn/ noun same as brachiocephalic vein

inoculant /ɪnəˈkjuːlənt/ noun same as inoculum

inoculate /ɪnəˈkjuːleɪt/ 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 /ɪnəˈkjuːleɪʃən/ noun the act of inoculating someone ○ Has the baby had a diphtheria inoculation?

inoculum /ɪnəˈkjuːləm/ noun a substance used for inoculation, e.g. a vaccine (NOTE: The plural is inocula.)

inoperable /ɪnəˈpɜːrəbəl/ adjective referring to a condition which cannot be operated on ○ The surgeon decided that the cancer was inoperable.

inorganic /ɪnəˈɡɜːrən/ adjective referring to a substance which is not made from animal or vegetable sources

inorganic acid /ɪnəˈɡɜːrən kəs/ noun an acid which comes from minerals, used in diuretic form to help indigestion

intropic /ɪnˈtrɒpɪk/ adjective affecting the way muscles contract, especially those of the heart

inpatient /ɪnˈpɛtʃənt/ noun someone who stays overnight or for some time in a hospital for treatment or observation. Compare outpatient

inquest /ˈɪŋkwɛst/ noun an inquiry by a coroner 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 /ɪnˈsɛn/ adjective mentally unwell (dated, informal)

insanitary /ɪnˈsɛnənt/ adjective not hygienic ○ Cholera spread rapidly because of the insanitary conditions in the town.

insect /ˈɪnsɛkt/ noun a small animal with six legs and a body in three parts

insect bite /ˈɪnsɛkt bɪt/ noun a sting caused by an insect which punctures the skin to suck blood, and in so doing introduces irritants ○ Most insect bites are simply irritating. Others can be more serious, as insects can carry the organisms which produce typhus, sleeping sickness, malaria, filariasis and many other diseases.

insecticide /ɪnˈsɛktɪsɪd/ noun a substance which kills insects

inseminate /ɪnˈsɛmɪneɪt/ noun the introduction of sperm into the vagina

insensible /ɪnˈsɛnsəbl/ adjective 1. lacking feeling or consciousness 2. not aware of or
responding to a stimulus.

**insert** /ɪnˈsɜːt/ verb to put something into something. The catheter is inserted into the passage.

**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 segment of the chromosome is introduced into another member of the complement.

**insides** /ɪnˈsaɪdz/ plural noun internal organs, especially the stomach and intestines (internal). He says he has a pain in his insides. You ought to see the doctor if you think there is something wrong with your insides.

**insidious** /ɪnˈsɪdiəs/ adjective causing harm without showing any obvious signs.

**insidious disease** /ɪnˈsɪdiəs dɪˈziːz/ noun a disease which causes damage before being detected.

**insight** /ɪnˈsaɪt/ noun the ability of a person to realize that he or she is ill or has particular problems or characteristics.

**insipidus** /ɪnˈsɪpɪdəs/ diabetes insipidus in situ /ɪnˈsɪtju/ adjective in place.

**insoluble** /ɪnˈsəljʊbəl/ adjective not able to be dissolved in liquid.

**insoluble fibre** /ɪnˌsəljʊˈbəl ˈfɪər/ noun the fibre in bread and cereals, which is not digested but which swells inside the intestine.

**insomnia** /ɪnˈsəmnіə/ noun the inability to sleep. She experiences insomnia. What does the doctor give you for your insomnia? Also called sleeplessness.

**insomniac** /ɪnˈsəmnіək/ noun a person who has insomnia.

**inspiration** /ˌɪnspəˈreɪʃən/ noun the act of taking air into the lungs. Opposite expiration.

**inspiratory** /ˌɪnspəˈreɪtərɪ/ adjective referring to breathing in.

**inspire** /ɪnˈspɜːr/ verb to inhale air or a gas into the lungs.

**inspissated** /ɪnˈspɪsɪstətɪd/ adjective referring to a liquid which is thickened by removing water from it.

**inspissation** /ˌɪnspɪsɪˈseɪʃən/ noun the act of removing water from a solution to make it thicker.

**instep** /ɪnˈstɛp/ 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.

**installation** /ɪnˈstæləʃən/ noun. 1. The process of putting a liquid in drop by drop. 2. A liquid put in drop by drop.

**instinct** /ɪnˈstɛkt/ 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.

**insinctive** /ɪnˈstɛktɪv/ adjective automatic or unconscious rather than planned.

**institution** /ɪnˈstɪʃən/ noun. 1. A place where people are cared for, e.g. a hospital or clinic, especially a psychiatric hospital or children’s home.

**institutionalisation** /ɪnˈstɪʃənalɪzaʃən/ noun. 1. A tendency or ability which the body has from birth and does not need to learn. 2. The process of putting a liquid in drop by drop.

**instrument** /ɪnˈstrʊmənt/ noun a piece of equipment or a tool.

**instrumental** /ɪnˈstrʊməntəl/ adjective. 1. Helping to do something. She was instrumental in developing the new technique.

**instrumental delivery** /ɪnˈstrʊməntəl dɪˈlɪvəri/ 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. She is suffering from renal insufficiency. 2. The incompetence of an organ.

**insufflate** /ˌɪnsəflət/ verb to blow gas, vapour or powder into the lungs or another body cavity as a treatment.

**insufflation** /ˌɪnsəfləˈreɪʃən/ noun the act of blowing gas, vapour or powder into the lungs or another body cavity as a treatment.

**insula** /ˈɪnsələ/ noun part of the cerebral cortex which is covered by the folds of the sulcus.

**insulin** /ˈɪnsjʊlən/ noun a hormone produced by the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas. Comment: Insulin controls 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 /ˈinsjʊlɪnəs/ noun an enzyme which breaks down insulin
insulin dependence /ˈinsjʊln ɪnˈdɪpəndəns/ noun the fact of being dependent on insulin injections
insulin-dependent diabetes /ˈinsjʊln diˈpendənt dɪˈbɛtɪs/ noun same as Type I diabetes
insulinoma /ˌɪnsjʊlənˈɒmə/ noun a tumour in the islets of Langerhans
insulin-resistant /ˈinsjʊlən riˈzɪstənt/ adjective referring to a condition in which the muscle and other tissue cells respond inadequately to insulin, as in Type II diabetes
insulin shock /ˈinsjʊlən ʃɔk/ noun a serious drop in blood sugar, caused by too much insulin accompanied by sweating, dizziness, trembling and eventually coma
insuloma /ˌɪnsjʊˈləmə/ noun same as insulinoma
insult /ˈɪnsəlt/ noun 1. a physical injury or trauma 2. something that causes a physical injury or trauma
intact /ɪnˈtækt/ adjective having all body parts present and undamaged
intake /ˈɪnteɪk/ noun 1. the amount of a substance taken in O a high intake of alcohol 2. the process of taking in a substance
Intal /ˈɪntəl/ a trade name for a preparation of cromolyn sodium
integrative medicine /ˌɪntɪgrətɪv ˈmedɪˈseɪn/ noun the combination of mainstream therapies and those complementary or alternative treatments for which there is scientific evidence of efficacy and safety
integument /ˌɪntəˈɡʊment/ noun a covering layer, e.g. the skin
intellect /ˈɪntəlɛkt/ noun a person’s ability to think, reason and understand
intelligence /ˈɪntəˌlɪdʒəns/ noun the ability to learn and understand quickly
intelligence quotient /ˈɪntəˌlɪdʒənsˈkwəˈrənt/ noun the ratio of the mental age, as given by an intelligence test, to the chronological age of the person. Abbrev IQ
intensity /ɪnˈtensəti/ noun the strength of e.g. pain
intensive care /ɪnˈtensɪv ˈkɛr/ noun 1. the continual supervision and treatment of an extremely ill person in a special section of a hospital O The patient was put in intensive care. 2. Residential care 2. same as intensive care unit
intensive care unit /ɪnˈtensɪv ˈkɛr ˈjuːnt/ 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 /ɪnˈtɛnʃən/ noun a plan to do something
intention tremor /ɪnˈtɛnʃən 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 /ˌɪntəˈɛtʃərəl ˈsɛptəm/ noun a membrane between the right and left atria in the heart
intercalated /ɪnˈtəkələtɪd/ adjective inserted between other tissues
intercalated disc /ˌɪntəkələtɪd ˈdɪsk/ noun closely applied cell membranes at the end of adjacent cells in cardiac muscle, seen as transverse lines
intercellular /ɪnˈtəsəljuələr/ adjective between the cells in tissue
intercostal /ˌɪntəˈkɒstəl/ adjective between the ribs same as intercostal muscle
intercostal muscle /ˌɪntəˈkɒstəl ˈmʌskəl/ noun one of the muscles between the ribs
intercourse /ɪnˈtəkɔrs/ noun same as sexual intercourse
intercurrent disease /ˌɪntəˈkɜrənt dɪˈziːz/ noun a disease or infection which affects someone who has another disease
interdigital /ˌɪnˈtədɪdʒəl/ adjective referring to the space between the fingers or toes
interdisciplinary /ˌɪnˈtɜrdɪsˈplənəri/ adjective combining two or more different areas of medical or scientific study
interferon /ˌɪntrəˈfɜrən/ 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 outside the body, large-scale production is extremely expensive and the substance has not proved as successful at combating viruses as had been hoped, though it is used in multiple sclerosis with some success.
interior /ɪnˈtɪəriər/ noun a part which is inside
interleukin /ˌɪntəˈljuːkɪn/ noun a protein produced by the body’s immune system
interleukin-1 /ˌɪntəˈljuːkɪn ˈwʌn/ noun a protein which causes high temperature. Abbrev IL-1
interleukin-2 /ˌɪntəˈluːkɪn-/ noun a protein which stimulates T-cell production, used in the treatment of cancer. Abbr IL-2

interlobar /ˌɪntəˈlobər-/ adjective between lobules

interlobar artery /ˌɪntəˈlobər ˈərətəri-/ noun an artery running towards the cortex on each side of a renal pyramid

interlobular /ˌɪntəˈləʊbələr-/ adjective between lobules

interlobular artery /ˌɪntələʊbələr ˈərətəri-/ noun one of the arteries running to the glomeruli of the kidneys

intermediate care /ˌɪntəˈmeɪdɪət ˈkeər-/ 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 /ˌɪntəˈmiːdiəs-/ adjective occurring at intervals

intermittent claudication /ˌɪntəˈmitənt ˈkluːdɪkeɪʃən-/ noun a condition of the arteries causing severe pain in the legs which makes the person limp after having walked a short distance (note: The symptoms increase with walking, stop after a short rest and recur when the person walks again.)

intermittent fever /ˌɪntəˈmitənt ˈfɪvər-/ noun fever which rises and falls regularly, as in malaria

intermittent self-catheterisation /ˌɪntəˈmitənt ˈsɛlt ˈkæθətɪrəzəʃən-/ 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

inter /ˌɪntər-/ noun US a medical graduate who is working in a hospital before being licensed to practise medicine. © house officer

internal /ˌɪntəˈrnl-/ 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 /ˌɪntəˈrnl əˈdɪtəri ˈmiːətəs-/ noun a channel which takes the auditory nerve through the temporal bone

internal bleeding /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈbliːdɪŋ-/ noun loss of blood inside the body, e.g. from a wound in the intestine

internal capsule /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈkæpsjʊl-/ noun a bundle of fibres linking the cerebral cortex and other parts of the brain

internal cardiac massage /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈkɑːrdɪk ˈmeɪsʒər-/ noun a method of making the heart start beating again by pressing on the heart itself

internal carotid /ˌɪntəˈrnl 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 /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈdɪrərərəngments əv ðə ˈkiː-ə-/ noun a condition in which the knee cannot function properly because of a torn meniscus. Abbr IKD

internal ear /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈɪər-/ noun the part of the ear inside the head, the ear drum, containing the semicircular canals, the vestibule and the cochlea

internal haemorrhage /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈheəˌmərərædʒ-/ noun a haemorrhage which takes place inside the body

internal haemorrhoids /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈheəˌmərəˈhɔːdiz/ plural noun swollen veins inside the anus

internal iliac artery /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈɪliəkətəri-/ noun an artery which branches from the aorta in the abdomen and leads to the pelvis

internal injury /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈɪndʒəri-/ noun damage to one of the internal organs

internal jugular /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈdʒʊɡjələr-/ noun the largest jugular vein in the neck, leading to the brachiocephalic veins

internally /ˌɪntəˈrnlɪ-/ adverb inside the body © He was bleeding internally.

internal medicine /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈmɛdɪsɪn-/ noun US the treatment of diseases of the internal organs by specialists

internal nares /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈnɛəris/ plural noun the two openings shaped like funnels leading from the nasal cavity to the pharynx. Also called posterior nares

internal oblique /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈəblɪkə-/ noun the middle layer of muscle covering the abdomen, beneath the external oblique

internal organ /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈɔːrgan-/ noun an organ situated inside the body

internal respiration /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˈrɪspəˈreɪʃən-/ 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 /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˌkɒmɪtɪ əv ðə 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 /ˌɪntəˈrnl ˌkɒnsəl əv /ˈnɜːrsz-/ 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 /ˈɪntəseks/ noun an organism that has both male and female characteristics

intersectionality /ˌɪntəˈsɛkʃəlɪtɪ/ noun a condition in which a baby has both male and female characteristics, as in Klöner’s syndrome and Turner’s syndrome

intersticel cell /ˌɪntəˈstɪʃ(ə)l ˈsɛl/ noun a testosterone-producing cell between the tubules in the testes. Also called Leydig cell

interstitial cell stimulating hormone /ˌɪntəˈstɪʃ(ə)l ˈsɛlˈstɪmjuːlətɪŋ ˈhərmən/ noun a hormone produced by the pituitary gland which stimulates the formation of corpus luteum in females and testosterone in males. Abbreviation LH. Also called lutestimulating hormone

interstitial cystitis /ˌɪntəˈstɪʃ(ə)l ˈsɛstətrɪtɪs/ noun a persistent nonbacterial condition in which someone has bladder pain and wants to pass urine frequently. It is often associated with Hunner’s ulcer.

intertrigo /ˌɪntətrɪˈɡoʊ/ noun an irritation which occurs when two skin surfaces rub against each other, as in the armpit or between the buttocks

interventricular foramen /ˌɪntəvənˈtrɪkjuːlər ˈfərəmjən/ noun an opening in the brain between the lateral ventricle and the third ventricle, through which the cerebrospinal fluid passes

intervention /ˌɪntəvərˈtʃən/ noun a treatment to tissue located in the spaces between parts of something, especially between the active tissues in an organ

international 202

international unit /ˌɪntəˈnʃənl ˈjuːtɪn/ noun a small space between body parts or within a tissue

international unit worldwide and to influence health policies. Abbreviation IU

international nonproprietary name /ˌɪntəˈnʃənl ˌnɔnprəˈprɪətəri ˈneɪm/ noun each of 8,000 names selected by the World Health Organization that are the legally required generic names for pharmaceutical product labelling for most countries in the world, including all EU countries. Abbreviation INN

interrupter /ˌɪntəˈrɛptər/ noun a specialist who treats diseases of the internal organs by nonsurgical means

interruptile /ˌɪntəˈrɛptəl/ adjective between two nodes

interruptile bone /ˌɪntəˈrɛptəl ˈbɔːn/ noun a triangular bone in the back of the skull, rarely present in humans

interruptus /ˌɪntəˈrɛptəs/ adjective referring to tissue located in the spaces between parts of something, especially between the active tissues in an organ

interruptus /ˌɪntəˈrɛptəs/ noun an organism that has both male and female characteristics

interruptus /ˌɪntəˈrɛptəs/ adj adjective referring to tissue located in the spaces between parts of something, especially between the active tissues in an organ

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interruptus /ˌɪntəˈrɛptəs/ noun a surgical operation to join one part of the intestine to another, after a section has been removed

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international unit /ˌɪntəˈnʃənl ˈjuːtɪn/ noun a small space between body parts or within a tissue
The small intestine is a part of the digestive system between the stomach and the large intestine. It is responsible for the absorption of nutrients and water from the ingested food. The small intestine is divided into three main sections: the duodenum, the jejunum, and the ileum. Each section plays a different role in the digestive process.

The digestive process begins in the stomach, where food is broken down into smaller particles to facilitate absorption in the small intestine. The small intestine is lined with small, finger-like projections called villi, which increase the surface area for absorption. Additionally, the small intestine is home to a vast number of beneficial bacteria known as the intestinal flora, which help in the digestion of food and synthesis of certain vitamins.

Intestinal obstruction refers to a blocking of the intestine, which can be due to a variety of reasons, including the presence of tumors, adhesions, or foreign objects. When the intestine is obstructed, the flow of digested food is interrupted, leading to a decrease in the absorption of nutrients and an increase in the risk of complications such as bowel perforation.

Intracranial pressure is the pressure exerted on the brain and its surrounding structures, such as the dura mater and the arachnoid membrane. Elevated intracranial pressure can occur due to various conditions, such as brain tumors, trauma, or meningitis. It is important to monitor and manage intracranial pressure to prevent complications and improve outcomes for patients with neurological disorders.

Intraperitoneal ultrasound is a diagnostic imaging technique used to visualize the organs located within the abdominal cavity. This technique is particularly useful for detecting abnormalities in the abdominal organs, such as tumors, infections, or blood clots. Intraperitoneal ultrasound can be performed as an alternative to more invasive procedures or to guide interventions such as biopsies or aspirations.

Intractable pain refers to a condition where pain is severe and unresponsive to conventional treatment. This type of pain can significantly impact the quality of life and may require more aggressive treatment approaches, such as neurosurgical interventions or the use of novel pain medications.
intravascular

intravascular /ˌɪntraˈvæskjʊlær/ adjective inside the blood vessels
intravenous /ˌɪntraˈvɛnəs/ adjective into a vein, Abb IV
intravenous drip /ˌɪntraˈvɛnəs ˈdrɪp/ noun a thin tube that is inserted into a vein and is used to very gradually give a person fluids, either for hydration, feeding or medication purposes
intravenous feeding /ˌɪntraˈvɛnəs ˈfiːdɪŋ/ noun the procedure of giving someone liquid food by means of a tube inserted into a vein
intravenous injection /ˌɪntraˈvɛnəs ɪnˈdʒɛkʃən/ noun an injection of liquid into a vein, e.g. for the fast release of a drug
intravenously /ˌɪntraˈvɛnəsli/ adverb into a vein or a fluid given intravenously
intravenous pyelogram /ˌɪntraˈvɛnəs ˈpɪləɡrəm, ˌɪntraˈvɛnəs ˈjuːrəɡrəm/ noun a series of X-ray photographs of the kidneys using pyelography.
Abbr IVP
intravenous pyelography /ˌɪntraˈvɛnəs ˌpɪləˈɡrəfi, ˌɪntraˈvɛnəs ˌuːrəˈɡrəfi/ 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 /ˌɪntraˈventrɪkələr/ adjective inside or placed into a ventricle in the heart or the brain
intra vitam /ˌɪntra ˈvɪtəsm/ adverb during life
intrinsic /ɪnˈtrɪskɪk/ adjective belonging to the essential nature of an organism, or entirely within an organ or part
intrinsic factor /ɪnˈtrɪskɪk ˈfeɪktər/ noun a protein produced in the gastric glands which reacts with the extrinsic factor, and which, if lacking, causes pernicious anaemia
intrinsic ligament /ɪnˈtrɪskɪk ˈlɪgəmənt/ noun a ligament which forms part of the capsule surrounding a joint
intrinsic muscle /ɪnˈtrɪskɪk ˈmʌsk(ə)l/ noun a muscle lying completely inside the part or segment, especially of a limb, which it moves intro- /ɪntrəʊ/ prefix inward
introduce /ɪnˈtrɪdʒu/ verb 1. to put something into something ○ He used a syringe to introduce a medicinal substance into the body. ○ The nurse introduced the catheter into the vein. 2. to present two people to one another ○ Can I introduce my new assistant? 3. to start a new way of doing something ○ The hospital has introduced a new screening process for cervical cancer.
introduction /ɪntrəˈdʒekʃən/ 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
introitus /ˌɪntrəˈtjuːtəs/ noun an opening into any hollow organ or canal
introduction /ˌɪntrəˈdʒekʃən/ noun a person’s unconscious adoption of the attitudes or values of another person whom he or she wants to impress
introspection /ˌɪntrəˈspekʃən/ noun a detailed and sometimes obsessive mental self-examination of feelings, thoughts and motives
introduction /ˌɪntrəˈvɛnəs ˈjʊn/ noun a condition in which a person is excessively interested in himself or herself and his or her own mental state. Compare extroversion
introvert /ˌɪntrəˈvɜːt/ noun a person who thinks only about himself or herself and who is introverted or introversion
introverted /ˌɪntrəˌvɜːtɪd/ adjective referring to someone who thinks only about himself or herself
intubate /ɪnˈtjuːbət/ verb to insert a tube into any organ or part of the body. Also called catheterise
intubation /ɪnˈtjuːbəʃən/ noun the therapeutic insertion of a tube into the larynx through the glottis to allow the passage of air. Also called catheterisation
intumescence /ˌɪnˌtjuːməns/ noun the thickening of a solid or a condition in which the gastrointestinal tract becomes folded down inside the part beneath it, causing an obstruction and stranguulation of the folded part
inunction /ɪnˈjʊnəkʃən/ 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 /ˌɪn ˈjuːtərəʊ/ adverb in, or while still inside, a woman’s womb
invade /ɪnˈvɜːd/ verb to enter and spread gradually throughout a part of the body, e.g. the entry of a microorganism that causes disease
invagination /ɪnˌvədʒəˈneɪʃən/ noun same as intussusception 2. the surgical treatment of hernia, in which a sheath of tissue is made to cover the opening
invalid /ɪnˈvælid/ (dated) noun someone who has had an illness and has not fully recovered from it or who has been permanently disabled
invalidity /ɪnˌvælidɪˈtɪd/ noun the condition of being disabled
invasion /ɪnˈveɪʒən/ noun the entry of bacteria into a body, or the first attack of a disease
invasive /ˈɪnˌvɛsɪv/ 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, ə/invəsiv 'kɛə lɔː / noun an idea that the people who most need care and services are least likely or able to access them

inversion ə/invərʒən ə/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

investigate ə/investɪgət ə/noun an enzyme in the intestine which splits sucrose

investigation ə/investɪgəˈeɪʃən ə/noun an examination to find out the cause of something which has happened © The Health Authority ordered an investigation into how the drugs were stolen.

investigative surgery ə/investɪgəˈeɪtɪv 'sɜːdʒərɪ / noun surgery to investigate the cause of a condition

in vitro ə/ɪn 'vɪtəroʊ/ adjective, adverb 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 experiment which takes place in the laboratory

in vitro fertilisation ə/ɪn 'vɪtəroʊ fəˌtɪləzəʃən ə/noun the fertilisation of an ovum in the laboratory, © test-tube baby. Abbrev RVF

in vivo ə/ɪn 'vɪvəʊ/ adjective, adverb a Latin phrase meaning ‘in living tissue’, i.e. referring to an experiment which takes place on the living body

in vivo experiment ə/ɪn 'vɪvəʊ ɪkˈsperɪmənt ə/noun an experiment on a living body, e.g. that of an animal

involution ə/ɪnˈvəljuˈʃən ə/noun 1. a covering of new bone which forms over diseased bone 2. involuntary 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.

involuntary action ə/ɪnˈvəljuˈtɔrɪ əˈækʃən ə/noun an action which someone does without thinking or making a conscious decision

involuntary muscle ə/ɪnˈvəljuˈtɔrɪ əˈmjuːs ə/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 ə/ɪnˈvəljuˈʃən ə/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

involutorial ə/ɪnˈvəljuˈtɔrɪəl/ adjective referring to involution

involutional melancholia ə/ɪnˈvəljuˈlənəl əˈmænləθiələ / noun a depression which occurs in people, mainly women, after middle age, probably caused by a change of endocrine secretions

iodine ə/ɪəˈdɛn / 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 ə/ɪən /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.)

COMMENT: It is believed that living organisms, including human beings, react to the presence of ionised particles in the atmosphere. Hot dry winds contain a higher proportion of positive ions than usual and these winds cause headaches and other illnesses. If negative ionised air is introduced into an air-conditioning system, the incidence of headaches and nausea among people working in the building may be reduced.

ionise ə/ɪəˈnʌɪsə /verb to give an atom an electric charge

ioniser ə/ɪəˈnʌɪzaʃər /noun a machine that increases the amount of negative ions in the atmosphere of a room, so counteracting the effect of positive ions

ionotherapy ə/ɪəˈnʌɪθərəˈpi /noun treatment by ions introduced into the body via an electric current

iontophoresis ə/ɪnˈɒntəˌfoʊriəs /noun the movement of ions through a biological material when an electric current passes through it

iontophoresis ə/ɪnˈɒntəˌfoʊriəs /noun the movement of ions through a biological material when an electric current passes through it

IP abbr intraoperative ultrasound

IPAV abbr intermittent positive airway ventilation, © positive pressure ventilation

iridectomy ə/ɪrɪdiˈɛktəmɪ /noun an operation to treat glaucoma, where part of the iris

iridencleisis ə/ɪrɪdɪnˈklɛəsɪs /noun an operation to treat glaucoma, where part of the iris is cut away.
iridocyclitis

is used as a drainage channel through a hole in
the cornea
iridocyclitis /ɪrɪdɒskɪlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the iris and the tissues which surround it
iridodialysis /ɪrɪdɒdɪəlɪsɪs/ noun the separation of the iris from its insertion
iridoplegia /ɪrɪdɒpɔliːdʒə/ noun paralysis of the iris
iridotomy /ɪrɪdətəməʊ/ noun a surgical incision into the iris

irritable bowel syndrome /ˌɪrɪtəbəl ˈbrəʊʃəl/ 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 /ɪrɪtənt/ noun a substance which can irritate
irritant dermatitis /ˌɪrɪtənt ˌdɛrəˈmɪtɪs/ noun same as contact dermatitis
irritate /ɪrɪtət/ verb to cause a painful reaction
in part of the body, especially to make it inflamed
iris /ˈaːrɪs/ noun a coloured ring in the eye,

irritability noun
irritation /ɪrɪtəʃən/ noun a feeling of being
irritated

ISC abbr intermittent self-catheterisation

ischaemic /ˌɪskiəmɪk/ adjective lacking in blood

...the term stroke does not refer to a single pathological entity. Stroke may be haemorrhagic or ischaemic: the latter is usually caused by thrombosis or embolism’ [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]

ischaemic heart disease /ˌɪskiəmɪk ˈhɑːrt dɪzəˈæs/ noun a disease of the heart caused by a failure in the blood supply, as in coronary thrombosis. Abbr IHD

ischiocavernosus muscle /ˌɪskiəʊkærnəˈvəs/ noun a muscle along one side of the perineum

ischiorectal fossa /ˌɪskiəʊrɛktəl ˈfɔːsə/ noun a space on either side of the lower end of the rectum and anal canal

ischiocavernosus muscle /ˌɪskiəʊkærnəˈvəs/ noun a muscle along one side of the perineum

Ishihara colour charts /ˌɪʃɪhərə ˈkɑːrə/ charts used in a test for colour vision in which numbers or letters are shown in dots of primary colours with dots of other colours around them. People with normal colour vision can see them, but people who are colour-blind cannot.

Ishihara test /ˌɪʃɪhərə ˈtest/ noun a test using Ishihara colour charts
islets of Langerhans /'afləts ʌv 'læŋhəns/ islands of Langerhans /'aɪleɪzd ʌv 'læŋhənz/ islet cells /'aislət sɛlz/ 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- /'aisə/ prefix equal isoantibody /'aisə'æntɪbdı/ noun an antibody which forms in one person as a reaction to antigens from another person (NOTE: The plural is isoantibodies.) isograft /'aisəgræft/ noun a graft of tissue from an identical twin. Also called syngraft isoimmunisation /'aisəˌɪmjuːnɪzaʃən/ isoimmunization noun immunisation of a person with antigens derived from another person isolate /'aisəleɪt/ verb 1. to keep one person apart from others because he or she has a dangerous infectious disease 2. to identify a single virus, bacterium or other pathogen among many ○ Scientists have been able to isolate the virus which causes Legionnaires’ disease. ○ Candidula is easily isolated from the mouths of healthy adults. isolation /'aisəˈleɪʃən/ noun the separation of a person, especially one with an infectious disease, from others isolation ward /'aisəˈleɪʃən wɔrd/ noun a special ward where people who have dangerous infectious diseases can be kept isolated from others isolator /'aisələtə/ noun 1. a large clear plastic bag in which a person can be nursed, or operated on, in a sterile environment 2. a room or piece of equipment which keeps people or substances separated from others which may contaminate them ○ an isolator stretcher ○ an isolator cabinet isoleucine /'aisəˈluːsɪn/ noun an essential amino acid isometric /'aisəˈmɛtrɪk/ adjective 1. involving equal measurement ○ 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 /'aisəˈmɛtrɪks/ plural noun exercises to strengthen the muscles, in which the muscles contract but do not shortenisoniazid /'aisənæˈɛzɪd/ noun a colourless crystalline compound that is used in the treatment of tuberculosis. Abbr INH isoprenaline /'aisəpˈrɛnəliːn/, isoprotenerol noun a drug that relieves asthma by widening the bronchial tubes in the lungs isosorbide dinitrate /'aisəˌsɔːrdənɪtrət/ an itchy red rash. which joins the two lobes (NOTE: The plural is isletuses.) itch /ɪtʃ/ noun 1. an irritated place on the skin which makes a person want to scratch 2. the same as scabies (informal) ○ verb to produce an irritating sensation, making someone want to scratch itching /ˈɪtʃɪŋ/ noun same as pruritus itchy /ˈɪtʃɪ/ adjective making a person want to scratch ○ The main symptom of the disease is an itchy red rash. -itis /ˈaɪtəs/ 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 who have a particular area of knowledge, which form the jaw, especially the lower jaw hold the teeth and form the mouth.

COMMENT: The jaw has two parts, the upper (the maxillae) being fixed parts of the skull, and the lower (the mandible) being attached to the skull with a hinge so that it can move up and down.

jawbone /ˈdʒɔːbəʊn/ noun one of the bones which form the jaw, especially the lower jaw or mandible.

jaundice /ˈdʒɔːndɪs/ noun a condition suffering from yellow colour. Also called icterus. 

In some forms of epilepsy the jejunoileostomy /ˈdʒɛdʒənaɪˈlɔɪəstomɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an artificial passage to cut into the jejunum through the wall of the abdomen (NOTE: The plural is jejunostomies.)

jet lag /ˈdʒet læg/ noun a condition suffered by people who travel long distances in planes, caused by rapid changes in time zones which affect sleep patterns and meal times and thus interfere with the body’s metabolism. (NOTE: We had jet lag when we flew from Australia.)

jet-lagged /ˈdʒet lægd/ adjective experiencing jet lag or jet-lagged travellers. (NOTE: We were jet-lagged for a week.)

joint /ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a structure at a point where two or more bones join, especially one which allows movement of the bones. (NOTE: The elbow is a joint in the arm. Arthritis is accompanied by stiffness in the joints.) Charcot's
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>joint (NOTE: For other terms referring to joints, see words beginning with arthr-, arthro-)</td>
<td>noun same as o'nyong-nyong fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joint-breaker fever</td>
<td>noun same as o'nyong-nyong fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joint capsule</td>
<td>noun white fibrous tissue which surrounds and holds a joint together. See illustration at SYNOVIAL JOINT in Supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joint investment plan</td>
<td>noun a plan that health and social services draw up together for specific areas of care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joint mouse</td>
<td>noun a loose piece of bone or cartilage in the knee joint, making the joint lock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joule</td>
<td>noun the SI unit of measurement of work or energy. 4.184 joules equals one calorie. Symbol J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jugular</td>
<td>adjective referring to the throat or neck. Noun same as jugular vein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jugular vein</td>
<td>noun one of the veins which pass down either side of the neck. Also called jugular vein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jugular nerve</td>
<td>noun one of the nerves in the neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jumper's knee</td>
<td>noun a painful condition suffered by athletes and dancers in which inflammation develops in the knee joint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>junior doctor</td>
<td>noun a doctor who is completing his or her training in hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>junk food</td>
<td>noun food of little nutritional value, e.g. high-fat processed snacks, eaten between or instead of meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juvenile</td>
<td>adjective relating to or affecting children or adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juxta-</td>
<td>prefix beside or near</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juxta-articular</td>
<td>adjective occurring near a joint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juxtaposition</td>
<td>noun the placing of two or more things side by side so as to make their similarities or differences more obvious</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
K

K symbol kilo-

Kahn test /ˈkɑːn test/ 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 /ˌkɔːlə əˈzaːr/ 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 /ˈkɛliːəm/ noun same as potassium kaolin /ˈkɛrətəm/ noun a fine soft clay used in the making of medical preparations, especially for the treatment of diarrhoea

Kaposi's sarcoma /ˈkɑːpəˌsaɪzəm/ 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 /kɑːrəˈtæɡːənərs/ 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- /ˈkɛriːəʊ/ prefix relating to a cell nucleus

caryotype /ˈkɛrɪəʊtɒtɪp/ noun the chromosome complement of a cell, shown as a diagram or as a set of letters and numbers

Kawasaki disease /kɑːwəˈsækɪz dɪˌziːz/ noun a retrovirus infection that often occurs in small children and causes a high temperature, rash, redened eyes, peeling skin and swollen lymph nodes

Kawyer-Fleischer ring /ˌkɔːrər fləˈʃɪər ŋɪŋ/ noun a brown ring on the outer edge of the cornea, which is a diagnostic sign of hepatolenticular degeneration [Described 1902 by Kayser, 1903 by Fleischer. Bernard Kayser (1869–1954), German ophthalmologist; Bruno Richard Fleischer (1848–1904), German physician.]

Kcal abbr kilocalorie

Kegel exercises /ˈkelədʒiːz/ 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 /ˈkɛlərz əˈpɜːtʃərn/ noun a surgical operation on the big toe to remove a bunion or to correct an anklylosed joint [Described 1904. After William Lordan Keller (1874–1959), US surgeon.]

Keltoid /ˈkiːltəd/ noun an excessive amount of scar tissue at the site of a skin injury

kerat- /ˈkɛrət/ prefix same as kerato- (used before vowels)

keratalgia /ˈkɛrəˈtældʒiə/ noun pain felt in the cornea

keratectasia /ˌkɛrətekˈtərziəs/ noun a condition in which the cornea bulges

keratectomy /ˌkɛrətɛkˈtɒmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the whole or part of the cornea (note: the plural is keratectomies.]

keratic /ˈkɛrətɪk/ adjective 1. relating to horny tissue or to keratin 2. relating to the cornea

keratin /ˈkɛrətɪn/ noun a protein found in horny tissue such as fingernails, hair or the outer surface of the skin

keratinisation /ˌkɛrətɪˈnaɪzəʃən/ noun the appearance of horny characteristics in tissue. Also called cornification

keratinise /ˈkɛrətənɪz/ verb to convert something into keratin or into horny tissue (note: keratinising = keratinised)

keratinocyte /ˌkɛrəˈtænəˌsaʊt/ noun a cell which produces keratin

keratitis /ˌkɛrəˈtætɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the cornea

kerato- /ˈkɛrətəʊ/ prefix referring to horn, horny tissue or the cornea

keratoacanthoma /ˌkɛrətəˈækəntəmə/ noun a type of benign skin tumour which dis-
appears after a few months. (NOTE: The plural is keratoacanthomas or keratoacanthomata.)

ketoacidosis /ˌkiːtəʊˈæsɪdəs/ noun an accumulation of ketone bodies in tissue in diabetes, causing acidosis

ketoconazole /ˌkiːtuəˈkɒnəzoʊl/ noun a drug which is effective against a wide range of fungal infections such as cryptococcosis and thrush

ketogenesis /ˌkiːtuəˈdʒɛnəsɪs/ noun the production of ketone bodies

ketogenic /ˌkiːtuəˈdʒɛnɪk/ adjective forming ketone bodies

ketogenic diet /ˌkiːtuəˈdʒɛnɪk dˈɛt/ noun a diet with a high fat content, producing ketosis

ketone /ˈkiːtəʊn/ noun any non-carboxylic group characteristic of ketones, with carbon atoms doubly bonded to an oxygen atom

ketone bodies /ˈkiːtuən ˈbɒdiz/ plural noun ketone compounds formed from fatty acids

ketone group /ˈkiːtuən ˈgrʊp/ 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 /ˈkiːtuərəˈnjʊəriə/ noun a state in which ketone bodies are excreted in the urine

ketoacidosis /ˌkiːtuəˈæsɪdəsɪs/ noun a state in which ketone bodies are excreted in the urine

ketoproteins /ˈkiːtuəprətɪnzn/ noun an anti-inflammatory drug used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis

ketosis /ˈkiːtəʊsɪs/ 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 /ˌkiːtuəˈsteɪrɔɪd/ noun a steroid such as cortisone which contains a ketone group

keyhole surgery /ˈkiːhoʊl ˈsɛrdʒəri/ noun surgery carried out by inserting tiny surgical instruments through an endoscope (internal)

Also called laparoscopic surgery

kg abbr. kilogram

kidney /ˈkɪdnɪ/ 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 of 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 /ˈkɪdnɪ dəˈleɪsɪs/ noun the process of removing waste matter from blood by passing it through a kidney machine. Also called haemodialysis
kidney donor

kidney donor /ˈkɪdnɪ ˈdɔːnər/  noun a person who gives one of his or her kidneys as a transplant

kidney failure /ˈkɪdnɪ ˈfæɪlər/ noun a situation in which the kidneys do not function properly

kidney machine /ˈkɪdnɪ ˈmæʃɪn/ noun an apparatus through which blood is passed to be cleaned by dialysis if the person’s kidneys have failed

kidney stone /ˈkɪdnɪ ˈstɔʊn/ noun a hard mass of calcium like a little piece of stone which forms in the kidney

kidney transplant /ˈkɪdnɪ ˈtrænsplænt/ noun a surgical operation to give someone with a diseased or damaged kidney a kidney from another person

kill /kɪl/ 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 /ˈkɪlər/ 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.

killer cell /ˈkɪlər 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

Kilian’s operation /ˈkɪlɪənz ˈɒpərəʃən/ noun a surgical operation to clear the frontal sinus by curetting in which the incision is made in the eyebrow [After Gustav Kilian (1860–1921), German laryngologist]

kilo- /ˈkɪləʊ/ prefix one thousand (10³). Symbol k

diacratic 2.

kilogram /ˈkɪləɡræm/ noun an SI unit of measurement of weight equal to 1000 grams ○ She weighs 62 kilos (62 kg). Symbol kg

kilojoule /ˈkɪloʊˌdʒuːl/ noun an SI unit of measurement of energy or heat equal to 1000 joules. Symbol kJ

kilopascal /ˈkɪləpæskəl/ noun an SI unit of measurement of pressure equal to 1000 pascals. Symbol kPa

Kimmelstiel-Wilson disease /ˌkɪməlstɪəl ˈwɪlsən dɪˈzaɪə, kɪməlstɪəl-ˈwɪlsən ˌsɪndrəm/ 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 /ˌkɪnəˈnɛsiə/ noun the fact of being aware of the movement and position of parts of the body (NOTE: The US spelling is kinesesthesia.)

King’s Fund /ˈkɪŋz ˈfʌnd/ noun a major independent health charity in London

King’s model /ˈkɪŋz, ˈmɒndəl/ 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 /ˈkɪnɪn/ noun a polypeptide that makes blood vessels widen and smooth muscles contract

Kirschn er wire /ˈkaɪrsnər ˈwɔɪr/ 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 /ˈkɪs ɒv ˈlaɪf/ noun same as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (informal)

kJ abbr kilojoule

Klebsiella /ˈklɛbziəˈɛlə/ noun a Gram-negative bacterium, one form of which, Klebsiella pneumoniae, can cause pneumonia

Klebs-Loeffler bacillus /ˈklɛbz-ˈloʊflər ˈbæsɪləs/ noun the bacterium which causes diph-
Fechters of diseases/Dr. James L. Silver, Jr., a radiologist in Berlin, Germany, later Director of the Institute for Infectious Diseases. (Nobel Prize 1905.)

Koch's bacillus /ˈkoʊks bəˈsɪls/ noun the bacterium which causes tuberculosis, Mycobacterium tuberculosis [Described 1882. After Robert Koch (1843–1910), Professor of Hygiene in Berlin, Germany]

Kleinhauer test /ˈklɛnhaʊər tɛst/ noun a test used to check whether there has been any blood loss from a fetus to the mother across the placenta. It is usually done immediately after delivery.

Klinefelter's syndrome /ˈklɪnflɛtər ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a genetic disorder in which a person 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.]

Koch's bacillus /ˈkoʊks bəˈsɪls/ 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.)

Koch-Weeks bacillus /ˈkoʊk-ˈwɛks bəˈsɪls/ noun the bacillus which causes conjunctivitis

Köhler's disease /ˈkɔhlər drəʊz/ noun a degeneration of the navicular bone in children. Also called scaphoiditis [Described 1908 and 1926. After Albin Köhler (1874–1947), German radiologist.]

Kollonychia /ˈkɔləniˈkiə/ noun a condition in which the fingernails are brittle and concave, caused by iron-deficiency anaemia

Koplik's spots /ˈkɒplɪks spɔts/ plural noun small white spots with a blue tinge surrounded by a red areola, found in the mouth in the early stages of measles [Described 1896. After Henry Koplik (1858–1927), US paediatrician.]

Korotkoff's method /ˈkɔrətkɔf̩z ˈmiθəd/ 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

Korsakoff's syndrome /ˈkɔɾəskɔf̩z ˈsɪndrəm/ 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 Sergei Sergeyevich Korsakoff (1854–1900), Russian psychiatrist.]

Kraurosis penis /kraʊroʊˈsɪs ˈpɛnɪs/ noun a condition in which the foreskin becomes dry and shrivelled

Kraurosis vulvae /kraʊroʊˈsɪs ˈvʌlvə/ noun a condition in which the vulva becomes thin and dry due to lack of oestrogen, found usually in elderly women

Krause corpuscles /ˈkraʊzə kəˈpɔrsəs/ 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 /ˈkrepz ˈsAIkl/ noun as 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 /ˈkrukənˈbɜrg tjuːmər/ noun a malignant tumour in the ovary secondary to a tumour in the stomach [After Friedrich Krukenberg (1871–1946), German gynaecologist]
Kuntscher nail

Kuntscher nail /ˈkɒntsər/ 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 /ˈkʌpfər/ noun large specialised liver cells which break down haemoglobin into bile [Described 1876. After Karl Wilhelm von Kupffer (1829–1902), German anatomist.]

Kveim test /ˈkvɛm tɛst/ noun a skin test to confirm the presence of sarcoidosis [After Morten Ansgar Kveim (b. 1892), Swedish physician]

Kwashiorkor /ˌkwɔʃiˈɔrkər/ noun malnutrition of small children, mostly in tropical countries, causing anaemia, wasting of the body and swollen liver

Kypho- /ˈkaɪfoʊ/ prefix a hump

Kyphoscoliosis /ˌkaɪfoʊ,skəˈlɔsɪs/ noun a condition in which someone has both backward and lateral curvature of the spine

Kyphosis /ˌkaɪfəsɪs/ noun an excessive backward curvature of the top part of the spine (NOTE: The plural is kyphoses.)

Kyphotic /ˌkaɪfəˈtɪk/ adjective referring to kyphosis
Medicine.fm  Page 215  Thursday, November 20, 2003  4:26 PM

l, L symbol litre
lab /leɪb/ noun same as laboratory (informal) ○ The samples have been returned by the lab. ○ We’ll send the specimens away for a lab test.
lab- /leɪb/ prefix same as labio- (used before vowels)
label /ˈleɪbəl/ 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 – 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 mɪˈnɔrə/ 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 /ˈlaˌblɪti əv muːd/ noun a tendency for a person’s mood to change suddenly
labio- /ˈleɪbiəʊ/ prefix referring to the lips or to labia
labioplasty /ˈleɪbiəʊˌplæsəti/ 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 /ˈlaˌbɔrət(ə)ri/ 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 /ˌlaˌbɔrət(ə)ri əˈfɪsə/ noun a qualified person in charge of a laboratory
laboratory technician /ˌlaˌbɔrət(ə)ri ˈtɛkənʃən/ noun a person who does practical work in a laboratory and has particular care of equipment
laboratory techniques /ˌlaˌbɔrət(ə)ri ˈtɛkənʃəs/ noun the methods or skills needed to perform experiments in a laboratory
laboratory test /ˌlaˌbɔrət(ə)ri ˈtest/ 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 ˈbrɪəðɪŋ/ noun difficult breathing, which can be due to various causes such as asthma
labour pains /ˈleɪbər ˈpeɪnz/ plural noun the pains felt at regular intervals by a woman as the muscles of the uterus contract during childbirth
labrum /ˈleɪbrʌm/ noun a ring of cartilage around the rim of a joint (NOTE: The plural is labra.)
labyrinth /ˈlaˌbɔrət(ə)ri/ 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 (endolymph) and the membranous labyrinth is a series of ducts and canals inside the osseous labyrinth. The membranous labyrinth contains a fluid (endolymph). As the endolymph moves about in the membranous labyrinth it stimulates the vestib-
lacrimal apparatus /læktrimələpərətəs/ noun the arrangement of glands and ducts which produce and drain tears. Also called lacrimal system

lacrimal bone /læktriməlboun/ noun one of two little bones which join with others to form the orbits

lacrimal canaliculus /læktriməlkənəlɪkləs/ noun a small canal draining tears into the lacrimal sac

lacrimal caruncle /læktriməlkærənsəl/ noun a small red point at the inner corner of each eye

lacrimal duct /læktriməldʌkt/ noun a small duct leading from the lacrimal gland. Also called tear duct

lacrimal gland /læktriməlglænd/ noun a gland beneath the upper eyelid which secretes tears. Also called tear gland

lacrimal puncta /læktriməlpʌntə/ plural small openings of the lacrimal canaliculus at the corners of the eyes through which tears drain into the nose

lacrimal sac /læktriməlsæk/ noun a sac at the upper end of the nasolacrimal duct, linking it with the lacrimal canaliculus

lacrimal system /læktriməlsɪstəm/ noun same as lacrimal apparatus

lacrification /læktriməlfɪkəʃən/ noun the production of tears

lacrificator /læktriməftətər/ noun a substance which irritates the eyes and makes tears flow

lachrymal /læktriːml/ adjective relating to tears

lactase /lækˈteɪs/ noun an enzyme, secreted in the small intestine, which converts milk sugar into glucose and galactose

lactate /lækˈteɪt/ verb to produce milk in the body (NOTE: lactating – lactated)
lactation /lækˈteɪʃən/ noun 1. the production of milk in the body 2. the period during which a mother is breastfeeding a baby

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lactase /lækˈteɪs/ noun an enzyme, secreted in the small intestine, which converts milk sugar into glucose and galactose

lactee /lækˈteɪ/ adjective referring to milk

lactose /ˈlæktoʊs/ noun a type of sugar found in milk

lactose intolerance /læktoʊs əntɪˈlɑːrəns/ noun a condition in which a person cannot digest lactose because lactase is absent in the intestine or because of an allergy to milk, causing diarrhoea

lactosuria /læktoʊˈsjʊərɪə/ noun the excretion of lactose in the urine

lactovegetarian /lækˈtʌvɪdʒəˈtɪrɪən/ noun a person who does not eat meat, but eats vegetables, fruit, dairy produce and eggs and sometimes fish (NOTE: He has been a lactovegetarian for twenty years. Compare vegan, vegetarian)
lactulose /ˈlæktoʊloʊs/ noun an artificially produced sugar used as a laxative

lactumin /ˈlækturn/ noun a small hollow or cavity (NOTE: The plural is lacunae)
lacunar /ˈlækʃuərəl/ adjective relating to hollows or cavities in tissue such as in bone or cartilage, especially ones that are unusual
landsteiner's classification /ˌlændstɛnmənəz ˌklɛksɪfr/ˌkɛf/ˈsjuːn plural noun same as ABO system

langerhans' cells /ˌlæŋɡərz ˈsɛls/ /ˈsɛləz plural noun cells on the outer layers of the skin

Langer's lines /ˈlæŋɡəz ˈlɛnəz 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 /ˈlɑŋɡəʊ tɛst/ /ˈtɛst plural noun a method of detecting globulin in the cerebrospinal fluid [Described 1912. After Carl Friedrich August Lange (b. 1883), German physician]

lanolin /ˈlænəlɪn/ /ˈlnəlɪn plural noun grease from sheep’s wool which absorbs water and is used to rub on dried skin, or in the preparation of cosmetics

lansing /ˈlænsɪŋ plural noun/ the point at the back of the skull where the sagittal suture and lambdoidal suture meet

landsteiner's classification /ˌlændstɛnmənəz ˌklɛksɪfr/ˌkɛf/ˈsjuːn plural noun same as ABO system

lansing /ˈlænsɪŋ plural noun/ the point at the back of the skull where the sagittal suture and lambdoidal suture meet

languida /ˈlæŋgwədə/ /ˈlnəgˌwədə plural noun/ the capital Greek letter lambda, like an upside down V or Y

landsteiner's classification /ˌlændstɛnmənəz ˌklɛksɪfr/ˌkɛf/ˈsjuːn plural noun same as ABO system

Laennec's cirrhosis /ˌlɛnəs ˈsɜrəhəs/ noun the commonest form of alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver [Described 1819. After René Théophile Hyacinthe Laennec (1781–1826), Professor of medicine at the Collège de France, and inventor of the stethoscope.]

laevocardia /ˌlɛvəkˈvɑrdiə/ noun the condition of having the heart in the usual position, with the apex towards the left side of the body. Compare dextrocardia

Laënnec's cirrhosis /ˌlɛnəs ˈsɜrəhəs/ noun the commonest form of alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver [Described 1819. After René Théophile Hyacinthe Laennec (1781–1826), Professor of medicine at the Collège de France, and inventor of the stethoscope.]

languid /ˈlæŋgwɪd/ /ˈlnəgˌwɪd/ adjective not able to walk easily because of pain, stiffness or damage in a leg or foot (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.)

landsteiner's classification /ˌlændstɛnmənəz ˌklɛksɪfr/ˌkɛf/ˈsjuːn plural noun same as ABO system

lameness /ˈlæmənəs plural noun/ the inability to walk normally because of pain, stiffness or damage in a leg or foot

languid /ˈlæŋgwɪd/ /ˈlnəgˌwɪd/ adjective not able to walk easily because of pain, stiffness or damage in a leg or foot (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.)

Landsteiner's classification /ˌlændstɛnmənəz ˌklɛksɪfr/ˌkɛf/ˈsjuːn plural noun same as ABO system

lanolysin /ˈlænəlɪsən plural noun/ a drug that averts the activation of human neutrophils, preventing them from releasing free radicals

lamer /ˈlæmər plural noun/ a drug to the eye

lancinating – lancinated /ˈlænsɪnətɪŋ–ˈlænsɪnət̬ed/ adjective referring to pain which is sharp and cutting

landsteiner's classification /ˌlændstɛnmənəz ˌklɛksɪfr/ˌkɛf/ˈsjuːn plural noun same as ABO system

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Landry's paralysis /ˈlændrɪz ˈpərələsəs plural noun same as Guillain-Barré syndrome (see)

landsteiner's classification /ˌlændstɛnmənəz ˌklɛksɪfr/ˌkɛf/ˈsjuːn plural noun same as ABO system

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Landry's paralysis /ˈlændrɪz ˈpərələsəs plural noun same as Guillain-Barré syndrome (see)

[After Jean-Baptiste Octave Landry (1826–65), French physician]

Landsteiner's classification /ˌlændstɛnmənəz ˌklɛksɪfr/ˌkɛf/ˈsjuːn plural noun same as ABO system

lancerhans' cells /ˌlæŋɡərz ˈsɛls/ /ˈsɛləz plural noun cells on the outer layers of the skin

languid /ˈlæŋgwɪd/ /ˈlnəgˌwɪd/ adjective not able to walk easily because of pain, stiffness or damage in a leg or foot (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.)

lancet /ˈlænsət plural noun/ a sharp two-edged 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 peritoneoscope

larvicide /ˈlɑːrvɪsɪd plural noun/ a chemical which is used to destroy insect larvae

laryngeal prominence /ˈlærɪŋɡəl prəˈnəməns plural noun same as Adam's apple

Landsteiner's classification /ˌlændstɛnmənəz ˌklɛksɪfr/ˌkɛf/ˈsjuːn plural noun same as ABO system

lancerhans' cells /ˌlæŋɡərz ˈsɛls/ /ˈsɛləz plural noun cells on the outer layers of the skin

lancerhans' cells /ˌlæŋɡərz ˈsɛls/ /ˈsɛləz plural noun cells on the outer layers of the skin

lancerhans' cells /ˌlæŋɡərz ˈsɛls/ /ˈsɛləz plural noun cells on the outer layers of the skin
laryngeal reflex 218

laryngeal reflex /ˈlærɪŋɡəl ˈrɛflɛks/ noun the reflex that makes a person cough

laryngectomy /lærɪŋˈdʒɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the larynx, usually as treatment for throat cancer (NOTE: The plural is laryngectomies.)

larynges /lærɪŋdʒəs/ plural of larynx

laryngismus /lærɪŋˈdʒɪzməs/, laryngismus /lærɪŋˈdʒɪzməs/ 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 /lærɪŋˈɡɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the larynx

laryngo- /lærɪŋɡəʊ/ prefix larynx

laryngofissure /lærɪŋɡəʊˈfɪʃə/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening into the larynx through the thyroid cartilage

laryngologist /lærɪŋˈɡɒlədʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in diseases of the larynx, throat and vocal cords

laryngology /lærɪŋˈɡɒlədʒi/ noun the study of diseases of the larynx, throat and vocal cords

laryngomalacia /lærɪŋɡəʊˈmæləˌkeɪʃə/ noun a condition in which breathing is made difficult by softness of the larynx, occurring mainly in children under the age of two

laryngopharyngeal /lærɪŋɡəʊˈfɛrənʤeəl/ adjective referring to both the larynx and the pharynx

laryngopharynx /lærɪŋɡəʊˈfɛrənʤink/ noun the part of the pharynx below the hyoid bone

laryngoscope /lærɪŋɡəʊˈskɒs/ noun an instrument for examining the inside of the larynx using a light and mirrors

laryngoscopy /lærɪŋˈɡɒskəpi/ noun an examination of the inside of the larynx with a laryngoscope (NOTE: The plural is laryngoscopies.)

laryngospasm /lærɪŋɡəʊˈspæzm/ noun a muscular spasm which suddenly closes the larynx

laryngostenosis /lærɪŋɡəʊˈstənəsɪs/ noun narrowing of the lumen of the larynx

laryngostomy /lærɪŋˈɡɒstəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make a permanent opening from the neck into the larynx (NOTE: The plural is laryngostomies.)

laryngotomy /lærɪŋˈɡɒtəmɪ/ 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 /lærɪŋɡəʊˈtrækʃəl/ adjective relating to both the larynx and the trachea

laryngotracheobronchitis /lærɪŋɡəʊˈtrækʃəbɹɒŋkəˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the larynx, trachea and bronchi, as in croup

larynx /ˈlærɪŋks/ noun the organ in the throat which produces sounds. Also called voice box (NOTE: The plural is larynges or larynxes.)

COMMENT: The larynx is a hollow passage made of cartilage, containing the vocal cords, situated behind the Adam’s apple. It is closed by the epiglottis when swallowing or before coughing.

laser /ˈleɪzə/ 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 /ˈleɪzə ˈlæpərəˈræskəpi/ noun surgery performed through a laparoscope using a laser

laser probe /ˈleɪzə prəʊb/ 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 /ˈleɪzə, ˈsæzdʒəri/ noun surgery using lasers, e.g. for the removal of tumours, sealing blood vessels, or the correction of shortsightedness

Lasix /ˈleɪzɪks/ a trade name for frusemide

Lassa fever /ˈlæsə ˈfevər/ 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 Oskar Lassar (1849–1907), German dermatologist)

lassitude /ˈleɪstjʊtju/ noun a state where a person does not want to do anything, sometimes because he or she is depressed

lata /ˈlætsə / adjective also fascia lata

lateral /ˈleɪtərəl/ adjective referring to one side of the body

lateral aspect /ˈleɪtərəl əˈspekt/ noun a view of the side of part of the body. Also called lateral view. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

lateral epicondylitis /ˈleɪtərəl ˈɛpɪkɔndəlɪtɪs/ noun tennis elbow

lateral epicondyly of the humerus /ˈleɪtərəl ˈɛpɪkɔndəlɪtɪs ə ˈhjuːmərəs/ noun a lateral projection on the rounded end of the humerus at the elbow joint

lateral epicondyritis /ˈleɪtərəl ˈɛpɪkɔndərɪtɪs/ noun same as tennis elbow

lateral fissure /ˈleɪtərəl ˈfɪʃə/ noun a groove along the side of each cerebral hemisphere

lateralis /ˈleɪtərəlɪs/ adjective towards or on the side of the body. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement
not focus properly without an obvious cause

something

side

condition in which an organ is turned to one side

large flat triangular muscle covering the lumbar region and the lower part of the chest

laudanum /lɔdənəm/ noun a solution of opium in alcohol that was formerly in widespread use for pain relief

laughing gas /ˈlɑftɪŋ ɡæs/ noun same as nitrous oxide (informal)

lavage /ˈləvæʒ/ noun the act of washing out or irrigating an organ such as the stomach

laxative /ˈlæksətɪv/ adjective causing a bowel movement

LE cells /leɪˈsiːl plərəʊ wʊtəd/ noun white blood cells which show that someone has lupus erythematosus

left-handed /ˈleft ˈhændɪd/ adjective using the left hand in preference to the right in most everyday tasks

left-handedness /ˈleft ˈhændɪdnnəs/ noun the fact of being left-handed

leg /leg/ noun a part of the body with which a person or animal walks and stands

LD abbr lethal dose

LDL /lɛl ˈdɔpə/ noun same as levodopa

LE abbr lupus erythematosus

lead /liːd/ noun a very heavy soft metallic element, which is poisonous in compounds (NOTE: the chemical symbol is Pb.)

lead-free /ˈliːdfriː/ adjective with no lead in it ○ lead-free paint ○ lead-free petrol

lead line /liːd laɪn/ noun a blue line seen on the gums in cases of lead poisoning

lead poisoning /liːd ˈpɔɪznɪŋ/ noun poisoning caused by taking in lead salts. Also called plumism, 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 /ˈliːznɪŋ/ noun the act of gaining knowledge of something or of how to do something

learning disability /ˈliːznɪŋ dɪˈsaɪlɪti/ 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

leishmaniasis /ˈliːʃməˈnæsiəs/ noun a disease caused by the parasite Leishmania, one
Lambert's suture

form of which causes disfiguring ulcers, while another attacks the liver and bone marrow.

Lambert's suture /ˈlæmbətʃ/ suture noun a suture used to close a wound in the intestine which includes all the coats of the intestine [Described 1826. After Antoine Lambert (1802–51), French surgeon.]

lens /lɛnz/ noun 1. the part of the eye behind the iris and pupil, which focuses light coming from the cornea onto the retina. See illustration at eye in Supplement 2. a piece of shaped glass or plastic which forms part of a pair of spectacles or microscope 3. same as contact lens

COMMENT: The lens in the eye is elastic, and can change its shape under the influence of the ciliary muscle, to allow the eye to focus on objects at different distances.

lens implant /lenzˌimplænt/ noun an artificial lens implanted in the eye when the natural lens is removed, as in the case of cataract.

lenticular /lɛntɪkjuːlər/ adjective referring to or like a lens.

lentigo /ˈlɛntɪdʒəʊ/ noun a small brown spot on the skin often caused by exposure to sunlight. Also called freckle (NOTE: The plural is lentigines.)

leontiasis /ˌlɛontəˈziːəs/ noun a rare disorder in which the skull bones become enlarged and may give the appearance of a lion’s head. It occurs if Paget’s disease is not treated.

lepidosis /ˌlepəˈdoʊsɪs/ noun a skin eruption in which pieces of skin fall off in flakes.

leproma /ˈleprəmə/ noun a lesion of the skin caused by leprosy (NOTE: The plural is lepromas or lepromata.)

leprosy /ˈlepəroʊsi/ noun an infectious bacterial disease of skin and peripheral nerves caused by Mycobacterium leprae, which destroys the tissues and causes severe disfigurement if left untreated. Also called Hansen’s disease.

COMMENT: Leprosy attacks the nerves in the skin, and finally the patient loses all feeling in a limb, and parts such as fingers or toes can drop off.

leptin /ˈlɛptɪn/ noun a hormone produced by fat cells that signals the body’s level of hunger to the hypothalamus of the brain.

leptosome /ˈlepəsəʊm/ prefix thin.

leptocyte /ˈlepəsətɪk/ noun a thin red blood cell found in anaemia.

leptomeninges /ˌlepəˈmɛnədʒɪz/ plural noun the two inner meninges, the pia mater and arachnoid.

leptomeningitis /ˌlepəˈmɛnɪnˈdʒɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the leptomeninges.

Leptospira /ˌlepəˈspɪrə/ noun a genus of bacteria excreted continuously in the urine of rats and many domestic animals. It can infect humans, causing leptospirosis or Weil’s disease.

leptospirosis /ˌlepəˈspɪrəˌrɒʊsɪs/ noun an infectious disease caused by the spirochaete Leptospira, transmitted to humans from rat urine, causing jaundice and kidney damage. Also called Weil’s disease.

lesion /ˈlɛʃən/ noun uncoordinated speech, a sign of dementia.

lesbian /ˈlezbiən/ noun a woman who experiences sexual attraction towards other women.

lesbianism /ˌlezbiəˈnɪzəm/ noun sexual attraction in one woman for another. Compare homosexuality.

Lesch-Nyhan disease /ˈlesʃ ˈniːhæn di/ noun a rare genetic disorder in boys caused by a lack of the enzyme HPRT. Symptoms include uncontrolled muscle movements and learning disabilities, and life expectancy is 20–25.

lesion /ˈlɛʃən/ noun a wound, sore or damage to the body (NOTE: Used to refer to any damage to the body from the fracture of a bone to a cut on the skin.)

lesser /ˈlesə/ adjective smaller.

lesser circulation /ˈlesər ˌsɛrkjʊˈleʃən/ noun same as pulmonary circulation.

lesser trochanter /ˈlesər ˈtɹækəntər/ noun a projection on the femur which is the insertion of the psoas major muscle.

lesser vestibular gland /ˈlesər veɪˈstriːbjuələr ɡlænd/ noun the more anterior of the vestibular glands.

lethal /ˈlɛθəl/ adjective killing or able to kill. These fungi are lethal if inhaled.

lethal dose /ˈlɛθl dəʊs/ noun the amount of a drug or other substance which will kill the person who takes it. She took a lethal dose of aspirin. (NOTE: L.D.

lethal gene /ˈlɛθəl dʒiːn/ noun a gene, usually recessive, that results in the premature death of an individual who inherits it, e.g. the gene controlling sickle-cell anaemia.

lethargic /ˈliːθərɡɪk/ adjective showing lethargy.

lethargic encephalitis /ˌliːθəˈrɪɡɪk ˈɛnʃəpəlɪtɪs/ noun a common type of virus encephalitis occurring in epidemics in the 1920s. Also called encephalitis lethargica. Sleepy.

lethargy /ˈliːθərədʒi/ noun a state in which someone is not mentally alert, has slow movements and is almost inactive.

Letter-Siwe disease /ˌlɛtərə ˈsɪwiət dəˌtɪɹəz/ noun a usually fatal disease, most common in infants, caused by the overproduction of a specialised type of immune cell.

leucine /ˈluːsən/ noun an essential amino acid.

leuco- /ˈluːkəʊ/ leuco- /ˈluːkəʊ/ prefix white.
**Leucocyte** /'ljuːsɪkɔt/ **Leucocyte** 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.

**Leucocytosis** /'ljuːskətɒsɪs/ **leucocytosis** noun an increase in the numbers of leucocytes in the blood above the usual upper limit, in order to fight an infection

**Leucodeplete** /'ljuːskədplɪt/ **leucodeplete** verb to remove white cells from the blood (NOTE: leucodepleted – leucodepleted)

**Leucoderma** /'ljuːskədərəmə/ **leucoderma** noun same as vitiligo

**Leucolyisin** /'ljuːsəlaɪsɪn/ **leukolysin** noun a protein which destroys white blood cells

**Leucoma** /'ljuːskəmə/ **leukoma** noun a white scar of the cornea (NOTE: The plural is leucomas or leukomata.)

**Leuconychia** /'ljuːskənɪkʃə/ **leukonychia** noun a condition in which white marks appear on the fingernails

**Leucopenia** /'ljuːskəpniə/ **leukopenia** noun a reduction in the number of leucocytes in the blood, usually as the result of a disease

**Leucoplakia** /'ljuːskəpləkʃə/ **leukoplakia** noun a condition in which white patches form on mucous membranes, e.g. on the tongue or inside of the mouth

**Leucopoiesis** /'ljuːskəpɔɪɛsɪs/ **leukopoiesis** noun the production of leucocytes

**Leucorrhoea** /'ljuːskərɔɪə/ **leukorrhoea** noun an excessive discharge of white mucus from the vagina. Also called whites (NOTE: The US spelling is leukorrhoea.)

**Leukaemia** /'ljuːskəmiə/ **leukæmia** 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-** /'ljuːskəʊ/ prefix same as leuco-

**Levator** /'ləvətər/ **levator** noun 1. a surgical instrument for lifting pieces of fractured bone 2. a muscle which lifts a limb or a part of the body

**Level of care** /'lɛvl(a)ʊf/ **level** noun any of the planned divisions within the system of health care which is offered by a particular organisation. Our care homes offer six different levels of care to allow the greatest independence possible.

**Levodopa** /'lɪvədɒpə/ **levodopa** noun a natural chemical that stimulates the production of dopamine in the brain and is used to treat Parkinson’s disease.

**Levonorgestrel** /'lɪvənɔrgəstrəl/ **levonorgestrel** noun an artificially produced female sex hormone, used mostly in birth control pills or capsules

**Lewy body** /'ljuːwɪ 'bɒdi/ **lewy body** noun an unusual deposit of protein in neurons in the brain

**Lewy body dementia** /'ljuːwɪ 'bɒdi dɪ mɛn'tʃə/ **lewy body dementia** noun a disease characterised by the presence of Lewy bodies in the brain, which affects the mental processes. It is similar to Alzheimer’s disease, but people with it are more prone to hallucinations and delusions.

**Leydig cells** /'lɛɪdʒɪd sɛlz/ **plural** **leydig cells** testosterone producing cells between the tubules in the testes. Also called interstitial cells (Described 1850. After Franz von Leydig (1821–1908), Professor of Histology at Würzburg, Tübingen and then Bonn, Germany.)

**Leydig tumour** /'lɛɪdʒɪd ˈtjuːmə/ **lewy body tumour** of the Leydig cells of the testis. It often releases testosterone, which makes young boys show early signs of maturing.

**Libido** /'lɪbɪdəʊ/ **libido** noun 1. the sexual urge 2. (in psychology) a force which drives the unconscious mind

**Liberation** /'lɪbərəʃən/ **liberation** noun in psychology (a force which drives the unconscious mind

**LH** /'lɛvədɒpə/ **levodopa** noun a natural chemical that stimulates the production of dopamine in the brain and is used to treat Parkinson’s disease.

**Lichenoid** /'lɪkənɔɪd/ **lichenoid** noun (NOTE: The US spelling is license.)

**Licence** /'lɪsns/ **licence** noun an official document which allows someone to do something, e.g. one allowing a doctor to practise, a pharmacist to make and sell drugs or, in the USA, a nurse to practise. He was practising as a doctor without a licence. She is sitting her registered nurse licence examination. (NOTE: The US spelling is license.)

**Licensure** /'lɪsəns/ **licensure** noun US the act of licensing a nurse to practise nursing

**Licentiate** /'lɪsɛntɪteɪt/ **licentiate** noun a person who has been given a licence to practise as a doctor

**Licenification** /'lɪskənɪfɪkʃən/ **licenification** noun a thickening of the skin at the site of a lesio

**Lichenoid** /'lɪkənɔɪd/ **lichenoid** adjective like lichen
lichen planus

lichen planus /ˈlɪkən ˈpleɪnəs/ noun a skin disease where itchy purple spots appear on the arms and thighs

lid /lɪd/ noun the top which covers a container ○ a medicine bottle with a child-proof lid

lidocaine /ˈlɪdəkən/ noun US a drug used as a local anaesthetic. Also called lignocaine

lie /lai/ noun same as lie of fetus ○ verb to be in a flat position ○ The accident victim was lying on the pavement. ○ Make sure the patient lies still and does not move. (NOTE: lying – lay – lain)

Lieberkühn's glands /ˈlaɪbərkʊntʃɪzn/ plural noun same as crypts of Lieberkühn

lienal /ˈlaɪənəl/ adjective relating to or affecting the spleen ○ the lienal artery

lienculus /ˈlaɪənkələs/ noun a small secondary spleen sometimes found in the body (NOTE: The plural is lieniculi.)

lienorenal /ˈlaɪənərənvəˈriːnəl/ adjective relating to or affecting both the spleen and the kidneys

lienteric diarrhoea /ˌlaɪəntəˈrɪk, daɪəˈrɪkoʊ/ noun a form of diarrhoea where the food passes through the intestine rapidly without being digested

lie of fetus /ˈlaɪ əv/ ‘fizəs/ noun the position of the fetus in the uterus ○ Cause of rupture: abnormal lie of fetus.

life /laɪf/ noun the quality that makes a person or thing alive and not dead or inorganic ○ The surgeons saved the patient’s life. ○ Her life is in danger because the drugs are not available. ○ The victim showed no sign of life.

life expectancy /ˈlaɪf ɪkˈspektəntɪs/ noun the number of years a person of a particular age is likely to live

life-saving equipment /ˈlaɪf ˈsiːvətʃi/ noun equipment kept ready in case of an emergency, e.g. boats, stretchers or first-aid kits

life-support system /ˈlaɪf ˈsɜːpət ˌsɪstəm/ noun a machine that takes over one or more vital functions such as breathing when someone is unable to survive unaided because of a disease or injury

life-threatening disease /ˈlaɪf ˌθrɛt(ə)nd/ noun a disease which may kill

lifeline /ˈlaɪflɪn/ noun 1. a particular way of carrying an injured or unconscious person ○ a four-hundred lifeline ○ a shoulder lift 2. a cosmetic operation to remove signs of age or to change a body feature ○ a face lift

ligament /ˈlaɪgəmənt/ noun a thick band of fibrous tissue which connects the bones at a joint and forms the joint capsule

ligate /ˈlaɪɡət/ verb to tie something with a ligature, e.g. to tie a blood vessel to stop bleeding ○ to tie the Fallopian tubes as a sterilisation procedure (NOTE: ligating – ligated)

ligation /ˈlaɪəɡʃən/ noun a surgical operation to tie up a blood vessel

light /laɪt/ adjective 1. bright so that a person can see ○ At six o’clock in the morning it was just getting light. 2. referring to hair or skin which is very pale ○ She has a very light complexion. ○ He has light-coloured hair. 3. weighing a comparatively small amount ○ The energy that makes things bright and helps a person to see ○ There’s not enough light in here to take a photo.

light adaptation /ˈlaɪt ədəpi, ˈteɪf(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 /ˈlaɪtnɪŋ/ noun a late stage in pregnancy where the fetus goes down into the pelvic cavity

lightening pains /ˈlaɪtnɪŋ peɪnз/ plural noun sharp pains in the legs in someone who has tabes dorsalis

light reflex /ˈlaɪt ˌriːflɛks/ noun same as pupilary reaction

light therapy /ˈlaɪt ˌθerəpi, ˈlaɪt tɛrəpɪ, ˈlaɪt tɪˈreɪʃən/ noun the treatment of a disorder by exposing the person to light such as sunlight or infrared light

light wave /ˈlaɪt wɛv/ noun a wave traveling in all directions from a source of light which stimulates the retina and is visible

lignocaine /ˈlɪgnəkən/ noun same as lidocaine

limb /ˈlɪm/ noun one of the legs or arms

limb /ˈlɪm/ plural of limbus

limbic system /ˈlɪmɪbɪk ˌsɪstəm/ 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 /ˈlɪmb lɛd/ noun an electrode attached to an arm or leg when taking an electrocardiogram

limb lengthening /ˈlɪmb ˈlɛŋθənɪŋ/ 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 /ˈlɪmləs/ adjective lacking one or more limbs
lipolytic enzyme /ˌlɪpəˈlɑːtɪk/ noun an enzyme which breaks down fats in the intestine. Also called lipolytic enzyme

lipid /ˈlɪpɪd/ noun an organic compound which is insoluble in water, e.g. a fat, oil or wax

COMMENT: Lipids are not water soluble. They float in the blood and can attach themselves to the walls of arteries causing atherosclerosis.

lipid-lowering drug /ˈlɪpɪd, ləʊərɪŋ/ drug/ noun a drug which lowers serum triglycerides and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and raises high-density lipoprotein cholesterol to reduce 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 ˌmətəˈbɒlɪzəm/ 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 /ˌlɪpəˌkɒndrəˌdrɒsəˈfroʊ/ noun a genetic disorder affecting lipid metabolism, the bones and the main organs, causing learning difficulties and physical deformity

lipodiestry /ˌlɪpəˌdɪəsˈtrɪfɪ/ noun a disorder of lipid metabolism

lipogenesis /ˌlɪpəˈdʒɛnəsɪs/ noun the production or making of deposits of fat

lipoid /ˈlɪpɔɪd/ noun a compound lipid, or a fatty substance such as cholesterol which is like a lipid; adjective like a lipid

lipoidosis /ˌlɪpɔɪdəˈsɪs/ noun a group of diseases with reticuloendothelial hyperplasia and unusual deposits of lipids in the cells

lipolysis /ˈlɪpəˈlɒsɪs/ noun the process of breaking down fat by lipase

lipolytic enzyme /ˌlɪpəˈlɑːtɪk ˈɛnˌzɪm/ noun same as lipase
lipoma /ˈlɪpəmə/ noun a benign tumour formed of fatty tissue (note: The plural is lipomas or lipomata.)

lipomatosis /ˌlɪpəˈmətəsɪs/ 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 /ˌlɪpəˈsɑːrkəmə/ noun a rare malignant tumour found in fatty tissue (note: The plural is liposarcomas or liposarcomata.)

liposuction /ˌlɪpəsəkʃən/ noun the surgical removal of fatty tissue for cosmetic reasons

lipotropic /ˌlɪpəˈtɹɒtɪk/ adjective referring to a substance which increases the amount of fat present in the tissues

lip salve /ˈlɪp sɑːv/ 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 ˈdɪt/ noun a diet consisting only of liquids (the clear liquid diet is a temporary diet used in preparation for surgery)

liquid paraffin /ˈlɪkwɪd pəˈræfɪn/ noun an oil used as a laxative

liquor /ˈlɪkər/ noun (in pharmacy) a solution, usually aqueous, of a pure substance

lisp /lɪsp/ noun a speech condition in which someone replaces "s" sounds with "θ" (verb to talk with a lisp)

Listeria /ˈlɪstəriə/ noun a genus of bacteria found in domestic animals and in unpasteurised milk products which can cause uterine infection or meningitis

listeriosis /ˌlɪstəriəˈsɪsɪs/ noun an infectious disease transmitted from animals to humans by the bacterium Listeria

listless /ˈlɪstləs/ adjective weak and tired

tiredness /ˈlɪstərənəs/ noun the fact of being generally weak and tired

liter /ˈlɪtər/ noun US spelling of litre

lith- /ˈlɪθ-/ prefix same as litho- (used before vowels)

lithaemia /ˈlɪθeəmiə/ noun an unusual amount of uric acid in the blood. Also called uricaemia (note: The US spelling is lithemia.)

lithagogue /ˈlɪθəgəʊj/ noun a drug which helps to remove stones from the urine

lithiasis /ˌlɪθəˈrɪəsɪs/ 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

litholapaxy /ˌlɪθəˈlæpəksi/ noun the evacuation of pieces of a stone in the bladder after crushing it with a lithotrite. Also called lithotomy (note: The plural is litholapaxies)

lithonephrotomy /ˌlɪθənˈnɛfrotəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove a stone from the kidney (note: The plural is lithonephrotomies)

lithotomy /ˌlɪθəˈtɒmə/ noun a surgical operation to remove a stone from the bladder (note: The plural is lithotomies)

lithotomy position /ˌlɪθəˈtɒmə ˈpaʊzɪʃən/ 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 /ˌlɪθəˈtrɪpsɪ/ noun the process of breaking up kidney or gall bladder stones into small fragments that the body can eliminate them unaided

lithotrite /ˌlɪθəˈtrɪtə/ noun a surgical instrument which crushes a stone in the bladder

lithotritility /ˌlɪθəˈtrɪtɪli/ noun same as litholapaxy

lithuresis /ˌlɪθəˈrɪəsɪs/ noun the passage of small stones from the bladder during urination

lithuria /ˌlɪθəˈjʊəriə/ 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 /ˈlɪtməs ˈpeɪpər/ noun a small piece of paper impregnated with litmus, used to test for acidity or alkalinity

litre /ˈlɪtər/ noun a unit of measurement 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 /ˈlɪtl ˈfɪŋər/ noun the smallest finger on the hand

Little’s disease /ˈlɪtlz ˈdiːz/ noun same as spastic diplegia (described 1843. After William John Little (1810–94), physician at the London Hospital, UK.)

little toe /ˈlɪtl ˈtəʊ/ noun the smallest toe on the foot (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.

live verb /lɪv/ to be alive ○ She is very ill, and the doctor doesn’t think she will live much longer. (note: living – lived)
lockjaw

2. Lockjaw is lockjaw.
locomotion

locomotion [lɒˈkʌmən] noun the fact of being able to move
locomotor [lɒˈkʌmətər] adjective relating to locomotion
locomotor ataxia [lɒˈkʌmətər əˈteɪksiə] noun same as tabes dorsalis
loculated [lɒˈkjuːlɪtɪd] adjective referring to an organ or a growth which is divided into many compartments ○ a loculated renal abscess
locule [lɒˈkjuːl] noun same as loculus
loculus [lɪŋˈkjuːləs] noun a small space in an organ (NOTE: The plural is loculi.)
locum [lɒˈkʌm] 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 [lɒˈkʌs] 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.)
lodge [lɒdʒ] 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 intestine
lofepramine [lɒfˈpræmɪn] noun an antidiarrhoeal drug
log roll [lɒɡ rɔʊl] 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 [lɒɡˈrəʊlɪŋ] noun the process of moving a person who is lying down into another position using the log roll method
-logy [lɒdʒi] suffix 1. science or study ○ psychology ○ embryology 2. speech or expression
lolaia [lɒˈleɪəs] 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 [lɒˈmɒtɪl] a trade name for a preparation containing diphenoxylate
long-acting [lɒŋ ˈeɪktɪŋ] adjective referring to a drug or treatment which has an effect that lasts a long time
long bone [lɒŋ bɔʊn] noun any long limb bone that contains marrow and ends in a part that forms a joint with another bone
longitudinal [lɒŋˈtɪdʒuːn] adjective 1. positioned lengthwise 2. in the direction of the long axis of the body
longitudinal arch [lɒŋˈtɪdʒuːn əˈtʃ] noun same as plantar arch
longitudinal fissure [lɒŋˈtɪdʒuːn ˈfɪʃə] noun a groove separating the two cerebral hemispheres
longitudinal lie [lɒŋˈtɪdʒuːn ˈlaɪ] noun the usual position of a fetus, lying along the axis of the mother’s body
longitudinal study [lɒŋˈtɪdʒuːn ˈstʌdi] 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 [lɒŋˈsaɪtɪd] adjective able to see clearly things which are far away but not things which are close
longsightedness [lɒŋˈsaɪtɪdnəs] noun the condition of being longsighted. Also called hypermetropia
long-stay [lɒŋ stei] adjective referring to staying a long time in hospital ○ patients in long-stay units
long stay patient [lɒŋ stei ˈpeɪʃənt] noun a patient who will stay in hospital for a long time
long stay ward [lɒŋ stei 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 [lʊp] 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 [lʊp əˈhɛnl] noun a curved tube which forms the main part of a nephron in the kidney
loperamide [lɒpəˈmɑːrd] loperamide hydrochloride [lɒˌpəˈmɑːrd hɪdروkloʊrid] noun a drug that relieves severe diarrhoea by slowing down the movements of the intestine
loratidine [lɒrəˈtɪdɪn] noun an antihistamine drug
lorazepam [lɔrəˈzəpəm] noun a mild tranquilliser that people often receive before surgery to lessen anxiety
lordosis [lɔːrdəˈsisis] noun excessive forward curvature of the lower part of the spine. ○ kyphosis
lordotic [lɔːrdətɪk] adjective referring to lordosis
lotion [ləʊtʃən] noun a medicinal liquid used to rub on the skin ○ a mild antiseptic lotion
louse [laʊs] 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 is the body louse, the crab
illness of the neck which causes the neck to swell and reduce high blood pressure with little salt, which has been shown to help reduce the risk of heart disease and alleviate some skin conditions.

low-risk patient /noun a person not likely to catch or develop a particular disease.

low-salt diet /noun a diet with little salt, which has been shown to help reduce high blood pressure.

lozenge /noun a sweet medicinal tablet. She was sucking a cough lozenge.

lumbago /noun pain in the lower back (informal). She has been suffering from lumbago for years. He has had an attack of lumbago.

lumbar /adjective referring to the lower part of the back.

lumbar artery /noun one of four arteries which supply blood to the back muscles and skin.

lumbar cistern /noun the sub-arachnoid space in the spinal cord, where the dura mater ends, filled with cerebrospinal fluid.

lumbar enlargement /noun the wider part of the spinal cord in the lower spine, where the nerves of the lower limbs are attached.

lumbar plexus /noun the point where several nerves which supply the thighs and abdomen join together, lying in the upper psoas muscle.

lumbar puncture /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 puncture. (Note: The US term is usually spinal tap."

lumbar region /noun the two parts of the abdomen on each side of the umbilical region.

lumbar vertebra /noun each of the five vertebrae between the thoracic vertebrae and the sacrum.

lumbo-sacral /adjective referring to both the lumbar vertebrae and the sacrum.

lumbo-sacral joint /noun a joint at the bottom of the back between the lumbar vertebrae and the sacrum.

lumen /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 /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 /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 /noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist. See illustration at MAN.

lubricant /noun a fluid which lubricates.

lubricate /verb to cover something with a fluid to reduce friction. Lumbar enlargement.

lubricating jelly /noun a jelly used to make a surface slippery.

lucid /adjective with a clearly working mind. In spite of the pain, he was still lucid.

lucid interval /noun a period of clear thinking which occurs between two periods of unconsciousness or of mental illness.

Ludwig’s angina /noun cellulitis of the mouth and some parts of the neck which causes the neck to swell and may obstruct the airway. (Described 1836. After Wilhelm Friedrich von Ludwig (1790–1865), Professor of Surgery and Midwifery at Tübingen, Germany, and Court Physician to King Frederick II.)

lues /noun a former name for syphilis or the plague.

lues /noun a former name for syphilis or the plague.

low-density lipoprotein /noun a lipoprotein which deposits fats in muscles and arteries.

low-fat diet /noun a diet with little fat, which can help reduce the risk of heart disease and alleviate some skin conditions.

low-risk patient /noun a person not likely to catch or develop a particular disease.

low-salt diet /noun a diet with few calories, to help a person to lose weight.

low-fat diet /noun a diet with few calories, to help a person to lose weight.

lumen /noun a unit of light emitted per second.

lumbar region /noun the two parts of the abdomen on each side of the umbilical region.

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lumbar vertebra /noun each of the five vertebrae between the thoracic vertebrae and the sacrum.
Lund and Browder chart

**Lund and Browder chart** /'lʌnd ənˈbrɔːdər/ noun a chart for calculating the surface area of a burn

**lung** /lʌŋ/ 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-

**COMMENT:** The two lungs are situated in the chest cavity, protected by the ribcage. The heart lies between the lungs. The right lung has three lobes, the left lung only two. Air goes down into the lungs through the trachea and bronchi. It passes to the alveoli where its oxygen is deposited in the blood in exchange for waste carbon dioxide which is exhaled (gas exchange). Lung cancer can be caused by smoking tobacco, and is commonest in people who are heavy smokers.

**lung cancer** /ˈlʌŋ kæncər/ noun cancer in the lung

**Lunula** /ˈlʊŋjʊlə/ noun a curved white mark at the base of a fingernail (note: the plural is lunulae.)

**lupus** /ˈlʊpəs/ noun a persistent skin disease, of which there are several unrelated types

**Lupus erythematosus** /ˈlʊpəs ˌɛrɪˈθɛmətəsəs/ noun an inflammatory disease of connective tissue of which the more serious, systemic, form affects the heart, joints and blood vessels. Abbr LE

**Lupus vulgaris** /ˈlʊpəs ˈvʌlɡəris/ noun a form of tuberculosis of the skin in which red spots appear on the face and become infected

**Lutein** /ˈljuːtɪn/ noun a yellow pigment in the corpus luteum

**Luteinising hormone** /ˈlutɪnɪzɪŋ hərˈməʊn/ noun a hormone produced by the pituitary gland, which stimulates the formation of the corpus luteum in females and of testosterone in males. Abbr LH. Also called interstitial cell stimulating hormone

**Luteo-** /ˈljuːtəʊ/ prefix 1. yellow 2. corpus luteum

**Luxation** /ˈlʌksəʃən/ noun same as dislocation

**Lyme disease** /ˈlaɪm ˈdaɪzɪs/ noun a viral disease caused by Borrelia burgdorferi transmitted by bites from deer ticks. It causes rash, fever, joint pains and arthritis in extreme cases, death.

**Lymph** /ˈlɪm/ 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 defence against infection.

**Lymph-** /ˈlɪmf-/ prefix meaning same as lympho-

**Lymphaden-** /ˈlɪmfədən-/ prefix relating to the lymph nodes

**Lymphadenectomy** /ˈlɪmfəˈdɛntɛktoʊmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of a lymph node (note: the plural is lymphadenectomies.)

**Lymphadenitis** /ˈlɪmfəˌdɛnətɪs/ noun inflammation of the lymph nodes

**Lymphadenoma** /ˈlɪmfəˌdɛnəmə/ noun any unusual condition of the lymph nodes (note: the plural is lymphadenopathies.)

**Lymphangi-** /ˈlɪmfəndʒi-/ prefix lymphatic vessel

**Lymphangiectasis** /ˈlɪmfəndʒiˌɛktəsɪs/ noun swelling of the smaller lymph vessels as a result of obstructions in larger vessels

**Lymphangiography** /ˈlɪmfəndʒɪˌɡrɑːfɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the lymph vessels following introduction of radio-opaque material (note: the plural is lymphangiographies)

**Lymphangioma** /ˈlɪmfəndʒɪˌɒmə/ noun a benign tumour formed of lymph tissues (note: the plural is lymphangiomas or lymphangi-omata.)

**Lymphangioplasty** /ˈlɪmfəndʒɪˌpleɪstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make artificial lymph channels (note: the plural is lymphangioplasties.)

**Lymphangiosarcoma** /ˈlɪmfəˌdʒiˌsɑːrkoʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour of the endothelial cells lining the lymph vessels (note: the plural is lymphangiosarcomas or lymphangiosarcomata.)

**Lymphangitis** /ˈlɪmfəˌdʒɪˌstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the lymph vessels

**Lymphatic** /ˈlɪmfətɪk/ adjective referring to lymph

**Lymphatic capillary** /ˈlɪmfətɪk ˈkeɪpləri/ 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 nəʊd/ noun a small lymph node found in clusters in tissues

**Lymphatic system** /ˈlɪmfətɪk ˌsɪstəm/ noun a series of vessels which transport lymph
from the tissues through the lymph nodes and into the bloodstream.

lymphatic vessel / ˈlɪmfətɪk, ˈles-ətɪk/ 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 /ˈlɪmf glænd/ plural lymph glands /ˈlɪmf ɡlændz/ 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- /ˈlɪmp-/ prefix meaning lymph.

lymphoblast /ˈlɪmpə bʌləst/ noun an unusual development of lymphoid tissue which involves breaking up or decaying, or to destroy the cell against which it is directed.

lymphoblastic /ˈlɪmpə bʌləstɪk/ adjective referring to lymphoblasts, or forming lymphocytes.

lymphocyte /ˈlɪmpəsɪt/ noun a cell containing lymph from injured or diseased lymph nodes or ducts.

lymphocyte /ˈlɪmpəsɪt/ adjective a type of mature leucocyte or white blood cell formed by the lymph nodes and concerned with the production of antibodies.

lymphocytopenia /ˌlɪmpəsəʊˈpiəniə/ noun same as lymphopenia.

lymphocytosis /ˌlɪmpəsəʊˈtɒsɪs/ noun an increased number of lymphocytes in the blood.

lymphoedema /ˌlɪmpəəˈdiːmə/ noun a swelling caused by obstruction of the lymph vessels or unusual development of lymph vessels (NOTE: The US spelling is lymphedema.)

lymphogranuloma inguinale /ˌlɪmpə ɡrænjuːˈjəʊmə/ noun same as lymphogranuloma venereum.

lymphogranuloma venereum /ˌlɪmpə ˈɡrænjuːˌvənɪˈrɛm/ noun a sexually transmitted bacterial infection that causes swelling of the genital lymph nodes and, especially in men, a genital ulcer. Abbr L.G.V.

lymphography /ˈlɪmpəˌɡraʊfɪ/ noun the making of images of the lymphatic system after having introduced a radio-opaque substance.

lymphoid /ˈlɪmpəɔd/ adjective referring to lymph, lymphatic tissue, or the lymphatic system.

lymphoid tissue /ˈlɪmpəɔd 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 /ˌlɪmpəˈskəɪn/ noun a protein produced by lymphocytes that has an effect on other cells in the immune system.

lymphokine /ˌlɪmphəˌkain/ noun same as cytokine.

lymphoma /ˈlɪmphəˌmoʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour arising from lymphoid tissue. Also called lymphadenoma (NOTE: The plural is lymphomas or lymphomata.)

lymphopenia /ˌlɪmphəˌpiəniə/ noun a reduction in the number of lymphocytes in the blood. Also called lymphocytopenia.

lymphopoeisis /ˌlɪmphəˌpiəˈiːsɪs/ noun the production of lymphocytes or lymphoid tissue.

lymphorrhagia /ˌlɪmphəˌreɪdʒə/ noun escape of lymph from ruptured or severed lymphatic vessels.

lymphosarcoma /ˌlɪmphəˌsaʊˈkəʊmə/ noun a malignant growth arising from lymphocytes and their cells of origin in the lymph nodes (NOTE: The plural is lymphosarcomas or lymphomas.)

lymphotrophic /ˌlɪmphəˈtɔrɪp/ adjective affecting the lymphatic system.

lymphuria /ˌlɪmphəˈjʊəriə/ noun the presence of lymph in the urine.

lymph vessel /ˈlɪmph ˈvesəl/ noun one of the tubes which carry lymph round the body from the tissues to the veins.

lyophilisation /ˌlaɪfəˈlɪzaʃən/ noun the act of preserving tissue, plasma or serum by freeze-drying it in a vacuum.

lyophilise /ˌlaɪfəˈlɪzaɪ/ verb to preserve tissue, plasma or serum by freeze-drying in a vacuum (NOTE: lyophilising = lyophilised).

lysergic acid diethylamide /ˈlaɪsərɡɪk əˈdɪθɪləməd/ noun a powerful hallucinogenic drug which can cause psychosis. Abbr LSD.

lysin /ˈlaɪsɪn/ 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.

lysin /ˈlaɪsɪn/ noun an essential amino acid.

lysis /ˈlaɪsɪs/ noun 1. the destruction of a cell by a lysis, 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.

lysis /ˈlaɪsɪs/ suffix referring to processes which involve breaking up or decaying, or to objects which are doing this ( Courtesy:  )

lysol /ˈlaɪsoʊl/ noun a strong disinfectant, made of cresol and soap.

lysosome /ˈlaɪsəsəʊm/ noun a particle in a cell which contains enzymes which break down substances such as bacteria which enter the cell.

lysozyme /ˈlaɪsoʊzaɪm/ 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  /ˈmækərɪt/  verb  to make something soft by letting it lie in a liquid for a time  (note: macerating – macerated)
maceration  /ˌmæsəˈreɪʃən/  noun  the process of softening a solid by letting it lie in a liquid so that the soluble matter dissolves
Mackenrodt’s ligaments  /mækənˈroʊdts/  ligament’s plural noun same as cardinal ligaments
Macmillan nurse  /mækˈmlən ˈnɜːs/  noun  a nurse who specialises in cancer care and is employed by the organisation Macmillan Cancer Relief
macro-  /ˈmækroʊ/  prefix  large. Opposite micro-
macrobioct  /ˈmækroʊˌbaɪəˈtɪk/  adjective  referring to food which has been produced naturally without artificial additives or preservatives
COMMENT: Macrobioctic 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  /ˌmækroʊˌsefəˈli/  noun  the condition of having an unusually large head
macrochelida  /ˌmækroʊˌkəˈliːdə/  noun  the condition of having large lips
macrocyst  /ˌmækroʊˌsɒstɪk/  a unusually large red blood cell found in people who have pernicious anaemia
macrocystoemia  /ˌmækroʊˌsɒstəˈjēərɪə/  noun  same as macrocytosis
macrocystotic  /ˌmækroʊˌsɒstɪˈtɪk/  adjective  referring to macrocytes
macrocystic anaemia  /ˌmækroʊˌsɒstɪsɪk əˈneɪmə/  noun  anaemia in which someone has unusually large red blood cells
macrocystosis  /ˌmækroʊˌsɒstəˈsɪsɪs/  noun  the condition of having macrocytes in the blood. Also called macrocythaemia
macrodactyly  /ˌmækroʊˈdæktəli/  noun  a condition in which a person has unusually large or long fingers or toes
macrogenitosis  /ˌmækroʊˌgriːnəˈtɒsɪs/  noun  premature development of the body with the genitals being of an unusually large size
macroglobulin  /ˌmækroʊˌɡləˈbjuːlɪn/  noun  a class of immunoglobulin, a globulin protein of high molecular weight, which serves as an antibody
macroglossia  /ˌmækroʊˌɡlosəˈriə/  noun  the condition of having an unusually large tongue
macrogastria  /ˌmækroʊˌɡæstəˈriə/  noun  a condition in which the jaw is larger than usual
macrolide drug  /ˌmækroʊˌlaɪd dˈrʌɡ/  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, etc.)
macromastia  /ˌmækroʊˌmæstɪə/  noun  overdevelopment of the breasts
macromelia  /ˌmækroʊˌmɪliə/  noun  a condition in which a person has unusually large limbs
macronutrient  /ˌmækroʊˌnjuːˈtrɪən/  noun  a substance which an organism needs in large amounts for normal growth and development, e.g. nitrogen, carbon or potassium. Compare micronutrient
macrophage  /ˌmækroʊˌfeɪdʒ/  any of several large cells which destroy inflammatory tissue, found in connective tissue, wounds, lymph nodes and other parts
macropsia  /ˌmækroʊˈpɜːsiə/  noun  a condition in which a person sees objects larger than they really are, caused by an unusual development in the retina
macropsic  /ˌmækroʊˌskiːpɪk/  adjective  able to be seen with the naked eye
macrostomia  /ˌmækroʊˌsɒtəmə/  noun  a condition in which the body grows too much
macrocystic anaemia  /ˌmækroʊˌsɒstəˈjēərɪə/  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
malignant /məlˈɡʌnt/ adjective referring to a macula

macula /ˈmeɪkula/ noun 1. same as macule 2. a small coloured area, e.g. a macula lutea, an area of hair cells inside the uricle and sac-cule of the ear (NOTE: The plural is maculae.)

macula lutea /ˌmeɪkələˈluːtə/ noun a yellow spot on the retina surrounding the fovea, the part of the eye which sees most clearly. Also called yellow spot

macular /ˈmeɪkələr/ adjective referring to a macula

macular degeneration /ˌmeɪkələr dɪˈʒɪnərəʃən/ noun an eye disorder in elderly people in which fluid leaks into the retina and destroys cones and rods, reducing central vision

macular oedema /ˌmeɪkələr ˈoʊdɪmə/ noun a disorder of the eye in which fluid gathers in the retina and destroys tissue and cells. A group of symptoms and signs, including malnutrition, anemia, oedema and dermatitis, which results from steatorrhoea and malabsorption of vitamins, protein, carbohydrates and water

maculopapular /ˌmeɪkələpəˈpæpələr/ adjective made up of both macules and papules ○ maculopapular rash

macule /ˈmeɪkələr/ noun same as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (informal)

mad cow disease noun same as bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Magendie’s foramen /ˌmeɡənˈdiːz fəˈrɛmən/ 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 /ˈmæŋgə/ ♦ cisterna magna

magnesium /ˈmeɪɡəznɪsəm/ 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 /ˌmeɪɡəznɪzəm ˈsʌl fət/ noun a magnesium salt used as a laxative. Also called Epsom salts

magnesium trisilicate /ˌmeɪɡəznɪzəm trɪˈsɪlɪkət/ noun a magnesium compound used to treat peptic ulcers

magnetic /ˈmeɪɡətɪk/ adjective able to attract objects, like a magnet

magnetic field /ˈmeɪɡətɪk flɪld/ noun an area round an object which is under the influence of the magnetic force exerted by the object

magnetic resonance imaging /ˈmeɪɡətɪk rɪˈzɔnəns ˈɪŋɡrəm/ 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

magnification /ˌmeɪɡəfɪˈkʃən/ noun the operation was a major surgery. A situation where the intestines are unable to absorb the fluids and nutrients in food properly

malabsorption syndrome /ˌmeɪləbəˈsɔrðərən sɪndrəʊm/ noun a group of symptoms and signs, including malnutrition, anemia, 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

maladenation /ˌmeɪləˈdænətʃən/ noun difficulty experienced in fitting into society or family

malaise /ˈmeɪləz/ noun a feeling of discomfort

malaligned /ˌmeɪləˈlændɪd/ adjective not in the correct position relative to other parts of the body

malalignment /ˌmeɪləˈlæmənt/ noun a condition in which something is malaligned, especially in which a tooth is not in its correct position in the mouth

malar bone /ˈmeɪlər bɔːn/ noun same as cheekbone

malaria /ˈmeɪlərɪə/ noun a mainly tropical disease caused by a parasite Plasmodium, which enters the body after a bite from the female anopheline 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 /ˈmeɪlərɪəl/ adjective referring to malaria

malarial parasite /ˈmeɪlərɪəl pəˈræsət/ noun a parasite transmitted into the human bloodstream by the bite of the female anopheles mosquito

malarial therapy /ˈmeɪlərɪəl tɛrəpi/ 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 /məl/ 'menəpəsiz/ 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 /,meil 'sekz, 'hæsmən/ noun same as testosterone

male sex organs /,meil 'sekz, 'sɪgnənz/ plural noun the testes, epididymis, vasa deferentia, seminal vesicles, ejaculatory ducts and penis

malformation /,meilfer'mə,ʃən/ noun an unusual variation in the shape, structure or development of something

malformed /meilfərm/ adjective unusual in shape, structure or development

malfunction /,meilfʌŋkʃən/ 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. See illustration at vertstrokesuperior inferiornəυmə
during the operation his heart began to malfunction.

malignancy /'meiəlnənsi/ 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 /meil'ıɡnənt/ adjective likely to cause death or serious disablement if not properly treated

malignant hypertension /meil'ıɡnənt 'heɪpər'tenʃən/ noun dangerously high blood pressure

malignant melanoma /meil'ıɡnənt 'melə 'nəʊmə/ noun a dark tumour which develops on the skin from a mole, caused by exposure to strong sunlight

malignant pustule /meil'ıɡnənt 'pʌstəl/ noun a pus-filled swelling that results from infection of the skin with anthrax

malignant tumour /meil'ıɡnənt 'tjuəma/ 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 /meil'ɪŋər/ noun a person who pretends to be ill

malingering /meil'ɪŋərɪŋ/ adjective the act of pretending to be ill

malleolar /'meiləlɔr/ adjective referring to a malleolus

malleolus /'meilələs/ noun one of two bony prominences at each side of the ankle (note: The plural is malleoli.)

mallet finger /'meilət 'frɪŋə/ noun a finger which cannot be straightened because the tendon attaching the top joint has been torn

malleus /'meiləs/ noun the largest of the three ossicles in the middle ear, shaped like a hammer. See illustration at EAR in Supplement

malloidy bodies /'meiləri, 'bɔdiz/ 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 /'meiləri steiən/ noun tri-chrome stain, used in histology to distinguish collagen, cytoplasm and nuclei

Mallory-Weiss syndrome /,meiləri 'vais 'sændrəm/ noun Mallory-Weiss tear /,meiləri 'vais 'tɛər/ 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.]

malmoured /'meilərəurd/ adjective not having enough to eat or having only poor-quality food, leading to ill-health

malnutrition /'meilno'ʃənərli/ 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 /'meiləkəlju'ʃən/ 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 /meilədɔrəs/ adjective with a strong unpleasant smell

Malpighian body /'meilpiʃən 'bɔdli, Malpi-'gian/ plural noun same as renal corpuscle

Malpighian layer /'meilpiʃən 'leɪər/ noun the deepest layer of the epidermis

malposition /'meilpəzə'siən/ noun an unusual or unexpected position of something such as a fetus in the uterus or fractured bones

malpractice /'meilprækətsi/ 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 /'meilprɛzə'siəntiʃən/ noun an unusual position of a fetus in the uterus just before it is ready to be born

Malt fever /'mɔlt fəvər/ noun same as brucellosis

maltase /'mɔltəs/ noun an enzyme in the small intestine which converts maltose into glucose

maltose /'mɔltəs/ noun a sugar formed by digesting starchy or glycogenic

malunion /'meilju'nɪʃən/ noun a bad join of the pieces of a broken bone
mammilla /'məmɪlə/ noun another spelling of mammilla
mammillary /'mæmɪləri/ 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 /'məmɪlə/, mammilla noun the protruding part in the centre of the breast, containing the milk ducts through which the milk flows. Also called nipple
mammillary /'mæmɪləri/, mammillary adjective referring to the nipple
mammillary body /'mæmɪləri bodi/ noun one of two little projections on the base of the hypothalamus
mammo- prefix referring to breasts
mammogram /'mæməgrəm/ noun a picture of a breast made using a special X-ray technique
mammography /'mæməɡrəfi/ 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]
mammaplasty /'mæməplæstɪ/ noun plastic surgery to alter the shape or size of the breasts
mammothermography /'mæməθərmərəf/ 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. Did you 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 /'mæntʃəstaɪər əpə/ noun a surgical operation to correct downward movement of the uterus, involving removal of the cervix
mandible /'mændɪbəl/ 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 'fɒsə/ plural noun sockets in the skull into which the ends of the lower jaw fit
mandibular nerve /'mændɪbjuələr ˈnɜːv/ 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 /'meɪn/ 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 /'mæŋɡəˈneɪz/ noun a metallic trace element (note: The chemical symbol is Mn.)
mania /'mɛniə/ 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 /'mɛniə/ suffix obsession with something
maniac /'mɛniək/ noun a person who behaves in an uncontrolled way or is considered to have an obsession (note: this term is regarded as offensive)
manic /'mænɪk/ adjective referring to mania
manic depression /'mænɪk diˈpresʃən/ noun same as bipolar disorder
manic-depressive (').mænɪk diˈpresʃən/ adjective relating to bipolar disorder 2. noun a person with bipolar disorder
manic-depressive illness /'mænɪk diˈpresʃən ˈɪljəs/ manic-depressive psychosis /'mænɪk diˈpresʃv səˈkɔsi/ noun same as bipolar disorder
manifestation /'mænɪfɛstəˈʃən/ 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 septicarima, meningitis and pneumonia. [Lancet]
manikin /'mænɪkɪn/ noun an anatomical model of the human body, used in teaching anatomy
manipulate /'mænɪpju,leɪt/ 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 /'mænɪpju,leɪʃən/ 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 /'meɪnə/ noun a way of doing something or of behaving 2. He was behaving in a strange manner. 3. bedside manner
mannitol /'mænɪtɒl/ noun a diuretic drug used in the treatment of oedema of the brain
manometer

manometer /maⁿ⁹mətər/ noun an instrument for recording pressures

manometry /maⁿ⁹mətri/ 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 /maⁿ tôks/ test/ noun a test for tuberculous, in which a person is given an intradermal injection of tuberculoid and a test performed on the skin.

manual /maⁿ⁹juːl/ adjective done by hand

manual examination /maⁿ⁹jüəli kjəzmənt/ noun an examination using the hands and fingers

manubrium /maⁿ⁹njuːbriəm/ noun a handle-shaped anatomical part, e.g. part of the inner ear

manubrium sterni /maⁿ⁹njuːbriəm stərni/ noun the upper part of the sternum

MAO abbr monoamine oxidase

MAOI abbr monoamine oxidase inhibitor

MAO inhibitor /mənjuːhbi⁹tər/ noun same as monoamine oxidase inhibitor

maple syrup urine disease /ˌmæpl skjuːpjuːr/ 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 /mərəsməs/ noun a wasting disease which affects small children who have difficulty in absorbing nutrients or who are malnourished. Also called failure to thrive/m marble bone disease /ˈmɑrbl boʊn/ same as osteopetrosis

Marburg disease /ˈmɑrba⁹rədʒ/ Marburg virus disease /ˈmɑrba⁹rədʒ vaɪrəs diˌriz/ noun a severe viral infection causing high fever, bleeding from mucous membranes, vomiting and often death. Also called green monkey disease

COMMENT: The disease is transmitted to humans from green monkeys. Because the monkeys are used in laboratory experiments, the disease mainly affects laboratory workers.

march fracture /maʳʃ fræk’tʃɑ/ 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 /maʳfən’s/ noun Marfan syndrome /maʳfən sɪn drəʊm/ Marfan syndrome /maʳftən sɪn 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 /maɹɪnˈwənə/ noun same as cannabis

mark /mark/ 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 on something. the door is marked ‘Supervisor’ the door has the word ‘Supervisor’ written on it

marked /maʳkt/ adjective obvious or noticeable There has been a marked improvement in his condition.

marker /maɾrka⁹r/ 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 /ˈmɜrəu/ 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 /ˌmɑrʃjuːpəliʃən/ 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 /ˌmɑskəliʒən/ 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 /ma sk/ 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 /ma skt/ adjective used to describe diseases that are present but not observable

Maslow’s hierarchy of human needs /ˈmæzləw hɑrəski əv hjuːmən ’nɪtɪdz/ 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 /ˌmɑsəkɪzəm/ noun a sexual condition in which a person takes pleasure in being hurt or badly treated

masochist /ˌmɑsəkɪst/ noun a person suffering from masochism

masochistic /ˌməsəkɪstik/ adjective referring to masochism

mass /mæs/ noun 1. a large quantity, e.g. a large number of people 2. the patient’s back was covered with a mass of red spots 3. a body of matter with no clear shape 4. a mixture for making pills 5. the main solid part of bone

massage /ˈmɑsʒuː/ noun a treatment for muscular conditions which involves rubbing, stroking or pressing the body with the hands. · verb to give a massage to
The symptoms are fever and pain in the ears.

massification of the mastoid process and air cells.

which clenches the lower jaw making it move up, to allow chewing

massive /ˈmæsɪv/ adjective very large ○ He was given a massive injection of penicillin. ○ She had a massive heart attack.

mass radiography /ˈmæsˌrɛdiərəˈɡrafi/ noun the practice of taking X-ray photographs of large numbers of people to check for tuberculosis

mass screening /ˈmæs skrɪnɪŋ/ noun the practice of testing large numbers of people for the presence of a disease

mast- /ˈmæst/ prefix same as masto- (used before vowels)

mastalgia /ˈmæstəldʒə/ noun pain in the mammary gland

mastatrophy /ˈmæsˈtræfəri/ noun atrophy of the mammary gland

mast cell /ˈmæst sɛl/ noun a large cell in connective tissue, which carries histamine and reacts to allergens

mastectomy /ˈmæstektəmі/ noun the surgical removal of a breast

masticate /ˈmæstɪkət/ verb to chew food

mastication /ˈmæstɪkeɪʃən/ noun the act of chewing food

mastitis /ˈmæstɪtіs/ noun inflammation of the breast

masto- /ˈmæstəʊ/ prefix referring to a breast

mastoid /ˈmæstɔɪd/ adjective 1. shaped like a mastoid 2. belonging to the part of the temporal bone which protrudes at the side of the head behind the ear ○ noun same as mastoid process

mastoid air cell /ˈmæstɔɪd ˈɛə sɛl/, mastoid cell /ˈmæstɔɪd sɛl/ noun an air cell in the mastoid process

mastoid antrum /ˈmæstɔɪd ˈæntrəm/ noun a cavity linking the air cells of the mastoid process with the middle ear

mastoid bone /ˈmæstɔɪd bоʊn/ noun same as mastoid process

mastoidectomy /ˈmæstɔɪd ˈɛktəmі/ noun a surgical operation to remove part of the mastoid process, as a treatment for mastoiditis

mastoiditis /ˈmæstɔɪd ˈɪtіs/ noun inflammation of the mastoid process and air cells. The symptoms are fever and pain in the ears.

COMMENT: The mastoid process can be infected by infection from the middle ear through the mastoid antrum. Mastoiditis can cause deafness and can affect the meninges if not treated.

mastoidotomy /ˈmæstɔɪd ˈdɑtəmі/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut into the mastoid process to treat infection

mastoid process /ˈmæstɔɪd ˈprоʊsіs/ noun part of the temporal bone which protrudes at the side of the head behind the ear

masturbate /ˈmæstəbərt/ verb to excite one's own genitals so as to produce an orgasm

masturbation /ˈmæstəbərʃən/ noun stimulation of one's own genitals to produce an orgasm. Also called onanism

match /mætʃ/ verb 1. to examine two things to see if they are similar or fit together ○ They are trying to match the donor to the recipient. 2. to fit together in a specific way ○ The two samples don't match.

maternal /ˈmætrənl/ adjective referring to a mother

maternal death /ˈmætrənl dіθ/ noun the death of a mother during pregnancy, childbirth or up to twelve months after childbirth

maternal deprivation /ˈmætrənl dɪprіvəʃən/ noun a psychological condition caused when a child does not have a proper relationship with a mother

maternal dystocia /ˈmætrənl dіstəkʃə/ noun difficult childbirth caused by a physical problem in the mother

maternal instincts /ˈmætrənl ɪnˈstɪŋkts/ plural noun instinctive feelings in a woman to look after and protect her child

maternity case /ˈmætrəni tіs/ noun childbirth, the fact of becoming a mother

maternity hospital /ˈmætrəni həʊspіtəl/, maternity ward /ˈmætrəni wɔrd, maternity unit /ˈmætrəni ˈjuːnіt/ noun a hospital, ward or unit which deals only with women giving birth

maternal /ˈmætrənl/ adjective referring to a woman who is about to give birth

maternity clinic /ˈmætrəni kлɪnіk/ noun same as antenatal clinic

maternity hospital /ˈmætrəni həʊspіtəl/, maternity ward /ˈmætrəni wɔrd, maternity unit /ˈmætrəni ˈjuːnіt/ noun a hospital, ward or unit which deals only with women giving birth

matrix /ˈmætrɪks/ noun an amorphous mass of cells forming the basis of connective tissue. Also called ground substance

matron /ˈmætɾən/ noun a title formerly given to a woman in charge of the nurses in a hospital. ○ modern matron

mater /ˈmeɪtər/ dura mater

material /ˈmeɪtrіəl/ noun 1. matter which can be used to make something ○ The wound should be covered with gauze or other light material. 3. all that is necessary in surgery

materia medica /ˈmeɪtərіə meˈdіkə/ noun the study of drugs or dosages as used in treatment (NOTE: It comes from a Latin term meaning 'medical substance')

mater /ˈmeɪtər/ mater, maternity

mass...
mattress suture 236

mattress suture /mætrəs / noun a suture made with a loop on each side of the incision

maturation /mætʃəriən/ noun the process of becoming mature or fully developed

mature /mətʃər/ adjective fully developed

mature follicle /mətʃər ðə ðo′likəl/ noun a Graafian follicle just before ovulation

maturing /mətʃərɪŋ/ adjective becoming mature

maturing egg /mətʃər ɪŋ /eɡ/ maturing ovum /ˌʌvəm/ noun an ovum contained by a Graafian follicle

maturity /məˈtʃariti/ noun 1. being fully developed 2. (in psychology) the state of being a responsible adult

maxilla /mækˈsɪlə/ maxilla bone /mækˈsɪlə bɔʊn/ noun the upper jaw bone (NOTE: The plural is maxillae. It is more correct to refer to the upper jaw as the maxillae, as it is in fact formed of two bones which are fused together.)

maxillary /mækˈsɪliər/ adjective referring to the maxilla

maxillary antrum /mækˌsiləri ˈæntərəm/ maxillary sinus /mækˌsiləri ˈsənz/ noun one of two sinuses behind the cheekbones in the upper jaw. Also called antrum of Highmore

maxillo-facial /mækˈsiləˌfeʃəl/ adjective referring to the maxillary bone and the face

MB abbr bachelor of medicine

McBurney’s point /mækˈbrəni ˈpɔɪnt/ noun a point which indicates the usual position of the appendix on the right side of the abdomen, between the hip bone and the navel, which is extremely painful if pressed when the person has appendicitis [Described 1899. After Charles McBurney (1845–1913), US surgeon.]

McNaghten’s Rules on Insanity at Law /mækˌnægθən ˈruzl/ on məˌsænəti ˈat lɔ/ McNaghten’s Rules /mækˌnægθən ˈruzl/ plural noun a set of principles which explain how people can defend themselves in law by claiming that they committed a murder because they were mentally ill, and therefore not responsible for any of their actions. In 1957 it was adapted to include the idea of knowing that an action is wrong but being unable to stop yourself from committing it because of your mental condition.

MCP joint /mɪk sɪˈpcs dʒɔnt/ noun same as metacarpophalangeal joint

MCU, MCUG abbr: microscopic cytost(-ure-thro)gram

MD abbr doctor of medicine

ME abbr myalgic encephalomyelitis

meal /miːl/ noun food eaten at a particular time

measles /ˈmeɪzlz/ 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.

measure /ˈmeʒər/ 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 /ˈmeʒəmənt/ noun the size, length, etc. of something which has been measured

meat /miːt/ noun animal flesh which is eaten (NOTE: No plural: some meat, a piece or a slice of meat; he refuses to eat meat.)

meat- /miːt-/ prefix relating to a meat

meatus /meɪtəs/ 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 /mekˈzuːniz/ 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 ○ The inner ear is the body’s mechanism for the sense of balance.

mechanism of labour /mekˈzuːnið ələbə/ verb 1. the treatment of injuries through mechanical means, such as massage and exercise machines

mechanotherapy /məˌkuːθəˈrepi/ noun the mechanism for the sense of balance.

mechanotherapy /mekˌnuˈθerpi/ noun the treatment of injuries through mechanical means, such as massage and exercise machines

meckel’s diverticulum /mekˈkalz dəˈvɜtɪkləm/ noun a congenital formation of a diverticulum in the ileum [Described 1809. After Johann Friedrich Meckel II (1781–1833), German surgeon and anatomist.]

meconium /məˈkənɪəm/ noun the first dark green faeces produced by a newborn baby

med, abbr: medical 2. medicine

media /ˈmiːdiə/ noun same as tunic media

medial /ˈmiːdiəl/ adjective nearer to the central midline of the body or to the centre of an organ. Compare lateral

medial arcuate ligament /ˌmiːdiəl ˈərkjuət ˈlɪgəmənt/ noun a fibrous arch to which the diaphragm is attached
sagittal plane of the body. See illustration at
the main nerves of the forearm and hand
ficial examination of a person by a doctor, as opposed to a surgeon, in a
hospital or in his or her surgery
en by a doctor, as opposed to a surgeon, in a
medical audit /ˈmedɪk(ə)l 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 / ˈmedɪk(ə)l əˈsɪdɪt ədˈvaɪzəri gruːp/ noun a
body with the responsibility of advising on
medical audit in primary care. Abbr MAAG
medical certificate /ˈmedɪk(ə)l əˈsɪrɪtərɪ bɛrət/ 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 /ˈmedɪk(ə)l ˈkɛmɪtɪ/ noun a committee of doctors in a hospital who
advise the management on medical matters
medical diathermy /ˈmedɪk(ə)l ˈdaɪəθɜːri/ noun the use of heat produced by electricity
for treatment of muscle and joint disorders
medical doctor /ˈmedɪk(ə)l ˈdɒkta/ noun a
doctor who practices medicine, but is not usually a surgeon
medical ethics /ˈmedɪk(ə)l ˈɛθɪks/ 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 /ˈmedɪk(ə)l ɪŋ
ˈeɡzəmətʃən/ noun an examination of a
person by a doctor
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 administration /ˈmedɪk(ə)l əd
ˈmədɪkəl ədˌmɪnɪstrəʃən/ noun the running of hospi-
tals and other health services
She started her career in medical administration.
medic aid /ˈmedɪk(ə)l əɪd/ noun treatment
of someone who is ill or injured, given by a
doctor, first aid
medical alert bracelet /ˈmedɪkəl əˈlɜːrt
ˈbreɪklət/ noun a band or chain worn around
the wrist giving information about the wearer’s
medical needs, allergies or condition
medical assistance /ˈmedɪkəl əˈsɪstəns/ noun help provided by a nurse, an
ambulance man or a member of an association

237 Medical Officer of Health

such as the Red Cross, to a person who is ill or injured
medical assistant /ˈmedɪkəl əˈsɪstənt/ noun someone who performs routine administra-
tive and clinical tasks to help in the offices
and clinics of doctors and other medical prac-
titioners
medical practitioner

medical practitioner /ˌmedɪk(ə)prækər/ noun a person qualified in medicine, i.e. a doctor or surgeon
medical profession /medɪk(ə)prəʃən/ noun a list of doctors approved by the General Medical Council ○ The committee ordered his name to be struck off the Medical Register.

Medical Register /medɪk(ə)rɛˈstrɪktʃər/ noun a list of doctors approved by the General Medical Council ○ The committee ordered his name to be struck off the Medical Register.

Medical Research Council /medɪk(ə)rɛˈstrɪktʃər/ noun a government body which organises and pays for medical research. Abbrev MRC

medical school /medɪk(ə)skɔːl/ noun a section of a university which teaches medicine ○ He is at medical school.

medical secretary /medɪk(ə)sɛˈrɛtəri/ noun a qualified secretary who specialises in medical documentation, either in a hospital or in a doctor’s surgery

medical social worker /medɪk(ə)sɜˈwelər/ noun someone who helps people with family problems or problems related to their work which may have an effect on their physical or mental health

medicare /ˈmedɪkər/ noun public health insurance in the US

medicaced /ˈmedɪkɪtɪd/ adjective containing a medicinal drug ○ medicated cough sweet medicated shampoo /ˈmedɪkɪtɪd/ noun a shampoo containing a chemical which is supposed to prevent dandruff

medication /ˈmedɪkɪˈʃɛn/ noun 1. the treatment of illnesses by giving people drugs. ○ premedication 2. a drug used to treat a particular illness ○ What sort of medication has she been taking? ○ 80% of elderly patients admitted to geriatric units are on medication.

medicinal /ˈmedɪkən/ adjective which has healing properties or a beneficial effect on someone’s health ○ He has a drink of whisky before he goes to bed for medicinal purposes.

medicinal bath /ˈmedɪkən/ noun treatment in which someone lies in a bath of hot water containing particular chemicals, in hot mud or in other substances

medicinal drug /ˈmedɪkən/ noun a drug used to treat a disease as opposed to hallucinatory or addictive drugs

medicinal leech /ˈmedɪkən/ noun a leech which is raised specially for use in medicine medicinally /ˈmedɪkənli/ adverb used as a medicine ○ The herb can be used medicinally.

medicine /ˈmedɪsɪn/ noun 1. a preparation taken to treat a disease or condition, especially one in liquid form ○ Take some cough medicine if your cough is bad. ○ You should take the medicine three times a day. 2. the study of diseases and how to cure or prevent them ○ She is studying medicine because she wants to be a doctor. 3. the study and treatment of diseases which does not involve surgery

medicine bottle /ˈmedɪsɪn/ noun a special bottle which contains medicine

medicine cabinet /ˈmedɪsɪn/ noun a cupboard where medicines, bandages, thermometers and other pieces of medical equipment can be left locked up, but ready for use in an emergency

medico /ˈmedɪkəʊ/ noun a doctor (informal) ○ The medicos said I was perfectly fit.

medico-chirurgical /ˌmedɪkəʊkərˈələrəl/ adjective referring to both medicine and surgery

medicolegal /ˌmedɪkəliˈgɛl/ adjective referring to both medicine and the law

medicosocial /ˌmedɪkəsəˈrɛtəri/ adjective referring to both medical and social factors

medium /ˈmiːdiəm/ adjective average, in the average, in the middle or at the halfway point

medroxyprogesterone /ˌmedrəxiˈprəɡɛstəroʊn/ noun a synthetic hormone used to treat menstrual disorders, in oestrogen replacement therapy and as a contraceptive

medical /ˈmedɪskəl/ adjective 1. similar to marrow 2. referring to a medulla

medical cavity /ˈmedɪskətɪv/ noun a hollow centre of a long bone, containing bone marrow. See illustration at bone structure in Supplement

medical cord /ˈmedɪskɔrd/ noun an epithelial fibre found near the hilum of the fetal ovary

medullated nerve /ˌmedʊlətɪd/ noun a nerve surrounded by a myelin sheath

medulloloblastoma /ˌmedʊləˈbɔbləstaʊmə/ noun a tumour which develops in the medulla oblongata and the fourth ventricle of the brain in children

mefenamic acid /ˌmɛfəˈneɪmɪk/ noun a drug which reduces inflammation and pain,
used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and menstrual problems.

Mefloquine /ˈmɛfləkwɪn/, mefloquine hydrochloride /ˌmɛfləkwɪn ˈhaɪdɹərəʊ ˈhɪdrərəd/ noun a drug used in the prevention and treatment of malaria.

Mega-/mɛɡə/ prefix t. large. Opposite micro-

Megalocytosis /ˌmɛɡələʊˈsaɪtɒsɪs/ 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.

Megalocyte /ˌmɛɡələʊˈsəʊt/ noun a vast, unusually large blood cell found in the bone marrow of people who have some types of anaemia caused by Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Megaloblastic Anaemia /ˌmɛɡələʊˈblæstɪk əˌnəmɪə/ noun anaemia caused by Vitamin B12 deficiency.

Megalocyte-stimulating hormone /ˌmɛɡələʊˈsaʊsɪntɪˈmɔːlɪn/ noun a hormone produced by the pituitary gland which causes darkening in the colour of the skin. Abbr MSH.

Megalodermia /ˌmɛɡələʊˈdɜːrmɪə/ noun a condition in which the skin is unusually thick.

Melanocytosis /ˌmɛlənəʊˈsaɪtɒsɪs/ noun a condition in which there is an increase in the number of pigment cells in the skin.

Melanin /ˌmɛlənɪn/ noun a pigment that gives skin and hair its colour, also found in the eyes and other parts of the body.

Melaena /ˌmɛləˈniənə/ noun black faeces where the colour is caused by bleeding in the intestine.

Meiosis /ˈmiəsɪs/ noun the process of cell division in which the cells are exactly like the parent cell, except in the number of chromosomes. Compare mitosis (note: The US spelling is miosis.)

Meissner’s Corpuscle /ˌmiːsəsnəz ˌkɔrˈpɵskəl/ noun a receptor cell in the skin which is thought to be sensitive to touch.

Megalocytism /ˌmɛɡələʊˈsaɪtɪzəm/ noun a network of nerve fibres in the wall of the alimentary canal. [Described 1853. After Georg Meissner (1820–1905), German anatomist and physiologist.]

Melanoma /ˌmɛlənəʊˈməʊmə/ noun a tumour formed of dark pigmented cells. COMMENT: ABCD is the key to remember if you want to know if there is a risk of developing a melanoma: A = ASYMMETRY, ie. the two sides are not quite the same, and the mole does not have a perfect shape; B = BORDER, the edge becomes irregular; C = COLOUR, there may be a change in colour, with the mole becoming darker; D = DIAMETER, any change in diameter should be considered an important factor. Among other features, pain is rarely an important feature but itching could be one.

Mellanophile /ˌmɛlənəʊˈfoʊliə/ noun a cell which contains melanin.

Melanoplakia /ˌmɛlənəʊˈplækəriə/ noun areas of pigment in the mucous membrane inside the mouth.

Melanosis /ˌmɛlənəʊˈsɒsɪs/ noun same as melanism.

Melanuria /ˌmɛlənəʊˈjʊərɪə/ noun 1. the presence of dark colouring in the urine. 2. a condition in which the urine turns black after being...
Melanoma

 allowed to stand, e.g. in cases of malignant melanoma.

Melanoma /ma'lezmə/ noun the presence of little brown, yellow or black spots on the skin.

Melatonin /melə'təʊnəm/ 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 /ma'liːnə/ noun same as melena

Membrane /ˈmembraɪn/ noun a thin layer of tissue which lines or covers an organ.

Membrane bone /ˈmembrən bɔːn/ noun a bone which develops from tissue and not from cartilage.

Membranous /ˈmembroʊnəs/ adjective referring to membranes, or like a membrane.

Membranous labyrinth /ˌmembroʊn ˈlɑːbərɪnθ/ noun a series of ducts and canals formed of membrane inside the osseous labyrinth.

Memory /ˈmeməri/ noun the ability to remember.

Menarche /ˈmənərki/ noun the start of menstral periods.

Mend /mend/ verb to repair something.

Mendel's laws /ˈmendəls ləz/ 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 /ˈmendəlsənˌsɪndrəʊm/ 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.]

Ménière's disease /ˌmənɪˈɛrəz/ 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, Émile Antoine Ménière (1839–1905), French physicians.]

Meningeal /ˌmɛnɪdʒəl/ adjective referring to the meninges.

Meningeal haemorrhage /ˌmɛnɪdʒəl həˈmɔːrə�/ noun a haemorrhage from a meningeal artery.

Meningeal sarcoma /ˌmɛnɪdʒəl sɑːkəmə/ noun a malignant tumour in the meninges.

Meninges /ˌmɛnɪdʒəz/ plural noun the membranes which surround 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 /ˌmɛnɪnjəʊmə/ noun a benign tumour in the meninges.

Meningism /ˌmɛnɪnˈʒɪzəm/ 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 /ˌmɛnɪnˈdʒɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the meninges, causing someone to have violent headaches, fever, and stiff neck muscles, and sometimes to become delirious.

Meningocele /ˌmɛnɪnˈɡɒsəl/ noun a condition in which the meninges protrude through the vertebral column or skull.

Meninogoccal /ˌmɛnɪnəˈɡɒkəl/ adjective referring to meningoocci.

Meninogoccal disease /ˌmɛnɪnəˈɡɒkəl đɪˈzɪs/ noun a disease caused by a meningoococcus.

Meninogoccal meningitis /ˌmɛnɪnəˈɡɒkəl ˌmɛnɪnˌdʒɪtɪs/ noun the commonest epidemic form of meningitis, caused by a bacterium Neisseria meningitidis, where the meninges become inflamed causing headaches and fever.

Meninogoccus /ˌmɛnɪnəˈɡɒkəs/ noun the bacterium Neisseria meningitidis which causes meningooccal meningitis. (NOTE: The plural is meninogocci.)

Meningoencephalitis /ˌmɛnɪnəˈɛnθəkələtɪs/ noun inflammation of the meninges and the brain.

Meningoencephalocoele /ˌmɛnɪnəˈɛnθəkəˌləʊkəl/ noun a condition in which part of the meninges and the brain push through a gap in the skull.

Meninomyelocoele /ˌmɛnɪnəˌmiələˈkoʊl/ noun the pushing forward of part of the
meninges and spinal cord through a gap in the spine. Also called myelomeningeal, myelocele
meningovascular /ˌmɛnɪˈɡəʊvəskəl/ adjective referring to the meningeal blood vessels
meninx /ˈmenɪŋks/ noun • meninges meniscectomy /ˌmenɪˈsɛktəmɪ/ 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- /menəʊ/ prefix referring to menstruation
menopausal /ˌmenəˈpɔʊs(ə)l/ adjective referring to the menopause
menopause /ˈmenəpəʊz/ 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 /ˌmenəˈrɛdʒə/ noun very heavy bleeding during menstruation. Also called flooding
menorrhoea /ˌmenəˈroʊə/ noun normal bleeding during menstruation
menses /ˈmenəsɪz/ plural noun same as menstruation
menstrual /ˈmenstrʊəl/ adjective referring to menstruation
menstrual cramp /ˌmenstrʊəl ˈkræmp/ noun a cramp in the muscles around the uterus during menstruation
menstrual cycle /ˌmenstrʊəl 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 which a woman ovulates, the walls of the uterus is shed because no fertilised egg is present
menstrual flow /ˌmenstrʊəl flɔː/ noun the discharge of blood from the uterus during menstruation
menstruate /ˌmenstrʊət/ verb to bleed from the uterus during menstruation
menstruation /ˌmenstrʊəʃ(ə)n/ 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 /ˌmenstrʊəm/ noun a liquid used in the preparation of active principles from an unfertilised drug
mental /ˈment(ə)l/ adjective 1. referring to the mind 2. referring to the chin
mental aberration /ˌment(ə)l əˈbɛrəʃ(ə)n/ noun slight forgetfulness or confusion (often humorous) • I thought the meeting was at 11 – I must have had a mental aberration.
mental age /ˌment(ə)l ˈedʒ/ 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 /ˌment(ə)l ˈblook/ noun a temporary inability to remember something, caused by the effect of nervous stress on the mental processes
mental deficiency /ˌment(ə)l ˈdefɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a former term for learning disability (note: This term is regarded as offensive.)
mental development /ˌment(ə)l ˈdɛvəlmənt/ noun the development of the mind • Her mental development is higher than usual for her age.
mental disorder /ˌment(ə)l ˈdɪsərˈdɑːr/ 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 /ˌment(ə)l ˈfæktəlɪz/ plural noun abilities such as thinking and decision-making • There has been no impairment of the mental faculties.
mental handicap /ˌment(ə)l ˈhændɪkæp/ noun a former term for learning disability (note: This term is regarded as offensive.)
mental health /ˌment(ə)l ˈhelθ/ noun the condition of someone's mind
Mental Health Acts /ˌment(ə)l ˈhelθ əkts/ plural noun laws made by a parliament which lay down rules for the care of people with mental illness
Mental Health Review Tribunal /ˌment(ə)l ˈhelθ ˌrivətruːbəln/ 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 MHRBT
mental hospital /ˌment(ə)l ˌhɒspəˈtel/ noun a psychiatric hospital (note: This term is regarded as offensive.)
mental illness /ˌment(ə)l ˈɪnʃəl/ noun any disorder which affects the mind
mental impairment /ˌment(ə)l ˈɪmˈpɛrment/ 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 /ˌmenəˈtɪliːs ˌmæs(ə)/ noun a muscle attached to the front of the lower jaw and the skin of the chin
mentally /ˈment(ə)lə/ adverb in the mind • Mentally, she is very advanced for her age.
mentally handicapped /ˌment(ə)lə ˈhændɪkæpt/ adjective a former term for
mentally ill

someone with learning disability (NOTE: This term is generally regarded as offensive.)

mentally ill /ˈmentəli/ adj, act adj, experi-

tencing mental illness

mental nerve /ˈment(ə)l nərv/ noun a nerve

which supplies the chin

mental patient /ˈment(ə)l peʃ(ə)n/ noun

a former term of a patient who has mental ill-

ness (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.)

mental retardation /ˈment(ə)l rɪˈtɑːrdeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun

a former term for learning disability, a condition that results in someone finding it difficult to learn skills or information at the same rate as others of a similar age (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.)

mental subnormality /ˈment(ə)l səbˈnɔrəmətɪ/ noun a former term for mental impair-

menthol /ˈmenthəl/ noun a strongly scented

compound, produced from peppermint oil, used in cough medicines and in the treatment of neuralgia

mentholated /ˈmenthələtɪd/ adj, act adj, impregnated with menthol

mentor /ˈmentər/ noun somebody who advis-

es and guides a younger, less experienced per-

son (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.)

mentum /ˈmentəm/ noun the chin

meralgia /ˈmərələdʒə/ noun parasthesi-
	ica /məˈr̩ələˈθɛsɪt̩ə/ noun pain in the top of the thigh caused by a pinched nerve

mercurialism /ˈmerkjuərɪəlɪz(ə)m/ noun mercury poisoning

mercuriochrome /ˈmərkjʊərɪəukrəm/ noun

a red antiseptic solution

mercury /ˈmərkjʊərɪ/ noun a poisonous liquid

metal, used in thermometers (NOTE: The chem-

ical symbol is Hg.)

mercury poisoning /ˈmərkjʊərɪ pəˈsaɪnɪŋ/ noun poisoning by drinking mercury or mercury compounds or by inhaling mercury vapour

mercy killing /ˈmerkseri ˈkɪlɪŋ/ noun same as euthanasia

meridian /ˈmərɪdɪən/ noun in acupuncture and Chinese medicine, one of the pathways in the body along which its energy is believed to flow

Merkel’s cells /ˈmerkəlz ˈsɛlz/ Merkels
discs /ˈmerkəlz dɪskz/ plural noun epithelial

cells in the deeper part of the dermis which form touch receptors [After Friedrich Siegmund

Merkel (1845–1919), German anatomist]

merocrine /ˈmerəˈkrərm/ adj, act adj, same as eccrine

mes-. /ˈmes/ prefix same as meso- (used before vowels)

mesarteritis /ˈmesətəˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflam-

mation of the media of the aorta

mesarteritis /ˈmesətəˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflam-

mation of the media of an artery

mesencephalon /ˈmesənsəˌfələn/ noun

same as midbrain

mesenteric /ˈmesəntərɪk/ adj, act adj, refer-

ning to the mesentery

mesentery /ˈmesəntərɪ/ noun one of two arteries, the superior and inferior mesenteric arteries, which supply the small intestine or the transverse colon and rec-

tum

mesenteric ganglion /ˈmesəntərɪk ˈɡæŋglɪən/ noun a plexus of sympathetic nerve fibres and ganglion cells around the su-

perior mesenteric artery

mesenteric vein /ˈmesəntərɪk ˈvɪn/ noun

a vein in the portal system running from the in-

testine to the portal vein

mesentry /ˈmesəntərɪ/ noun a double-layer peritoneum which attaches the small intestine and other abdominal organs to the ab-

dominal wall

mesial /ˈmiːʃəl/ adj, act 1, in dentistry, re-

lating to the middle of the front of the jaw, or occurring in a plane near this 2, relating to or located in the middle part of something

meso-. /ˈmesəʊ/ prefix middle

mesappendix /ˈmesəpəˈpendɪks/ noun a fold of peritoneum which links the appendix and the ileum

mesocolon /ˈmesəkəʊlən/ noun a fold of peritoneum which supports the colon. In an adult it supports the transverse and sigmoid sections only

mesoderm /ˈmesədɜːrm/ noun the middle layer of an embryo, which develops into muscles, bones, blood, kidneys, cartilages, urinary ducts and the cardiovascular and lymphatic systems

mesodermal /ˈmesədərəl/ adj, act adj, referring to the mesoderm

mesometrium /ˈmesəmətriəm/ noun a strongly scented

metal, used in thermometers (NOTE: The chem-

ical symbol is Hg.)

mesopintern median /ˈmɛsəpˌɪntərniˈmeɪdɪən/ noun the upper part of the broad ligament around the Fallopian tubes

mesotendon /ˈmesətəˈtendən/ noun synovial

membrane connecting the lining of the fibrous sheath to that of a tendon

mesothelioma /ˌmesəθɛlˈɪəmə/ 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, endothe-

tioma

mesovarium /ˌmesəvəˈveəriəm/ noun a fold of peritoneum around the ovaries
messenger RNA, messenger RNA (mRNA) a type of ribonucleic acid which transmits the genetic code from the DNA to the ribosomes which form the proteins coded on the DNA. Abbv mRNA
mestranol /mɛstrənɔ/ noun a synthetically produced oestrogen used in birth control pills
meta- /mɛtə/ prefix referring to change
meta-analysis /mɛtəˌænəlɪsɪs/ noun a statistical procedure to combine the results from many studies to give a single estimate, giving weight to large studies
metabolic /mɛtəˈbolɪk/ adjective referring to metabolism
metabolic acidosis /mɛtəˈbolɪk ˈæsɪdɒsɪs/ noun acidosis caused by a malfunction of the body’s metabolism
metabolic alkalosis /mɛtəˈbolɪk ˈælkoʊˈlɒsɪs/ noun alkalosis caused by a malfunction of the body’s metabolism
metabolise /mɛtəˈbɒlɪz/ verb to change the nature of something by metabolism ○ The liver metabolises proteins and carbohydrates.
metabolism /mɛtəˈbolɪzɪzm/ 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
COMMENT: Metabolism covers all changes which take place in the body: the building of tissue (anabolism), the breaking down of tissue (catabolism); the conversion of nutrients into tissue; the elimination of waste matter and the action of hormones.
metabolite /mɛtəˈbolɪt/ noun a substance produced by metabolism, or a substance taken into the body in food and then metabolised
metacarpal bone /mɛtəˈkærp(ə)l/ noun one of the five bones in the metacarpus
metacarpophalangeal /mɛtəˌkærpəˈfælənɡiəl/ adjective relating to the part of the hand between the wrist and the fingers
metacarpophalangeal joint /mɛtəˌkærpəˈfælənɡiəl ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint between a metacarpal bone and a finger. Also called MCP joint, MP joint
’m’ replacement of the MCP joint is usually undertaken to relieve pain, deformity and immobility due to rheumatoid arthritis’ [Nursing Times]
metacarpius /mɛtəˈkærpiəs/ noun the five bones in the hand between the fingers and the wrist. See illustration at HAND in Supplement
metal /mɛtəl/ noun material, either an element or a compound, which can carry heat and electricity. Some metals are essential for life.
metallic /mɛtəˈtɛlɪk/ adjective like a metal, referring to a metal
metallic element meeˌtɛlɪk ˈełəmənt noun a chemical element which is a metal
metamorphopsia /mɛtəmɔrˈfɒpsɪə/ noun a condition in which someone sees objects in distorted form, usually due to inflammation of the choroid
metaphase /mɛtəˈfeɪz/ noun one of the stages in mitosis or meiosis
metaphysics /mɛtəˈfɪks/ noun the end of the central section of a long bone, where the bone grows and where it joins the epiphysis
metaplasia /mɛtəˈplæzɪə/ noun a change of one tissue to another
metastasis /mɛtəˈstæsɪs/ 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 (note: The plural is metastases)
metastasise /mɛtəˈstæsɪz/ verb to spread by metastasis
metastatic /mɛtəˈstætɪk/ adjective relating to, or produced by, metastasis ○ Metastatic growths developed in the liver.
metatarsal /mɛtəˈtɑːsəl/ noun one of the five bones in the metatarsus ○ adjective relating to the metatarsus
metatarsal arch /mɛtəˈtɑːsəl(ə)uʃ/ 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 /mɛtəˈtɑːsəlɡɪə/ noun pain in the heads of the metatarsal bones
metatarsophalangeal joint /mɛtəˌtɑːsəˌfælənɡiəl ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a joint between a metatarsal bone and a toe
metatarsus /mɛtəˈtɑːsəs/ noun the five long bones in the foot between the toes and the tarsus. See illustration at FOOT in Supplement (note: The plural is metatarsi)
metatarsus adductus /mɛtəˈtɑːsəs əˈdʌktəs/ noun a condition found in newborn babies or young infants in which the front half of the foot is twisted inwards at an angle to the heel
meteorsism /ˈmiːtəriəzɪzm/ noun same as tympanites
meter /ˈmiːtər/ noun US same as metre ○ -meter /ˈmiːtər/ suffix measuring instrument
methadone /ˈmiːθədəʊn/ 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
methane /ˈmiːθən/ noun a synthetically produced narcotic drug, used to reduce pain and as a substitute for heroin in the treatment of addiction
methaemoglobin /ˈmiːθeɪməˈgləʊbɪn/ noun a dark brown substance formed from haemoglobin which develops during illness, following treatment with some drugs.
methaemoglobinemia

cannot transport oxygen round the body, and so causes cyanosis.

methaemoglobinemia /met.hiımˌən/ noun the presence of methaemoglobin in the blood

methanone /ˈmiθəˌnən/ noun a colourless flammable gas with no smell

treatment of cancer

methanol /ˈmeθəˌnəl/ noun a colourless poisonous liquid, used as a solvent and a fuel. It changes easily into a gas. Also called methyl alcohol

methicillin /ˈmeθəˌsɪlən/ noun a synthetically produced antibiotic, used in the treatment of infections which are resistant to penicillin

methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus /ˌmeθəˌsɪlən ˌriˌziˌstənt ˌstæpˈlikəs /ˌkɔksəs /ˌsɪrɪsəs/ noun a bacterium resistant to almost all antibiotics and which can cause life-threatening infection in people recovering from surgery. Abbr MRSA

methionine /ˈmeθəˌnəsin/ noun an essential amino acid

method /ˈmeθəd/ noun a way of doing something

methotrexate /ˈmeθəˌtrokˈseɪt/ noun a drug which helps to prevent cells reproducing, used in the treatment of cancer

methyl alcohol /ˈmeθəl ˌɔlkˈhəl/ noun same as methanol

methylated spirits /ˈmeθəˌleɪtɪd ˈspɪrɪts/ plural noun almost pure alcohol, with wood alcohol and colouring added

methylene blue /ˈmeθəˌlɪn ˈbluː/ noun a blue dye, formerly used as a mild urinary anti-septic, now used to treat drug-induced methaemoglobinemia

methylenedioxyethamphetamine /ˌmeθəˌlɛnˌdɪˌəʊˌθiˌəˌθəˌmæˌθəˌnɛmˌθəˌɪn/ noun same as ecstasy

methylphenidate /ˌmeθəˌfɪnˈɪdət/ noun a drug which stimulates the central nervous system, used in the treatment of narcolepsy and attention deficit disorder

methylprednisolone /ˌmeθəˌprɛdˈnɪsoʊˌlɔn/ noun a corticosteroid drug which reduces inflammation, used in the treatment of arthritis, allergies and asthma

metoclopramide /ˌmeˌtəˌkləʊˌprəməˌræm/ noun a drug used to treat nausea, vomiting and indigestion

metoprolol /ˌmeˌtəˌprəˌrol/ noun a drug which controls the activity of the heart, used to treat angina and high blood pressure

metro-/metro/ prefix same as metre (used before vowels)

metra /ˈmeˌtərə/ noun the uterus

metridgia /ˈmeˌtrɪdʒiə/ noun pain in the uterus

metre /ˈmeˌtrɪə/ noun an SI unit of length. The room is four metres by three. Symbol m (NOTE: The US spelling is meter.)

methyltritritis /ˈmeˌtrɪˌtrɪtɪs/ noun same as myometritis

metro-/metro/ prefix referring to the uterus

metronidazole /ˌmeˌtroʊˌnɪdəˈzoʊl/ a yellow antibiotic compound, used especially in the treatment of vaginitis

methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus /ˌmeˌtrɪˌsɪlən ˌriˌziˌstənt ˌstæpˈlikəs /ˌkɔksəs /ˌsɪrɪsəs/ noun a condition in which the uterus protrudes into the vagina

metronidazole /ˌmeˌtroʊˌnɪdəˈzoʊl/ noun a yellow antibiotic compound, used especially in the treatment of vaginitis
microcephalic /ˌmɪkroʊˈsɛfəlɪk/ adjective having microcephaly
microcephaly /ˌmɪkroʊˈsɛfəli/ noun a condition in which a person has an unusually small head, sometimes caused by the mother having had a rubella infection during pregnancy.

microcheilia /ˌmɪkroʊˈkɛliə/ noun the condition of having unusually small lips.

Micrococcus /ˌmɪkropˈkoʊsəs/ noun a genus of bacterium, some species of which cause arthritis, endocarditis and meningitis.

microcyte /ˌmɪkroʊˈsɪti/ noun an unusually small red blood cell

microcythaemia /ˌmɪkroʊˈsɪθəmɪə/ noun same as microcytosis

microcytic /ˌmɪkroʊˈsɪtɪk/ adjective referring to microcytes

microcytosis /ˌmɪkroʊˈsɪtəsɪs/ noun the presence of excess microcytes in the blood.

microdactylia /ˌmɪkroʊˈdæktəliə/ noun a condition in which a person has unusually small fingers or toes.

microdissectomy /ˌmɪkroʊˈdaɪsɛktəʊmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove all or part of a disc in the spine which is pressing on a nerve.

microodontism /ˌmɪkroʊˈɒntɪdʒɪzm/ noun the presence of excess small teeth.

microglossia /ˌmɪkroʊˈɡlɔsɪə/ noun a condition in which a person has unusually small tongue.

micrognathia /ˌmɪkroʊˈɡnæθiə/ noun a condition in which one jaw is unusually small.

microgyria /ˌmɪkroʊˈɡɜːriə/ noun a very small process found on the surface of many microorganisms.

microhymen /ˌmɪkroʊˈhaɪmən/ noun a condition in which the eyes are unusually small.

microplasia /ˌmɪkroʊˈplæsə/ noun and condition in which someone sees objects smaller than they really are, caused by an unusual development in the retina.

microscope /ˌmɪkroʊˈskɒp/ noun a scientific instrument with lenses, which makes very small objects appear larger.

micturating cystogram /ˌmɪktʃʊrɪtɪŋ ˈsɪstɹəˌɡræm/ noun an X-ray of the bladder and urethra taken while the bladder is being filled and then emptied. Abbr MCU, MCUG

micturate /ˌmɪktʃʊrət/ verb same as urinate

micron /ˌmɪkroʊn/ noun same as micrometre

micronutrient /ˌmɪkroʊnˌnjʊtrənt/ noun a substance which an organism needs for normal growth and development, but only in very small quantities, e.g. a vitamin or mineral. Compare macronutrient

microorganism /ˌmɪkroʊˈɔrɡənɪzəm/ noun an organism which can only be seen under a microscope and which may cause disease. Viruses, bacteria and protozoa are microorganisms.

microphthalmia /ˌmɪkroʊˈθɛlmɪə/ noun a condition in which the eyes are unusually small.

micropia /ˌmɪkroʊˈpiə/ noun a condition in which one jaw is unusually small.

micropia /ˌmɪkroʊˈpiə/ noun a condition in which one jaw is unusually small.

microsecond /ˌmɪkroʊˈsɛkənd/ noun a unit of measurement of time (= one millionth of a second).

microscopy /ˌmɪkroʊˈskɒpi/ noun the science of the use of microscopes

microsecond /ˌmɪkroʊˈsɛkənd/ noun a unit of measurement of time (= one millionth of a second).

microm challenging cystogram /ˌmɪktʃʊrɪtɪŋ ˈsɪstɹəˌɡræm/ noun a unit of measurement of weight equal to one millionth of a gram.

micromastia /ˌmɪkroʊˈmæstɪə/ noun a condition in which a person has unusually small breasts.

micromelia /ˌmɪkroʊˈmiəliə/ noun a condition in which a person has unusually small arms or legs.

micrometer /ˌmɪkroʊˈmɪtər/ noun a unit of measurement of the amount of substance equal to one millionth of a mole. Symbol μ

micrometre /ˌmɪkroʊˈmɪtrə/ noun same as micrometre
midwife /ˈmɪdwaɪf/ noun a professional person who helps a woman give birth to a child, often at home. 
COMMENT: To become a Registered Midwife (RM), a Registered General Nurse has to take a further 18 month course, or alternatively can follow a full 3 year course.

midwifery /ˈmɪdwaɪfəri/ noun 1. the profession of a midwife 2. the study of the practical aspects of obstetrics

midwifery course /ˈmɪdwaɪfəri kɔːrs/ noun a training course to teach nurses the techniques of being a midwife

migraine /ˈmɪgræin/ noun 1. asevere 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 /ˈmɪgræinəs/ 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 antiseptic solution

milia /ˈmɪliə/ plural of milium

miliaria /ˈmɪliəriə/ 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 /ˈmɪliərɪ ˈtjuːbəkələsɪs/ 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

milium /ˈmɪliəm/ 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; same 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 /ˈmɪlk dɛntɪʃən/ noun same as deciduous dentition

milk leg /ˈmɪlk lɛg/ noun acute oedema of the leg, a condition which affects women after childbirth, where a leg becomes pale and inflamed as a result of lymphatic obstruction. Also called white leg, phlegmasia alba densa

milk rash /ˈmɪlk ræʃ/ noun a temporary blotchiness of the skin seen in young babies
milk sugar /ˈmilk ˈjuɡə/ noun same as lactose
milk tooth /ˈmilk tuːt/ noun same as primary tooth
milky /ˈmɪlki/ adjective referring to liquid which looks like milk
Miller-Abbott tube /ˈmɪlər ˈæbət 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.
mill- /ˈmɪl/ prefix one thousandth (10⁻³). Symbol m
milligram /ˈmɪlɪɡrəm/ 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. Abbrev ml (NOTE: The US spelling is milliliter.)
millimetre /ˈmɪlɪmɪtr/ noun a unit of measurement of length equal to one thousandth of a metre. Abbrev mm (NOTE: The US spelling is millimeter.)
millimole /ˈmɪlɪmoʊl/ noun a unit of measurement of amount of a substance equal to one thousandth of a mole. Abbrev mmol
millisievert /ˈmɪlɪsɪvɜrt/ noun a unit of measurement of radiation □ millisievert/year (mSv/year) number of millisieverts per year □ radiation limits for workers should be cut from 5 to 5 millisieverts, and those for members of the public from 5 to 0.25 [Guardian]
Milroy's disease /ˈmɪlroʊz dɪˈziːz/ noun a hereditary condition where the lymph vessels are blocked and the legs swell [Described 1892. After William Forsyth Milroy (1855–1942), Professor of Clinical Medicine in Nebraska, USA.]
Milwaukee brace /ˈmɪlkwəʊ ˈbreɪs/ noun a support for people with unusually curved spines, consisting of a leather or metal pelvic girdle with two bars at the back and one at the front, which connect into a neck ring
mimesis /ˈmɪmɪˌsɪs/ noun the appearance of the symptoms of a disease in someone who does not have the disease
Minamata disease /ˌmɪnəˈmɑːtə dɪˈziːz/ noun a form of mercury poisoning from eating polluted fish, found first in Japan
mind /mænd/ noun the part of the brain which controls memory, consciousness or reasoning □ he's got something on his mind he’s worrying about something □ let's try to take her mind off her exams try to stop her worrying about them
miner /ˈmɪnər/ noun a person who works in a coal mine
mineral /ˈmɪnərəl/ noun an inorganic substance
comment: The most important minerals required by the body are: calcium (found in cheese, milk and green vegetables) which helps the growth of bones and encourages blood clotting; iron (found in bread and liver) which helps produce red blood cells; phosphorus (found in bread and fish) which helps in the growth of bones and the metabolism of fats; iodine (found in fish) which is essential to the functioning of the thyroid gland.
mineral water /ˈmɪnərəl ˈwɔtər/ noun a drinking water containing dissolved mineral salts from the ground the water is piped from. It is bottled and sold.
minimum /ˈmiːnɪmər/ noun a liquid measure used in pharmacy (one sixtieth of a dram)
minimal /ˈmiːnɪməl/ adjective very small
minimally invasive surgery /ˌmiːnɪmələli vɪnˈəsɪv ˈsɪdʒərətɪv/ noun surgery which involves the least possible disturbance to the body. It often uses lasers and other high-tech devices.
mini mental state examination /ˌmiːnɪ ˈmentəl ɛstəˈneɪʃən/ noun a test performed mainly by psychiatrists to determine someone's mental ability, used in the diagnosis of dementia
minor /ˈmiːnər/ adjective least important or serious
ministrone /ˌmiːnɪstrəʊn/ noun same as transient ischaemic attack
minitracheostomy /ˌmɪnɪtrəkˈstəʊm/ noun a temporary tracheostomy
minor injuries unit /ˌmiːnər ɜrˈdʒərēz ˈjuːnt/ noun a test performed mainly by psychiatrists to determine someone's mental ability, used in the diagnosis of dementia
minor surgery /ˌmiːnər ˈsɜrɡərɪ/ noun surgery which can be undertaken even when there are no hospital facilities. Compare major surgery
miscarriage /ˈmɪskərədʒ/ noun a situation in which an unborn baby leaves the uterus before the end of the pregnancy, especially dur-
misdiagnosis /maɪsdɪˈɡeɪnəs/ noun an incorrect diagnosis
misdiagnosis /maɪsdɪˈɡeɪnəs/ noun an incorrect diagnosis
mismatch /ˈmɪsmætʃ/ verb to match tissues wrongly
.. finding donors of correct histocompatible type is difficult but necessary because results using mismatched bone marrow are disappointing
miso-/mɪsəʊ-/prefix indicating hatred of something
missed case /ˈmɪst/kəs/ noun someone with an infection or disease which is not identified by a doctor
mis/. /ˈmɪs/ /ˈmɪst/ /ˈmɪstə/ /ˈmɪstər/ re. mist
misuse /ˈmɪsjuːs/ noun misuse of drugs /ˈmɪsjuːs/ ; worst use ○ He was arrested for misuse of drugs. ■ verb /ˈmɪsjuːs/ to use something such as a drug wrongly
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 /ˈmɪsjuːs əv /ˈdrʌgz əkt/ noun a law relating to all aspects of the supply and possession of dangerous drugs such as morphine, anabolic steroids, LSD and cannabis. In 2002 many new benzodiazepines were added.
mite /maɪt/ noun a very small parasite, which causes dermatitis
mitochondrial /ˌmaɪtəˈkɒndrɪəl/ adjective referring to mitochondria
mitochondrion /ˌmaɪtəˈkɒndriən/ noun a tiny rod-shaped part of a cell's cytoplasm responsible for cell respiration (note: the plural is mitochondria)
mitomycin C /ˌmaɪtəˈmjuːsəniːs/ sɪv/ noun an antibiotic which helps to prevent cancer cells from growing, used especially in the chemotherapy treatment of bladder and rectal cancers
mitosis /ˈmɪtəsɪs/ noun the process of cell division, where the mother cell divides into two identical daughter cells. Compare meiosis
mitral /maɪtrəl/ /ˈmɪtrəl/ adjective referring to the mitral valve
mitral incompetence /ˌmaɪtrəl ɪˈkɒmpəsns/ noun Abbr M. Now called mitral regurgitation
mitral regurgitation /ˌmaɪtrəl rɪˈɡɜːrʒən/ noun a situation in which the mitral valve does not close completely so that blood goes back into the atrium
mitral stenosis /ˌmaɪtrəl stəˈnɒsɪs/ 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.)
mixed-zone valve /ˈmaɪtrəl vəlva/ 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 /ˌmaɪtrəl ˈvælvətəm/ noun a surgical operation to separate the cusps of the mitral valve in mitral stenosis
mittelschmerz /ˈmɪtəlsˌʃmɛɐ̯ts/ noun a pain felt by women in the lower abdomen at ovulation
MIU abbr minor injuries unit
mix /ˈmɪks/ verb to put things together ○ The pharmacist mixed the chemicals in a bottle.
mixture /ˈmɪksʃər/ noun chemical substances mixed together ○ The doctor gave me an unpleasant mixture to drink. ○ Take one spoonful of the mixture every three hours.
ml abbr millilitre
MLD abbr minimum lethal dose
MLSO abbr medical laboratory scientific officer
mm abbr millimetre
mmol abbr millimole
MMR (mumps and rubella) /mæm əm ˈrʌbələ/ abbr a single vaccine given to small children to protect them against measles, mumps and rubella
Mn symbol manganese
MND abbr motor neurone disease
MO abbr medical officer
mobile /ˈməʊbl/ adjective able to move about ○ It is important for elderly patients to remain mobile.
mobilisation /ˌməʊbɪlɪˈzeɪʃən/ noun the act of making something mobile
mobility /ˈməʊbɪlɪtɪ/ noun (of patients) the ability to move about
mobility allowance /ˈməʊblɪtɪ əˈlauəns/ noun a government benefit to help disabled people pay for transport
modality /ˈmɒdəlɪtɪ/ noun a method used in the treatment of a disorder, e.g. surgery or chemotherapy
moderate /ˈmɒdərət/ adjective not high or low
moderately /ˈmɒdərətli/ adverb not at one or other extreme ○ The patient had a moderately comfortable night.
modern matron /ˌmɒdərn ˈmeɪtrən/ noun 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 /ˈmɒdɪələs/ noun the central stalk in the cochlea
MODS abbr multiple organ dysfunction syndrome
the large back teeth, used for grinding food. In a molecule a substance contains a unit of amount of a substance. Symbol mol

moist /ˈmoʊɪst/ adjective slightly wet or damp ○ The compress should be kept moist. moisten /ˈmoʊɪstən/ verb to make something damp moist gangrene /ˈmɔɪst ˈgæŋgrɛn/ noun a condition in which dead tissue decays and swells with fluid because of infection and the tissues have an unpleasant smell moisture /ˈmoʊɪstər/ noun water or other liquid which a substance contains mol /ˈmoʊl/ symbol mole noun 2

molar /ˈməʊlər/ 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 permanent teeth there are twelve. See illustration at TEETH in Supplement

molarity /ˈmoʊlərəti/ noun the strength of a solution shown as the number of moles of a substance per litre of solution

molasses /ˈmoʊələsiz/ noun a dark sweet substance made of sugar before it has been refined mol /ˈmoʊl/ noun 1. a dark raised spot on the skin ○ She has a large mole on her chin. ○ melanoma noun 2. an SI unit of measurement of the amount of a substance. Symbol mol molecular /ˈməʊkljuːlər/ adjective referring to a molecule molecular biology /ˈməʊkljuːlər bəˈliːdʒəl/ noun the study of the molecules of living matter molecular weight /ˈməʊkljuːlər ˈwɛıt/ noun the weight of one molecule of a substance molecule /ˈməʊkljuːl/ noun the smallest independent mass of a substance molluscum /ˈmɔləskəm/ noun a soft round skin tumour molluscum contagiosum /ˈmɔləskəm kənˈtæɡəsəm/ noun a contagious viral skin infection which gives a small soft sore molluscum fibrosum /ˈmɔləskəm fɪˈbrəsəm/ noun same as neurofibromatosis molluscum sebacéum /ˈmɔləskəm ˈsəbekəsəm/ noun a benign skin tumour which disappears after a short time molybdenum /ˈmoʊlɪbdənəm/ noun a metallic trace element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Mo.)

monaural /ˌmɒnərəl/ adjective referring to the use of one ear only Mönckeberg's arteriosclerosis /ˌmɔnkləˈbɜrɡz ˌærətərɪəˈskloʊrəsɪs/ noun a condition of elderly people, where the media of the arteries in the legs harden, causing lumping. [Described 1903. After Johann Georg Mönckeberg (1877–1925), German physician and pathologist.]

mongolism /ˈmɒŋkəlɪzm/ noun a former name for Down's syndrome (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive.)

Monilia /ˈmɒnəliə/ noun same as Candida moniliasis /ˈmɒnə lɪləsɪs/ noun same as candidiasis monitor /ˈmɔnɪtər/ noun a screen on a computer. ■ verb 1. to check something 2. to examine how someone is progressing monitoring /ˈmɔnɪtərɪŋ/ noun the regular examination and recording of a person’s temperature, weight, blood pressure and other essential indicators mono- /ˈmɒnəʊ/ prefix single or one

monoamine oxidase /ˌmɒnəˈmiːn əˈɔdɪˌzəs/ noun an enzyme which breaks down the catecholamines to their inactive forms. Abbr MAO

monoamine oxidase inhibitor /ˌmɒnəˈmiːn əˈmɪtən ˈɪnhibitər/ 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 pressure. Abbr MAOI. Also called MAO inhibitor

monoblast /ˈmɒnəbʌləst/ noun a cell which produces a monocyte

monochromatism /ˌmɒnəkroʊməˈtɪzəm/ noun colour blindness in which all colours appear to be black, grey or white. Compare dichromatism, trichromatism

monoclonal /ˌmɒnəˈkləʊnəl/ adjective referring to cells or products of cells which are formed or derived from a single clone monoclonal antibody /ˌmɒnəkloʊnəl abˈtɪdʒəl/ 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 /ˌmɒnəˈnʌklər/ adjective referring to one eye. Compare binocular

monocular vision /ˌmɒnəˈnʌklər ˈvɪʒən/ noun the ability to see with one eye only, so that the sense of distance is impaired

monocyte /ˌmɒnəˈsaɪət/ noun a white blood cell with a nucleus shaped like a kidney, which destroys bacterial cells

monosyndactyly /ˌmɒnəsɪndəˈdæktɪli/ 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 fever
monodactylism /ˌmɒnəˈdektɪlɪz(ə)m/ noun a congenital condition in which only one finger or toe is present on the hand or foot
monomania /ˌmɒnəˈmeɪnə/ noun a state of mental disorder in which a person concentrates attention on one idea
mononeuritis /ˌmɒnənjuəˈraɪtɪs/ noun a neuritis which affects one nerve
mononuclear /ˌmɒnəˈnjuːklər/ adjective referring to a cell such as a monocyte which has one nucleus
mononucleosis /ˌmɒnənjuˈkləʊsɪs/ noun same as monocyteosis
monoplegia /ˌmɒnəplɪˈdʒiə/ noun the paralysis of one part of the body only, i.e. one muscle or one limb
monorchism /ˌmɒnərˈɔːkɪzəm/ noun a condition in which only one testis is visible
monosaccharide /ˌmɒnəsəˈkærəd/ noun a simple sugar which cannot be broken down any further, such as glucose or fructose
monosodium glutamate /ˌmɒnəsəˈnɔɪd ˈɡlutəmeɪt/ noun a sodium salt of glutamic acid, often used to make food taste better.
Chinese restaurant syndrome
monosomy /ˌmɒnəsəˈmeɪti/ noun the condition in which a person has a chromosome missing from one or more pairs
monosynaptic /ˌmɒnəsɪˈnæptɪk/ adjective referring to a nervous pathway with only one synapse
monotent /ˌmɒnətɛnt/ adjective having a valency of one
monoxide /ˌmɒnəˈɒksaɪd/ carbon
monogygotic twins /ˌmɒnəˌgaɪˈəʊtɪk/ noun twin(s) plural noun same as identical twins
mons /mɒnz/ 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 /ˌmɒnz ˈpjuːbɪs/ noun a cushion of fat covering the pubis
monster /ˈmɒnɪstər/ noun a former term for a fetus or infant with severe developmental malformations, usually not able to live
mons veneris /ˈmɒnz vəˈvɛnərɪs/ noun same asmons pubis
Montezuma’s revenge /ˌmɒntɪˈzuːməz ˈrɛvəndʒ/ 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 /ˈmɒntɪgəməri/ plural noun sebaceous glands around the nipple which become more marked in pregnancy [After William Fetherstone Montgomery (1797–1859), Dublin gynaecologist]
mood /mʊd/ 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 /ˈmʊn 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
Mooren’s ulcer /ˌmɔrərnz ˈʌlər/ noun a persistent ulcer of the cornea, found in elderly people [After Albert Mooren (1828–99), ophthalmologist in Düsseldorf, Germany]
morbid /ˈmɔrbɪd/ 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 /ˌmɔrbɪd əˈneɪtɒmɪ/ noun same as pathology
morbidity /ˈmɔrbɪdɪtɪ/ noun the condition of being diseased or sick ‘…apart from death, coronary heart disease causes considerable morbidity in the form of heart attack, angina and a number of related diseases’ [Health Education Journal]
morbidity rate /ˌmɔrbɪdɪtɪ riːt/ noun the number of cases of a disease per hundred thousand of population
morbilli /ˌmɔrbɪlɪ/ noun same as measles
morbilliform /ˌmɔrbɪliːˈfɔːm/ adjective referring to a rash which is similar to measles
morbus /ˌmɔrbus/ noun disease
moribund /ˌmɔrɪbənd/ adjective dying ● noun a dying person
morning /ˈmɔrɪŋ/ noun the first part of the day before 12 o’clock noon
morning-after feeling /ˈmɔrɪŋ əˈfjuːlɪŋ/ noun same as hangover (informal)
morning-after pill /ˈmɔrɪŋ əˈpɪl/ noun a contraceptive pill taken after intercourse. Also called next-day pill
morning sickness /ˈmɔːrɪŋ ˈsɪŋkɪs/ noun nausea and vomiting experienced by women in the early stages of pregnancy when they get up in the morning
Moro reflex /ˌmɔrər 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 /ˈmɔrfərə/ noun a form of scleroderma, a disease where the skin is replaced by thick connective tissue
morphia /ˈmɔrfəriə/ same as morphine
morphine /ˌmɔrfaɪn/ noun an analgesic derived from opium that is used to treat severe pain and may become addictive with prolonged use
morpho- /ˌmɔrfoʊ/ prefix relating to form, shape or structure
morphology /ˌmɔrfəlɒdʒɪ/ noun the study of the structure and shape of living organisms
mophs /maʊs/ suffix relating to form or structure of a particular type
mortality rate /mortələti reit/ noun the number of deaths per year, shown per hundred thousand of population
mortification /mortɪfiʃan/ noun necrosis
mortis /mortis/ rigor
mortuary /mɔrtjuəri/ noun a room in a hospital where dead bodies are kept until removed by an undertaker for burial
morula /morʊla/ noun an early stage in the development of an embryo, where the cleavage of the ovum creates a mass of cells
mosquito /ˈmɒskitoʊ/ noun an insect which sucks human blood, some species of which can pass viruses or parasites into the bloodstream
COMMENT: In northern countries a mosquito bite merely produces an itchy spot. In tropical countries dengue, filariasis, malaria and yellow fever are transmitted by mosquitoes, and are major causes of morbidity and mortality. Mosquitoes breed in water and they spread rapidly in lakes or canals created by dams and other irrigation schemes as well as in containers of water stored for household use.
mother /ˈmʌðər/ noun a biological or adoptive female parent
mother-fixation /ˈmʌðə frɪkʃən/ noun 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
motile /ˈmʌtələ/ adjective referring to a cell or microorganism which can move spontaneously ○ Sperm cells are extremely motile.
motility /ˈmʌtələti/ noun 1. (of cells or microbes) the fact of being able to move about 2. (of the gut) the action of peristalsis
motion /ˈmʌʃən/ noun 1. movement 2. same as bowel movement
motionless /ˈmʌʃənliəs/ adjective not moving ○ Catatonic patients can sit motionless for hours.
motion sickness /ˈmʌʃən sɪknəs/ noun illness and nausea felt when travelling. It is caused by the movement of liquid inside the labyrinth of the middle ear and is particularly noticeable in vehicles which are closed, such as planes, coaches or hovercraft. (informal) ○ She was sleeping with her mouth open. (NOTE: For other terms referring to the mouth, see oral and words beginning with stomat-, stomato-)
mouthful /ˈmaʊθfʊl/ noun the amount which you can hold in your mouth
mouth-to-mouth /maʊθ təˈmaʊθ/ noun the act of changing position or the fact of not being still
mounie /ˈmaʊniə/ noun a nerve which carries impulses from the brain and spinal cord to muscles and causes movements. Also called efferent nerve
motor neurone /ˈmɔtər ˈnjʊərən/ noun a neurone which is part of a nerve pathway transmitting impulses from the brain to a muscle or gland
motor neurone disease /ˈmɔtər ˈnjʊərən dɪz/ noun a disease of the nerve cells which control the movement of the muscles. Abbr MND
COMMENT: Motor neurone disease has three forms: progressive muscular atrophy (PMA), which affects movements of the hands, lateral sclerosis, and bulbar palsy, which affects the mouth and throat.
motor pathway /ˈmɔtər ˈpæθwəti/ noun a series of motor neurones leading from the motor cortex to a muscle
mottled /ˈmɔrt(ə)d/ adjective with patches of different colours
mountain fever /ˈmaʊntən ˈfiːvər/ noun same as brucellosis
mountain sickness /ˈmaʊntən ˈsɪknəs/ noun same as altitude sickness
mount /ˈmaʊnt/ noun an opening at the head of the alimentary canal, through which food and drink are taken in, and through which a person speaks and can breathe ○ She was sleeping with her mouth open. (NOTE: For other terms referring to the mouth, see oral and words beginning with stomat-, stomato-)
mouthwash /ˈmaʊθwɔʃ/ noun an antiseptic solution used to treat infection in the mouth
mount /maʊnt/ verb to change from one place to another, or change something from one place to another ○ Try to move your arm. ○ He found he was unable to move.
movement /ˈmʌvmənt/ noun 1. the act of changing position or the fact of not being still 2. same as bowel movement
moxybustion /ˈmoʊxiˌbʌʃən/ noun a treatment used in the Far East, where dried herbs are placed on the skin and set on fire
Mucous membrane (note: The plural is mucosae).

Mucosal /ˈmjʊkəsəl/ adjective referring to a mucous membrane

Mucous /ˈmjʊkəs/ adjective referring to mucus, covered in mucus

Mucous cell /ˈmjʊkəs sel/ noun a cell which contains mucinogen which secretes mucus

Mucous colitis /ˌmjʊkəs ˈkɒlɪtɪs/ noun an inflammation of the colon, with painful spasms in the muscles of the walls of the colon

Mucous colic /ˌmjʊkəs ˈkɒlɪk/ noun a pain caused by spasms in the muscles of the walls of the colon

Mucous membrane /ˌmjʊkəs ˈmembərɪn/ 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 diarrhoea or alternating attacks of both.

Also called Irritable bowel syndrome.

Mucous plug /ˈmjʊkəs ˈplaɡ/ noun a plug of mucus which blocks the cervical canal during pregnancy.

Mucoviscidosis /ˌmjʊkəvɪsɪdəsɪs/ noun same as cystic fibrosis

Mucus /ˈmjʊkəs/ 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 bienn-)

Muddled /ˈmʌdləd/ adjective referring to someone whose thought processes are confused.

Müllerian duct /ˈmjuːlərɪən ˈdʌkt/ 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.]

Multicentric /ˌmʌltɪˈsɛntrɪk/ adjective in several centres

Multicentric trial /ˌmʌltɪsɛntrɪk ˈtraɪalmart/ noun a trial carried out in several centres at the same time.

Multidisciplinary /ˌmʌltɪdɪsˈplɪməri/ adjective using or involving several specialised subjects or skills ○ a multidisciplinary team

Multifactorial /ˌmʌltɪfəktˈɒrɪəl/ 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 /ˌmʌltɪˈfəʊkəl ˈlɛns/ noun a lens in spectacles whose focus changes from top to bottom so that the person wearing the
has given birth to two or more live children

Also called give birth to more than one child

several places

length of time that the failure lasts. Abbr

at the same time. The person may survive, de-

several of the body's organs stop functioning

row, most often affecting flat bones

resistant to several types of antibiotic

/vertstrokesuperiorm/vertstrokeinferiorrəυss/multiple sclerosis

noun

multiple pregnancy

/vertstrokesuperiorzstənt/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorlɒkjυlə

separate compartments or locules

multinucleated

/vertstrokesuperiorpre/gcursivenənsi

a state of continuous disturbanc-

ment. Compare

murder

or artery

mural thrombus

/mjuːzəl /pipe/vertstrokesuperiorprɒksi

a thrombus which forms on the wall of a vein or artery

described 1912. After John Benjamin Murphy (1857–1916), US sur-

gon.

Münchausen's syndrome by proxy /mjuːntjsʊzŋnjʊzdm bai prəkss/
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 Münch-

hausen, a 18th century traveler and invertebrate

Münchausen's syndrome /mjuːntjsʊzŋnjʊzdm/
noun a malignant tumour in bone mar-

ner, most often affecting flat bones

multinuclear

/vertstrokesuperiorzstənt/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorlɒkjυlə

separate compartments or locules

multinucleated

/vertstrokesuperiorpre/gcursivenənsi

a state of continuous disturbanc-

ment. Compare

murder

or artery

mural thrombus

/mjuːzəl /pipe/vertstrokesuperiorprɒksi

a thrombus which forms on the wall of a vein or artery

mumps

an infectious disease

or artery

mural thrombus

/mjuːzəl /pipe/vertstrokesuperiorprɒksi

a thrombus which forms on the wall of a vein or artery

murmur

/a sound, usually the

sound of the heart, heard through a stetho-

scope

Murphy's sign

/mjuːzəsɪŋŋnjʊzdm/
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 sur-

geon.]

muscae volitantes

/maskəʊvəlɪtəntsns/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
droplets

muscarine

/maskərn/noun a poison found in fungi

muscarinic

/maskərnk/adjective referring to a neurone or receptor stimulated by acetylcholine and muscarine

muscle

/mjuːskl/noun 1. an organ in the body, which contracts to make part of the body
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 /ˈmʌskəl ˈkəʊt/ noun one of two layers of muscle forming part of the lining of the intestine.

muscle fatigue /ˈmʌskəl ˈfætɪdʒ/, muscular fatigue /ˈmʌskjʊlə ˈfætɪdʒ/ noun tiredness in the muscles after strenuous exercise.

muscle fibre /ˈmʌskəl ˈfɪbə/ noun a component fibre of muscles (NOTE: There are two types of fibre which form striated and smooth muscles.)

muscle relaxant /ˈmʌskəl ˈrelæksənt/ noun a drug which reduces contractions in the muscles, e.g. baclofen.

muscle spasm /ˈmʌskəl ˈspæzm/ noun a sudden contraction of a muscle.

muscle spindle /ˈmʌskəl ˈspindl/ noun one of the sensory receptors which lie along striated muscle fibres.

muscle tissue /ˈmʌskəl ˈtɪʃuː/, muscular tissue /ˈmʌskjʊlə ˈtɪʃuː/ the specialised type of tissue which forms the muscles and which can contract and expand.

muscle wasting /ˈmʌskəl ˈwɛstɪŋ/ noun a condition in which the muscles lose weight and become thin.

muscular /ˈmʌskjʊlər/ adjective referring to muscle.

muscular branch /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈbɾʌntʃ/ noun a branch of a nerve to a muscle carrying effector impulses to produce contraction.

muscular defence /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈdefəns/ noun a rigidity of muscles associated with inflammation such as peritonitis.

muscular disorder /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈdɪzərˌdər/ noun a disorder which affects the muscles, e.g. cramp or strain.

muscular dystrophy /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈdɪstrəfi/ noun a type of muscle disease where some muscles become weak and are replaced with fatty tissue. Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

muscular fatigue /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈfætɪdʒ/ noun same as muscle fatigue.

muscularis /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈɪzdʒəs/ noun muscular layer of an internal organ.

muscular relaxant /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈrɪlæksənt/ noun a drug which relaxes the muscles.

muscular rheumatism /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈrɪʊmətɪzəm/ noun a disease giving pains in the back or neck, usually caused by fibrositis or inflammation of the muscles.

muscular system /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈsɪstəm/ noun the muscles in the body, usually applied only to striated muscles.

muscular tissue /ˈmʌskjʊlər ˈtɪʃuː/ noun same as muscle tissue.

musculo- /ˈmʌskjʊləʊ-/ prefix relating to or affecting muscle.

musculocutaneous /ˈmʌskjʊləkəˈtjuːnɪəs/ adjective referring to muscle and skin.

musculocutaneous nerve /ˈmʌskjʊləkəˈtjuːnɪəs nɜːr/ a nerve in the brachial plexus which supplies the muscles in the arm.

musculoskeletal /ˈmʌskjʊləskəˈtjuːnləl/ adjective referring to muscles and bone.

musculotendinous /ˈmʌskjʊlətendɪnəs/ adjective referring to both muscular and tendinous tissue.

mutant /ˈmjuːtənt/ adjective in which mutation has occurred. noun an 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 /ˈmjuːteɪʃn/ noun a change in DNA which changes the physiological effect of the gene 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 /ˈmaɪˌælʒə/ noun a muscle pain.

myalgic encephalomyelitis /ˈmaɪˌælʤɪk əˌnɛsfæləʊˈmɪlɪtɪs/ 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 /ˈmaɪəstəniə/ noun a general weakness and dysfunction of the muscles, caused by poor conduction at the motor end plates.

myco- /ˈmaɪko-/ prefix same as myco- (used before vowels).
The spinal cord taken by myelography

Bone marrow, associated with anae-

myeloma

myeloid

leukaemia

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myoclonus

myoclonus /ˌmaɪəˈklɒnəs/ noun a muscle spasm which makes a limb give an involuntary jerk

myocyte /ˌmaɪɔˈsɪt/ noun a muscle cell

myodynia /ˌmaɪəˈdɪniə/ noun a pain in the muscles

myofibril /ˌmaɪəˈfɪbrɪl/ noun a long thread of striated muscle fibre

myofibrosis /ˌmaɪəˈfɜːrɪəsɪs/ noun a condition in which muscle tissue is replaced by fibrous tissue

myogenic /ˌmaɪəˈdʒenɪk/ 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 /ˌmaɪəˌɡləʊbɪˈnjuːriə/ noun the presence of myoglobin in the urine

myogram /ˌmaɪəˈɡrɑːm/ noun a record showing how a muscle is functioning

myography /ˌmaɪəˈɡrɑːfɪ/ noun an instrument which records the degree and strength of a muscle contraction

myography /ˌmaɪəˈɡrɑːfɪ/ 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

myoma /ˌmaɪəˈməʊmə/ noun a benign tumour in a smooth muscle

myomectomy /ˌmaɪəˈmɛkˈtɒmɪ/ 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 /ˌmaɪəˈmʌtrɪsɪs/ noun inflammation of the myometrium. Also called metritis

myometrium /ˌmaɪəˈmətrɪəm/ noun the muscular tissue in the uterus

myoneural junction /ˌmaɪəˈnɔːrl/ˈdʒʌŋkʃən/ noun same as neuromuscular junction

myopathy /ˌmaɪəˈpɒθɪ/ noun a disease of a muscle, especially one in which the muscle wastes away

myopia /ˌmaɪəˈpəʊpiə/ noun a condition in which someone can see clearly objects which are close, but not ones which are further away. Also called shortsightedness. Opposite long-sightedness

myopic /ˌmaɪəˈpɪk/ adjective able to see close objects clearly, but not objects which are further away. Also called shortsighted

myoplasm /ˌmaɪəˈplæzm/ noun same as sarcoplasm

myoplasty /ˌmaɪəˈplæstɪ/ noun a form of plastic surgery to repair a muscle

myosarcoma /ˌmaɪəˈsærəkəmə/ noun 1. a malignant tumour containing unstriated muscle 2. combined myoma and sarcoma

myosis /ˌmaɪəˈsɪsɪs/ noun another spelling of miosis

miosis /ˌmaɪəˈsɪtɪs/ noun inflammation and degeneration of a muscle

myotatic /ˌmaɪəˈtætɪk/ adjective referring to the sense of touch in a muscle

myotatic reflex /ˌmaɪəˈtætɪk ˈrɛflɛks/ 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

myotomy /ˌmaɪəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut a muscle

myotonia /ˌmaɪəˈtɒniə/ noun difficulty in relaxing a muscle after exercise

myotonic /ˌmaɪəˈtɒnɪk/ adjective referring to tone in a muscle

myotonic dystrophy /ˌmaɪəˈtɒnɪk ˈdɪstrəfi/ 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 /ˌmaɪrɪŋɡɔː/ noun same as eardrum

myringitis /ˌmaɪrɪŋˈɡɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the eardrum

myringoplasty /ˌmaɪrɪŋˈɡɒplæstɪ/ noun the surgical repair of a perforated eardrum. Also called tympanoplasty

myringotome /ˌmaɪrɪŋˈɡɒtəm/ noun a sharp knife used in myringotomy

myringotomy /ˌmaɪrɪŋˈɡɒtəm/ noun a surgical operation to make an opening in the eardrum to allow fluid to escape

myx- /mɪks-/ myxo- /mɪksəʊ-/ prefix referring to mucus

myxoedema /ˌmɪksəˈdɛmə/ 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 /ˌmɪksəˈdɛmətəs/ adjective referring to myxoedema

myxoid cyst /ˌmɪksɔɪd ˈsɪst/ noun a cyst which develops at the base of a fingernail or toenail

myxoma /ˌmɪksəˈməʊmə/ noun a benign tumour of mucous tissue, usually found in subcutaneous tissue of the limbs and neck

myxosarcoma /ˌmɪksəˈsærəkəmə/ noun a malignant tumour of mucous tissue

myxovirus /ˌmɪksəˈvɜːrəs/ noun any virus which has an affinity for the mucoprotein receptors in red blood cells. One of these viruses causes influenza.
n symbol
nabothian cyst /nəˈbɒθiən/ noun a cyst which forms in the cervix of the uterus when the ducts in the cervical glands are blocked
Naegele rule /nɛɡəl/ 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 Naegele’s estimated due date.
naevus /ˈnɛvəs/ noun same as birthmark (NOTE: The plural is naevi.)
Naga sore /nəˈɡaʊʃəl/ noun same as tropical ulcer
nagging pain /næɡɪŋ ˈpeɪn/ noun a dull, continuous throbbing pain.
NAG abbr non-accidental injury
nail /neɪl/ noun a hard growth, made of keratin, which forms on the top surface at the end of each finger and toe. Also called unguis (NOTE: For terms referring to nail, see words beginning with onych, onyo-.)
nail avulsion /ˈneɪl əˈvaʊlʃən/ noun the act of pulling away an ingrowing toenail
nail bed /ˈneɪl bed/ 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 ˈmætris/ noun the internal structure of the nail, the part of the finger from which the nail grows
naltrexone /nɑˈlɑtkrɛsən/ noun a drug resembling morphine, used in the diagnosis of narcotics addiction and to reverse the effects of narcotics poisoning
named nurse /ˈnɛmd/ 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 /nændroʊˈlɔn/ 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 /ˈnænəˌmɪtər/ 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 /ˈnænəˌsɛkənd/ noun a unit of measurement of time equal to one thousand millionth of a second. Symbol ns
nape /nɛp/ noun the back of the neck. Also called nucha
napkin /ˈnæpki/ noun a soft cloth, used for wiping or absorbing
nappy /ˈnæpi/ 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 /ˈnæpi ˈræʃ/ 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 /nɑˈprɔksen/ noun a drug which reduces inflammation and pain, used in the treatment of arthritis
narcissism /ˈnɑrkɪsɪz(ə)m/ 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.
narcotic /ˈnɑrkətɪk/ prefix referring to sleep or stupor
narcoanalysis /ˈnɑrkəˌænalɪsɪs/ noun the use of narcotics to induce a comatose state in someone about to undergo psychoanalysis which may be emotionally disturbing
narcolepsy /ˈnɑrkəlɛpsɪ/ noun a condition in which someone has an uncontrollable tendency to fall asleep at any time
**Medicine**

**nasopharynx**

in two by the nasal septum and leading to the plates above and the hard palate below, divided

The singular is of an antihistamine something narrow, or become narrow

liquid into the nose

**nasal spray**

drops of liquid inserted into the nose

**nasal septum**

maxilla. The lower is thinner and curls round attached to the nasal bone and the front of the nasal bone

choana

lacrimal sac into the nose

**nasal bone**

one of two small bones which form the bridge at the top of the nose

**nasal cartilage**

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**

the cavity behind the nose between the cribiform plates above and the hard palate below, divided in two by the nasal septum and leading to the nasopharynx

**nasal conchae**

the three ridges of bone, called the superior, middle and inferior conchae, which project into the nasal cavity from the side walls. Also called turbinate bones

**nasal congestion**

the blocking of the nose by inflammation as a response to a cold or other infection

**nasal drops**

drops of liquid inserted into the nose

**nasal septum**

a wall of cartilage between the two nostrils and the two parts of the nasal cavity

**nasal spray**

a spray of liquid into the nose

**nascent**

1. a substance which causes narcolepsy 2. in the process of coming into existence and starting to develop, referring to a substance, especially hydrogen, in the process of being created. At this stage it is often in a highly active form.

**Nasepin** a trade name for a mixture containing chlorhexidine and neomycin, used to treat nasal infection by organisms such as staphylococci

**nasion** the place at which the bridge of the nose meets the forehead

**nasogastric** referring to the nose and stomach

**nasogastrically** referring to a method of feeding someone via a tube passed through the nose into the stomach

...all patients requiring nutrition are fed enterally, whether nasogastrically or directly into the small intestine [British Journal of Nursing]

**nasogastric tube** a tube passed through the nose into the stomach

**nasolacrimal duct** a duct which drains tears from the lacrimal sac into the nose

**nasopharynx** the top part of the pharynx which connects with the nose

**nasosinusitis** a condition in which the nose and sinuses swell up

**nasty** unpleasant

**nates** same as buttock

**National Boards**

the National Boards for Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Visiting, which were formerly responsible for the education of professionals in these fields in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

**National Council for Vocational Qualifications**

full form of NVQ

**National Health Service** a government service in the UK which provides medical services free of charge at the point of delivery, or at reduced cost, to the whole population. The service is paid for out of tax revenue. Abbreviated as NHS on the NHS paid for by the NHS. He had his operation on
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** /ˌnæʃənəl ɪnˈstɪtʃətʃən fə ˈklaɪmɪkəl/ 'ɛksələns noun an organisation in the UK which produces recommendations for treatments based on clinical evidence and cost-effectiveness. Abbr NICE

**National Insurance** /ˌnæʃənəl ɪnˈsərəns/ 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** /ˈneɪtrɪətrɪk/ noun something which helps sodium to be excreted in the urine

**natural** /ˈnætʃərəl/ adjective 1. usual or expected in particular conditions ○ 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 ○ natural products 3. relaxed and not consciously changed ○ His behaviour seemed quite natural.

**natural childbirth** /ˈnætʃərəl ˈtʃaɪldbɜːθ/ 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** /ˌnætʃərəl ɪˈmɪnjuəti/ 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** /ˌnætʃərəl ˈkaɪlə 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** /ˌnætʃərəl ˈmʌðər/ noun 1. the biological mother of a child 2. the part of the body which joins the head to the body ○ He is suffering from pains in the neck. 3. the front of the neck is swollen with gout. ○ The jugular veins run down the side of the neck.

**natural nurture debate** /ˈnætʃərəl ˈnɜːrtər debət/ 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

**naturalopathy** /ˌnætʃərəpəθi/ 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 ○ She suffered from nausea in the morning. ○ He felt slight nausea after getting onto the boat.

**COMMENTS:** 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** /ˈnɔːziətəd/ adjective feeling as if you are about to vomit ○ 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** /ˈneɪvəl/ 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** /ˈnævikjʊələr/ adjective relating to a navicular bone ○ noun same as navicular bone

**navicular bone** /ˈnævikjʊələr bɔːn/ noun one of the tarsal bones in the foot. See illustration at foot in Supplement

**NCVQ** noun a government body in the UK responsible for setting standards of qualification for specific jobs. Full form National Council for Vocational Qualifications

**NDU** noun Nursing Development Unit

**nearsighted** /ˈnɛərsətɪd/ adjective same as myopic

**nearsightedness** /ˈnɛərsətɪdnəs/ noun same as myopia

**nephritis** /ˈnɛbjʊˌrɪtɪs/ 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** /ˈnɛbjʊləzər/ noun same as atomiser

**Necator** /ˈnɛkətər/ noun a genus of hookworm which infects the small intestine

**necatoriasis** /ˈnɛkəˌtɔriəsɪs/ noun infestation of the small intestine by the parasite Necator

**neck** [noun] the narrow part between the head and the diaphysis of the femur ○ peak of a tooth ○ neck of the femur: femoral neck
neck collar

COMMENT: The neck is formed of the seven cervical vertebrae, and is held vertical by strong muscles. Many organs pass through the neck, including the oesophagus, the larynx and the arteries and veins which connect the brain to the bloodstream. The front of the neck is usually referred to as the throat.

neck collar /nɛk ’kɔlə/ noun a strong high collar to support the head of a person with neck injuries or a condition such as cervical spondylolisthesis

necro- /nɛkrəʊ/ prefix referring to death

carcinoid /nɛkrə’saiəd/ ‘aussis/ noun 1. the death of cells surrounded by living tissue 2. the gradual localised death of a part or tissue

necrology /’mekjroʊlɔdʒi/ noun the scientific study of mortality statistics

necrophilia /’nɛkrə’fɪliə/; necrophilism /’nɛkrə’fɪlɪz(ə)m/ noun 1. unusual pleasure in corpses 2. sexual attraction to dead bodies

carciopla /’nɛkrəspərdʒiə/ noun same as post mortem

carcinoma /’nɛkrəʊsəd/ adjective referring to death or tissue or bone

necrosis /’nɛkrə’sɔsɪs/ 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.

necrosis /’nɛkrə’sɔrpiə/ noun a condition in which dead sperm exist in the semen

necrotic /’nɛkrə’tɪk/ adjective referring to, or affected with, necrosis ○ necrotic tissue

necrotising enterocolitis /’nɛkrə’taʊzɪŋ ’entərəkoʊlɪtɪs/ 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 /’nɛkrə’taʊzɪŋ ’fæsɪtɪs/ 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.’)

necrotomy /’nɛkrə’tʌmɪ/ noun the dissection of a dead body (NOTE: The plural is necrotomies.)

needle /’nɪdə(ʊ)/ 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 /’nɪdə(ʊ)’miə’pɒθi/ noun destruction of muscle tissue caused by using a large needle for intramuscular injections

needlestick /’nɪdə(ʊ)’stɪk/ noun an accidental pricking of your own skin by a needle, as by a nurse picking up a used syringe

needlestick injury /’nɪdə(ʊ)’stɪk ɪn’dʒəri/ 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 /’nɪdɪŋ/ noun the puncture of a cataract with a needle

needs assessment /’nɪdz ə’sesmənt/ 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 /’nɪdz dɪ’prɪvəʃ(ə)n/ noun a state in which someone does not have the opportunity or capacity to fulfil his or her basic needs

negative /’negətɪv/ adjective 1. meaning or showing ‘no’ ○ The answer is in the negative the answer is ‘no’ 2. indicating that something being tested for is not present ○ The test results were negative. Opposite: positive

negative feedback /’negətɪv ˈfɪdbæk/ noun a situation in which the result of a process represses the process which caused it

negatistism /’negətɪvɪz(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 /’neglɪdʒ(ə)n/ 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 /’negri ˈbɒdɪ/ 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 /’nɪl ˈrɒbətsən strɛtʃə/ noun a stretcher to which a person can be strapped and moved about in an upright position

Neisseria /’nɛsərɪə/ genus of bacteria which includes gonococcus, which causes gonorrhoea, and meningococcus, which causes meningitis

nematode /’nɛmətəd/ noun a type of parasitic roundworm, e.g. a hookworm, pinworm or roundworm

neo- /’nɛzoʊ/ prefix new

neoadjuvant chemotherapy /’nɛzədʒəvənt ’keɪtəməθɪəpɪ/ noun chemotherapy given to people with tumours instead of immediate surgery or radiotherapy, in the hope of reducing the need for these later

neocerebellum /’nɛojɜrəˌbɛləm/ noun the middle part of the cerebellum.[Note: The plural is neocerebellums or neocerebella.]

neomycin /’nɛzoʊsɪn/ noun a drug used externally to treat bacterial infections
neonatal /ˌniːəʊˈneɪt(ə)l/ 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 /ˌniːəʊˈneɪt(ə)l ˈdeθ, ˈreɪt/ noun the number of babies who die soon after birth, shown per thousand babies born

neonatal maceration /ˌniːəʊˈneɪt(ə)l ˈmeɪsərəʃ(ə)n/ noun softening or roting of fetal tissue after the fetus has died in the uterus and has remained in the amniotic fluid

neonatal screening /ˌniːəʊˈneɪt(ə)l ˈskrɪnɪŋ/ 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 /ˌniːəʊˈneɪt/ noun a baby which is less than four weeks old

neonatologist /ˌniːəʊˈneɪtələˈdʒɪst/ noun a specialist who looks after babies during the first few weeks of life, or premature babies and babies with some congenital disorders

neonatology /ˌniːəʊˈneɪtələˈdʒɪs/ noun the branch of medicine dealing with babies in the first few weeks of life

neonatorum /ˌniːəʊˈneɪtərəm/ • asphyxia neonatorum

neoplasia /ˌniːəʊˈpləsɪə/ noun the formation of tumours

neoplasms /ˌniːəʊˈplæzəmz/ 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 /ˌniːəʊˈplæstɪk/ adjective referring to neoplasms, neoplasia or neoplasia

neoplasty noun the surgical repair or replacement of damaged tissue

neostigmine /ˌniːəʊˈstɪgmən/ • noun a white crystalline compound used in the treatment of muscle fatigue myasthenia and to reverse the effects of muscle relaxant drugs

nepr- /nɛpr-/ prefix kidney

nephralgia /nɛfˈrældʒiə/ noun pain in the kidney

nephralgic /nɛfˈrældʒɪk/ adjective relating to pain in the kidney

nephrectomy /nɛfˈrɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the whole kidney [NOTE: The plural is nephrectomies]

nephritic /nɛfˈrɪtɪk, nɛfˈrɪtɪk/ adjective referring to the kidneys

nephritis /nɛfˈrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the kidney

‘...COMMENT: Acute nephritis can be caused by a streptococcal infection. Symptoms can include headaches, swollen ankles, and fever.

nephroblastoma /ˌnɛfroʊˈbleɪstəmə/ noun a malignant tumour in the kidneys in young children, usually under the age of 10, leading to swelling of the abdomen. It is treated by removal of the affected kidney. Also called Wilms’ tumour [NOTE: The plural is nephroblastosomas or nephroblastomata]

nephrocalcinosis /ˌnɛfroʊˌkælˈsɪnəsɪs/ noun a condition in which calcium deposits are found in the kidney

nephrocapsulectomy /ˌnɛfroʊˌkæpsjʊlˈektəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove the capsule round a kidney [NOTE: The plural is nephrocapsulectomies]

nephrogram /ˌnɛfrəˈgrɑm/ noun a radiographic examination of the kidney

nephrolith /ˌnɛfrəˈlɪθ/ noun a stone in the kidney

nephrolithiasis /ˌnɛfrəˈlɪθəˈtɪsɪs/ noun a condition in which stones form in the kidney

nephrolithotomy /ˌnɛfrəˌlɪθəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a stone in the kidney [NOTE: The plural is nephrolithotomies]

nephrologist /ˌnɛfroʊˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of the kidney and its diseases

nephrology /ˌnɛfrəˈlɒdʒɪ/ noun the study of the kidney and its diseases

nephroma /ˌnɛfrəˈrəmə/ noun a tumour in the kidney, or a tumour derived from renal substances [NOTE: The plural is nephromas or nephromata]

nephron /ˌnɛfrən/ 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 /ˌnɛfˈrɒpəθi/ noun a disease or medical disorder of the kidney [NOTE: The plural is nephropathies]

nephropsy /ˌnɛfroʊˈpɛskɪ/ noun a surgical operation to attach a mobile kidney [NOTE: The plural is nephropses]

nephropexy /ˌnɛfroʊˈpɛksɪ/ noun a surgical operation to attach a mobile kidney [NOTE: The plural is nephropexies]

nephropexy /ˌnɛfroʊˈpɛksɪ/ noun a surgical operation to attach a mobile kidney [NOTE: The plural is nephropexies]

nephropexy /ˌnɛfroʊˈpɛksɪ/ noun a surgical operation to attach a mobile kidney [NOTE: The plural is nephropexies]

nephroscopic /ˌnɛfrəˈskɔpɪk/ noun a type of endoscope used to examine the kidneys

nephroscopy /ˌnɛfrəˈskɔpɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make a permanent opening into the pelvis of the kidney from the surface [NOTE: The plural is nephrostomies]

nephrotic /ˌnɛfˈrətɪk/ adjective relating to or caused by nephrosis
nerve impulses
forms nerves, and which is able to transmit the
nerve impulses, e.g. an axon
ture leading from a nerve cell and carrying
drəυm
pressure on a nerve, especially where nerves
nerve impulses, e.g. an axon
stimulating the growth of new nerve tissue after dam-
as a surgical operation to cut into a kidney
nerve arch, cutaneous nerve arch
nerve block /ˈnetr(ə)blk/ noun the act of
nerve impulse /ˈnetr(ə)mpəls/ noun an elec-
nerve regeneration /ˈnetr(ə)rɪɡenəræʃən/ noun the growth of new nerve tissue after dam-
nerve roots /ˈnetr(ə)rʊt/ noun the first part of a
nerve as it leaves or joins the spinal column
(\(\text{NOTE: The dorsal nerve root is the entry for a}
nerve, and the ventral nerve root is the exit for a
motor nerve.})
nervous /ˈnetr(ə)vs/ adjective 1. referring to
nerves 2. very easily worried or nervous – the operation is a very simple one.
nervous breakdown /ˈnetr(ə)vs ˈbrəʊkdaʊn/ noun any sudden mental illness (informal)
nervous complaint /ˈnetr(ə)vs ˈkɒmplɛnt/ noun
nervous disorder noun an emotional or mental
illness (informal)
nervousness /ˈnetr(ə)νəsəs/ noun the state of
being nervous
nervous system /ˈnetr(ə)nsɪstəm/ noun the
nerve tissue of the body, including the pe-
ripheral nerves, spinal cord, ganglia and nerve
nerve centre /ˈnetr(ə) sɛntə/ noun the point at
which nerves come together
nerve endings /ˈnetr(ə) ndiŋ/ noun same as
sensory receptor
nerve entrapment syndrome /ˈnetr(ə) rmənt ˈsɜndraʊm/ noun pain caused by
pressure on a nerve, especially where nerves
occur in narrow passages such as the wrist
(\(\text{NOTE: The most common nerve entrapment}
syndrome in the body is carpal tunnel syn-
drome.})
nervous system /ˈnetr(ə)nsɪstəm/ noun
network /ˈnetwɜk/ noun an interconnecting
system of lines and spaces, like a net or a
network of fine blood vessels
Neuman’s model /ˈniːmənənz ,mɒnd(ə)/ 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)
nerve- /ˈnəʊvər/ prefix same as nerve- (used before
vowels)
nervous /ˈnetr(ə)vs/ adjective 1. referring to
nerves 2. very easily worried or nervous – the operation is a very simple one.
neurologist 264

physical examination, and specific diagnostic tests, sometimes with the help of a family member or close friend

neurologist /nju'roʊlədʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of the nervous system and the treatment of its diseases

neurology /nju'roʊlədʒi/ noun the scientific study of the nervous system and its diseases

neuroma /nju'roʊmə/ noun a benign tumour formed of nerve cells and nerve fibres (NOTE: The plural is neuromas or neuromata.)

neuromuscular /nju'roʊməskjʊəl/ adjective referring to both nerves and muscles

neuromuscular /nju'roʊməskjʊəl/ /nju'roʊməskjʊəl/ noun the point where a motor nerve joins muscle fibre. Also called myoneural junction

neuromyelitis optica /nju'roʊməmlətɪs 'ɑptɪkə/ 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'roʊən/ noun a cell in the nervous system which transmits nerve impulses. Also called nerve cell

neuropathic bladder /nju'roʊopa'fishık 'bleɪdə/ 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'roʊəpəθələ'juː/ noun the study of diseases of the nervous system

neuropathy /nju'roʊpəθɪ/ noun a disease involving destruction of the tissues of the nervous system (NOTE: The plural is neuropathies.)

neurophysiology /nju'roʊfɪzɪələ'juː/ noun the study of the physiology of nerves

neuroplasty /nju'roʊpəlæstɪ/ noun surgery to repair damaged nerves

neuropsychiatric /nju'roʊpso'kɪstɪk/ adjective referring to neuropsychiatry

neuropsychiatry /nju'roʊpso'kestrɪ/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study and treatment of mental and nervous disorders

neuropsychiatry /nju'roʊpso'kestrɪ/ noun the study of mental and nervous disorders

neuropsychopathy /nju'roʊpsoθəpəθi/ noun a surgical operation to join by suture a nerve which has been cut (NOTE: The plural is neuropsychopathies.)

neurosarcoma /nju'roʊsərəkəmə/ noun a malignant neuroma (NOTE: The plural is neurosarcomas or neurosarcomata.)

neurosecretion /nju'roʊsəkrɪ'tʃən/ 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, a psychoneurosis (NOTE: The plural is neuroses.)

neurosurgeon /nju'roʊsərə,ˌsədʒən/ noun a surgeon who operates on the nervous system, including the brain and spinal cord

neurosurgery /nju'roʊsərə,ˌsədʒərɪ/ noun surgery on the nervous system, including the brain and spinal cord

neurosyphilis /nju'roʊsɪfɪlɪs/ 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'roʊtɪkəli/ adverb in a neurotic way ◼ She is neurotically obsessed with keeping herself clean.

neurotmesis /nju'roʊətmi/sɪs/ noun an act of cutting a nerve completely (NOTE: The plural is neurotmeses.)

neurotomy /nju'roʊtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut a nerve (NOTE: The plural is neurotomies.)

neurotoxic /nju'roʊtɒtɪk/ adjective harmful or poisonous to nerve cells

neurotransmitter /nju'roʊtrəns'mɪtər/ noun a chemical substance which transmits nerve impulses from one neurone 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.

neurotomy /nju'roʊtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut a nerve (NOTE: The plural is neurotomies.)

neurotroph /nju'roʊtrɒfi/ noun a chemical which promotes nerve cell growth and maturation (NOTE: The plural is neurotrophs.)

neurotoxic /nju'roʊtɒtɪk/ adjective relating to the nutrition and maintenance of tissue of the nervous system

neurotropic /nju'roʊtɒtrɪpɪk/ adjective referring to a bacterium which is attracted to and attacks nerves

to form a salt from an acid

neurotropism /nju'roʊtɒtrɪpɪzəm/ noun a property which attracts a bacterium

neutral /ˈnjʊtrəl/ adjective neither male nor female

neutral /ˈnjʊtrəl/ adjective neither acid nor alkali ◼ A pH factor of 7 is neutral.

neutralise /nju'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

neutropenia /nju'nuətrəpi/nɪə/ noun a condition in which there are fewer neutrophils than usual in the blood

neutrophil /nju'nuətrfɪl/ noun a type of white blood cell with an irregular nucleus, which can attack and destroy bacteria. Also called polymorph

neurologist 264

newborn /ˈnuːbərn/ adjective born recently.
nicotinic acid /ˈnɪkətɪnɪk əkʃəd/ same as nicotine
nicotinic receptor /ˈnɪkətɪnɪk ˈrektər/ noun same as nicotine receptor
nicotinism /ˈnɪkətɪnɪzəm/ noun same as nicotine poisoning
nictation /ˈnɪktəʃən/ nictation /ˈnɪktəʃən/ noun the act of winking
 nidation /ˈnɪdəʃən/ noun 1. the process of building the endometrial layers of the uterus between menstrual periods 2. the point in the development of an embryo at which the fertilised ovum reaches the uterus and implants in the wall of the uterus. Also called implantation

next of kin /ˈnɛks təv ən/ 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. 

NHS /ˈɛm es/ noun National Health Service
NHS Direct /ˈɛm es dɪˈrekt/ noun in the UK, a national telephone helpline run by nurses to provide information about health and health services for the public

nicardipine /ˈnɪkərdaˌpiːn/ noun a drug slowly into the bloodstream, applied to the patch containing nicotine which is released

NICE /ˈnaɪs/ abbr National Institute for Clinical Excellence

nick /nɪk/ noun a little cut ○ She had a nick in her ear lobe which bled. ■ verb to make a little cut in something ○ He nicked his chin while shaving.

nicosamide /ˈnɪkəsəməd/ noun a drug used for removing tapeworms

nicotine /ˈnɪkətɪn/ noun the main alkaloid substance found in tobacco

nicotine addiction /ˈnɪkətɪn ədˈdɪkʃən/ noun an addiction to nicotine, derived from smoking tobacco

nicotine patch /ˈnɪkətɪn pætʃ/ 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 /ˈnɪkətɪn əˈpoʊznəŋ/ noun poisoning of the autonomic nervous system with large quantities of nicotine. Also called nicotinism

nicotinic receptor /ˈnɪkətɪnɪk ˈrektər/ 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

nicotine replacement /ˈnɪkətɪnɪk ˈrɪpləmənt/ noun the use of nicotine patches or other products to help during an attempt to give up smoking nicotine acid /ˈnɪkətɪnɪk əkʃəd/ same as nicotine

night guard /ˈnait ɡɑrd/ noun a rubber teat on a baby’s feeding bottle

night nurse /ˈnait ˈnɜrs/ noun a nurse who is on duty at night

night duty /ˈnait djuˈti/ noun the situation of working at night ○ Nurse Smith is on night duty this week.

Nightingale ward /ˈnaɪtɪŋɡəl/ noun the use of nicotine patches for removing tapeworms

nifedipine /ˈnɪfəˌdɪpiːn/ noun a drug which stops the heart muscles from taking up calcium, used in the treatment of high blood pressure and angina pectoris
Nissl granule /ˈnɪsəl ˈɡrænɪdʒʊliː; ˈnɪsəl/ noun one of the coarse granules surrounding the nucleus in the cytoplasm of nerve cells. See illustration at NEUROLOGY in Supplement [Described 1894. After Franz Nissl (1860–1919), German psychiatrist.]
	nit /nɪt/ noun an egg or larva of a louse

**Nitrate** /ˈnɪtrət/ 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 /-ət/ suffix used in names of nitrate drugs

nitrazepam /ˈnɪtrəzəpəm/ noun a tranquilliser used in some sleeping pills

nitrofurantoin /ˈnɪtrofʊrəntɔɪn/ noun a drug which helps the veins and coronary arteries to become wider

nitroglycerin /ˈnɪtɾəɡlɪsərɪn/ noun 1. a drug which helps to prevent the growth of bacteria, used in the treatment of urinary infections 2. a drug which helps to prevent the growth of bacteria, used in the treatment of urinary infections

nitrogen /ˈnɪtrədʒən/ 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.)

**Nitrous oxide** /ˈnɪtɹəs ˈɔksəd/ noun 1. loss of consciousness due to the formation of nitrogen in the tissues, caused by pressure change

nitroglycerin /ˈnɪtɾəɡlɪsərɪn/ noun a drug which helps the veins and coronary arteries to become wider

nitrous oxide /ˈnɪtərəs ˈɔksəd/ 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 /nəˈkɑrdɪə/ noun a genus of bacteria found in soil, some species of which cause nocardiosis and maduramycosis

nocardiosis /ˈnɑkərdɪəsɪs/ noun a lung infection which may metastasise to other tissue, caused by Nocardia

noci- /nəˈsɪ/ prefix pain or injury

nociassociation /ˌnɑkəsəˌɛsəˈɛʃən/ noun an unconscious release of nervous energy, e.g. as a result of shock

nociceptive /ˌnɑkəsɛˈsɛptɪv/ adjective referring to nerves which carry pain to the brain

nociceptor /ˌnɑkəsɛˈςɛptər/ noun a sensory nerve which carries pain to the brain

nocotic /ˈnɒktɪk/ prefix night

nocontamination /ˌnɒkəntəˌmænbjʊəlɪʃən/ noun same as somnambulism

nocot /ˈnɒkt/ adverb at night. Opposite nocte (Note: used on prescriptions)

nocoturia /ˈnɒktəˈʃʊərə/ noun the fact of passing an unusually large quantity of urine during the night

nocurnal /ˈnɒkərən(ə)l/ adjective referring to or taking place at night

nocurnal emission /ˈnɒkərən(ə)l ɪnˈʃjʊən/ noun the production of semen from the penis while a man is asleep

nocurnal enuresis /ˈnɒkərən(ə)l ɪnˈjʊərɪs/ noun the act of passing urine when asleep in bed at night. Also called bedwetting

nodal /ˈnɑdəl/ adjective referring to nodes

nodal tachycardia /ˈnɑdəl təˈkɑrdɪə/ noun a sudden attack of rapid heartbeats. Also called paroxysmal tachycardia

node /nɑd/ noun 1, a small mass of tissue 2. a group of nerve cells

node of Ranvier /ˈnɑdəv əv ˈrænvɪər/ noun one of a series of gaps in the myelin sheath surrounding a nerve fibre. See illustration at NEUROLOGY in Supplement

nod off verb to fall asleep (informal)

nodosum /ˈnɒdəsəm/ noun 1. erthema nodosum

nodular /ˈnɒdʒʊlər/ adjective formed of nodules

nodule /ˈnɒdʒʊl/ noun 1, a small node or group of cells, 2. Bohan's nodules 2. the anterior or part of the inferior vermis

noma /ˈnɒmə/ noun same as cancer oris

omen proprium /ˈɔmɪn prəˈprɪəm/ noun full form of n.p.

non- /nɒn/ prefix not

non-A, non-B hepatitis /nɒn ə, nɒn ˈbiː/ noun now called hepatitis C

non-absorbable suture /nɒn əbərˌbɜːrəbl/ noun a suture made of a substance which cannot be absorbed into the body and which eventually has to be removed

non-accidental injury /nɒn əˈsɪntɪdɪəl/ noun an injury which is not caused accidentally

non-allergic /ˈnɒn əˈlɜːrɪk/ adjective not aggravating an allergy

non-cancerous /ˈnɒn ˌkænsəˈrəs/ adjective not malignant

non-clinical /ˈnɒn ˈklɪnɪkl/ adjective referring to the wider non-medical aspects of patient care or non-clinical services such as administration and catering or non-clinical guidelines including confidentiality protocols

non-compliance /ˈnɒn kʌmˈpləns/ noun the failure to take drugs at the correct times and in the dosages prescribed, or to take them at all
non compos mentis /noun kom p sos men tis/ noun (Latin) 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 /noun kan te dʒi s/ adjective not contagious

non-drowsy /noun ‘drɔ zi/ adjective not causing drowsiness

non-emergency surgery /noun ‘i m dʒi s i/ 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 /noun ‘grə nju də l/ a leucocyte which has no granules, e.g. a lymphocyte or monocyte

non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma /noun ‘hod gkinz lim fə un/ 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 /noun ‘in su lən de p tant dia bet es/ same as Type II diabetes mellitus

non-invasive /noun ‘in ve ziv/ adjective referring to treatment which does not involve entering the body by making an incision

non-malleable /noun ‘mæ lə fə s/ the concept that professionals in the health service have a duty to protect the patient from harm (Note: Under this principle, professionals’ obligations include keeping their knowledge and skills current, realising their own limitations and knowing when to refer a case to a specialist or other professional)

non-malignant /noun ‘mə lə nə gənt/ adjective not cancerous, or not life-threatening (Note: Non-malignant growth)

non-medical /noun ‘med ik ə l/ adjective 1. not relating to medicine (Note: Non-medical geneti c) 2. not according to medical practice, or not as directed by a doctor (Note: Non-medical use of stimulant drugs) 3. not used in specialised medical speech (Note: Nervous breakdown) is a non-medical term for a type of sudden mental illness

non-nucleated /noun ‘nju ziklə təd/ adjective referring to a cell with no nucleus

non-official drug /noun ˈə fə s/ a drug that is not listed in the national pharmacopoeia

non-palpable /noun ‘pə lə pə bə l/ adjective not able to be felt when touched

non-paralytic poliomyelitis /noun ‘pa lə lə tɪ k ,pə lə lə tɪ k/ a form of poliomyelitis similar to abortive poliomyelitis but which also affects the muscles to some degree

non-secretor /noun ‘sə krɪ tər/ a person who does not secrete substances indicating ABO blood group into mucous fluids such as semen or saliva

non-smoker /noun ‘smaʊkər/ a person who does not smoke

non-specific /noun ‘spə srɪ fɪ k/ adjective not caused by any single identifiable cause

non-specific urethritis /noun ‘spə srɪ fɪ k, juar ti ə rə tɪ s/ a urinary tract infection (Note: The US term is non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug) (Note: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs have names ending in -fen: ibuprofen.)

non-sterile /noun ‘sə ter ə l/ adjective not sterile or sterilised

non-steroidal /noun ‘stə rə dʒi l/ adjective not containing steroids

non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug /noun ˈstə rə dʒi l ə n ti ə mə n i ə fr ə dʒ/ 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. (Note: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs have names ending in -fen: ibuprofen.)

non-union /noun ‘jʊn jə n/ a condition in which the two parts of a fractured bone do not join together and do not heal

non-urgent surgery /noun ‘jʊ n ə dʒ ənt ‘sə dʒə rə ɪ/ same as non-emergency surgery

noradrenaline /noun ˈnɔr æ d rə nə lə ni/ 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 /noun ˈnɔr ma/ a view of the skull as seen from a particular angle (Note: The plural is normae)

normal /noun ˈnɔr mə l/ adjective usual, ordinary or conforming to a standard (Note: After he took the tablets, his blood pressure went back to normal. (Note: Her temperature is two degrees above normal. (Note: He had an above-normal pulse rate. (Note: Is it normal for a person with myopia to suffer from headaches?

normally /ˈnɔr ə mə l lə nə mə l lə nə mə l/ adverb in an ordinary way, on most occasions or in most circumstances (Note: The patients are normally worried before the operation. (Note: He was breathing normally.

normo- /ˈnɔr məʊ/ prefix normal, usual or expected

normoblast /ˈnɔr mə bɔ lə st/ 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 /ˈnɔr ma saʊt/ noun a red blood cell

normocytic /ˈnɔr mə saʊ tɪ k/ adjective referring to a normocyte
**Normocytosis** 268

**Normocytosis** /ˌnɔrməˌsaɪtəs/ noun the condition of having the standard number of red blood cells in the peripheral blood.

**Normotension** /ˌnɔrməˈtenʃən/ noun blood pressure at the usual level.

**Normotensive** /ˌnɔrməˈtɛnsiv/ adjective referring to blood pressure at the usual level.

**Norton score** /nɔrˈtən skɔr/ noun a scale for deciding how likely it is that pressure sores will develop, used mostly in assessing elderly patients.

**Nortriptyline** /ˌnɔrtəˈtrɪplaɪn/ noun a drug used to reduce pain and as an antidepressant.

**Nose** /nəʊz/ noun an organ through which a person breathes and smells. **her nose** is running liquid mucus is dripping from her nose. **he blew his nose** he blew air through his nose into a handkerchief to get rid of mucus in his nostrils.

**Nosebleed** /nəʊzˈblɪd/ 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.

**Nosocomial** /nɒsəˈkɒmiəl/ adjective referring to hospitals.

**Nosocomial infection** /nɒsəˈkɒmiəl inˈfɛkʃən/ noun an infection which is passed on to a person being treated in a hospital.

**Nosophy** /nəʊsəˈfoʊj/ noun the classification of diseases.

**Nosotrill** /nəʊsəˈtrɪl/ noun one of the two passages in the nose through which air is breathed in or out. **his right nosotrill was blocked.** (Note: The nosotris are also referred to as the nares.)

**Notch** /nɔtʃ/ noun a depression on a surface, usually on a bone, but sometimes on an organ.

**Cardiac notch, occipital notch**

**Notice** /ˈnəʊts/ noun 1. a piece of writing giving information, usually put in a place where everyone can see it. **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.**

**To see or be aware of something.** **Nobody noticed that she was sweating.** **Did you notice the development of any new symptoms?**

**Noticeable** /ˈnəʊtsɪbl/ adjective able to be noticed. **The disease has no easily noticeable symptoms.**

**Noticeboard** /ˈnəʊtsbɔːd/ noun a flat piece of wood, or board fixed on a wall, on which notices can be pinned.

**Notifiable disease** /nəʊtɪˈfɪəbl 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** /nəʊtəˈfai/ 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** /nəʊrɪʃ/ verb to give food or nutrients to a person.

**Nourishment** /nəʊrɪʃmənt/ noun 1. the act of supplying nutrients to a person. 2. food and the nutrients in it, e.g. proteins, fats or vitamins.

**Noxious** /nəʊkˈʃəs/ adjective harmful **a noxious gas**

**N.P.** noun the name of the drug written on the label of its container. Full form nomen proprum.

**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 oris.**

**NSAID** abbreviation for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

**NSU** abbreviation for non-specific urethritis.

**Nuca** /ˈnjuːks/ noun same as nape. (Note: The plural is nuchae.)

**Nuchal** /ˈnjuːkəl/ adjective referring to the back of the neck.

**Nucleic acid** /ˈnjuːklɪk əˌsid/ noun a chemical which breaks down nucleic acids.

**Nucleic acid** /ˈnjuːkliɪk əˌsid/ 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- /njuːklaɪəʊ/ prefix referring to a cell or atomic nucleus

nucleolus /ˈnjuːkliələs/ noun a structure inside a cell nucleus, containing RNA (Note: The plural is nucleoli.)

nucleoprotein /ˈnjuːkliəprəʊtɒrɪn/ noun a compound of protein and nucleic acid, e.g. a chromosome or ribosome

nucleus /ˈnjuːklaɪəs/ noun 1. a central part which has others grouped or built around it 2. the central body in a cell, which contains DNA and RNA and controls the function and characteristics of the cell. See illustration at NEU- RONE in Supplement 3, a group of nerve cells in the brain or spinal cord (Note: The plural is nuclei.)

nucleus pulposus /ˈnjuːkliəs ˈpəʊpsəs/ noun a soft central part of an intervertebral disc which disappears in old age (Note: The plural is nuclei pulposi)

nullipara /njuːˈlipərə/ noun a woman who has never had a child (Note: The plural is nulliparas or nulliparae.) 2. adjective referring to a woman who has never had a child

numb /nʌmb/ adjective 1. referring to a part of the body which has no feeling 2. unable to feel emotion

numbness /ˈnʌmbnəs/ noun a loss of feeling

nurse /nɜːs/ noun a person who looks after sick people in a hospital or helps a doctor in a local surgery. Some nurses may be trained to diagnose and treat patients. 2. She works as a nurse in the local hospital. 3. He’s training to be a nurse. 4. Nurse practitioner verb 1. to look after a sick person, or to be employed as a nurse 2. When he was ill his mother nursed him until he was better. 2. to behave so as not to aggravate a condition 3. nursing a sprained ankle (Note: nurses – nursing – nursed)

nurse executive director /nɜːs ɪɡˈzɛkˈtʊtɪv dəˈtɜːktəs/ 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 /nɜːs ˈmænɪdʒər/ noun a nurse who has administrative duties in a hospital or a health service

nurse practitioner /nɜːs ˈpræktɪʃənər/ 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 /ˈnɜːs ˈsteɪʃən/ noun a nursing a sprained ankle (Note: nurses – nursing – nursed)

nursing /ˈnɜːsɪŋ/ noun 1. the work or profession of being a nurse 2. He has chosen nursing as his career. 2. care for sick people provided by a nurse 3. 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 /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ənd ˈmɪdˌwɪfri/ noun in the UK, an organisation that sets standards for the education, practice and conduct of nurses, midwives and health visitors. Abbr NMC

nursing audit /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ˈædɪt/ 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 /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ˈdɛvəltməntjuːnt/ 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. Abbr NDU

nursing home /ˈnɜːsɪŋ həʊm/ noun a house where convalescents or dependent elderly people can live under medical supervision by a qualified nurse

nursing intervention /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ɪntəˈVENʃən/ noun the treatment of illness by nursing care, without surgery

nursing model /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ˈmɔdl/ 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 /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ˈmʌðər/ noun a mother who breast-feeds her baby

Nursing Officer /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ˈɒfʃər/ 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 /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ˈpræktɪs/ noun treatment given by nurses

nursing process /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ˈprəʊses/ noun a standard method of treatment and documentation of treatment carried out by nurses

nursing standard /ˈnɜːsɪŋ ˈstændəd/ 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 /ˈnjuːtən/ spasmus nutans
mutation /ˌnjuːtəˈʃjən/ 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 /njuːˈtrɪʃən/ noun 1. the study of the supply of nutrients to the body from digesting food 2. nourishment or food nutritional /njuːˈtrɪʃənl/ adjective referring to nutrition
nutritional anaemia /njuːˈtrɪʃənl əˈnɛmiə/ noun anaemia caused by an imbalance in the diet
nutritional disorder /njuːˈtrɪʃənl əˈdɪzər/ noun a disorder related to food and nutrients, e.g. obesity
nutritionist /njuːˈtrɪʃənist/ noun a person who specialises in the study of nutrition and advises on diets. (NOTE: dietitian)
nyct– /ˈnɪkt/ prefix night or darkness
nyctalopia /ˈnɪktələpia/ noun the condition of being unable to see in bad light. Also called night blindness
nyctophobia /ˈnɪktəfəʊbiə/ noun fear of the dark
nymphae /ˈnɪmfə/ plural noun same as labia minora
nymфе- /ˈnɪmfə/ prefix 1. female sexuality 2. nymphae
nymфомания /ˈnɪmfəməˈneɪʃən/ noun an obsessive sexual urge in a woman (NOTE: A similar condition in a man is called satyriasis.)
nymфоманиак /ˈnɪmfəmənɪəˈkæk/ 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 /ˈoʊt sɛl kɑrˈsəʊmə/ noun a type of cancer of the bronchi, with distinctive small cells

OB abbr obstetrics

obese /ˈəbzis/ adjective so overweight as to be at risk of several serious illnesses, including diabetes and heart disease

observations any bias or prejudice caused by personal feelings or rule says you should do

obiective /əbˈdʒektiv/ noun an aim or goal 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

oblige /ˈoblɪdʒ/ 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 /ˈəblɪk/ adjective lying at an angle 1. 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 /əˌblɪk ˈfɪsər/ noun a groove between the superior and inferior lobes of a lung. See illustration at lungs in Supplement

oblique fracture /əˌblɪk ˈfɪkrətʃər/ noun a fracture in which the bone is broken diagonally

oblique muscle /əˌblɪk ˈməskəl/ 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 /ˈoblɪtərɪt/ verb 1. to destroy something completely 2. to block a cavity completely [NOTE: obliteration = obliterated]

obliteration /ˈoblɪtərəʃən/ noun 1. the complete destruction of something 2. the complete blocking of something such as a cavity

oblongata /ˌoblʊŋəˈteɪtə/ 1. medulla oblongata

observable /əˈbɛzəvəˈbils/ noun which can be seen or measured

observation /əˌbɛzəˈveʃən/ noun the process of watching and examining a person or thing over a period of time 1. She was admitted to hospital for observation. 2. The nurses observed signs of improvement in the patient's condition. 3. The girl's mother observed symptoms of anorexia. 2. to watch a person or thing carefully in order to discover something 3. to observe the way in which the patient is lying 4. to take something into account 5. You're expected to observe the rules of conduct.

obsessed /əbˈsest/ adjective having an obsession 1. He is obsessed with the idea that someone is trying to kill him. 2. She has an obsession about cats.

obsession /əbˈsesʃən/ noun 1. something over and over again and indicates a mental disorder 2. an action such as washing which is repeated over and over again and indicates a mental disorder

obsessive-compulsive disorder /əbˈsesɪv kəmpˈpʌlsɪv/ noun a mental disorder characterised by the need to perform re-
Medicine.fm  Page 272  Thursday, November 20, 2003  4:26 PM

obstetric

peated ritual acts such as checking or cleaning, which can be treated with psychotherapy and antidepressants. Abbreviation OCD.

obstetric /abˈstɛstrɪk/ adj. obstetrical /abˈstɛstrɪkəl/ adj. pertaining or referring to obstetrics.

obstetrical forceps /abˈstɛstrikəl fɔrs/ m. forceps; plural n. a type of large forceps used to hold a baby’s head during childbirth.

obstetrician /ˌəbstɛstrɪˈʃən/ n. a doctor who specializes in obstetrics.

obstetric patient /əbˈstɛstrɪk ˈpeʃənt/ n. a woman who is being treated by an obstetrician.

obstetrics /əbˈstɛstrɪks/ n. a branch of medicine and surgery dealing with pregnancy, childbirth, and the period immediately after childbirth. Abbreviation OB.

obstipation /ˌəbstɪˈpeɪʃən/ n. severe constipation, often caused by a blockage in the intestines.

obstruct /abˈstrækt/ v. to block something.

obstruction /ˌəbstɪˈkʃən/ n. 1. something which blocks a passage or a blood vessel. 2. the blocking of a passage or blood vessel.

obstructive jaundice /əbˈstræktɪv ˈdʒəndɪs/ n. jaundice caused by an obstruction of the bile ducts. Also called posthepatic jaundice.

obstetrician /ˌəbstɛstrɪˈʃən/ n. obstetrician.

obstetrical forceps /ˌəbstɛstrɪˈkəl fɔrs/ m. used to hold a baby’s head during childbirth. Also known as obstetric forceps.

obstructed /əbˈstræktəd/ adj. (Note: The plural is obstructed, not obstructed.)

obstructive stroke /əbˈstræktɪv ˈstrɔuk/ n. a stroke caused by a blood clot.

obstipation /ˌəbstɪˈpeɪʃən/ n. 1. forcing your presence on others. 2. referring to a scar which is very noticeable.

obstruction /ˌəbstɪˈkʃən/ n. 1. the act of obstructing a body passage, or the state of a body passage when it is obstructed, e.g. by hard faeces.

obstructor /ˌəbstɪˈjʊərətər/ n. 1. one of two muscles in the pelvis which govern the movement of the hip and thigh. 2. a device which closes an opening, e.g. a dental prosthesis which covers a cleft palate. 3. a metal bulb which fits into a bronchoscope or sigmoidoscope.

obturator foramen /ˌəbstɪˈjʊərətər ˈfɔrəmən/ n. an opening in the hip bone near the acetabulum. See illustration at PELVIS in Supplement. (Note: The plural is obturator foramina.)

obtusion /əbˈtʃən/ n. a condition in which perception and feelings become dulled. (Note: Abbreviation OC.)

OC (oral contraceptive) /əˈskəprəs/ adj.

occipital /əˈskɪpɪtəl/ adj. referring to the back of the head. Also called occipital bone.

occipital bone /əˈskɪpɪtəl ˈbou̇n/ n. the bone at the back of the head. Also called occipital.

occipital condyle /əˈskɪpɪtəl ˈkəndəl/ n. a round part of the occipital bone which joins it to the atlas.

occipito-anterior /əˈskɪpɪtoʊ aʊnˈtərɪərɪə/ adj. referring to a position of a baby during birth, in which the baby faces the mother’s back.

occipito-posterior /əˈskɪpɪtoʊ poʊˈstərɪərɪə/ adj. referring to a position of a baby during birth in which the baby faces the front.

occiput /əˈskɪpʊt/ n. the lower part of the back of the head or skull. (Note: The plural is occiputs or occipita.)

occluded /əˈkludid/ adj. closed or blocked.

occclusion /əˈklʊʃən/ n. 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 stroke /əˈklʊsɪv ˈstrɔuk/ n. a stroke caused by a blood clot.

occlusive therapy /əˈklʊsɪv ˈθerəpi/ n. a treatment for a strain in which the good eye is covered up in order to encourage the squinting eye to become straight.

occult /əˈkʊlt/ adj. not easy to see with the naked eye. Opposite of overt. 2. referring to a symptom or sign which is hidden.

occult blood /əˈkʊlt ˈbloʊd/ n. very small quantities of blood in the faeces, which can only be detected by tests.

occupancy rate /əˈkəmpənsi rɛt/ n. the number of beds occupied in a hospital, shown as a percentage of all the beds.

occupation /əˈkəmpəʃən/ n. a job or work. 2. the state or fact of occupying something or of being occupied.

occupational /əˈkəmpəʃənl/ adj. referring to work.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>occupational asthma</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒkʃəˈpəʊʃənl əˈsthmə/ noun asthma caused by materials with which people come into contact at work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>occupational dermatitis</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒkʃəˈpəʊʃənl ˈdɛrəmətɪs/ noun dermatitis caused by materials touched at work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>occupational disease</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒkʃəˈpəʊʃənl ˈdiːzəs/ 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><strong>occupational hazard</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒkʃəˈpəʊʃənl ˈhæzdər/ noun a dangerous situation related to the working environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>occupational health nurse</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒkʃəˈpəʊʃənl ˈhelθ nərəs/ noun a nurse who deals with health problems of people at work. Abbr OH nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>occupational medicine</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒkʃəˈpəʊʃənl ˈmɛdɪsən/ noun the branch of medicine concerned with accidents and diseases connected with work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>occupational therapist</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒkʃəˈpəʊʃənl ˈθerəpɪst/ noun a qualified health professional who offers patients occupational therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>occupational therapy</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒkʃəˈpəʊʃənl ˈθerəpi/ 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><strong>occur</strong></td>
<td>/əˈkʌr/ verb 1. to take place ○ one of the most frequently occurring types of tumour ○ Thrombosis occurred in the artery. ○ a form of glaucoma which occurs in infants. 2. to come into a person’s mind ○ It occurred to her that she might be pregnant. (NOTE: occurring – occurred)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>occurrence</strong></td>
<td>/əˈkʌrəns/ noun something that takes place ○ Neuralgia is a common occurrence after shingles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OCD</strong></td>
<td>abbr obsessive-compulsive disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ochronosis</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒkrəˈnɒsɪs/ noun a condition in which cartilage, ligaments and other fibrous tissue become dark as a result of a metabolic disorder, and in which the urine turns black on exposure to air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ocular</strong></td>
<td>/əˈkjuːlər/ adjective referring to the eye ○ Opticians are trained to detect all kinds of ocular imbalance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ocular dominance</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɑːkʃəˈlər ˈdəʊmənəns/ noun a condition in which a person uses one eye more than the other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ocular prosthesis</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɑːkʃəˈlər ˈprɒsθiːsɪs/ noun a false eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>oculhi</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɑːkʃəˈljuː əˈkjuːləriəs əˈkjuːli/ ○ ophthalmologist ○ surgeon who specialises in the treatment of eye disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>oculo-</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɑːkʃəˈljuː/ prefix eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>oculogric</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɑːkʃəˈljuːə ˈdʒaːrɪk/ adjective causing eye movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>oculomotor</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɑːkʃəˈljuːə ˈməʊtər/ adjective referring to movements of the eyeball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>oculomotor nerve</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɑːkʃəˈljuːə ˈməʊtər ˈnɜːv/ noun the third cranial nerve which controls the eyeballs and eyelids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>oculonasal</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɑːkʃəˈljuːə ˈnəʊzəl/ adjective referring to both the eye and the nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>oculoplethysmography</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɑːkʃəˈljuːəˌplɛθɪsˈmɒɡrəfi/ noun measurement of the pressure inside the eyeball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OD</strong></td>
<td>abbr overdose ○ o.d. adverb (written on a prescription) every day. Full form omni die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ODA</strong></td>
<td>abbr operating department assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odont-</strong></td>
<td>/əˈdɒnt/ prefix same as odonto- (used before vowels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odontalgia</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒdɒntəˈlædʒə/ noun same as toothache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odontitis</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒdɒntəˈtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the pulpy interior of a tooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odontoid process</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒdɒntɔɪd ˈprɒsɛs/ noun a projecting part of a vertebra, shaped like a tooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odontology</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒdɒntəˈləʊdʒi/ noun the study of teeth and associated structures, and their disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odontoma</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒdɒntəˈtəʊmə, ˌɒdɒntəm/ 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><strong>odontoid</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒdɒntɔɪd/ adjective similar to a tooth, especially in shape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odontoid process</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒdɒntɔɪd ˈprɒsɛs/ noun an odontoid process of the axis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odontous</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒdɒntəs/ adjective with no smell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odyn-</strong></td>
<td>/əˈdɪn-/ prefix same as odyno- (used before vowels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odynia</strong></td>
<td>/əˈdɪniə/ suffix pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odyn-</strong></td>
<td>/əˈdɪnn-/ prefix pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odynophagia</strong></td>
<td>/ˌɒdɪnoʊˈfeɪdʒə/ noun a condition in which pain occurs when food is swallowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>odematous</strong></td>
<td>/ˌədɪməˈtəʊs/ adjective referring to oedema ○ Her main problem is oedema of the feet. Also called dropsy ○ tumescence (NOTE: The US spelling is edema.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>oedipus complex</strong></td>
<td>/ˌədɪpəs ˈkɒmplɛks/ 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>
</tbody>
</table>
| **oesophag-**                    | /əˈsɒfəɡ-/ prefix same as oesophage ○ oesophage ○ oesophago- (used before vowels)
A synthetic form of oestradiol is given as treatment in which the mucous membrane lining the oesophagus blocking it from the stomach or by infection formation of the oesophagus, caused by acid juice through which the oesophagus passes.

Oesophagostomy /ˌɔsəfəˌɡɔs,təmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove part of the oesophagus (note: the plural is oesophagostomies.)

Oesophagi /ˌɔsəfəˈɡaɪ/ plural of oesophagus

Oesophagitis /ˌɔsəfəˈɡaɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the oesophagus, caused by acid juices from the stomach or by infection

Oesophago- /ˈɔsəfəɡɒʊ/ prefix oesophagus (note: the US spelling is esophago-)

Oesophagogastroduodenoscopy /ˌɔsəfəˈɡɒs,təˌdrʊdəˈnəʊsəpɪ/ noun a surgical operation to examine the wall of the oesophagus protrudes through the wall

Oesophagogastrostomy /ˌɔsəfəˈɡɔsˌɡɒstrəˌstəmi/ noun a surgical operation in which a tube is put down into the oesophagus so that the doctor can examine it, the stomach and the duodenum. Abbr OGD (note: the plural is oesophagogastrostomies.)

Oesophagojejunostomy /ˌɔsəfəˌɡɔsˌdʒiˈjuːnəˌstəmi/ 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)

Oesophagoscope /ˌɔsəfəˈɡɔskəʊs/ noun a thin tube with a light at the end, which is passed down the oesophagus to examine it

Oesophagoscop y /ˌɔsəfəˌɡɔskəʊpi/ noun an examination of the oesophagus with an oesophagoscope (note: the plural is oesophagoscopies.)

Oesophagogastrectomy /ˌɔsəfəˌɡɔsˌɡæstrɪˌkrəˌtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove part of the oesophagus and stomach (note: the plural is oesophagogastrectomies.)

Oesophagus /ˌɔsəfəˈɡæs/ 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 /ˌɛstrəˈdiəl/ 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 /ˌɛstrɪəˈrɪəl/ noun a placental hormone with oestrogenic properties, found in the urine of pregnant women (note: the US spelling is estriol.)

Oestrogen /ˌɛstrəˈrɪn/ noun any steroid hormone which stimulates the development of secondary sexual characteristics in females at puberty (note: the US spelling is estrogen.)

Oestrogenic hormone /ˌɛstrəˈrɪnɪk ˌhɔrˈməʊn/ noun synthetic oestrogen used to treat conditions which develop during menopause (note: the US spelling is estrogenic hormone.)

Oestron /ˌɛstrəˈrɒn/ noun a type of oestrogen produced in the ovaries (note: the US spelling is estrone.)

Official /ˈɔfiʃəl/ adjective 1. accepted or permitted by an authority. 2. constituting an authority

Official drug /ˈɔfiʃəl ˈdrʌɡ/ noun any drug listed in the national pharmacopoeia

Officially /ˈɔfiʃəlɪ/ adverb in a way that is approved by an authority or officially listed as a dangerous drug

OGD abbr oesophagogastroscopy

OH nurse /ˈoʊ h ˈɜːrtʃ/ abbr occupational health nurse

Oil /oʊl/ 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 /ˈɒɪntmənt/ noun a smooth oily medicinal preparation which can be spread on the skin to soothe or to protect

Old age /ˈɔld əˈdʒiː/ noun a period in a person’s life, usually taken to be after the age of sixty-five

Oleaginous /ˌɒləˈɡɛnəs/ adjective same as oily

Olecranon /əˈlɛkrəˌnɒn/ noun the bony projection 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 /əˈliːık/ adjective referring to oil

Oleic acid /əˈliːık ˈæsid/ noun a fatty acid which is present in most oils

Oleo- /əˈliːʊə/ prefix oil

Oleum /əˈliːəm/ noun oil (used in pharmacy)
which a person does not produce enough urine

gives an edible oil

part of the brain that registers smell

born without some fingers or toes

cieve information about smell

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 nerve /ˈɒlfæktəri/ noun the first cranial nerve which controls the sense of smell

Doxazosin /dɒksəˈzɒsɪn/ a beta blocker used for lower urinary tract symptoms due to benign prostatic enlargement

omeprazole /ˈɒmɛprəzɔːl/ a drug which reduces the amount of acid released in the stomach, used in the treatment of ulcers and heartburn

omephal - /ˌɒmfəl-/ prefix same as omphalo- (used before vowels)

omphalocele /ˌɒmpfələˈsɛl/ a hernia in which the intestine protrudes through the abdominal wall near the navel

Onchocerciasis /ɒŋkəˈsɪsɪs/ an infestation with tropical parasitic threadworms

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 ourselves. An oncogene is a gene that encodes a protein that contributes to the malignant phenotype of the cell [British Medical Journal]
oncogenesis /ˌɒŋkəˈdʒenəsɪs/ noun the origin and development of a tumour
oncogenic /ˌɒŋkəˈdʒenɪk/ adjective causing tumours to develop or an oncogenic virus
oncologist /ɒnˈkələdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in oncology, especially cancer
oncology /ɒnˈkələdʒi/ noun the scientific study of new growths, especially cancers
oncolysis /ˌɒŋkəˈlɪsɪs/ noun the destruction of a tumour or of tumour cells
oncometer /ˌɒŋkəˈmɪtər/ noun 1, an instrument for measuring swelling in an arm or leg using changes in their blood pressure 2, an instrument for measuring the variations in size of the kidney and other organs of the body
ontogeny /ˌɒnˌtədʒiˈneɪ/ noun the origin and development of an individual organism
onset /ˈɒnset/ noun the beginning of something The onset of the illness is marked by sudden high temperature.
onstomach /ˌɒnˈstɒmətʃ/ noun a surgical operation to remove an ovary. Also called ovariotomy (NOTE: The plural is ovariostomies.)
onychialgia /ˌɒnɪˈkʰjələdʒɪə/ noun pain in the ovaries
onychomadesis /ˌɒnɪˌkʰjəˈmeɪdɪsɪs/ noun a condition in which the nails fall out
onychosis /ˌɒnɪˌkʰjəˈsɪsɪs/ noun a condition in which the nails are bent or curved over the ends of the fingers or toes
onycholysis /ˌɒnɪˌkʰjəˈlaɪsɪs/ noun a condition in which a nail becomes separated from its bed, without falling out
onychomadesis /ˌɒnɪˌkʰjəˈmeɪdɪsɪs/ noun a condition in which the nails fall out
onychomycoysis /ˌɒnɪˌkʰjəˈmɔːrəˌkʰjəˈmeɪdɪsɪs/ noun an infection of a nail with a fungus
onychosis /ˌɒnɪˌkʰjəˈsɪsɪs/ noun any disease of the nails (NOTE: The plural is onychoses.)
oo. /əʊ/ verb 1. (of pus, blood or other liquid) to flow slowly 2. to leak a substance such as pus or blood (NOTE: oozing – oozed)
ooˈpəʊtɪk /ˈɒnˌpəʊtɪk/ adjective not allowing light to pass through. Opposite transparent
open /ˈoʊpən/ adjective not closed
operable /ˈoperəbl/ adjective referring to a condition which can be treated by a surgical operation
operating department /ˈɒpəreɪtɪŋ dɪˈpɑrtmənt/ noun a hospital department specialising in surgical operations
operating theatre /ˈɒpəreɪtɪŋ θɪəˈtreɪ/ noun a special room in a hospital, where surgical operations are carried out (NOTE: The US term is operating room.)
operation /ˈɑpərəʃən/ noun 1. the way in which something operates 2. a surgical procedure carried out to repair or remove a damaged body part 3. the way in which a drug acts
operative /ˈɒpərətɪv/ adjective taking place during a surgical operation.
operator /ˈɒpərətər/ noun 1. someone whose job is to operate a machine or piece of equipment 2. a surgeon who operates on a patient.
operating microscope /ˈɒpərətɪŋ mikˈsəskəʊp/ noun a special microscope with two eyepieces and a light, used in very delicate surgery
operating room /ˈɑpərətɪŋ ɹʊm/ noun US same as operating theatre. Abbrev OR
ophthalmology /ˌɒfθælˈmɒlədʒi/ noun the study of the eye and its diseases. Also called eye specialist
ophthalmoscope /ˌɒfθælˈmɒskəʊp/ noun an instrument containing a bright light and small lenses, used by a doctor to examine the inside of an eye
ophthalmoscopy /ˌɒfθælˈmɒskəʊpi/ noun an examination of the inside of an eye using an ophthalmoscope (NOTE: The plural is ophthalmoscopies.)
ophthalmotomy /ˌɒfθælˈmɒtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut in the eyeball (NOTE: The plural is ophthalmotomies.)
ophthalmotonometer /ˌɒfθɪməˈtɒnəmətər/ noun an instrument which measures pressure inside the eye

-opia /ˈɒpiə/ suffix eye condition

opiate /ˈɒpiət/ noun a sedative which is prepared from opium, e.g. morphine or codeine

opinion /ˈɒpʃən/ 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.

opioid /ˈɒpɪəʊd/ adjective based on opium ○ Codeine is an opioid analgesic.

opisthoptonos /ˌɒpɪsthoʊˈpɒnəʊs/ 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

opponents /ˌɒpəʊnənts/ 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 /ˌɔpəˈrʊnist/; opportunistic /ˌɔpəˈrʊnɪst/ adjective referring to a parasite or microorganism which takes advantage of the host’s weakened state to cause infection

opposition /ˌɔpəˈzɪʃn/ 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

opsionic index /ˌɒpsoʊnɪk ˈɪndeks/ noun a number which gives the strength of a person’s serum reaction to bacteria

opsin /ˈɒpsɪn/ noun a substance, usually an antibody, in blood which sticks to the surface of bacteria and helps to destroy them

optic /ˈɒptɪk/ adjective referring to the eye or to sight

optical /ˈɒptɪkl/ adjective 1. same as optic 2. relating to the visible light spectrum

optical fibre /ˈɒptɪkl ˈfɜːbə/ noun an artificial fibre which can carry light or images

optical illusion /ˈɒptɪkl ɪˌluːʃən/ noun something which is seen wrongly so that it appears to be something else

optic chiasma /ˈɒptɪk kɪəˈzma/ 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 /ˌɒfθɪməˈlɪk/ adjective relating to the visible light spectrum

ophthalmic optician (note: In US English, an optician is a technician who makes lenses and fits glasses, but cannot test patient’s eyesight.)

ophthalmologist /ˌɒfθɪməˈlɒdʒəst/ noun a medical doctor who specializes in the study of diseases of the eye and prescribing of lenses to correct sight

cholesterol /ˈkɒlərəʊsɒl/ noun a lipid which is made by the liver from carbohydrates and is needed by cells for the formation of cell membranes and bile acids

oral cavity /ˈɔːrəl ˈkeɪvəti/ noun the mouth

oral contraceptive /ˈɔːrəl ˈkɔntrəˈkæpkływətɪv/ noun a contraceptive pill which is swallowed ○ an oral contraceptive

oral hygiene /ˈɔːrəl ˈhɑːrdʒɪni/ noun the practice of keeping the mouth clean by gargling and mouthwashes

oral medication /ˈɔːrəl ˈmeɪdʒɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun administration of medication by swallowing ○ a form of medication

oral rehydration solution /ˈɔːrəl ˈriːhydrəʃən ˈsəluʃən/ noun a liquid given as a drink to correct the water, mineral and nutritional deficiencies in a person who is affected by dehydration ○ oral rehydration therapy /ˈɔːrəl ˈriːhydrəʃən ˈθerəpi/ 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 /ˈɔːrəl ˈθərnəmətər/ noun a thermometer which is put into the mouth to take someone’s temperature
cal operation to place an undescended testis in
or apparently natural way
The plural is
or disorder associated with physical changes
ticular purpose
organisation noun 1, a group of people set up for a particular purpose 2, the planning or arranging of something 3 the organisation of the rota 3, the
way in which the component parts of something are arranged
organism /ɔrˈɡænɪzəm/ noun any single plant, animal, bacterium, fungus or other living thing
organ transplantation /ɔrˈɡæn ˌtrænspɔlˈneɪʃən/ a surgical operation to transplant an organ from one person to another
organism /ɔrˈɡænɪzəm/ noun the climax of a sexual act, when a person experiences a moment of great excitement
oriental sore /ˈɔrɪənt(ə)l ˈsɔr/ noun a skin disease of tropical countries caused by the parasite Leishmania. 5 leishmaniasis
orthodontia /ɔrθəˈdɒntiə/ cancram oris, orbicularis oris
ornithine /ɔrˈnɪθɪn/ noun an amino acid produced by the liver
ornithosis /ɔrˈnɪθəsɪs/ noun a disease of birds which can be passed to humans as a form of pneumonia
oral /ˈɔrɪəl/ prefix mouth
organogenesis /ˌɔrɡəˈnɛdʒənəsɪs/ noun the development of organs and their structures in early embryonic development from a fertilised egg
organogenesis /ˌɔrɡəˈnɛdʒənəsɪs/ noun the development of organs and their structures in early embryonic development from a fertilised egg
organogenesis /ˌɔrɡəˈnɛdʒənəsɪs/ noun the development of organs and their structures in early embryonic development from a fertilised egg
orthodontia /ɔrθəˈdɒntiə/ noun US same as orthodontics
orthodontics /ˌɔrθəˈdɒntɪks/ noun the branch of dentistry dealing with the correction of malocclusions.

279

cancram oris, orbicularis oris

279

orthodontia

279

cancram oris, orbicularis oris

279

orthodontia

279

cancram oris, orbicularis oris

279

orthodontia
orthodontic /ˌɔːθəˈdɔntɪk/ adjective correcting badly formed or placed teeth  
He had to undergo a course of orthodontic treatment.

orthodontics /ˌɔːθəˈdɔntɪkɪs/ noun a branch of dentistry which deals with correcting badly formed teeth (NOTE: The US term is orthodontia.)

orthodontist /ˌɔːθəˈdɔntɪst/ noun a dental surgeon who specialises in correcting badly placed teeth

orthopaedic /ˌɔːθəˈpiːdɪk/ 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 /ˌɔːθəˌpiːdɪk ˈkɔlə/ noun a special strong collar to support the head of a person with neck injuries or a condition such as cervical spondylosis

orthopaedic hospital /ˌɔːθəˈpiːdɪk ˈɔsəpi/ noun a hospital which specialises in operations to correct badly formed joints or bones

orthopaedics /ˌɔːθəˈpiːdɪks/ noun a branch of surgery dealing with irregularities, diseases and injuries of the locomotor system (NOTE: The US spelling is orthopedics.)

orthopaedic surgeon /ˌɔːθəˈpiːdɪk ˈsɜːrˌdʒɪn/ noun a surgeon who specialises in orthopaedics

orthopaedist /ˌɔːθəˈpiːdɪst/ noun a surgeon who specialises in orthopaedics

orthopnoea /ˌɔːθəˈpiːnɪə/ noun a condition in which a person has great difficulty in breathing while lying down. (NOTE: The US spelling is orthopnea.)

orthopnoeic /ˌɔːθəˈpiːnɪk/ adjective referring to or used in orthopnoea (NOTE: The US spelling is orthopneic.)

orthopsychiatry /ˌɔːθəˈsɒsfɪstri/ noun the science and treatment of behavioural and personality disorders

orthoptics /ˌɔːθəˈpɒptɪks/ noun the study of methods used to treat squints

orthoptist /ˌɔːθəˈpɒptɪst/ noun an eye specialist, working in an eye hospital, who treats squints and other disorders of eye movement

orthoptoscope /ˌɔːθəˈpɒptəskəʊp/ noun same as amblyoscope

orthosis /ˌɔːθəˈsɒsɪs/ 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 orthoses.)

orthostatic /ˌɔːθəˈstætɪk/ adjective referring to the position of the body when standing up straight

orthostatic hypotension /ˌɔːθəˈstætɪk ˈhɑːpəˌtenʃən/ noun a common condition where the blood pressure drops when a person stands up suddenly, causing dizziness

orthotics /ˌɔːθəˈtɪks/ 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 /ˌɔːθəˈtɪst/ noun a qualified person who fits orthoses

Ortolani's sign /ˌɔrˌtələˈni sain/ /ˌɔrˌtələˈni ˌsaɪn/ Ortolani manoeuvre /ˌɔrtəˈlənɪ maʊˈnəʊvər/ Ortolani's test /ˌɔrtəˈlənɪ tɛst/ noun a test for congenital dislocation of the hip in babies aged 6–12, in which the hip makes sharp sounds if the joint is rotated [Described 1937. After Marius Ortolani, Italian orthopaedic surgeon.]

os /ˈoʊs/ noun (technical) 1. a bone (NOTE: The plural is ossa.) 2. the mouth (NOTE: The plural is ora.)

OSA abbr obstructive sleep apnoea

oscillation /ˌɔsəˈleʃən/ noun 1. the action of moving backwards and forwards between two points at a regular speed 2. a single movement between two points

oscilloscope /ˌɔsəˈləskəʊp/ 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 /ˌoʊskjuːləm/ noun a small opening or pore (NOTE: The plural is oscula.)

-os /ˈoʊs/ suffix disease

Osler's nodes /ˈɔsələz ˈnəʊdz/ 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- /ˈoʊzm-/ prefix 1. smell 2. osmosis

osmoreceptor /ˌoʊzəˈrɛkˈtərəp/ /ˈoʊsmərɪˈkətərəp/ 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 /ˈoʊzməsɪs/ 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 /ˈoʊzm, ˈmɔrtɪk/ noun the pressure required to stop the flow of a solvent through a membrane

ossa /ˈɔsə/ plural of os noun 1

osseous /ˈoʊsəs/ adjective referring to or resembling bone

osseous labynrinth /ˈoʊsəs ˈlæbəriŋθ/ noun same as bony labyrinth

ossicle /ˈɒskiəl/ noun a small bone

COMMENT: The auditory ossicles pick up the vibrations from the eardrum and transmit them through the oval window to the cochlea in the inner ear. The three bones are articulat-ed together; the stapes is attached to the membrane of the oval window, the malleus to
hausen's disease

tached from the joint surface
von Reckling
ation of cysts, in which bone tissue is replaced

vowels)
dromas
ing pain and a limp, probably due to circula-
laginous cells
become stiff and painful. Also called

/vertstrokeinferiordrats /vertstrokesuperiordsək/ashnz
osteochondritis dissecans
osteochondritis
degeneration of the epiphyses
osteochondritis disseccans

/vertstrokeinferiordrats /vertstrokesuperiordsək/ashnz
osteochondritis dissecans
osteochondritis
osteochondritis

osteoplasty

osteoplasty

osteoplasty

osteoplasty

osteoplasty

osteoplasty

osteoplasty

osteoplasty
osteoporosis 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 post-menopausal 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 noun a malignant tumour of bone cells (NOTE: The plural is osteosarcomas or osteosarcomata.)

osteosclerosis noun a condition in which the bony spaces become hardened as a result of persistent inflammation

osteotomy noun a type of chisel used by surgeons to cut bone

OSTC drug noun an over-the-counter drug, and does not need a prescription. Full form over the counter

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 noun an over-the-counter drug

otic ganglion noun a ganglion associated with the mandibular nerve where it leaves the skull

otitis noun inflammation of the ear

otitis externa noun inflammation of the outer ear

otitis interna noun inflammation of the inner ear. Also called labyrinthitis

otitis media noun infection of the middle ear, usually accompanied by headaches and fever. Also called middle ear infection, tympanitis

oto- prefix ear

otolaryngologist noun a doctor who specialises in treatment of diseases of the ear and throat

otolaryngology noun the study of diseases of the ear and throat
outlet /'autlet/ noun an opening or channel through which something can go out
outpatient /'autpeʃ(ont)/ noun someone who comes to a hospital for treatment but does not stay overnight. Abbrev OP. Compare inpatient
outpatient's department /'autpeʃ(ont)s d'tpeʃmənt/ noun
outpatients' clinic /'autpeʃ(ont)s kλiʃn/ noun a department of a hospital which deals with outpatients
outreach /'autritʃ/ noun services provided for patients or the public in general, outside a hospital or clinic
ova /'ʌvə/ plural of ovum
oval window /'ɔvəl, 'wɪndəʊ/ noun an oval opening between the middle ear and the inner ear. Also called fenestra ovalis. See illustration at EAR in Supplement
ovar- /'ɔvər/- prefix same as ovari- (used before vowels)
ovaria /'ɔvəriə/ noun pain in the ovaries. Also called ovaralgia
ovari- /'ɔvəri/- prefix ovaries
ovarialgia /'ɔvəriəldʒiə/ noun same as ovaralgia
ovarian /'ɔvərɪəriən/ adjective referring to the ovaries
ovarian cancer /'ɔvərɪəriən 'kænsər/ noun a malignant tumour of the ovary, which occurs especially after the menopause
ovarian cycle /'ɔvərɪəriən 'sʌrk(ə)l/ noun the regular changes in the ovary during a woman's reproductive life
ovarian cyst /'ɔvərɪəriən 'sɪst/ noun a cyst which develops in the ovaries
ovarian follicle /'ɔvərɪəriən 'fɔlɪk(ə)l/ noun a cell which contains an ovum. Also called Graafian follicle
ovariectomy /'ɔvərɪərɪ'ektəmɪ/ noun same as oophorectomy (NOTE: The plural is ovariectomies.)
ovariocele /'ɔvərɪəriəsəli/ noun a hernia of an ovary
ovariotomy /'ɔvərɪərɪətəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove an ovary or a tumour in an ovary (NOTE: The plural is ovariotomies.)
ovaritis /'ɔvərɪərɪtɪs/ noun same as oophoritis
ovary /'ɔvərɪəri/ noun one of two organs in a woman which produce ova or egg cells and secrete the female hormone oestrogen. 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 oophor-). oophor- /'ɔvərəʊ/- prefix too much overbite /'ɔvərbæt/ 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 /'ɔvərkəm/ verb 1. to fight something and win 2. to make a person lose consciousness (NOTE: Two people were overcome by smoke in the fire. (NOTE: overcoming – overcome – overcome))
overcompensate /'ɔvərkəmpənseɪt/ verb to try too hard to cover the effects of a condition or quality (NOTE: overcompensating – overcompensated)
overcompensation /'ɔvərkəmpən'zeɪʃən/ 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 /'ɔvərdəʊ/ verb 1. to do too much exercise (internal) 2. She overdid it, working until 9 o'clock every evening. 3. He has been overdoing things and has to rest.
overdose /'ɔvərəʊdiːs/ noun a dose of a drug which is larger than the recommended or usual dose
overeating /'ɔvərɪətɪŋ/ noun eating too much food
overexertion /'ɔvərɪəzərʃən/ noun doing too much physical work or taking too much exercise
overflow incontinence /'ɔvərfləʊ ɪn'kɒnˈtɪnəns/ noun a leakage of urine because the bladder is too full
overgrow /'ɔvərgrəʊ/ verb (of a tissue) to grow over another tissue (NOTE: overgrown)
overgrowth /'ɔvərgrəʊθ/ noun a growth of tissue over another tissue
overjet /'ɔvərˌdʒet/ noun a space which separates the top incisors from the bottom incisors when the jaws are closed
overlap /'ɔvərlæp/ noun (of bandages, etc.) to lie partly on top of another (NOTE: overlapping – overlapped)
overprescribe /'ɔvərpɛrˈskɹəb/ verb to issue too many prescriptions for something (NOTE: overprescribing – overprescribed)
overproduction /'ɔvərpərˌdʌkʃən/ noun the act of producing too much of something (NOTE: The condition is caused by overproduction of thyroxine by the thyroid gland.
oversew /ˈəʊvəsɔː/ verb to sew a patch of tissue over a perforation (note: oversewing — oversewn — oversew)

overt /ˈəʊvət/ adjective easily seen with the naked eye. Opposite occult

over-the-counter drug /ˌəʊvər ˈθi: kəntə dɹʌk/ noun a drug which you can buy from a pharmacy without a doctor’s prescription. Also called OTC drug

overweight /ˌəʊvər ˈwɛt/ adjective fatter and heavier than is medically advisable. ○ He is several kilos overweight for his age and height.

overwork /ˌəʊvər wɜːk/ noun too much work. ○ He collapsed from overwork. ■ verb to work too much, or make something work too much. ○ He has been overworking his heart.

overwrought /ˌəʊvər rɔʊt/ adjective very tense and nervous

ovl-/əʊvl/ prefix eggs or ova

oviduct /ˌəʊvɪdʌkt/ noun same as Fallopian tube

ovulate /ˌəʊvjuːlɪt/ verb to release a mature ovum into a Fallopian tube (note: ovulating — ovulated)

ovulation /ˌəʊvjuːleɪʃn/ noun the release of an ovum from the mature ovarian follicle into the Fallopian tube

ovum /ˌəʊvəm/ noun a female egg cell which, when fertilised by a spermatozoon, begins to develop into an embryo (note: The plural is ova. For other terms referring to ova, see words beginning with oo—)

-oxacin /noksiən/ suffix quinolone drug ○ ciprofloxacin

oxidase /nɒksɪdæz/ noun an enzyme which encourages oxidation by removing hydrogen.

monoamine oxidase

oxidation /ˌɒksɪdəʃn/ noun the action of making oxides by combining with oxygen or removing hydrogen.

COMMENT: Carbon compounds form oxides when metabolised with oxygen in the body, producing carbon dioxide.

oxide /ˌɒksaɪd/ noun a compound formed with oxygen

oximeter /ˌɒksɪˈmɪtə/ noun an instrument which measures the amount of oxygen in something, especially in blood

oxybutynin /ˌɑksɪbjuːtənɪn/ oxybutin noun a drug which reduces the need to pass urine

oxycephalic /ˌɑksɪsˌkefəlɪk/ adjective referring to oxycephaly

oxycephaly /ˌɑksɪsˈkefəlɪ/ noun a condition in which the skull is shaped into a point, with exophthalmos and poor sight. Also called turricephaly

oxygeen /ˌɑksɪdʒən/ noun a chemical element that is a common colourless gas 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 /ˌɑksɪdʒənət/ verb to combine blood with oxygen (note: oxygenating — oxygenated)

oxygenated blood /ˌɑksɪdʒənətɪd ˈblʌd/ noun 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 /ˌɑksɪdʒəˈneɪʃn/ noun the fact of becoming combined or filled with oxygen. ○ Blood is carried along the pulmonary artery to the lungs for oxygenation.

oxygenerator /ˌɑksɪdʒəˈɡenətər/ noun a machine which puts oxygen into the blood, used as an artificial lung in surgery.

oxyg-en cylinder /ˌɑksɪdʒən sɪˈlɪndər/ noun a heavy metal tube which contains oxygen and is connected to a patient’s oxygen mask.

oxygen mask /ˌɑksɪdʒən ˈmeɪsk/ noun a mask connected to a supply of oxygen, which can be put over the face to help someone with breathing difficulties.

oxygent /ˌɑksɪdʒənt/ noun a type of cover put over a person so that he or she can breathe in oxygen.

oxygen therapy /ˌɑksɪdʒən ˈθerəpi/ noun any treatment involving the administering of oxygen, e.g. in an oxygen tent or in emergency treatment for heart failure.

oxyhaemoglobin /ˌɑksɪhiːməˈɡləʊbɪn/ 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 /ˌɑksɪtɪk/ adjective referring to glands and cells in the stomach which produce acid.

oxytropic /ˌɑksɪtəˈprɒtɪk/ noun a cell in the gastric gland which secretes hydrochloric acid. Also called parietal cell

oxytetracycline /ˌɑksɪtəˈtɜːrklaɪn/ noun an antibiotic which is effective against a wide range of organisms.

oxytocic /ˌɑksɪtəˈtɒsɪk/ noun a drug which helps to start the process of childbirth, or speeds it up. ■ adjective starting or speeding up childbirth by causing contractions in the muscles of the uterus.

oxytocin /ˌɑksɪtəˈsɪn/ noun a hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland, which controls 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.

**oxygen** /ˈoʊdʒən/ noun a gas present in the atmosphere in small quantities, which is harmful at high levels of concentration

**ozone** /ˈoʊzn/ 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*.)

**ozena** /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*.)

**oxyuriasis** /ˌɒksjuˈrɪəsɪs/ noun same as *enterobiasis*

**oxyuris** /ˌɒksjʊˈrɪs/ noun same as *Enterobius*

**ozaena** /ˈoʊzaɪnə/ 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 sickness** /ˈoʊznˌsɪknəs/ 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.

**ozone** /ˈoʊzn/ noun a gas present in the atmosphere in small quantities, which is harmful at high levels of concentration

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P is a substance P
Pa abbr pascal
pacemaker /ˈpæsmeɪkər/ noun 1. a node in the heart which regulates the heartbeat. Also called sinoatrial node, SA node 2. a cardiac pacemaker, epicardial pacemaker
COMENT: An electrode is usually attached to the epicardium and linked to the device which can be implanted in various positions in the chest.
pachy- /ˈpæki/ prefix thickening
pachydermy /ˌpækiˈdɛrmi/ noun a condition in which the fingers and toes become thicker than usual
pachyderma /ˌpækiˈdɛrma/ noun a condition in which the skin becomes thicker than normal
pachymeningitis /ˌpækiˌmɛnˈdʒɪntɪs/ noun inflammation of the dura mater
pachymeninx /ˌpækiˌmɛnˈnɪŋks/ noun same as dura mater
pachyonychia /ˌpækiˈɒnkiə/ noun unusual thickness of the nails
pachyosmia /ˌpækiˈɒzmiə/ noun a condition in which soft tissues of the body become unusually thick
pacifier /ˈpæskiˈfɪər/ noun US a child’s dummy
pacing /ˈpæskiŋ/ noun a surgical operation to implant or attach a cardiac pacemaker
Pacinian corpuscle /ˌpæskiˈnɪən kəˈpɜːsəl/ noun a sensory nerve ending in the skin which is sensitive to touch and vibrations
pack /ˈpæk/ 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.
packed cell volume /ˈpækkt ˈsel ˈvoljum/ 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 ˈʌp/ 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 paeo- (used before vowels) (NOTE: The US spelling is ped-.)
paediatric /ˌpiːdɪˈetrɪk/ 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 /ˌpiːdɪˈetrɪʃən/ noun a doctor who specialises in the treatment of diseases of children
paediatrics /ˌpiːdɪˈetrɪksi/ noun the study of children, their development and diseases. Compare geriatrics
paedo- /ˈpiːdəʊ-/ prefix referring to children
paedodontia /ˌpiːdəˈdɒntiə/ noun another spelling of pedodontia
Paget’s disease /ˈpædʒɪts dərˈmənts/ 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 /ˈpeɪn/ noun the feeling of severe discomfort which a person has when hurt 1. The doctor gave him an injection to relieve the pain. 2. She is suffering from back pain. (NOTE: Pain can be used in the plural to show that it recurs: She has pains in her left leg.) 2. to be in great
pallialgia /paˈleɪliɡə/ noun plastic surgery of the roof of the mouth, e.g. to repair a cleft palate
palatalgia /paˈleɪtlɪɡə/ noun paralysis of the soft palate
palatoplasty /paˈleɪtəˈplæstɪ/ noun surgical operation to suture and close a cleft palate. Also called stabylorrhaphy, uraniscorrhaphy
palatal /paˈleɪtlə/ adjective referring to the palate
palatoglossal arch /paˈleɪtəˈɡlɒsəl/ noun a fold between the tongue and the palate, anterior to the tonsil
palatoglossal arch /paˈleɪtəˈɡlɒsəl/ noun a fold between the soft palate and the tongue, anterior to the tonsil
palatopharyngeal arch /paˈleɪtəˈfærniŋ/ noun a fold between the soft palate and the pharynx, posterior to the tonsil
palatoplasty /paˈleɪtəˈplæstɪ/ noun plastic surgery of the roof of the mouth, e.g. to repair a cleft palate.

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 synalgia.

pain clinic /ˈpeɪn klɪnɪk/ noun a centre which looks after people with severe persistent pain and whose staff include professionals from many specialist areas of medicine

painful /ˈpeɪnfəl/ adjective causing pain
She has a painful skin disease. 0. His foot is so painful he can hardly walk. 0. Your eye looks very red – is it very painful?
painkiller /ˈpeɪnlɪkəl/ noun a drug that reduces pain
painless /ˈpeɪnlɛs/ adjective not causing pain
a painless method of removing warts

palace /ˈpeɪs/ noun a centre
cultural and educational centre

palate /ˈpeɪt/ noun the roof of the mouth and floor of the nasal cavity, formed of the hard and soft palates

paint /pɛnt/ noun a coloured antiseptic, analgesic or astrinvent liquid which is put on the surface of the body

palatine bone /ˈpeɪtən/ 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 palatal bone

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palatal arch /ˈpeɪtəl/ noun a fold of tissue between the soft palate and the pharynx

palatal /ˈpeɪtəl/ adjective referring to the palate

palate /ˈpeɪt/ noun the roof of the mouth and floor of the nasal cavity, formed of the hard and soft palates

pain /peɪn/ noun to have very sharp pains which are difficult to bear

palmar /ˈpeɪmər/ adjective

pale /peɪl/ adjective
Her face looked pale.

pallid /peɪlɪd/ adjective

pallidotomy /ˈpeɪlɪdɒtəmɪ/ noun an operation on the brain which can reduce many of the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease, such as tremor, bradykinesia and bent posture

palliative care /ˈpeɪliətɪv/ noun palliative care

palliative care /ˈpeɪliətɪv/ noun palliative treatment

palliative care /ˈpeɪliətɪv/ noun palliative treatment

palpate /ˈpeɪpət/ verb to cover a wound with an antiseptic, analgesic or astrinvent liquid or lotion
She painted the rash with calamine.
painter’s colic /ˈpeɪntərz ˈkɒlkɪ/ noun a form of lead poisoning caused, especially formerly, by working with paint

palatal /ˈpeɪtəl/ adjective referring to the palate

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palatine tonsil /ˈpeɪtən ˈtɒnsɪl/ noun same as tonsil

palatine /ˈpeɪtən/ adjective referring to the palate

palmar /ˈpeɪmər/ adjective

palmar /ˈpeɪmər/ adjective referring to the palm of the hand

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palmar /ˈpeɪmər/ adjective referring to the palm of the hand
palmar arch 288

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 ɪntər ˈɪntrəsiəs/ noun a deep muscle between the bones in the hand

palmar region /ˈpælmər ˈrɪdʒ(ə)n/ noun an area of skin around the palm

glut eae 1. able to be felt when touched 2. able to be examined with the hand

... palpation 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]

palpate /ˈpælpət/ verb to examine part of the body by feeling it with the hand

palpation /ˈpælpəʃ(ə)n/ noun an examination of part of the body by feeling it with the hand

palpebra /ˈpælpɪbrə/ noun same as eyelid (NOTE: The plural is palpebrae.)

palpebral /ˈpælpɪbrəl/ adjective referring to the eyelid

palpitate /ˈpælpɪteɪt/ verb to beat rapidly or irregularly

palpitation /ˈpælpɪteɪʃ(ə)n/ 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 /ˈpænəsɪəs/ noun a medicine which is supposed to cure everything

Panadol /ˈpænədɔl/ a trade name for paracetamol

panarthritis /ˌpænərˈərɑːtɪs/ noun inflammation of all the tissues of a joint or of all the joints in the body

panarthritis /ˌpænərəˈrɑːtɪs/ noun inflammation of all the tissues in the heart, i.e. the heart muscle, the endocardium and the pericardium

pancreas /ˌpæŋkriˈeɪs/ 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 /ˌpæŋkriˈeɪtətəmi/ noun the surgical removal of all or part of the pancreas

pancreatic /ˌpæŋkriˈeɪtɪk/ adjective referring to the pancreas

pancreatic duct /ˌpæŋkriˈeɪtɪk dəkt/ noun a duct leading through the pancreas to the duodenum

pancreatic juice /ˌpæŋkriˈeɪtɪk dʒuːs/ noun

pancreatic secretion /ˌpæŋkriˈeɪtɪk sɪˈkrɛʃən/ noun a digestive juice, formed of enzymes produced by the pancreas, which digests fats and carbohydrates

pancreatitis /ˌpæŋkriˈeɪtətɪs/ noun inflammation of the pancreas

pancreatomy /ˌpæŋkriˈeɪtəmə/ noun surgical operation to open the pancreatic duct

pancytopenia /ˌpænsɪtəˈpiːniə/ noun a condition in which there are too few red and white blood cells and blood platelets

pandemic /ˈpæn.dɪmɪk/ noun an epidemic disease which affects many parts of the world. Compare endemic, epidemic

panic /ˈpænsɪk/ noun a sudden sharp pain, especially in the intestine ○ After not eating for a day, she suffered pangs of hunger.

panniculus /ˌpænɪkˈljuːs/ noun a growth on the cornea containing tiny blood vessels

panophthalmitis /ˌpænoʊˈθælmaɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the whole of the eye

panostitis /ˌpænəʊˈstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the whole of a bone

pannicutitis /ˌpænɪkˈjuːtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation affecting all of the ear, but especially the middle ear
prove bile drainage and allow any stones to pass through the common bile duct and pancreatic duct.

The plural is papillae.

Papillomatosis is papilloma (without prefix referring to a virus which attacks many different parts of the body.

Papanicolaou test /pəpənɪkəlaʊ/tɛst/ noun a method of staining samples from various body secretions to test for malignancy, e.g. testing a cervical smear sample to see if cancer is present. Also called Pap test [Described 1933. After George Nicholas Papanicolaou (1883–1962), Greek anatomist and physician who worked in the USA.]

Papaveretum /pəˈpɛvərɨtəm/ noun a preparation of opium used to reduce pain.

Papilla /ˈpæpɪlə/ noun a small swelling which sticks up above the usual surface level. The upper surface of the tongue is covered with papillae. (Note: The plural is papillae.)

Papillary /ˈpæpɪlərɪ/ adjective referring to papillae.

Papillitis /pəpɪˈlɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the optic disc at the back of the eye.

Papilloedema /pəpɪˈlɔɪdɛmə/ noun an accumulation of fluid in the optic disc at the back of the eye.

Papilloma /pəpɪˈlɒmə/ noun a benign tumour on the skin or mucous membrane. (Note: The plural is papillomas or papillomata.)

Papillomatosis /pəpɪˈlɒmətɒsɪs/ noun 1. being affected with papillomata. 2. the formation of papillomata.

Papillotomy is papillectomy /pəpɪˈlɛktəmɪ/ noun the operation of cutting into the body at the point where the common bile duct and pancreatic duct meet to go into the duodenum, in order to improve bile drainage and allow any stones to pass out.

Papovavirus /pəpəˈvɒvəvɜːrəs/ noun a family of viruses which start tumours, some of which are malignant, and some of which, such as warts, are benign.

Pap test /pæp tɛst/ /pæp smør/ noun same as Papanicolaou test.

Papular /pəpjuˈlər/ adjective referring to a papule.

Papule /ˈpæpjuːl/ noun a small coloured spot raised above the surface of the skin as part of a rash. (Note: A flat spot is a macule.)

Papulopustular /pəpjuˈpʌstjʊlər/ adjective referring to a rash with both papules and pustules.

Papulosquamous /pəpjuˈləskweɪməs/ adjective referring to a rash with papules and a scaly skin.

Para- /pərə/ prefix 1. similar to or near 2. changed or beyond.

Parabiosis /pərəˈbaɪəsɪs/ noun a condition in which two individuals are joined, e.g. conjoined twins.

Paracentesis /pərəˈsentɪsɪs/ noun the procedure of draining fluid from a cavity inside the body using a hollow needle, either for diagnostic purposes or because the fluid is harmful. Also called tapping.

Paracetamol /pərəˈsɪtəməl/ noun a common drug used to relieve mild to moderate pain and reduce fever. (Note: The US name is acetaminophen.)

Paracolitis /pərəkɒlɪtɪs/ same as periocolitis.

Paracousia /pərəˈkʊsɪə/ noun a disorder of hearing.

Paradoxical breathing /pərəˈdɑksɪkəl/ noun a breathing pattern in which two individuals are joined, e.g. conjoined twins.

Paradoxical sleep /pərəˈdɑksɪkəl/ noun same as REM sleep.

Paradoxus /pərəˈdɑksəs/ a pulsus paradoxus.

Paraesthesia /pərəˈθɛstɪəs/ noun an unexplained tingling sensation. Pins and needles.

Paraguard stretcher /pərəˈɡʊdɑr/ noun a type of strong stretcher to which the injured person is attached securely, so that he or she can be carried upright. It is used for rescuing...
para-influenza virus /ˌpərəˈɪnfljuːənə/ noun a virus which causes upper respiratory tract infection. In its structure it is identical to paramyxoviruses and the measles virus.

paralyse /ˈpærələts/ 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. O His arm was paralysed after the stroke. (Note: The US spelling is paralyze.)

paralysis /ˈpærəˌlæzɪs/ 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. O The condition causes paralysis of the lower limbs. O 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 /ˌpærəˌlæzɪs əˈdʒɪtəns/ 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 /ˌpærəˈlɪtɪk ɪˈliəs/ noun an obstruction in the ileum caused by paralysis of the muscles of the intestine. Also called adynamic ileus.

paralytic poliomyelitis /ˌpærəˈlɪtɪk ˌpɔlɪəˌmɪəlɪtɪs/ noun poliomyelitis which affects the muscles.

paramedian /ˌpærəˈmɪdɪən/ adjective near the midline of the body.

paramedian plane /ˌpærəˈmɪdɪən ˈpliːn/ 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 /ˌpærəˈmɛdɪk/ noun a person whose work involves the restoration of health and normal functioning. (Note: Paramedic is 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 /ˌpærəˈmɛdɪkl(ə)/ adjective referring to services linked to those given by nurses, doctors and surgeons.

paramesonephric duct /ˌpærəmɛsəˈnɛfrɪk/ noun one of the two ducts in an embryo which develop into the uterus and Fallopian tubes. Also called Müllerian duct.

parametrym /ˌpærəˈmɪtrɪm/ noun a measurement of something such as blood pressure which may be an important consideration in treating the condition which the person has.

parametritis /ˌpærəˈmɪtrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the parametrium.

paramyxovirus /ˌpærəˈmɪksəˈvɜːrəs/ noun one of a group of viruses, which cause mumps, measles and other infectious diseases.

paramedical /ˌpærəˈmɛdɪkl(ə)/ adjective by the side of the nose.

parametral sinus /ˌpærəˌmɛtrəl ˈsaɪnəs/ noun a sinus in the female pelvic cavity, which develops from the paramesonephric duct and sphenoidal sinuses.

paramenitis /ˌpærəˈmɛnɪtɪs/ noun the connective tissue around the uterus.

paramnesia /ˌpærəˈmɪznə/ noun a disorder of the memory in which someone remembers events which have not happened.

paramyxovirus /ˌpærəˈmɪksəˈvɜːrəs/ noun one of a group of viruses, which cause mumps, measles and other infectious diseases.

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paranoia /ˌpærəˈnəʊə/ noun a behaviour characterised by mistaken ideas or delusions of persecution or self-importance.

paranoiac /ˌpærəˈnəʊək/ noun a person affected by paranoia.

paranoid /ˌpærəˈnɔɪd/ adjective having a fixed delusion.

paranoid disorder /ˌpærəˈnɔɪd dɪˈzəd/ 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 ˈskɪˈfrɪznə/ noun a form of schizophrenia in which the person believes he or she is being persecuted.

paraparesis /ˌpærəˈpɛrəsɪs/ noun incomplete paralysis of the legs.

paraphasia /ˌpærəˈfeɪziə/ noun a speech disorder in which the person uses a wrong sound in the place of the correct word or phrase.

paraphimosis /ˌpærəˌfəˈməʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which the foreskin around the pen is tight and may have to be removed by circumcision.

paraphrenia /ˌpærəˈfrɪniə/ noun a dated term for a mental disorder involving delusions without severe personality deterioration.

paraplegia /ˌpærəˈplɛdʒɪə/ noun paralysis which affects the lower part of the body and the legs, usually caused by an injury to the spinal cord.

paraplegic /ˌpærəˈplɛdʒɪk/ noun someone who has paraplegia.

paraprofessional /ˌpærəproˈfeʃənl(ə)/ noun somebody with training who acts as an assistant to a professional person.
a way of drawing attention to his or her psyche but without really intending to do so, rather as where someone tries to kill himself or herself, caused by the growing larvae of a parasite in the body, parallel to the sagittal plane and at right angles to the coronal plane. Also called parasagittal plane. See illustration at ANATOMICAL

**TERMS** in Supplement

parasitism /ˈparəˌsɪtɪzəm/ noun a group of skin diseases with scales, similar to psoriasis

parapsychology /ˈparəsəklədʒi/ noun the study of effects of the mind which appear not to be explained by known psychological or scientific principles, e.g. extrasensory perception and telepathy

Paraquat /ˈpərəkwɔt/ a trade name for dimethyl dipyridilium used as a weedkiller

parasagittal /ˈpərəˌsædʒɪtl/ adjective near the midline of the body

paraspinal plane /ˈpərəˌspænəl pliən/ noun a plane near the midline of the body, parallel to the sagittal plane and at right angles to the coronal plane. Also called paramedian plane. See illustration at ANATOMICAL

parasympathetic nervous system /ˈpərəˌsɪmpəˈθɛtɪk/ noun a part of the autonomic nervous system. Its messages reach the organs of the body through the cranial and sacral nerves to the eyes, the gastrointestinal system and other organs. 

parasympathetic nervous system /ˈpərəˌsɪmpəˈθɛtɪk/ 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, the gastrointestinal system and other organs. 

parathyroid gland /ˈpərəˌθaɪrɔd ɡlænd/ noun one of four small glands which are situated in or near the wall of the thyroid gland and secrete a hormone which regulates the way in which calcium and phosphorus are deposited in bones

parathyroidectomy /ˈpərəˌθaɪrɔd ɛktəmə/ noun the surgical removal of a parathyroid gland

parathyroid hormone /ˈpərəˌθaɪrɔd ˌhaʊmən/ noun the hormone secreted by the parathyroid glands which regulates the level of calcium in blood plasma. Also called parathyroid hormone

parasympathetic /ˈpərəˌsɪmpəˌθɛtɪk/ adjective referring to the parasympathetic nervous system

parasympathomimetic /ˈpərəˌsɪmpəˌθɔmɪmɪtɪk/ noun a drug which stimulates the parasympathetic nervous system by making smooth muscle more tense, widening the blood vessels, slowing the heart rate, increasing the amount of sweat and saliva produced and contracting the pupil of the eye

parasympathomimetic drug /ˈpərəˌsɪmpəˌθɔmɪmɪtɪk ˌdrʌg/ noun a drug which stimulates the parasympathetic nervous system by making smooth muscle more tense, widening the blood vessels, slowing the heart rate, increasing the amount of sweat and saliva produced and contracting the pupil of the eye

parasympathomimetic producing effects similar to those of a parasympathomimetic drug

parasympatholytic /ˈpərəˌsɪmpəˌθɔliˈtɪk/ noun a drug which reduces the effects of the parasympathetic nervous system by relaxing smooth muscle, reducing the amount of sweat, decreasing the rate of digestion, making smooth muscle more tense, widening the blood vessels, slowing the heart rate, increasing the amount of sweat and saliva produced and contracting the pupil of the eye. An example is atropine.
parenteral /pə'rentərəl/ adjective referring to medication which is not given by mouth but in the form of injections or suppositories. Compare enteral, oral

parenteral nutrition /pə,rentərəl nju/'trə(ə)n/ noun parenteral feeding /pə,rentərəl 'fedin/ noun the process of feeding someone by means other than the digestive tract, especially by giving injections of glucose to someone critically ill

parenthood /'pærənθʊd/ noun the state of being a parent

parenting /'pærəntɪŋ/ noun the activities involved in bringing up children □ parenting skills the abilities and experience that make someone a good parent

pareisis /pэ'tiːsɪs/ noun partial paralysis

paresthesia /pэ'rɛstɛzɪa/ noun US same as paraesthesia

paries /'pærɪz/ noun 1, a superficial part of a structure of an organ 2, the wall of a cavity (NOTE: [all senses] The plural is parietes.)

parietal /pэ'rɪtɛl/ adjective referring to the wall of a cavity or any organ

parietal bone /pэ'rɪtɛl bɔːn/ noun, parietal /pэ'rɪtɛl/ noun one of two bones which form the sides of the skull

parietal cell /pэ'rɪtɛl sel/ noun same as oxyntic cell

parietal lobe /pэ'rɪtɛl ˈləʊb/ noun the middle lobe of the cerebral hemisphere, which is associated with language and other mental processes, and also contains the postcentral gyrus

parietal pericardium /pэ'rɪtɛl pэ'rɪkərdeɪəm/ noun the outer layer of the serous pericardium, not in direct contact with the heart muscle, which lies inside and is attached to the fibrous pericardium

parietal peritoneum /pэ'rɪtɛl pэ'rɪtə'niːəm/ noun part of the peritoneum which lines the abdominal cavity and covers the abdominal viscera

parietal pleura /pэ'rɪtɛl pljuərɪə/ noun a membrane attached to the diaphragm and covering the chest cavity. Also called outer pleura. See illustration at LUNGS in Supplement

-pan /'pærən/ suffix used for anticoagulants ○ heparin

Paris /pэ'rɪs/ pl. plaster of Paris

parity /'pærəti/ noun 1, equality of status or position, especially in terms of pay or rank 2, the number of children that a woman has given birth to

parkinsonian /pэrkɪn'sənɪən/ adjective referring to Parkinson’s disease ○ parkinsonian tremor

Parkinsonism /pэrkɪn'sənɪzm/ noun a progressive nervous disorder, which may be an effect of some drugs, repeated head injuries or brain tumours. The main symptoms are trembling hands and a slow shuffling walk. Also called paralysis agitans

Parkinson's disease /pэrkɪn'sənɪz dɪˌziː/ noun a progressive nervous disorder without a known cause which is a type of Parkinsonism, the main symptoms of which are trembling hands, a slow shuffling walk and difficulty in speaking [Described 1817. After James Parkinson (1755–1824), English physician.]

COMMENT: Parkinson’s disease affects the basal ganglia of the brain which control movement, due to the destruction of dopaminergic neurones. Some cases can be improved by treatment with levodopa, which is the precursor of the missing neurotransmitter dopamine, or by drugs which inhibit the breakdown of dopamine.

paronychia /pэ'rənɪkiə/ noun inflammation near the nail which forms pus, caused by an infection in the fleshy part of the tip of a finger, ○ whitlow

parosmia /pэ'rosmiə/ noun a disorder of the sense of smell

parotid /pэ'roʊtɪd/ adjective near the ear

parotid gland /pэ'roʊtɪd ɡlænd/ noun, parotid /pэ'roʊtɪd/ noun one of the glands which produces saliva, situated in the neck behind the joint of the jaw and ear

parotitis /pэ'roʊtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the parotid glands

COMMENT: Mumps is the commonest form of parotitis, where the parotid gland becomes swollen and the sides of the face appear fat.

parous /pэ'roʊs/ adjective referring to a woman who has given birth to one or more children

paroxetine /pэ'rekstrɪtɪn/ noun an antidepressant drug which prolongs the effects of serotonin in the brain

paroxysm /pэ'roksɪzəm/ noun 1, a sudden movement of the muscles ○ She suffered paroxysms of coughing during the night, 2, the sudden re-appearance of symptoms of the disease, 3, a sudden attack of coughing or sneezing

paroxysmal /pэ'roksɪməl/ adjective referring to a paroxysm, or similar to a paroxysm

paroxysmal dyspnoea /pэ'roksɪməl 'dɪsˌpnoʊə/ noun an attack of breathlessness at night, usually caused by congestive heart failure

paroxysmal tachycardia /pэ'roksɪməl ˈtækiˌkɑrdeɪə/ noun same as nodal tachycardia

parrot disease /pэ'roʊt dɪˌziː/ noun same as psittacosis

pars /paːrs/ noun the Latin word for part

part /pэrt/ noun a piece, one of the sections which make up a whole organ or body

partial /pэ'təl/ adjective not complete, affecting only part of something ○ He only made a partial recovery.
partial amnesia /parəˈʃiːəmˈnɛzə/ noun an inability to remember specific facts, such as names of people
partial deafness /parəˈʃiːədˈfɛns/ noun the condition of being able to hear some sounds but not all
partial denture /parəˈʃiːədˈdɛntə/ noun part of a set of false teeth, replacing only a few teeth
partial gastrectomy /parəˈʃiːəgɑːstrekˈtəmi/ noun an operation to remove part of the stomach
partially /parəˈʃiːli/ adverb not completely ○ He is partially paralysed in his right side. ○ partially deaf able to hear some sounds but not all ○ partially sighted having only partial vision ○ Large print books are available for people who are partially sighted.
partially sighted register /parəˈʃiːliˈsɜːtɪdˈrɛɡɪstə/ noun a list of people who have poor sight but are not blind, and may require some special services
partial mastectomy /parəˈʃiːəmæstrekˈtəmi/ noun an operation to remove part of a breast
partial pancreatectomy /parəˈʃiːəpænkrəˈtektrəmi/ noun an operation to remove part of the pancreas
partial thickness burn /parəˈʃiːliθˈbɜrn/ noun a burn which leaves enough tissue for the skin to grow again. Also called superficial thickness burn
partial vision /parəˈʃiːliˈvɪʒən/ noun the ability to see only a part of the total field of vision, or not being able to see anything very clearly
particle /ˈpɑrtɪkl/ noun a very small piece of matter
particulate /ˈpɑrtɪkjuːəl/ adjective 1. referring to or composed of particles 2. made up of separate particles
particulate matter /ˈpɑrtɪkjuːəl mətər/ noun particles of less than a specified size, usually of carbon, which are used as a measure of air pollution and can affect asthma
partly /ˈpɑrtli/ adverb not completely ○ She is partly paralysed.
parturient /ˈpɑrtjʊərɪənt/ adjective referring to childbirth ○ noun a woman who is in labour
parturifacient /ˈpɑrtjʊərɪfərənt/ adjective starting off birth or making it easier to give birth ○ noun a drug that starts off birth or makes it easier to give birth
parturition /ˈpɑrtjʊərɪtʃən/ noun same as childbirth
parus /ˈpærəs/ same as gulloid
Paschen bodies /ˈpæʃkɛn ˈbɒdiz/ plural noun particles which occur in the skin lesions of people who have smallpox [After Enrique Paschen (1860–1936), German pathologist]
paste /pɑːst/ noun a medicinal ointment which is very thick and is spread or rubbed onto the skin
pasteurise /ˈpɑːstəriːz/ verb to allow faeces, urine or any other body product to come out of the body ○ Have you passed anything this morning? ○ He passed a small stone in his urine. ○ to pass blood to produce faeces or urine that contain blood ○ to pass water to urinate (informal)
passage /ˈpɑːsɪdʒ/ noun 1. a long narrow channel inside the body 2. the process of moving from one place to another 3. evacuation of the bowels 4. the introduction of an instrument into a cavity ○ air passage a tube which takes air to the lungs
pass away /paːs əˈweɪ/ verb used to avoid saying ‘die’ (informal) ○ Mother passed away during the night.
passive /ˈpæsɪv/ adjective receiving rather than initiating an action
passive immunity /ˈpæsɪv ɪˈmjʊərəni/ noun immunity which is acquired by a baby in the uterus or by a person through an injection with an antitoxin
passive movement /ˈpæsɪv ˈmjuːvəmənt/ noun movement of a limb or other body part by a doctor or therapist, not by the person
passive smoking /ˈpæsɪv ˈsmɑːkɪŋ/ noun the act of breathing in smoke from other people’s cigarettes when you do not smoke yourself
pass on /paːs ˈɑːnt/ verb to pass on (informal) ○ When we told her that her father was ill, she passed out.
past /pɑːst/ adjective referring to time which has passed
pasteurisation /ˈpɑːstərɪˈzeɪʃən/ noun the process of heating food or food products to destroy bacteria [After Louis Pasteur (1822–95), French chemist and bacteriologist]
COMMENT: Pasteurisation is carried out by heating food for a short time at a lower temperature than that used for sterilisation: the two methods used are heating to 72°C for fifteen seconds (the high-temperature short-time method) or to 65°C for half an hour, and then cooling rapidly. This will kill tuberculosis bacteria that may be present in milk, for example.
pasteurize /ˈpɑːstərɪz/ verb to kill bacteria in food by heating it ○ The government is telling people to drink only pasteurised milk.
past history

past history /ˈpaːst ˈhɪstəri/ noun records of earlier illnesses. He has no past history of renal disease.

pastille /ˈpɑːstəl/ 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 /ˈpætʃ tɛst/ 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 /ˈpaːtelə/ noun the small bone in front of the knee joint. Also called kneecap.

patellar /ˈpaːtelər/ adjective referring to the kneecap.

patellar reflex /ˈpaːtelər 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 /ˈpaːtelər tɛndən/ noun a tendon just below the kneecap.

patellectomy /ˈpaːtelələktəmi/ 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 /ˈpætn/ adjective, patent. patent /ˈpætənt/ 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 /ˈpetənt daktəs ərtərˈıərəsəs/ noun a congenital condition in which the ductus arteriosus does not close, allowing blood into the circulation without having passed through the lungs.

patent medicine /ˈpetənt mɛdəˈsiːn/ 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.

paternity /ˈpaːtərəni/ noun 1. the fact of being or becoming a father. 2. the identity of a father. Paternity test /ˈpaːtərəni tɛst/ 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- /paθ-/ prefix referring to disease.

pathogen /ˈpaθədʒən/ noun a microorganism which causes a disease.

pathogenesis /ˈpaθədʒənəsi/ noun the origin, production and development of a morbid or diseased condition.

pathogenic /ˈpaθədʒənik/ adjective referring to pathogenesis.

pathogenetic /ˈpaθədʒənetɪk/ adjective referring to pathogenesis.

pathologist /ˈpaθələdʒəl/ noun a doctor who specialises in the study of diseases and examining tissue specimens from patients and reporting on the presence or absence of disease in them. A doctor who examines dead bodies in order to find out the cause of death.

pathology /ˈpaθələdʒi/ noun the study of diseases and the changes in structure and function which diseases cause in the body. Also called morbid anatomy.

pathology report /ˈpaθələdʒi riˈpɔːrt/ noun a report on tests carried out to find the cause of a disease.

pathophysiology /ˈpaθəfəˈlaɪzɪzərədʒi/ noun the study of unusual or diseased organs.

pathway /ˈpaθweɪ/ noun a series of linked neurons along which nerve impulses travel.

patient /ˈpeɪʃənt/ 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-
patulous /ˈpeɪtʊləs/ adjective stretched open, patent
Paul–Bunnell reaction /ˈpɔlz bʌniˈɛl/ noun a blood test to see if someone has glandular fever, where the person’s blood is tested against a solution containing glandular fever bacilli. [Described 1932. After John Rodman Paul (b. 1893–1965), US physician; Walls Willard Bunnell (1902–66), US physician.]
Paul’s tube /ˈpɔlz tjuːb/ noun a glass tube used to remove the contents of the bowel after an opening has been made between the intestine and the abdominal wall. [Described 1891. After Frank Thomas Paul (1851–1941), British surgeon.]
PBI test /piː biː / noun a test to measure the rate at which someone can expel air from their lungs when they are full and with no time limit. Abbr per diem
pedale /ˈpedəl/ plural of pede
pediculicide /ˈpɛdɪkjuˌlaɪdz/ noun a chemical substance that kills lice
pediculosis /ˈpɛdɪkjʊləsɪs/ noun a skin disease caused by being infested with lice
pedicles /ˈpedɪklz/ plural of pedicle
pedicle /ˈpedɪkl/ noun 1. a set of procedures for the study or production of conditioned reflexes 2. a hard ridge on the pubis 3. a congenital condition, in which the sternum is uneven. 4. a skin ridge referring to the chest
pectoral muscle /ˈpektələr məsˈkjuːl/ noun one of two muscles which lie across the chest and control movements of the shoulder and arm. Also called chest muscle
pectoralis major /ˈpektərəlis ˈmeʒər/ noun a large chest muscle which pulls the arm forward or rotates it
pectoralis minor /ˈpektərəlis ˈmɪnor/ noun a small chest muscle which allows the shoulder to be depressed
pectoral girdle /ˈpektərəl ˈgɜːrdəl/ noun the shoulder bones, the scapulae and clavicles, to which the upper arm bones are attached. Also called shoulder girdle
pekton /ˈpɛktən/ adjective referring to the chest
Pellagra /ˈpɛləɡrə/ noun a condition in which the skin is thin, pale, and sickly
Pemberton /ˈpɛmbərtən/ verb 1. to make or have the property of being material, durable, or hard to harm or damage
Pemberton test /pɛmbərtən tɛst/ noun a condition in which the skin is thin, pale, and sickly
Pemberton therapy /ˈpɛmbərtən tɛrəpi/ noun a type of therapy that uses Pemberton's test to determine the effectiveness of a treatment
Pemberton, Pemberton's /ˈpɛmbərtən, pɛmbərtən/ noun a set of procedures for the study or production of conditioned reflexes
Peoria /ˈpɛriərə/ noun the capital of Illinois, US
Peoria bed /ˈpɛriərə bɛd/ noun a bed with a Balkan frame, a rectangular frame attached to and overhanging the bed, used mainly for people with splints
Pepper /ˈpɛpər/ noun 1. a set of procedures for the study or production of conditioned reflexes 2. a condition in which the skin is thin, pale, and sickly
peptic acid /ˈpiːtɪk əkʃənt/ noun a substance that kills lice
Pediculosis

Pediculus /pəˈdɪkjʊləs/ noun same as louse

Pediculus capitis /pəˈdɪkjʊləs kæˈpɪtɪs/ noun same as head louse

pedo- /ˈpɛdəʊ/ prefix same as paedo-

pedodontist /ˈpɛdəʊdɒntɪst/ noun a dentist who specialises in the treatment of children’s teeth

peduncle /ˈpɛdəŋkəl/ noun a stem or stalk

der pedunculate /ˈpɛdəŋkələtɪ/ adjective having a stem or stalk. Opposite sessile

pee /pi/ 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.

PEEP abbr positive end-expiratory pressure

peer review /piə riˈvjuː/ noun an assessment of a piece of someone’s work by people who are experts on the subject

PEFR abbr peak expiratory flow rate

Pel–Ebstein fever /pɛlˈɛbstəmˈfiːvər/ noun a fever associated with Hodgkin’s disease which recurs regularly (Described 1885. After Pieter Klaases Pel (1852–1919), Professor of Medicine in Amsterdam, Netherlands; Wilhelm Ebstein (1836–1912), Professor of Medicine at Göttingen, Germany.)

pellagra /ˈpæləɡrə/ noun a disease caused by a deficiency of nicotinic acid, riboflavine and pyridoxine from the vitamin B complex, where patches of skin become inflamed, and the person has anorexia, nausea and diarrhoea. COMMENTS: In some cases of pellagra the patient’s mental faculties can be affected, with depression, headaches and numbness of the extremities. Treatment is by improving the patient’s diet.

Pellegrini–Stieda’s disease /pɛləˈɡrɪnɪsˈtiːdəs/ noun a disease where an injury to the knee causes the ligament to become calcified (Described 1905. After Augusto Pelli, surgeon in Florence, Italy; Alfred Stieda (1869–1919), Professor of Surgery at Königsberg, Germany.)

pellet /ˈpɛlpət/ 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 /ˈpɛlpɪkl/ noun a thin layer of skin tissue

pellucida /pɛlˈlʊsɪdə/ noun pellucida

pelvis /ˈpɛlvɪz/ 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 ˈkævɪtɪ/ noun a space below the abdominal cavity, above the peritoneum

pelvic colon /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈkɒlən/ 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 ˈfræktʃər/ noun a fracture of the pelvis

pelvic girdle /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈgɜrdəl/ noun the ring formed by the two hip bones to which the thighs are attached. Also called hip girdle

pelvic inflammatory disease /ˈpɛlvɪk ɪnˈfləɡənətəri ˈdiːzɪz/ noun an inflammation of a woman’s reproductive organs in the pelvic area, which can cause infertility

pelvic outlet /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈaʊtəl/ noun an opening at the base of the pelvis

pelvic version /ˈpɛlvɪk ˈvɜːrʒən/ noun turning a fetus around in the uterus by moving the buttocks of the fetus

pelvimetry /ˈpɛlvɪmətri/ noun an instrument to measure the diameter and capacity of the pelvis

pelvimetry /ˈpɛlvɪmətri/ 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 pelviss or pelvies.)

pelvis of the kidney /ˌpɛlvɪs əv ˈkɪdnɪ/ noun same as renal pelvis. See illustration at KIDNEY in Supplement (note: For other terms referring to the pelvis of the kidney, see words beginning with pyel-, pyelo-)

pemphigoid /pɛmˈfiɡɔɪd/ noun a skin disease which is similar to pemphigus

pemphigus /pɛmˈfiɡəs/ noun a rare disease where large blisters form inside the skin

pends /ˈpɛndz/ plural of penis

pendulous /ˈpændjʊləs/ adjective referring to an object or body part which hangs loosely or swings freely
penetrate /'penətrit/ 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 /'penətrəʃ(ə)n/ noun the act of penetrating ○ the penetration of the vagina by the penis ○ penetration of an ovum by a spermatozoon.

penicillamine /'penəsɪləmən/ noun a chelating agent which is used to help the body get rid of toxic metals.

penicillin /'penəsɪlɪn/ noun a common antibiotic originally produced from a fungus (note: Penicillin drugs have names ending in •-cillin: 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 /'penəsɪlɪnəs/ noun an enzyme produced by some bacteria that inactivates penicillin, used to treat adverse reactions to penicillin.

penicillin resistance /'penəsɪlɪn riˈzɪstəns/ noun the ability of bacteria to resist penicillin.

Penicillium /'penəsɪlɪəm/ noun the fungus from which penicillin is derived.

penile /'pɛnəl/ adjective referring to the penis.

penile urethra /'pɛnələ jʊˈrɪθrə/ noun a tube in the penis through which urine and semen pass.

penis /'pɛnɪs/ 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 /'pentəmɪdɪn/ noun an antibiotic used in the treatment of African sleeping sickness and of pneumonia in people with AIDS.

pentazocine /'pentəzəsɪn/ noun an artificially produced narcotic drug used to reduce pain.

pentose /'pentəs/ noun a sugar containing five carbon atoms.

pentosuria /'pentəsəˈjʊərɪə/ noun a condition in which pentose is present in the urine.

Penothal /'penəθəl/ a trade name for thiopeptone.

Peplau's model /'pepləʊz ,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 /'pepsɪn/ noun an enzyme in the stomach which breaks down the proteins in food into peptides.

pepsinogen /'pepəsɪnəˈgɒn/ noun a secretion from the gastric gland which is the inactive form of pepsin.

peptic /'peptɪk/ adjective referring to digestion or to the digestive system.

peptic ulcer /'peptɪk ˈɔls/ noun a benign ulcer in the duodenum or in the stomach.

peptidase /'peptɪdæs/ noun an enzyme which breaks down proteins in the intestine into amino acids.

peptide /'peptɪd/ noun a compound formed of two or more amino acids.

peptone /'peptən/ noun a substance produced by the action of pepsins on proteins in food.

peptonuria /'peptənjuərɪə/ noun a condition in which peptones are present in the urine.

peptone /'peptən/ noun a compound formed in the brain as a result of information from which peptones are present in the urine.

per cent /ˈpɜːr kənt/ 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 /ˈpɜːr ˈsentɪdʒ/ noun the proportion rate in every hundred or for every hundred ○ What is the percentage of long-stay patients in the hospital?

perception /ˈpɜːrˌsɛpʃən/ 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 /ˈpɜːrəptɪv ˈdefnəs/ noun same as sensorineural deafness.

percussion /ˈpɜːrsəkʃən/ noun a test, usually on the heart and lungs, in which the doctor taps the outside world which is passed back by the senses.

percutaneous angioplasty /ˈpɜːrkətənəs ˌæŋɡjəˈpleɪstə/ 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.
per diem

percutaneous epididymal sperm aspiration /ˌpɜːkəˈtjuːnɪməs ˌɛpɪdɪdɪm(ə)l/ noun the removal of sperm from the epididymis by withdrawing it through the skin, usually as part of fertility treatment. Abbreviation PESA

per diem /ˌpɜːr dɪˈiːm/ adverb (written on prescriptions) per day

perennial /ˈpɜːrəniəl/ adjective which continues all the time, for a period of years ○ She has perennial bronchial asthma.

perforate /ˌpɜːfərət/ verb to make a hole through something ○ The ulcer perforated the duodenum.

perforated eardrum /ˌpɜːfərətɪd ˈɛərdrəm/ noun an eardrum with a hole in it

perforated ulcer /ˌpɜːfərətɪd ˈʌlsər/ noun an ulcer which has made a hole in the wall of the intestine

perfusion /ˌpɜːfjuˈzən/ noun a process of passing a liquid through vessels, an organ or tissue, e.g. the flow of blood into lung tissue

perfusion scan /ˌpɜːfjuˈzən skæn/ 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

perianal /ˌpɜːrɪəˈnɛl/ adjective around the anus

perianal haematoma /ˌpɜːrɪənɛl ˈhɪmətəmə/ noun a small painful swelling outside the anus caused by forcing a bowel movement

perierteritis /ˌpɜːrɪərˈtɛrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the outer coat of an artery and the tissue round it

perierteritis nodosa /ˌpɜːrɪərˈtɛrɪtɪs nədəʊsə/ noun same as polyarteritis nodosa

periartthritis /ˌpɜːrɪərˈɑːrtɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the tissue round a joint

periarticular /ˌpɜːrɪəˈtʃʊəl/ adjective referring to the pericardium

periarteritis /ˌpɜːrɪərtəˈrɪtɪs/ noun the surgical removal of the pericardium

periarterial /ˌpɜːrɪərtəˈriəl/ adjective referring to the pericardium

periarterial effusion /ˌpɜːrɪərtəˈrɪəl ɪˈfjuːʒən/ noun an excess of fluid which forms in the pericardial sac

periarterial friction /ˌpɜːrɪərtəˈrɪəl ˈfrɪʃən/ noun the rubbing together of the two parts of the pericardium in periarteritis

periarterial sac /ˌpɜːrɪərtəˈrɪəl 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

periarterectomy /ˌpɜːrɪərtəˈektəmi/ noun the surgical removal of the pericardium

pericardiectomy /ˌpɜːrɪkɑrdiˈektəmi/ noun a surgical operation to open the pericardium through the thoracic wall to drain off fluid

pericardiomyotomy /ˌpɜːrɪkɑrdɪəˈmɒtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to open the pericardium and expose the heart

pericardium /ˌpɜːrɪkɑrdiəm/ noun

pericardial effusion /ˌpɜːrɪkɑrdiəl ɪˈfjuːʒən/ noun

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pericarditis /ˌpɜːrɪkɑrˈdɪtɪs/ 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 /ˌpɜːrɪkɑrdiəm/ noun a membrane which surrounds and supports the heart

pericardiomyotomy /ˌpɜːrɪkɑrdiəˈmɒtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to open the pericardium

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paracolpitis /ˌpærəkɒlˈpɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the perineal connective tissue which covers cartilage

pericolpitis /ˌpɜːrɪkɒlˈpɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the perineal connective tissue which covers cartilage

paracolpitis /ˌpærəkɒlˈpɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the perineal connective tissue which covers cartilage

pericolic /ˌpɜːrɪkɒlik/ adjective

paracolpitis /ˌpærəkɒlˈpɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the perineal connective tissue which covers cartilage

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pericolic /ˌpɜːrɪkɒlik/ adjective
**perimenopause** /ˌpɜːrɪˈmənəʊpəʊz/ *noun* the few years before the menopause, in which oestrogen levels start to fall.

**perimeter** /ˈpɜːrɪmətər/ *noun 1.* an instrument to measure the field of vision. *2.* the length of the outside line around an enclosed area.

**perimetritis** /ˌpɜːrɪˈmtrɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of the perimetrium.

**perimetrium** /ˌpɜːrɪˈmɪtrɪəm/ *noun* a membrane round the uterus.

**perimetry** /ˈpɜːrɪmɪtrɪə/ *noun* a measurement of the field of vision.

**perimyxis** /ˌpɜːrɪˈmɪksɪs/ *noun* a sheath which surrounds a bundle of muscle fibres.

**perinatal** /ˌpɜːrɪˈnétl/ *adjective* referring to the period just before and after childbirth.

**perinatal mortality rate** /ˌpɜːrɪˈnétl ˈmɔːtələti ˈreɪt/ *noun* the number of babies born dead or who die during the period immediately after childbirth, shown per thousand babies born.

**perinatal period** /ˌpɜːrɪˈnétl ˈpɜːriəd/ *noun* the period of time before and after childbirth, from the 28th week after conception to the first week after delivery.

**perinatologist** /ˌpɜːrɪˈnétl əˈləʊstəˈɡləʊstər/ *noun* an obstetrician who is a specialist in perinatology.

**perinatology** /ˌpɜːrɪˈnétləˈteɪlədʒi/ *noun* a branch of medicine which studies and treats physiological and pathological conditions affecting the mother and/or infant just before and just after the birth of a baby.

**perineal** /ˌpɜːrɪˈnéel/ *adjective* referring to the perineum.

**perineal body** /ˌpɜːrɪˈnéel ˈbɒdi/ *noun* the mass of muscle and fibres between the anus and the vagina or prostate.

**perineal muscle** /ˌpɜːrɪˈnéel ˈmʌsəl/ *noun* one of the muscles which lie in the perineum.

**perineoplasty** /ˌpɜːrɪˈniəplæsəˈti/ *noun* a surgical operation to repair the perineum by grafting tissue.

**perineorrhaphy** /ˌpɜːrɪˈniərɔˈræfi/ *noun* a surgical operation to stitch up a perineum which has torn during childbirth.

**perinephric** /ˌpɜːrɪˈniəfərɪk/ *adjective* around the kidney.

**perinephritis** /ˌpɜːrɪˈniərɪˈtrɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of tissue round the kidney, which spreads from an infected kidney.

**perinephrium** /ˌpɜːrɪˈniəfrɪəriəm/ *noun* the fatty tissue that is around a kidney.

**perineum** /ˌpɜːrɪˈniəʊm/ *noun* the skin and tissue between the opening of the urethra and the anus.

**perineurium** /ˌpɜːrɪˈniəɔrɪəriəm/ *noun* connective tissue which surrounds bundles of nerve fibres.

**periocular** /ˌpɜːrɪˈoʊkljuəl/ *adjective* around the eyeball.

**period** /ˈpɜːriəd/ *noun 1.* a length of time. *2.* The patient regained consciousness after a short period of time. *3.* She is allowed out of bed for two periods each day. *4.* menstruation or the menses, 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. *5.* She always has heavy periods. *6.* Some women experience abdominal pain during their periods. *7.* She has bleeding between periods.

**periodic** /ˌpɜːriəˈdɪk/ *adjective* occurring from time to time. *8.* He has periodic attacks of migraine. *9.* She has to go to the clinic for periodic checkups.

**periodic fever** /ˌpɜːriəˈdɪk fər/ *noun* a disease of the kidneys, common in Mediterranean countries.

**periodicity** /ˌpɜːriəˈdɪsɪti/ *noun* the timing of recurrent attacks of a disease.

**periodic paralysis** /ˌpɜːriəˈdɪk pəˈræləsɪs/ *noun* recurrent attacks of weakness where the level of potassium in the blood is low.

**periodontal** /ˌpɜːrɪˈdəntəl/ *adjective* referring to the area around the teeth.

**periodontal membrane** /ˌpɜːrɪˈdəntəl ˈmembərn/ *noun*. **periodontal ligament** /ˌpɜːrɪˈdəntəl ˈlɪgəmənt/ *noun* a ligament which attaches a tooth to the bone of the jaw.

**periodontics** /ˌpɜːrɪˈdəntətɪks/ *noun* the study of diseases of the periodontal membrane.

**periodontist** /ˌpɜːrɪˈdəntəst/ *noun* a dentist who specialises in the treatment of gum diseases.

**periodontitis** /ˌpɜːrɪˈdəntənɪtɪs/ *noun* an infection of the periodontal membrane leading to pyorrhoea, and resulting in the teeth falling out if untreated.

**periodontium** /ˌpɜːrɪˈdəntənɪtjuːm/ *noun 1.* the gums, bone and periodontal membrane around a tooth. *2.* same as periodontal membrane.

**perionychia** /ˌpɜːrɪəˈniŋkjuəriə/ *noun* an inflammatory swelling between a fingernail and the nailbed.

**perionychia** /ˌpɜːrɪəˈniŋkjuəriə/ *noun* a painful swelling between a fingernail.

**perionychicus** /ˌpɜːrɪəˈniŋkjuəriəkəs/ *noun* the skin that is round a fingernail or toenail.

**perioperative** /ˌpɜːrɪˈopiəˈrɪtətɪv/ *adjective* before and after a surgical operation.

**periosteal** /ˌpɜːrɪˈostəl/ *adjective* around the eye socket.

**periosteal** /ˌpɜːrɪˈostəl/ *adjective* referring to, or attached to, the periosteum.

**periosteotomy** /ˌpɜːrɪˈostətəʊmɪ/ *noun* a surgical instrument used to cut the periosteum.
periosteum

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 periosteum from a bone

periostitis /ˌpɜːriˈɔstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the periosteum

periotic /ˌpɜːriˈtɪk/ adjective referring to the area around the ear, especially the bones around the inner ear

peripheral /pəˈrɪf(ə)rəl/ adjective at the edge

peripheral nerves /pəˈrɪf(ə)rəl ˈnɜːrvz/ plural noun the parts of motor and sensory nerves which branch from the brain and spinal cord

peripheral nervous system /pə,ˈrɪf(ə)rəl ˈnɜːrvəs, ˈnɜːstəm/ noun all the nerves in different parts of the body which are linked and governed by the central nervous system. Abbrev PNS

peripheral resistance /pə,ˈrɪf(ə)rəl ˈreɪzəns/ noun the ability of the peripheral blood vessels to slow down the flow of blood inside them

peripheral vascular disease /pə,ˈrɪf(ə)rəl ˈvɛs(ə)rəl dɪˈziːt/ noun a disease affecting the blood vessels which supply the arms and legs

peripheral vasodilator /pə,ˈrɪf(ə)rəl ˈveɪˌdɪˈleɪtər/ noun a chemical substance which acts to widen the blood vessels in the arms and legs and so improves bad circulation

periphery /pəˈrɪf(ə)rəri/ 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 /ˌpɜːriˈfɪlbɪtɪs/ noun 1. inflammation of the outer coat of a vein 2. an inflammation of the connective tissue round a vein

periproctitis /ˌpɜːriprəˈkɒtɪtɪs/ noun swelling of the tissues around the rectum

perisalpingitis /ˌpɜːrɪsəˈlɪŋgitɪs/ noun inflammation of the peritoneum and other parts round a Fallopian tube

perisplenitis /ˌpɜːrɪsˈpLENɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the peritoneum and other parts round the spleen

peristalsis /ˌpɜːrɪˈstælɪsɪs/ 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 /ˌpɜːrɪˌstæltɪk/ adjective occurring in waves, as in peristalsis

peritendinitis /ˌpɜːrɪtɛnˈdɪntɪtɪs/ noun same as tenosynovitis

peritomy /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɒmɪ/ noun 1. a surgical operation on the eye, where the conjunctiva is cut in a circle round the cornea 2. circumcision

peritoneal /ˌpɜːrɪtəˈnal/ adjective referring to, or belonging to, the peritoneum

peritoneal cavity /ˌpɜːrɪˈtənəl ˈkævəti/ noun a space between the layers of the peritoneum, containing the major organs of the abdomen

peritoneal dialysis /ˌpɜːrɪˌtənəl ˈdeɪləsɪs/ 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 /ˌpɜːrɪˈteɪnəskɒp/ noun same as laparoscope

peritoneoscopy /ˌpɜːrɪˈteɪnəsˈskɒpi/ noun same as laparoscopy

peritoneum /ˌpɜːrɪˈteɪnəm/ noun a membrane which lines the abdominal cavity and covers the organs in it

peritonitis /ˌpɜːrɪˈtənətɪs/ 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 /ˌpɜːrɪˌtɒnɪslər əˈbɛsəs/ noun same as quinsy

peritrichous /ˌpɜːrɪˈtrɪkəs/ adjective referring to bacteria where the surface of the cell is covered with flagella

perityphlitis /ˌpɜːrɪˈtɪf(ə)lɪtɪs/ noun swelling of the tissues around the caecum

periurethral /ˌpɜːrɪˈjʊərɛθrəl/ adjective around the urethra

PERLA abbreviation Pupils Equal and Reactive to Light and Accommodation

perleche /pɜːlˈleʃ/ noun a soft capsule of medicine

perleche /pɜːlˈleʃ/ 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 /ˌpɜːrəˈmɑːnt/ adjective always existing ◦ The accident left him with a permanent disability.

permanently /ˌpɜːrəˈmɑːntli/ adverb always, forever ◦ He was permanently disabled by the accident.

permanent teeth /ˌpɜːrəˈmɑːnt tɛθ/ noun the teeth in an adult, which replace the child’s milk teeth during childhood
consciousness. Abbr to brain activity, and will never recover con-
someone is alive and breathes, but shows no
mouth

peroneus muscle, the peroneus brevis, longus and terti-
unusually
case in which the limbs have developed
perspective

/ peroperative /pərə'pərətəv/ adjective taking
place during a surgical operation
peroral /pərə'rərəl/ adjective through the
mouth
per os /pər 'os/ adverb referring to a drug or
other substance to be taken through the mouth
persecute /pər'sikjʊət/ verb to make some-
one suffer all the time. In paranoia, the pa-
tient feels he is being persecuted.
persecution /pər'sɪkʃʊn/ noun the act
of being made to suffer
perseveration /pər'səvərə'ʃʊn/ noun the
act of repeating actions or words without any
stimulus
persist /pə'sɪst/ verb to continue for some
time. The weakness in the right arm persisted
for two weeks.
persistent /pə'sɪstənt/ adjective continuing
for some time. Treatment aimed at the relief
of persistent angina. She had a persistent cough.
persistent vegetative state /pə'sɪstənt
'vedʒɪtətɪv stɛt/ noun a condition in which
someone is alive and breathes, but shows no
brain activity, and will never recover con-
sciousness. Abbrev. PVS
person /pə'siŋ/ noun a man or woman
personal /pə'si(ə)n/ adjective referring or
belonging to a person. Only certain senior

members of staff can consult the personal
records of the patients.
personal care /pə'si(ə)n kər/ noun the act
of washing, toileting and dressing someone
who cannot do these things for themselves
personal hygiene /pə'si(ə)n / 'haɪjən/ noun
the standards someone has of looking af-
ter parts of their body such as hair, skin,
teeth and breath, hands and nails, and keeping them clean

personality /pə'si'nəl əl'tɪti/ noun all the char-
acters 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'si'nəl dɪzə'əl tɪti
dis 'ərəl tɪti noun a disorder which affects the way a
person behaves, especially in relation to other people

personnel /pə'si'nəl noun members of
staff. All hospital personnel must be immu-

nised against hepatitis. Only senior person-

nel can inspect the patients’ medical records.
(Note: Personnel is singular.)

perspiration /pəsəpərə'shʊn/ 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'spaɪr/ verb to produce moisture
through the sweat glands
Perthes’ disease /pə'thɪs dɪlzɪz/ Per-
thes’ hip /pə'thɪs 'hɪp/ 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'təsɪs/ noun same as whooping
cough
perversion /pəvə'zɪʃən/ noun a form of be-
haviour which is thought to be unnatural, dan-
gerous 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 'plenəs/ noun same as flat
foot
pessary /pesərɪ/ noun 1. a drug in soluble
material which is pushed into the vagina and
absorbed into the blood there. Also called vag-
inal suppository 2. a contraceptive device
worn inside the vagina to prevent spermatozoa
phacoemulsification /ˌfækəˈmjuːlɪfsən/ 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 /ˌfeɪəʊk्रəʊməʊˈsɒtəmə/ 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- /fæɡ/ prefix same as phago- (used before roots)

phage /fædʒ/ noun same as bacteriophage

-phage /fædʒ/ suffix referring to something which eats

phagedena /ˌfædʒdəˈdɪnə/ noun an ulcer that spreads rapidly

phagia /ˌfædʒiə/ suffix referring to eating

phagocyte /ˌfæɡɔʊtˈsɪt/ noun a cell, especially a white blood cell, which can surround and destroy other cells such as bacteria cells.

phagocytic /ˌfæɡəˈsɪtɪk/ adjective 1. referring to phagocytes. 2. Monocytes become phagocytic during infection. 2. destroying cells

phagocytosis /ˌfæɡəˈsɪtəsɪs/ noun destruction of bacteria cells and foreign bodies by phagocytes.

phakic /ˈfækɪk/ adjective referring to an eye which has its natural lens

phaco-/fækə/ prefix same as phaco-

phalangeal /ˌfæləndʒiəl/ adjective referring to the phalanges

phalanges /ˌfæləngəz/ plural of phalanx

phalangitis /ˌfælənˈdʒɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the fingers or toes caused by infection of tissue.

phalax /ˌfæləks/ noun a bone in a finger or toe. See illustration at hand in Supplement.

phalloplasty /ˌfæləʊˈplæstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to repair a damaged or deformed penis.

phantom /ˈfæntəm/ noun 1. a model of the whole body or part of the body, used to practise 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 /ˈfæntəm ˈlɪm/ noun a condition in which someone seems to feel sensations in a limb which has been amputated

phantom pregnancy /ˈfæntəm ˈprɛɡnənsi/ noun same as pseudocyesis

phantom tumour /ˌfæntəm ˈʃuːrəmə/ noun a condition in which a swelling occurs which imitates a swelling caused by a tumour.
pharmaceutical /ˌfərməˈsiːjʊtɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to pharmacy or drugs

pharmaceutical products /ˌfərməˈsiːjʊtɪk(ə)l ˈprɒdʌktz/ plural noun medicines, pills, lozenges or creams which are sold in chemists' shops

Pharmaceuticals /ˌfərməˈsiːjʊtɪk(ə)ləs/ plural noun drugs prescribed as medicines

Pharmaceutical Society /ˌfərməˈsiːjʊtɪk(ə)l ˈsəʊsi/ noun a professional association for pharmacists

pharmacology /ˌfərməˈkoʊlədʒi/ noun the science of the preparation and dispensing of prescribed drugs

pharmacologist /ˌfərməˈkoʊlədʒɪst/ noun a scientist who specialises in the study of drugs

pharmacokinetics /ˌfərməˈkɒlədʒɪkənˈtɪkɪz/ plural noun 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 pharmacodynamics (NOTE: Takes a singular verb.)

pharmacogenomics /ˌfərməˈkɒlədʒɪɡəˈnɒmɪks/ plural noun the study of the relationship between a person's genetic makeup and response to drug treatments (NOTE: Takes a singular verb.)

pharmacokinetic /ˌfərməˈkɒlədʒɪkənˈtɪktɪk/ adjective referring to a property of a drug which affects the part where it is applied

pharmacokinetics /ˌfərməˈkɒlədʒɪkənˈtɪktɪks/ plural noun the study of how the body reacts to drugs over a period of time. Compare pharmacodynamics (NOTE: Takes a singular verb.)

pharmacological /ˌfərməˈkɒlədʒɪkəl/ adjective referring to pharmacology

pharmacology /ˌfərməˈkɒlədʒɪ/ noun the study of drugs or medicines, and their actions, properties and characteristics

pharmacopoeia /ˌfərməˈkɒpəˌsi/ noun an official list of drugs, their methods of preparation, dosages and the ways in which they should be used
phase

becomes the oesophagus when it reaches the sixth cervical vertebra. The pharynx is the channel both for air and food; the trachea (or windpipe) leads off it before it joins the oesophagus. The upper part of the pharynx (the nasopharynx) connects with the middle ear through the Eustachian tubes. When air pressure in the middle ear is not equal to that outside, as when going up or down in an aeroplane, the tube becomes blocked and pressure can be reduced by swallowing. phase /feɪz/ noun a stage or period of development ○ If the cancer is diagnosed in its early phase, the chances of complete cure are much greater.

phenazopyridine /fiːnəzoʊˈpɜːrdɪdɪn/ noun a drug used to reduce pain in conditions of the urinary tract, such as cystitis

phenobarbitone /fɪnəˈbɑːrbɪtən/ noun a barbiturate drug that is used as a sedative, a hypnotic and an anticonvulsant

phenol /fɪnəʊl/ noun a strong disinfectant used for external use. Also called carbolic acid

phenomenon /fəˈnəʊmən/ noun 1. a fact or situation which can be observed 2. someone or something that is considered to be extraordinary and marvellous

phenotype /fɪnəʊtaɪp/ noun the particular characteristics of an organism. Compare genotype

phenylalanine /ˌfɪnələˈlænɪn/ noun an essential amino acid

phenylketonuria /ˌfɪnələˈkɛtənjoʊrɪə/ noun a hereditary condition which affects the way in which the body breaks down phenylalanine, which in turn concentrates toxic metabolites in the nervous system causing brain damage. COMMENT: To have phenylketonuria, a child has to inherit the gene from both parents. The condition can be treated by giving the child a special diet but early diagnosis is essential to avoid brain damage.

phenytoin /ˈfɛntəʊən/ noun a drug which helps to prevent convulsions, used in the treatment of epilepsy

pH factor /piː /ˈfæktaʊr/ noun a factor which indicates acidity or alkalinity

phial /ˈfeɪəl/ noun a small medicine bottle

-philia /fɪliə/ suffix attraction to or liking for something

philtrum /fɪlˈtrʊm/ noun 1. a groove in the centre of the top lip 2. a drug believed to stimulate sexual desire

phimosis /fəˈmɪməsɪs/ noun a condition in which the foreskin is tight and has to be removed by circumcision
is common among workers in match factories. The disease was once known if swallowed. It causes burns if it touches the skin, and can poison if inhaled. It is a toxic chemical element which is present in very small quantities in bones and nerve tissue. It causes bone disease, which results in disintegration of the bones of the lower jaw. The disease was once common among workers in match factories.

phototherapy /fəʊθərˈθɛpɪ/ noun a treatment for jaundice and vitamin D deficiency, which involves exposing the person to ultraviolet rays.

phototoxic /fəʊθətɒkˈsɪk/ adjective making the skin unusually sensitive to damage by light, as in sunburn.

phototoxicity /fəʊθətɒkˈsɪtɪ/ noun 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

Phrenic nerve

Surgical removal of all or part of the phrenic nerve in order to paralyse the diaphragm

Phrenectomy

An old term for tuberculous phthisis

Physiotherapist

A trained specialist who gives physiotherapy
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- /fai̯t/ prefix referring to plants or coming from plants.

Phyto-oestrogen /fai̯tou'ıeistradʒən/ 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 /fai̯tou'ıeifədərmatɪtɪs/ noun a rare reaction of the dermal papillae of the skin to cold and fear which causes the hairs on the skin to stand on end.

Pick /pɪk/ verb to take away small pieces of something with the fingers or with a tool. He picked the pieces of glass out of the wound with tweezers.

PIL abbr pressure index.

Pica /ˈpaːkə/ noun a desire to eat things which are not food, e.g. wood or paper, often found in pregnant women and small children.

Pick's disease /ˈpɪks ˈdɜːz/ 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 /ˈpɪk ʌp/ 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.

Pico- /ˈpaɪkoʊ/ prefix one millionth (10^-12).

Picomole /ˈpaɪkoʊməʊl/ noun a unit of measurement of the amount of substance equal to one millionth of a mole. Symbol pmol

Picornavirus /ˈpaɪkrənəvərəs/ noun a virus containing RNA, e.g. enteroviruses and rhinoviruses.

PID abbr prolapsed intervertebral disc.

PIDS abbr primary immune deficiency syndrome.

Pierre Robin Syndrome /ˌpiːrə ˈroʊbɛn/ syndrome/ 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 /ˌpɪdʒɪn 'brɛst/ noun

Pigeon chest /ˌpɪdʒɪn 'tʃɛst/ noun same as pectus carinatum.

Pigeon toes /ˌpɪdʒɪn ˈtoʊz/ plural noun a condition in which the feet turn towards the inside when a person is standing upright.

Pigment /ˈpiɡmənt/ noun 1. a substance which gives colour to the body such as blood, the skin or hair. 2. (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 /ˈpiɡməntˈteʃən/ noun the colouring of the body, especially that produced by deposits of pigment.

Pigmented /ˈpiɡməntid/ adjective 1. coloured 2. showing an unusual colour.

Pigmented epithelium /ˈpiɡməntid ıˈpiθiˌliəm/ noun a thin layer of skin at the back of the retina.

PilÔ abbr pregnancy-induced hypertension.

Pilates /ˈpaɪlətɪz/ noun a holistic form of exercise and postural therapy that develops the deep abdominal muscles to control body movement and protect the back.

Piles /ˈpailz/ plural noun same as haemorrhoids.

Pill /ˈpaɪl/ a arrector pili.

Pill /ˈpaɪl/ noun a small hard round ball of medication that is taken by swallowing. He has to take the pills twice a day. & the pill an oral contraceptive. & The morning-after pill is on the pill taking a regular course of contraceptive pills.

Pillow /ˈpaɪləʊ/ noun a part that is long and thin.

Pillow /ˈpaɪləʊ/ noun a soft cushion on a bed which the head lies on when the person is lying down. & The nurse gave her an extra pillow to keep her head raised.

Pill-rolling /ˈpaɪl ˈroʊlɪŋ/ noun nervous action of the fingers, in which the person seems to be rolling a very small object, associated with Parkinson’s disease.

Pilo- /ˈpaɪloʊ/ prefix referring to hair.

Pilocarpine /ˌpaɪloʊˈkærpɪn/ noun an organic compound of plant origin which is used in eye drops to treat glaucoma.

Pilomotor /ˌpaɪloʊˈmoʊtər/ adjective referring to something that moves the hairs of the skin.

Pilomotor nerve /ˌpaɪloʊˈmoʊtər ˈnɜːv/ noun a nerve which supplies the arrector pili muscles attached to hair follicles.

Pilomotor reflex /ˌpaɪloʊˈmoʊtər ˈriːflɛks/ noun a reaction of the dermal papillae of the skin to cold and fear which causes the hairs on the skin to become erect.

Pilondial /ˌpaɪloʊˈnɑːrdɪəl/ adjective relating to a cyst or cavity which has a growth of hair.

Pilonidal cyst /ˌpaɪloʊˈnɑːrdɪəl 'sɪst/ noun a cyst containing hair, usually found at the bottom of the spine near the buttocks.
pilonidal sinus /ˌpaɪənəˈdɛləʊ/ noun a small depression with hairs at the base of the spine
pilosebaceous /ˌpɪləsəˈbeɪʃəs/ adjective referring to the hair follicles and the glands attached to them
pili /ˈpɪli/ noun for attaching things together
pin /pin/ noun 1. a small sharp piece of metal for attaching things together 2. a metal nail used to attach broken bones 3. He has had a pin inserted in his hip.

pinch /pɪntʃ/ verb 1. an act of squeezing the thumb and first finger together 2. a quantity of something which can be held between the thumb and first finger 3. He had pimples on his neck.

pimple /ˈpɪmpl/ noun a small swelling on the skin, containing pus 1. He had pimples on his neck.

pimply /ˈpɪmpli/ adjective covered with pimples

pin /pin/ noun 1. a small sharp piece of metal for attaching things together 2. a metal nail used to attach broken bones 3. He has had a pin inserted in his hip. 4. verb to attach something with a pin 5. She pinned the bandages carefully to stop them slipping.

pinpoint /pɪnˈpɔɪnt/ noun a unit of measurement of liquids (≈ about 0.56 of a litre) 1. He lost two pints of blood during the operation.

pint /ˈpɪnt/ noun a small quantity of liquid

pinhead /ˈpɪnˌhɛd/ noun 1. a member of the same as pinnas

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pinnaplasty /ˈpɪnəpləstɪ/ noun a cosmetic surgical procedure to correct the shape of the ear

pincushion /ˈpɪncəʃən/ noun the process by which a cell surrounds and takes in fluid

pins and needles /ˈpaɪzn ənˈnɪdlz/ noun an unpleasant tingling sensation, usually occurring after a temporarily restricted blood supply returns to an arm or leg (informal) parasthesia

pint /ˈpɪnt/ noun a small quantity of liquid

pinto /ˈpɪntoʊ/ noun a skin disease of the tropical regions of America, in which the skin on the hands and feet swells and loses colour, caused by a spirochaete Treponema pallidum. See illustration at syphilis

pinworm /ˈpaɪnworm/ noun US same as threadworm

PINP abbr proximal interphalangeal joint

pipette /ˈpɪpet/ noun a thin glass tube used in the laboratory for taking or measuring samples of liquid

pitting /ˈpɪtɪŋ/ noun 1. hollows caused by a spirochaete Treponema pallidum. See illustration at syphilis. 2. The bone had fractured in several places and needed pinning.

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placebo /pləˈsiːntə/ noun a tablet which appears to be a drug, but has no medicinal content 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 tests of new drugs (a placebo-controlled study).

placebo effect /pləˈsiːbəʊ ɪˌfekt/ 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 /ˈpləsɛntə/ 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 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 /ˈpləsɛnt(ə)l/ adjective referring to the placenta.

placental barrier /ˈpləsɛnt(ə)l ˈbærəri/ 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 /ˈpləsɛnt(ə)l ˈɪnsɪˈfjuːsəni/ noun a condition in which the placenta does not provide the fetus with the necessary oxygen and nutrients.

placenta praevia /ˈpləsɛntə prəˈviːə/ noun a condition in which the placenta lies across the cervix and may become detached during childbirth and cause brain damage to the baby.

placentography /pləˈsɛntəɡrəfɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the placenta of a pregnant woman after a radiopaque dye has been injected.

Placido’s disc /ˈpləsəˈsædəʊ dɪsk/ noun same as keratocornea [After A. Placido, Portuguese oculist].

plagiocephaly /ˌplædʒiəˌkɛfəli/ noun a condition in which a person has a distorted head shape, from irregular closure of the cranial sutures.

plague /pleɪɡ/ 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 on the lymph nodes.

plan /plæn/ noun arrangement of how something should be done or to arrange how something is going to be done or that they are planning to have a family.

planning /ˈplænɪŋ/ noun the work of deciding and arranging how something should be done.

plantar arch /ˈplæntər ˈɑːtʃ/ 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 flexion /ˌplæntərˈfleksʃən/ noun the bending of the toes downwards

plantar reflex /ˌplæntərˈrɛfliks/ noun the usual downward movement of the toes when the sole of the foot is stroked in the Babinski test

plantar region /ˌplæntər rɪˈʃiːn/ noun the sole of the foot

plantar surface /ˈplæntər ˈsɜːfɪs/ noun the skin of the sole of the foot

plantar wart /ˈplæntər wɜːt/ noun a wart on the sole of the foot

planus /ˈpleɪnəs/ noun 1. a flat area 2. a film of saliva, mucus and food residues that builds up on the surface of teeth and can cause gum damage

-plasia /ˈpleɪzəs/ suffix referring to something which develops or grows

plasm- /ˈplæzm-/ prefix same as plasma- (used before vowels)

plasma /ˈplæzmə/ noun 1. a yellow watery liquid which makes up the main part of blood 2. lymph with no corpuscles 3. cytoplasm

plasmatocyte /ˈplæzmətəʊsɪt/ noun a malignant tumour of plasma cells, usually found in lymph nodes or bone marrow

plasmapheresis /ˈplæzməfərəsɪs/ 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 /ˈplæzmə prɔˈtʃiːn/ noun a protein in plasma, e.g. albumin, gamma globulin or fibrinogen

plasmin /ˈplæzmɪn/ noun same as fibrinolysin

plasminogen /ˈplæzmɪnəˈdʒiːn/ noun a substance in blood plasma which becomes activated and forms plasmin

plasmo- /ˈplæzməʊ/ prefix referring to blood plasma

Plasmodium /ˈplæzmədɪəm/ noun a type of parasite which infects red blood cells and causes malaria

plasmosyisis /ˌplæzməˈsɪlɪsɪs/ noun the contraction of a cell protoplasm by dehydration, where the surrounding cell wall becomes smaller

plaster /ˈplæstər/ 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.

plastic cast /ˈplæstɪk kast/ 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 /ˈplæstər əv ˈpærɪs/ noun a fine white plaster used to make plaster casts

plastic /ˈplæstɪk/ noun an artificial material made from petroleum, and used to make many objects, including replacement organs a adjective able to change shape or develop in different shapes

plastic lymph /ˈplæstɪk lɪmf/ noun a yellow liquid produced by an inflamed wound which helps the healing process

plastic surgeon /ˈplæstɪk səˈdʒənər/ noun a surgeon who specialises in plastic surgery

plastic surgery /ˈplæstɪk səˈdʒənəri/ noun surgery to repair damaged or malformed parts of the body (informal) ○ reconstructive surgery

-plastic /ˈplæstɪk/ suffix referring to plastic surgery

plate /ˈpleɪt/ 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 /ˈplætliːt/ noun a small blood cell which releases thromboplastin and which multiplies rapidly after an injury, encouraging the coagulation of blood. Also called thrombocyte

platelet count /ˈpleɪt(ə)lɪt kɔʊnt/ noun a test to count the number of platelets in a specific quantity of blood

platy- /ˈpleɪti/ prefix flat

platysma /ˈplætɪzəmə/ noun a flat muscle running from the collarbone to the lower jaw

pledget /ˈpledʒt/ 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 /ˈplɛdʒə/ suffix paralytic

pleio- /ˈpliəʊ-/ prefix same as pleo-

pleo- /ˈpliəʊ-/ prefix too many
pleocytosis /ˌpliːəʊsʌtɪs/ noun a condition in which there are an unusual number of leucocytes in the cerebrospinal fluid
pleoptics /ˈplɪəptɪks/ noun treatment to help the partially sighted
pleosor /ˈplɛsər/ 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 /ˌplɛθəzˈmɒɡrəfi/ noun a method of recording the changes in the volume of organs, mainly used to measure blood flow in the limbs
pleur- /ˈplɜər-/ prefix same as pleuro- (used before vowels)
pleura /ˈplɜərə/ noun one of two membranes lining the chest cavity and covering each lung (note: The plural is pleur or pleurae.)
pleuracentesis /ˌplʊərəsɛnˈtɛsɪs/ noun same as pleurocentesis
pleural /ˈplɜərəl/ adjective referring to the pleura
pleural cavity /ˌplɜərəl ˈkeɪvəti/ noun a space between the inner and outer pleura of the chest. See illustration at lung in Supplement
pleural effusion /ˌplɜərəl ˈɛfjuʒən/ noun an excess of fluid formed in the pleural sac
pleural fluid /ˌplɜərəl ˈfljuːd/ noun a fluid which forms between the layers of the pleura in pleurisy
pleural membrane /ˌplɜərəl ˈmembriːn/ noun same as pleura
pleural mesothelioma /ˌplɜərəl ˈmezəθəlɪəmə/ noun a tumour of the pleura, caused by inhaling asbestos dust
pleurectomy /ˌplɜərɛrɛktəmi/ noun the surgical removal of part of the pleura which has been thickened or made stiff by chronic empyema
pleurisy /ˌplʊərɪsɪ/ noun inflammation of the pleura, usually caused by pneumonia. Comment: The symptoms of pleurisy are coughing, fever, and sharp pains when breathing, caused by the two layers of pleura rubbing together.
pleuritis /ˌplʊərɪtɪts/ noun same as pleurisy
pleuro- /ˌplʊərəʊ-/ prefix relating to the pleura
pleurocele /ˈplʊərəsəl/ noun 1. a condition in which part of the lung or pleura is herniated 2. fluid in the pleural cavity
pleurocentesis /ˌplʊərəsɛnˈtɛsɪs/ noun an operation in which a hollow needle is put into the pleura to drain liquid. Also called pleuracentesis
pleurodesis /ˌplʊərəʊdaɪsɪs/ noun treatment for a collapsed lung, in which the inner and outer pleura are stuck together
pleurodynia /ˌplʊərəʊdɪnɪə/ noun pain in the muscles between the ribs, due to rheumatic inflammation
pleuron /ˌplʊərəʊn/ noun a membrane that encases the lung
pleuropneumonia /ˌplʊərəʊˈnuːmənɪə/ noun acute lobar pneumonia, the classic type of pneumonia
plexor /ˈplɛksər/ noun same as plessor
plexus /ˈplɛksəs/ noun a network of nerves, blood vessels or lymphatics
pliable /ˈplɛrəb(oʊ)l/ adjective able to be bent easily
plica /ˈplɪkə/ noun a fold
plicate /ˈplɪkət(ə)l/ adjective folded
plication /ˈplɪkəʃ(ə)n/ 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 /ˈplədɪə/ noun the number of sets of chromosomes within a cell
plombage /ˈplɒmˌbæʒ/ noun 1. the act of packing bone cavities with antiseptic material 2. the act of packing the lung or pleural cavities with inert material
PLSS /ˈplɑːstɪk/ portable life-support system
plumbing /ˈplʌmɪŋ/ noun any system of tubes or vessels in the body, but especially the urinary system (informal humorous)
plumbism /ˈplʌmbɪz(ə)m/ noun same as lead poisoning
Plummer–Vinson syndrome /ˌplʌmər–ˈvɪznən ˈsɪndrəm/ 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 /ˈplʌŋər/ 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- /ˈplʊəri-/ prefix indicating more than one of something
PM abbr 1. particulate matter 2. post mortem
PMA abbr progressive muscular atrophy
pmol symbol pmolome
PMR abbr polymyalgia rheumatica
PMS abbr premenstrual syndrome
PMT abbr premenstrual tension
-pnea /ˈpniə/ suffix same as -pnoea
pneo- /ˈpiːnoʊ-/ prefix relating to breathing
of passing air or gas in the urine
the lungs or to breathing pneumococci.
Also called pneumonia.
pneumonía/pneumonía
Also called pneumonectomy.
pneumonía/pneumonía

pneumococcus
a form of pneumonia found in people with impaired immune systems after radiotherapy or with AIDS. Also called haemopneumothorax.
pneumocystis carinii pneumonia
pneumonía

pneumonía had to be hospitalised.
She died of pneumonia.

pneumonia and had to be hospitalised.

pneumonia and had to be hospitalised.

pneumonia and had to be hospitalised.

pneumonia and had to be hospitalised.
The grey matter in the brain caused by
drugs, e.g. the Pharmacy and Poisons Act
which a person is made ill or is killed by a poi-
sonous substance
which a person is made ill or is killed by a poi-
sonous substance
a condition in which a person is made ill or is killed by a poi-
sonous substance
a gas which can kill or can make someone ill
a rubber bag which is used to blow air into the middle ear to unblock a Eustachian tube.
which is used to blow air into the middle ear to unblock a Eustachian tube.
American plants whose leaves can cause a painful rash if touched
a figure which shows the amount of pollen in a sample of air
the thumb (technical)
NOTE: The plural is pollines.
substance which causes pollution
the act of making dirty, or substances which make e.g. air or water impure
the thumb
prefix as polio- (used before vowels)
which is produced from an oocyst but does not develop into an ovum
the end of a rounded organ, e.g. the end of a lobe in the cerebral hemisphere
made of a piece of canvas and two poles which slide into tubes at the side of the canvas
prefixed same as polio- (used before vowels)
which is produced from an oocyst but does not develop into an ovum
which is produced from an oocyst but does not develop into an ovum
substance which makes e.g. air or water impure
substance which makes e.g. air or water impure
inflam-
acting on an organ which has developed more than one cyst, or to a disease caused by the develop-
ment of cysts
inflam-
substance which affects the spinal cord
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
Symptoms of poliomyelitis are pa-
alyis 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 vac-
cine is given as an injection of dead virus.

poliovirus /poliəvaɪrəs/ noun a virus
which causes poliomyelitis

Poli tzer bag /polɪt.za bag/ noun a rubber

polar body /poləbodi noun a small cell

polar body

polio, infantile paralysis

313 polycystic kidney disease

was 38.7: say ‘thirty-eight point seven!’ 3. a
mark in a series of numbers or the freezing
point of water

pointed /ˈpɔɪntɪd/ adjective with a sharp
point

poison /ˈpɔɪz(ə)n/ noun a substance which can kill or harm body tissues if eaten or drunk

poisoning /ˈpɔɪz(ə)nɪŋ/ noun a condition in which
a person is made ill or is killed by a po-
isonous substance

Poisons Act /ˈpɔɪz(ə)nz əkt/ noun in the
UK, one of several Acts of Parliament which regulate the making, prescribing and selling of
drugs, e.g. the Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933, Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, or Poisons Act 1972

polar /ˈpɔlər/ adjective with a pole

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

polyartitis nodosa /polərætiˌstæks/ noun

polyarteritis /polərætıˈstæks/ adjective referring to
an organ which has developed more than one
cyst, or to a disease caused by the develop-
ment of cysts

polycystic /polɪˈsɜstrɪk/ adjective referring to
an organ which has developed more than one
cyst, or to a disease caused by the develop-
ment of cysts

polycystic kidney disease /polɪˈsɜstrɪk/ noun a condition in which there are 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 treat-
ment.
polycystic ovary disease

polycystic ovary disease /ˌpolɪsɪstɪk əˈvɔːrɪən/ noun same as polycystic ovary syndrome. Abbr PCOD

polycystic ovary syndrome /ˌpolɪsɪstɪk əˈvɔːrɪən ˌsɪndrəʊm/ 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

polycystitis /ˌpolɪsɪstɪtɪs/ noun a congenital disease in which several cysts form in the kidney at the same time

polycythemia /ˌpolɪsɪθˈɛmɪə/ noun a condition in which the number of red blood cells increases (NOTE: The US spelling is polycythemia.)

polycythemia vera /ˌpolɪsɪθˈɛmɪə vərə/ noun a blood disease in which the number of red blood cells increases, together with an increase in the number of white blood cells, making the blood thicker and slowing its flow. Also called erythemia, Vaquez-Osler disease

polydactyl /ˌpolɪˈdæktɪl/ adjective having more than the usual number of fingers or toes

polydactylysm /ˌpolɪˈdæktɪlɪzəm/ noun same as hyperdactylysm

polydipsia /ˌpolɪˈdɪpsɪə/ noun a condition, often caused by diabetes insipidus, in which a person is unusually thirsty

polygraph /ˌpolɪɡræf/ noun an instrument which records the pulse in several parts of the body at the same time

polymenorrhoea /ˌpolɪmənəˈrɒhiə/ noun unusually frequent menstruations (NOTE: The US spelling is polynomenorrhea.)

polymerase chain reaction /ˌpolɪmərəˌzen rɪkˈɛʃən/ 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

polymerase /ˌpolɪmərəs/ noun same as nucleophil

polymyalgia rheumatica /ˌpolɪmɪdʒə ˈrɪmətɪkə/ noun a disease of elderly people characterised by pain and stiffness in the shoulder and hip muscles making them weak and sensitive

polymyositis /ˌpolɪmɪˈsɔːtɪs/ noun a condition in which a lot of muscles swell up at the same time, especially the ones in the trunk of the body, causing weakness. It is treated with steroid drugs or immunosuppressants, and also exercise

polyneuritis /ˌpolɪnjuːrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of many nerves

polyneuropathy /ˌpolɪnjuːˈrɒpəθi/ noun any disease which affects several nerves (NOTE: The plural is polyneuropathies.)

polyopia /ˌpolɪˈəʊpɪə/; polyopia /ˌpolɪˈopiə/; polyopy /ˌpolɪˈʌpɔɪ/ noun a condition in which a person sees several images of one object at the same time. Compare diploria

polyp /ˌpolɪp/ noun a tumour growing on a stalk in mucous membrane, which can be cut out. Polyps are often found in the nose, mouth or throat. Also called polypus

polypectomy /ˌpolɪpɛkˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a polyp (NOTE: The plural is polypectomies.)

polypeptide /ˌpolɪˈpiːptɪd/ noun a type of protein formed of linked amino acids

polyphagia /ˌpolɪˈfeɪdiə/ noun 1. a condition in which a person eats too much 2. a compulsive desire for every kind of food

polypharmacy /ˌpolɪˈfeɪmərɪ/ noun the practice of prescribing several drugs to be taken at the same time

polyploid /ˌpolɪpɔɪld/ adjective referring to a cell where there are more than two copies of each chromosome, which is not viable in humans

polyphonic /ˌpolɪˈfɒnɪk/ adjective looking like a polyp

polyposis /ˌpolɪˈpɔsɪs/ noun a condition in which many polyps form in the mucous membrane of the colon. (NOTE: The plural is polyposis)

polyradiculitis /ˌpolɪˈreɪdɪskəlɪtɪs/ noun a disease of the nervous system which affects the roots of the nerves

polyunsaturated fat /ˌpolɪˈʌnsətʃʊrət/ noun a fatty acid capable of absorbing more hydrogen than most others, typical of vegetable and fish oils

polyuria /ˌpolɪˈjʊərɪə/ noun a condition in which a person passes a large quantity of urine, usually as a result of diabetes insipidus

polypoidal /ˌpolɪˈpɔɪdəl/ adjective having more than one valency

POM abbr prescription-only medicine
pompholyx /pomfoliks/ noun 1. a type of eczema with many irritating little blisters on the hands and feet 2. a skin condition with bulbous swellings
pons /pons/ noun a bridge of tissue joining parts of an organ. See illustration at BRAIN in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is pontes.)
pons Varolii /pons vaˈɾoːli/ noun part of the hindbrain, formed of fibres which continue the medulla oblongata. See illustration at BRAIN in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is pontes Varolii.) (After Constanze Varolus (1543–75), Italian physician and anatomist, doctor to Pope Gregory XIII)
pontes /ˈpontiːz/ plural of pons
pontine /ˈpɒntiːn/ adjective referring to a pons
pontine cistern /ˈpɒntiːn ˈsɪstən/ noun a subarachnoid space in front of the pons, containing the basilar artery
poor /pʊər/ adjective not very good ○ He’s in poor health. ○ She’s always had poor circulation.
poorly /ˈpʊərli/ adjective not very well (informal) ○ Her mother has been quite poorly recently. ○ He felt poorly and stayed in bed.
POP abbr progesterone only pill
popeyes /ˈpɒpɪz/ plural noun US protruding eyes
popliteal /ˌpɒplɪˈtɛl/ adjective referring to the back of the knee
popliteal artery /ˌpɒplɪˈtɛl əˈtɛrɪ/ noun an artery which branches from the femoral artery behind the knee and leads into the tibial arteries
popliteal fossa /ˌpɒplɪˈtɛl ˈfɒsə/ noun a space behind the knee between the hamstring and the calf muscle. Also called popliteal space
popliteal muscle /ˌpɒplɪˈtɛl ˌmʌsk(ə)/ noun same as popliteus
popliteal space /ˌpɒplɪˈtɛl ˈspeɪs/ noun same as popliteal fossa
popliteus /ˈpɒplɪtəs/ noun a muscle at the back of the knee. Also called popliteal muscle
population /ˈpɒpjʊleɪʃn/ 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 /poʊr/ noun 1. a tiny hole in the skin through which the sweat passes 2. a small communicating passage between cavities
porencephaly /ˌpɔrənsˈkefəli/ noun a condition in which there are cysts in the cerebral cortex, as a result of unusual development
porous /ˈpɔrəs/ adjective 1. containing pores ○ Porous bone surrounds the Eustachian tubes. 2. referring to tissue which allows fluid to pass through it
porphyria /ˈpɔrfaɪrə/ noun a hereditary disease affecting the metabolism of porphyrin pigments
portacaval /ˈpɔrtaˈkevəl/ adjective referring to something which can be carried ○ He keeps a portable first aid kit in his car. ○ The ambulance team carried a portable blood testing unit.
portacaval /ˈpɔrtaˈkevəl/ plural of portacaval
portage /ˈpɔrtədʒ/ noun a type of cathe¬ter 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 sterile saline
portacaval /ˈpɔrtaˈkevəl/ adjective another spelling of portacaval
portae /ˈpɔrtə/ plural of porta
porta hepatitis /ˈpɔrtə ˈhepatəs/ noun an opening in the liver through which the hepatic artery, hepatic duct and portal vein pass (NOTE: The plural is portae hepatitis.)
porta /ˈpɔrtə/ plural noun US a collection of veins which have capillaries at both ends and do not go to the heart
portal islet /ˈpɔrtəl ɪsɛt/ noun a group of veins which have capillaries at both ends and do not go to the heart
portal vein /ˈpɔrtəl ˈviːn/ noun a vein which takes blood from the stomach, pancreas, gall bladder, intestines and spleen to the liver (NOTE: For other terms referring to the portal vein, see words beginning with pyl-, pylio-)
porter /ˈpɔrtə/ noun a hospital worker who does general work such as wheeling a patient’s trolley into the operating theatre or moving heavy equipment
portocaval

portocaval /pɔr'təkəvəl/ adjective linking the portal vein to the inferior vena cava

portocaval anastomosis /pɔr'təkəvəl ənəstəməˈnɒsɪs/ noun a surgical operation to join the portal vein and the inferior vena cava and divert blood past the liver

portocaval shunt /pɔr'təkəvəl ˈʃʌnt/ noun an artificial passage made between the portal vein and the inferior vena cava to relieve portal hypertension

porto-systemic encephalopathy /ˌpɔrtəsɪˈsɪstəmɪk eŋˈsɛfələpəθi/ noun a mental disorder and coma caused by liver disorder due to portal hypertension

port wine stain /ˈpɔrt wain stɛrn/ noun a purple birthmark

position /ˈpəʊzɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the place where something is located 2. the way a person's body is arranged 3. in a sitting position 4. The accident victim had been placed in the recovery position.

positive /ˈpəʊzətɪv/ adjective 1. indicating the answer 'yes' 2. indicating the presence of something being tested for 3. Her cervical smear was positive. Opposite negative

positive end-expiratory pressure /ˌpəʊzətɪv ˈend ɪk, ˈspɹət(ə)rɪ) ˈprɛʃər/ noun the procedure of forcing a person to breathe through a mask in cases where fluid has collected in the lungs. Abbreviation: PEEP

positive feedback /ˌpəʊzətɪv ˈfɪdbæk/ noun a situation in which the result of a process stimulates the process which caused it

positively /ˈpəʊzɪtɪvli/ adverb in a positive way She reacted positively to the test.

positive pressure respirator /ˌpəʊzətɪv ˈprɛʃər ˈrɛspɪrətɒr/ noun a machine which forces air into the lungs through a tube inserted in the mouth

positive pressure ventilation /ˌpəʊzətɪv ˈprɛʃər ˈventɪləʃ(ə)n/ noun the act of forcing air into the lungs to encourage the lungs to expand. Abbreviation: PPV

positron-emission tomography /ˌpəʊzɪtrən ɪˈmiʃ(ə)n təˌmɔrəˈɡrɑːfi/ 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. Abbreviation: PET

post /ˈpəʊst/ noun (in babies) the act of bringing up small quantities of curdled milk into the mouth after feeding

postassium /ˈpəʊstəkɒm/ noun a device using electronic switches which helps a person who is severely paralysed to work a machine such as a telephone (Note: the name is derived from the first letters of patient-operated selector mechanism)

post-/pəʊst/ prefix after or later

postcentral gyrus /pəʊstˌsentrəl ˈɡɜːrəs/ 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 /ˈpəʊst ˈsaɪbəl/ adjective after having eaten food

post-cibum adverb full form of p.c.

post-coital /ˌpəʊst ˈkəʊɪtəl/ adjective taking place after sexual intercourse

postconcussional syndrome /ˌpəʊstkənˈsʌʃənl ˈsəʊdəmən/ 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 /ˌpəʊst ˌɛplɪˈleptɪk/ adjective taking place after an epileptic fit

posterior /ˈpəʊstəriər/ adjective at the back. Opposite anterior or posterior to behind 1. The cerebellum is posterior to the medulla oblongata. 2. noun same as buttock (internal)

posterior approach /ˌpəʊstəriər əˈprɒʧ(ə)/ noun an operation carried out from the back

posterior aspect /ˌpəʊstəriər ˈæsəpt/ noun a view of the back of the body, or of the back part of the body. See illustration at anatomical terms in Supplement

posterior chamber /ˌpəʊstəriər ˈtʃɛmbər/ noun a part of the aqueous chamber which is behind the iris. Compare anterior chamber

posterior fontanelle /ˌpəʊstəriər ˈfɒntərəl/ noun a cartilage at the back of the head where the parietal bones join the occipital. Compare bregma

posterior lobe /ˈpəʊstəriər ləʊ/ noun same as caudate lobe

posteriorly /ˌpəʊstəriəlɪ/ adverb in or from a position behind An artery leads to a posteriorly placed organ. 2. Rectal biopsy specimens are best taken posteriorly.

posterior nares /ˌpəʊstəriər ˈnɛərəz/ plural noun same as internal nares

posterior synchia /ˌpəʊstəriər ˈsɪniəkə/ noun a condition of the eye in which the iris sticks to the anterior surface of the lens

postero-/ˌpəʊstərəʊ/ prefix back or behind

posteroanterior /ˌpəʊstərəʊənˈtɛnərɪə/ adjective lying from the back to the front

post-exposure prophylaxis /ˌpəʊstər ɪkˈsɪprəlɪsɪs/ 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 /ˌpəʊstɡæŋˈglɪk/ adjective after a ganglion

postganglionic fibre /ˌpəʊstɡæŋˈglɪk ˈfaɪbr/ noun an axon of a nerve cell which starts in a ganglion and extends beyond the ganglion
COMMENT: Postganglionic fibres go to the nose, palate, pharynx and lacrimal glands.

postganglionic neurone /paʊstˈɡæŋɡliən/ noun a neurone which starts in a ganglion and ends in a gland or unstriated muscle.

postgastrectomy syndrome /paʊst ɡæsˈtɛktəmɪ sɪndrəm/ noun a group of symptoms which can occur after eating in people who have had stomach operations. It is caused to a victim.

postmortem /paʊst mɔːtəm/ adjective referring to the period after the death of a child.

postmortem depression /paʊst,mɔːtəm dɪˈpresʃən/ noun depression which sometimes affects a woman after childbirth.

postmenopausal /paʊstˌmɛnəˈpɔːʃəl/ adjective happening or existing after the menopause. She experienced some postmenopausal bleeding.

postmortem /paʊst mɔːtəm/ post mortem examination /paʊst mɔːtəm ɪɡˈzæməni/ noun an examination of a dead body by a pathologist to find out the cause of death. The postmortem showed that he had been poisoned. Abb PM. Also called autopsy.

postnasal drip /paʊstˈnɛzl dɪrp/ noun a condition in which mucus from the nose runs down into the throat and is swallowed.

postnatal /paʊstˈneɪtəl/ adjective referring to the period after the birth of a child.

postnatal care /paʊst,neɪtəl/ noun the care given to a woman after the birth of her child.

postnasal /postnasal/ (noun) referring to pain or disorder caused by postnasal polyps.

postnasal polyps /postnasal ˈpɒlɪps/ noun polyps found in the back of the nose after a trauma, e.g. after an accident.

postoperative /paʊstˈəʊpərətɪv/ adjective referring to the period after a surgical operation.

postoperative pain /paʊst,ˈpəʊpərətɪv/ noun pain felt after a surgical operation.

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postoperative /paʊstˈəʊpərətɪv/ (adjective) referring to the period after a surgical operation. The patient has suffered postoperative nausea and vomiting. Occulsion may appear as postoperative angina pectoris.

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postpartum /paʊstˈpɑːtəm/ postpartum fever /paʊstˌpɑːtəm ˈfɜːvrəl/ noun same as puerperal fever.

postpartum /paʊstˈpɑːtəm/ noun a condition in which mucus from the nose runs down into the throat and is swallowed.

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postnasal /paʊstˈnɛzl/ adjective situated or happening behind the nose.
post-traumatic stress disorder /ˈpɔːstrətrəˈmiːk/ 'streɪdis, drəʊz/ 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. Abbr PTSD.

potentiate /ˈpɔːtnətɪət/ adjective referring to posture an a study of postural disorders postural drainage /ˈpɔːstrəl dˈreɪndʒ/ noun a procedure for removing matter from infected 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 /ˈpɔːstrəl haɪpəˈtɛnʃən/ noun decreased blood pressure in the legs that can cause dizziness or faintness. When standing up suddenly, causing dizziness.

posture /ˈpɔːstər/ 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 fatigue syndrome /ˈpɔːstvɜːrəl fəˈtɪɡ Syndrəm/ noun same as myalgic encephalomyelitis

potassium /ˈpɔːtʃəsɪəm/ noun a metallic element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is K.). Potassium permanganate /ˈpɔːtʃəsɪəm ˈpɜːrnəɡənət/ noun a purple-coloured poisonous salt, used as a disinfectant.

potentiate /ˈpɔːtʃənɪt/ verb to improve the effectiveness of a drug or treatment, especially by adding another drug or agent (NOTE: potentiation – potentiated).

Pott’s disease /ˈpɔːts dɪz/ Zizi, Pott’s caries /ˈpɔːts kærɪz/ noun tuberculosis of the spine, causing paralysis [Described 1779. After Sir Percivall Pott (1714–88), London surgeon.]

Pott’s fracture /ˈpɔːts ˈfræktʃər/ noun a fracture of the lower end of the fibula together with displacement of the ankle and foot [Outwards [Described 1765. After Sir Percivall Pott (1714-88), London surgeon.]

pouch /ˈpaʊtʃ/ noun a small sac or pocket attached to an organ.

poultice /ˈpɔːltɪs/ 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.

powder /ˈpaʊdər/ noun a medicine in the form of a fine dry dust made from particles of drugs. He took a powder to help his digestion or He took an indigestion powder.

powdered /ˈpaʊdəd/ adjective crushed so that it forms a fine dry dust. The medicine is available in tablets or in powdered form.

pox /pɒks/ noun 1. a disease with eruption of vesicles or pustules. same as syphilis (old)

poxvirus /ˈpɒks, vɔːrəs/ 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. adjective (of an examination) by the 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.

3. the fact of doing something, as opposed to thinking or talking about it: Theory and practice the usual way of doing something. Such practices are now regarded as unsafe.

practice nurse /ˈpræktɪs nʊz/ 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 nurse practitioner /ˈpræktɪs nʊzprækˈtrɪsk/ noun a trained nurse who practises homeopathy. She practises homoeopathy. to work in a particular branch of medicine (NOTE: practising = practised. The US spelling is practice.)

practitioner /praŋˈtʃənər/ 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 /prɪˈkɒks/ noun ejaculatio praecox.

praevia /ˈprɛviə/ noun 1. placenta praevia.
pravastatin /prəˈvæstətən/noun a drug used to reduce unusually high levels of blood cholesterol

prazosin /ˈpræzoʊsɪn/noun a drug which relaxes or widens the blood vessels, used to treat hypertension

pre- /prɪ/ prefix before or in front of premission information /prɪˈmɪʃn ɪnˈfərəmʃn/noun information given to a person before he or she is admitted to hospital

pre-anaesthetic round /prɪˈænəsˈθɪtɪk rounrd/noun an examination of patients by the surgeon before they are anaesthetised

precancer /prɪˈkænsər/noun a growth which is not malignant but which may become precancerous

precancerous /prɪˈkænsərəs/ adjective referring to a growth which is not malignant now, but which can become cancerous later

precaution /prɪˈkəʃən/noun an action taken before something happens ○ She took the tablets as a precaution against seasickness.

precede /prɪˈsid/ verb to happen before or earlier than something ○ The attack was preceded by a sudden rise in body temperature. (note: preceding – preceded)

precentral gyrus /prɪˈsentrəl ˈdʒɜːrəs/noun a motor area of the cerebral cortex

preceptor /prɪˈseptər/noun a specialist who gives practical training to a student

preceptorship /prɪˈseptəʃip/noun a period of time during which a recently trained nurse, midwife or health visitor can gain practical experience working with a specialist who advises and guides them

precipitate /prɪˈsɪpɪtət/noun a substance which is precipitated during a chemical reaction ■ verb 1. to make a substance separate from a chemical compound and fall to the bottom of a liquid during a chemical reaction ○ Casein is precipitated when milk comes into contact with an acid. 2. to make something start suddenly (note: all verb senses) precipitating – precipitated

...it has been established that myocardial infarction and sudden coronary death are precipitated in the majority of patients by thrombus formation in the coronary arteries (British Journal of Hospital Medicine).

precipitate labour /prɪˈsɪprɪtəˌleɪbr/noun unusually fast labour, lasting two hours or less. It can be dangerous both to the mother and to the child.

precipitation /prɪˈsɪpɪteʃn/noun the action of forming a precipitate

precipitin /prɪˈsɪprɪtɪn/noun an antibody which reacts to an antigen and forms a precipitate, used in many diagnostic tests

precise /prɪˈsɪs/ adjective very exact or correct ○ The instrument can give precise measurements of changes in heartbeat.

preclinical /prɪˈkliːnɪk(ə)l/ adjective 1. taking place before diagnosis ○ the preclinical stage of an infection 2. referring to the first part of a medical course, before the students are allowed to examine real patients

precocious /prɪˈkəʊʃəs/noun adjective more physically or mentally developed than is usual for a specific age

precocious puberty /prɪˈkəʊʃəs ˈpjuːbərteɪti/noun the development of signs of puberty in girls before the age of seven, and in boys before the age of nine. If untreated, affected boys typically grow no taller than 1.6 metres and girls rarely reach 1.5 metres.

precocity /prɪˈkəʊsɪt/noun the state or fact of being precocious

precordia /prɪˈkɔrdiə plural noun plural of precordium

precordial /prɪˈkɔrdiəl adjective referring to the precordium

precordium /prɪˈkɔrdeɪəm/noun the part of the thorax over the heart (note: The plural is precordia.)

cellular /ˈsɪlərəl/ adjective cell

cellular component /ˈsɪlərəl kəmpəˈnɛnt/noun a substance or cell from which another substance or cell is developed, e.g. dopa, the precursor for dopamine, which is converted to dopamine by the enzyme dopa decarboxylase

drug /drʌg/noun a substance that affects a living organism in some way

drug abuse /ˈdrʌɡ əˈbjuːs/noun the use of a drug for non-medical purposes

...it has been established that myocardial infarction and sudden coronary death are precipitated in the majority of patients by thrombus formation in the coronary arteries (British Journal of Hospital Medicine).

predict /prɪˈdɪkt/ verb to say what will happen in the future ○ Doctors are predicting a rise in cases of whooping cough.

prediction /prɪˈdɪkʃn/noun an act of saying what you expect will happen in the future, or what is said ○ The Health Ministry’s prediction of a rise in cases of hepatitis B

gastrointestinal /ˌgæstrəˈzɪstərənl adjective referring to the stomach and or intestines

precordia /prɪˈkɔrdiə plural noun plural of precordium

predictive /prɪˈdɪktɪv adjective referring to prediction ○ The predictive value of the test is high

predigest /prɪˈdɪdʒɪst/ verb to treat food with chemicals or enzymes so that it is more easily digested by people with digestion problems

digestion /prɪˈdɪʒən/noun the artificial starting of the digestive process before food is eaten

predispose to /prɪˈdɪspəʊz ˈtʊ/ adjective having a tendency or susceptibility to a condition ○ All the members of the family are predisposed to vascular diseases

faktor /ˈfaːktər/noun a factor which will increase the risk of disease

predisposition /prɪˈdɪspəzəˈʃn/noun a tendency or susceptibility ○ She has a predisposition to obesity.
powerful than others

in or affecting the front part of the frontal lobe

of the pregnancy which may lead to eclampsia.

rheumatoid arthritis

from cortisone, used to treat allergies and

prem

prehepatic jaundice

prem

(preoperative) adjective same as preop

premature /'premətʃə/ adjective before the expected or desirable 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 /'premətʃə 'bæbi/ noun a baby born earlier than 37 weeks from conception, or weighing less than 2.5 kg, but capable of independent life

premature birth /'premətʃə bɔːθ/ noun the birth of a baby earlier than 37 weeks from conception

premature ejaculation /'premətʃə jɪˈleɪʃən/ noun a situation in which a man ejaculates too early during sexual intercourse

premature labour /'premətʃə 'leɪbə/ noun the condition of starting to give birth earlier than 37 weeks from conception ○ After the accident she went into premature labour.

prematurely /'premətʃələri/ 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 /'premətʃətəri/ noun a situation in which something occurs before the expected or desirable time

premed /'prɛmɪd/ noun a stage of being given premedication (informal) ○ The patient is in premed.

premedical /'prɛmɪdɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to the studies that a person must complete before entering medical school

premedication /'prɛmɪdɪk(ə)ˈkefən/ premedicant drug /'prɛmɪdɪk(ə)nt 'draːɡ/ 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 /ˌpriːmənəˈpɔs(ə)l/ adjective referring to the stage in a woman’s life just before the start of the menopause

premenstrual /ˈpremənstrjuːl/ adjective referring to the stage in a woman’s life just before the start of the menstruation

premenstrual syndrome /ˈpremənstrjuːl ˈsɪndrəʊm/ premenstrual tension /ˈprɛmənstrjuːl ˈtɛnʃən noun nervous stress experienced by a woman for one or two weeks before a menstrual period starts. Abbrev PMS, PMT

premolar /ˈprɛməlɔːr/ noun a tooth with two points, situated between the canines and the first proper molar. See illustration at teeth in Supplement

prenatal /ˈpretnəl/ adjective during the period between conception and childbirth

prenatal diagnosis /ˈpretnəlˈdɪznəs/ noun same as antenatal diagnosis

pre-op /ˈprɛp/ adjective same as preoperative (informal)
preoperative /priˈɔːptərətiv/ adjective describing the period before a surgical operation
preoperatively /priˈɔːptərətivli/ adverb before a surgical operation
preoperative medication /priˈɔːptərətivˌmedʃəˈkəmən/ noun a drug given before an operation, e.g. a sedative
preovulatory /priˈɔrəvʊlətəri/ adjective referring to the 6 to 13 days in the menstrual cycle between menstruation and ovulation
prep /prep/ (informal) noun same as preparation ○ The prep is finished, so the patient can be taken to the operating theatre. ■ verb same as prepare ○ Has the patient been prepred? (NOTE: preping – prepended)
PREP abbr post-registration education and practice
preparation /ˌprɛpəˈreɪʃən/ noun1, 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 /priˈpeər/ verb1. 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 linament.
prepellatellar bursitis /ˌprɛpiˈpɛlətələrˈbɜːrətɪtəs/ 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 /priˈpjuːbərˈtæl/ adjective referring to the period before puberty
prepuberty /priˈpjuːbərəti/ noun the period before puberty
prepubescence /priˈpjuːbəˈsɛns/ noun same as foreskin
presby- /prɛzbi-/ prefix same as presbyo-
pre-sby-acusis /ˌprɛzbiˈækəsɪs/ noun a condition in which an elderly person’s hearing fails gradually, through to degeneration of the internal ear
pre-sbyo-acusis /ˌprɛzbiˈækəsɪs/ noun referring to the last stages of the natural life span
pre-sby-opia /ˌprɛzbiˈɑːpɪə/ noun a condition in which an elderly person’s sight fails gradually, through hardening of the lens
prescribe /priˈskrɪb/ 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 /priˌskrɪbəsd ˈdɪzəz/ 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 benefits. Examples are deafness, pneumoconiosis and RSI.
prescribed illness /priˌskrɪbəd ˈɪljəs/ 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 /priˈskrɪbɪŋ əˌnələsіzɪz ənd ˈkɒst/ noun plural noun data on the prescribing of drugs in primary care. Abbr PACT
prescription /priˈskrɪpʃən/ 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 /ˌprɛzɪˈskrɪpʃən ˈdrʌg/ noun a drug which can only be obtained by having a legally valid prescription
presence /ˈprezns/ noun the act or fact of being there ○ Tests showed the presence of sugar in the urine.
presenile /priˈzenaɪl/ adjective 1. prematurity 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 /priˌzenaɪl dɪˈmenʃən/ 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 /ˈpreznəlɪtɪ/ 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 ○ 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 disabling breathlessness present for at least five years’ [Lancet]
. . . sickle cell chest 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]
...the presenting symptoms of Crohn’s disease may be extremely variable. [New Zealand Medical Journal]

presentation /priˈzentətʃən/ 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

preserving /ˈprezərviŋ/ verb to keep something from rotting (note: preserving – preserved)

press /pres/ verb to push or squeeze something ○ The tumour is pressing against a nerve.

pressor /ˈpreʃərəs/ adjective 1. referring to a nerve which increases the action of part of the body 2. raising blood pressure

pressure /ˈpreʃəpər/ 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 /ˈpreʃərər eərə/ 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 /ˈpreʃər bændidʒ/ noun a bandage which presses on a part of the body

pressure index /ˈpreʃər 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 /ˈpreʃər pont/ noun a place where an artery crosses over a bone, so that the blood can be cut off by pressing with the finger

presynaptic /ˈprɪsɪnəpiptɪk/ adjective situated in front of a synapse

prick /prɪk/ verb to make a small hole in something with a sharp point ○ The nurse pricked the patient’s finger to take a blood sample.

prickle cell /ˈprɪkl ɪ sel/ noun a cell with many processes connecting it to other cells, found in the inner layer of the epidermis

prickly heat /ˈprɪkl ɪ hɛt/ noun same as miliaria

primary /ˈprɪmilərɪ/ 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

primaquine /ˈprɪməkwɪnin/ noun a synthetically produced drug used in the treatment of malaria

preterm birth /ˈprɪtɜrm bɜːθ/ 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 /ˈprɪvələns/ noun the number of cases of a disease in a specific place at a specific time ○ the prevalence of malaria in some tropical countries ○ the prevalence of cases of malnutrition in large towns ○ a high prevalence of renal disease

prevalent /ˈprɪvelənt/ adjective common in comparison to something else ○ The disease is prevalent in some African countries. ○ The condition is more prevalent in the cold winter months.
primary biliary cirrhosis /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈbaɪləri ˈsɜːrərəs/ noun cirrhosis of the liver caused by autoimmune disease

primary bronchi /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈbɹɒŋkɪ/ plural noun same as main bronchi

primary care /ˌprɪmərɪ 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 is largely concerned with clinical management of individual patients, while community medicine tends to view the whole population as its patient’ (Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners)

primary care group /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈkeə 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 /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈkeə tɪm/ noun same as primary health care team

primary care trust /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈkeə 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 /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈkɑrtɪljənəs ˈdʒɔɪnt/ noun a temporary joint where the intervening cartilage is converted into adult bone

primary complex /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈkɒmplɛks/ noun the first lymph node to be infected by tuberculosis

primary dysmenorrhoea /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈdaɪsmənərəʊrəʊə/ noun dysmenorrhoea which occurs at the first menstrual period. Also called essential dysmenorrhoea

primary haemorrhage /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈheiəmərərɪdʒ/ noun bleeding which occurs immediately after an injury has taken place

primary health care /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈhelθ kɑə/ noun same as primary care

‘…among primary health care services, 1.5% of all GP consultations are due to coronary heart disease’ (Health Services Journal)

primary health care team /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈhelθ ˈteɪm/ 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 /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈmiːdɪkəl kɑə/ noun same as primary care

primary nurse /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈnɜːʃə/ 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 /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈnɜːʃə ˈnɜːstɪŋ/ 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 /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈpɜːrətənɪtɪs/ noun peritonitis caused by direct infection from the blood or the lymph

primary tooth /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈtuːθ/ noun any one of the 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 /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈtɜːbərkəl/ noun the first infected spot where tuberculosis starts to infect a lung

primary tuberculosis /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈtʃɜːbəlkəsəs/ noun a person’s first infection with tuberculosis

primary tumour /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈtjuːmər/ noun a site of the original malignant growth from which cancer spreads

prime /prɑɪm/ adjective 1. of the greatest importance or the highest rank 2. of the highest quality 3. 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 /ˈprɑɪm ˈmuːvər/ noun 1. same as agonist 2. somebody or something which has the most influence over the starting of a process or activity

primigravida /ˌprɪmɪɡrəˈvɪdəs/, primigravid patient /ˌprɪmɪɡrəˈvɪd ˈpeɪʃənt/ noun a woman who is pregnant for the first time (note: The plural is primigravidas or primigravidae.)

primipara /ˌprɪmɪˈpærə/ noun a woman who has given birth to one child. Also called unipara (note: The plural is primiparas or primiparae.)

primordial /ˌprɪmɪˈɔːdrəl/ adjective in the very first stage of development

primary follicle /ˌprɪmərɪ ˈfɒlɪkəl/ noun the first stage of development of an ovarian follicle

principle /ˈprɪnsəp(ə)l/ noun 1. a rule or theory 2. a standard of ethical behaviour

P-R interval /ˈpiː ˈɛər ɪntəvəl/ noun the time recorded on an electrocardiogram between the start of atrial activity and ventricular activity

prion /ˈprɪən/ noun a particle of protein which contains no nucleic acid, does not trigger an immune response and is not destroyed
priority despatch by extreme heat or cold. Prions are considered to be the agents responsible for scrapie, BSE, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

priority despatch /praɪˈtɒrɪti dɪˈspætʃ/ 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 /praɪˈtɒrɪti ˈmætrɪks/ noun a way of trying to make sure that each community has a fair number of services for its particular health needs

private /ˈpraɪvət/ adjective not supported by government or paid for by the National Health Service ○ He runs a private clinic for alcoholics.

private hospital /ˈpraɪvət ˈhɒspɪt(ə)l/ noun a hospital which takes only paying patients privately /ˈpraɪvətli/ adverb by a private practitioner or company, not by the National Health Service ○ The National Health Service does not support private practice.

private parts /ˈpraɪvət pɑːrts/ plural noun the genital area (informal) Also called privates

private patient /ˈpraɪvət ˈpeɪʃnt/ noun a patient who is paying for treatment and who is not being treated under the National Health Service

private practice /ˈpraɪvət ˈpræktɪs/ 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 /ˈpraɪvəts/ plural noun same as private parts (informal)

p.r.n. /pərˈɛn/ noun (written on a prescription) as and when required. Full form pro re nata

probang /ˈpərbiŋ/ 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 /ˈprəʊb/ noun 1. an instrument used to explore inside a cavity or wound 2. a device inserted into a medium to obtain information 3. verb to investigate the inside of something ○ The surgeon probed the wound with a scalpel. [NOTE: probing – probed]

problem /ˈprɒbləm/ 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 /ˈprɒbləm ˈtʃɔld/ noun a child who is difficult to control

problem drinking /ˈprɒbləm ˈdrɪŋkɪŋ/ noun alcoholism or heavy drinking which has a bad effect on a person’s behaviour or work

problem-oriented record /ˈprɒbləm ˈɔrɪɛntɪd ˈrekərd/ 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 /ˈprɒbləm ˈsɒlvɪŋə ˈprɒtʃəʊ/ noun the provision of nursing care based on assessment, problem identification (nursing diagnosis), planning implementation (nursing intervention) and evaluation

procedure /praˈsɪdʒər/ 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.

process /ˈprɒsəs/ noun 1. a technical or scientific action ○ A new process for testing serum samples has been developed in the research laboratory. 2. a projecting part of the body ○ verb 1. to deal with a person or thing according to a standard procedure 2. to examine or test samples ○ The blood samples are being processed by the laboratory.

the nursing process serves to divide overall patient care into that part performed by nurses and that performed by the other professions’ [Nursing Times]

prochlorperazine /ˌprəʊklaʊrˈpɜərəziːn/ noun a drug used to control nausea and vomiting, and to reduce the symptoms of Ménière’s disease, migraine and anxiety

pdocentia /ˌprəʊsɛntiə/ noun movement of an organ downwards

proct- /ˈprɔkt-/ prefix same as procto- (used before vowels)

proctalgia /ˈprɔktəlˈdʒiə/ noun pain in the lower rectum or anus, caused by neuralgia

proctalgia fugax /ˈprɔktəlˈdʒiə fəˈɡeɪks/ noun a condition in which a person has sudden pains in the rectum during the night, usually relieved by eating or drinking

proctaresia /ˌprɔktəˈrɛziə/ noun a condition in which the anus does not have an opening. Also called imperforate anus

proctectomies /pripɾɛktəˈtɛzmɪz/ noun surgical operation to remove the rectum (NOTE: The plural is proctectomies.)

proctitis /ˌprɔktəˈtɪtɪz/ noun inflammation of the rectum

procto- /ˌprɔktəʊ/ prefix the anus or rectum

proctocele /ˌprɔktəˈsiːl/ noun same as rec-tocele
2. \[\text{proctoclysis} /\text{prəʊktəklaɪsɪs/} \text{noun} \text{the introduction of a lot of fluid into the rectum slowly}\]

\[\text{proctocolectomy} /\text{prəʊktəkələktəmɪ/} \text{noun} \text{a surgical operation to remove the rectum and the colon} (\text{note: The plural is \text{proctocolectomies}})\]

\[\text{proctocolitis} /\text{prəʊktəkələʊlɪtɪs/} \text{noun} \text{inflammation of the rectum and part of the colon}\]

\[\text{photograph of the rectum taken after a contrast} \]

\[\text{producing – produced}\]

\[\text{the sigmoid colon}\]

\[\text{NOTE: (NOTE: something}\]

\[\text{disease before the major rash}\]

\[\text{cough where phlegm is produced}\]

\[\text{profuse}\]

\[\text{profundaplasty} /\text{prəʊʃʊndəplæstɪ/} \text{noun} \text{a surgical operation to widen a junction of the femoral artery, in order to relieve narrowing by atherosclerosis} (\text{note: The plural is \text{profundaplasties}})\]

\[\text{profuse}\]

\[\text{profundaplasty} /\text{prəʊʃʊndəplæstɪ/} \text{noun} \text{a surgical operation to widen a junction of the femoral artery, in order to relieve narrowing by atherosclerosis} (\text{note: The plural is \text{profundaplasties}})\]

\[\text{profuse}\]

\[\text{profundy} /\text{prəʊfʌndɪ/} \text{adjective referring to blood vessels which lie deep in tissues}\]

\[\text{profuse}\]

\[\text{profuse}\]

\[\text{profusion} /\text{prəʊʃʊʃn/} \text{noun} \text{a person’s child or children} (\text{note: Takes a singular or plural verb})\]

\[\text{profuse}\]

\[\text{profusion} /\text{prəʊʃʊʃn/} \text{noun} \text{a condition of premature ageing. Also called Hutchinson-Gilford syndrome}\]

\[\text{profuse}\]

\[\text{profuse}\]

\[\text{profuse}\]

\[\text{profusion} /\text{prəʊʃʊʃn/} \text{noun} \text{any substance which has the same effect as progesterone}\]
prognostic test /prəʊˈnɒstɪk/ adjective referring to a prognosis

progress noun /ˈprɒgres/ 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.

progression /prəʊˈɡresɪn/ noun development ⋄ The progression of the disease was swift.

progressive /prəˈɡresɪv/ adjective developing all the time ⋄ Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive disorder which sees a gradual decline in intellectual functioning.

progressive deafness /prəˈɡresɪv ˈdiːfɜːns/ noun a condition, common in people as they get older, in which a person gradually becomes more and more deaf progressively /prəˈɡresɪvli/ adverb more and more ⋄ He became progressively more disabled.

progressive muscular atrophy /prəˈɡresɪv ˈmʌskjʊələr əˈtroʊfi/ noun muscular dystrophy, with progressive weakening of the muscles, particularly in the pelvic and shoulder girdles

proguanil /prəʊˈɡwæniːl/ noun a drug used in the prevention and treatment of malaria

proinsulin /prəʊˈɪnsɪlən/ noun a substance produced by the pancreas, then converted to insulin

projection /prəˈdʒekʃən/ 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

prolactin /prəʊˈlæktən/ noun a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland which stimulates the production of milk. Also called lactogenic hormone

prolapse /prəʊˈleɪps/ noun a condition in which an organ has moved downwards out of its usual position ⋄ verb to move downwards out of the usual position (NOTE: prolapsing – prolapsed)

prolapsed intervertebral disc /prəʊlæpsd ɪntəˌvɜːrˈtɜːbrəl ˈdɪsk/ noun a condition in which an intervertebral disc becomes displaced or where the soft centre of a disc passes through the hard cartilage of the exterior and presses onto a nerve. Abbreviation is PID. Also called slipped disc

prolapse of the rectum /prəʊˈleɪps əv ðə ˈrɛktəm/ noun a condition in which mucous membrane of the rectum moves downwards and passes through the anus

prolapse of the uterus /prəʊˈleɪps əv ðə ˈjuːtərəs, prəʊˈlæps əv ðə ˈwʊmən/ noun a movement of the uterus downwards due to weakening of the structures of the pelvic floor, eg. because of age or a difficult childbirth. Also called metroposis, prolapsed uterus, uterine prolapse

proliferate /prəʊˈlɪfərət/ verb to produce many similar cells or parts, and so grow (NOTE: proliferating – proliferated)

proliferation /prəʊˈlɪfərəʃən/ noun the process of proliferating

proliferative /prəʊˈlɪfərətɪv/ adjective multiplying

proliferative phase /prəʊˈlɪfərətɪv ˈfeɪs/ noun a period when a disease is spreading fast

proline /prəʊˈlɪn/ noun an amino acid found in proteins, especially in collagen

prolong /prəʊˈlɔŋ/ verb to make something last longer ⋄ The treatment prolonged her life by three years.

prolonged /prəʊˈlɔŋd/ adjective very long ⋄ She had to undergo a prolonged course of radiation treatment

promethazine /prəʊˈmeθeɪzn/ noun an antihistamine drug used in the treatment of allergies and motion sickness

prominence /prəʊˈmɪnəns/ noun a part of the body which sticks out or stands out. Also called projection. Compare promontory

prominent /prəʊˈmɪnənt/ adjective standing out, very visible ⋄ She had a prominent scar
promontory /prəˈmantəri/ noun a section of an organ, especially the middle ear and sacrum which stands out above the rest. Compare projection, prominence

promote /prəˈmɔːt/ 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 (NOTE: promoting – promoted)

pronate /prəˈneɪt/ verb 1. to lie face downwards 2. to turn the hand so that palm faces downwards (NOTE: pronating – pronated)

pronation /prəˈneɪʃn/ noun the act of turning the hand round so that the palm faces downwards. Opposite supination. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

pronator /prəˈneɪtər/ noun a muscle which makes the hand turn face downwards

propranolol /prəˈprɒnəloʊl/ 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 /prəˈprɒriətəri/ adjective belonging to a commercial company

proprietary medicine /prəˌprɒrɪəˈtəri meˈdɪsɪn/ proprietary drug /prəˌprɒrɪəˈtəri drəʊg/
prostatic urethra /prəˈstætɪk juːˈriθrə/ noun a section of the urethra which passes through the prostate gland
prostatic utricle /prəˈstætɪk ˌjʊtrɪk(ə)l/ noun a sac branching off the urethra as it passes through the prostate gland
prostatism /ˈprɔstətɪz(ə)m/ noun a disorder of the prostate gland, especially enlargement that blocks or inhibits urine flow
prostatitis /ˌprɔstəˈtætɪs/ noun inflammation of the prostate gland
prostatocystitis /ˌprɔstəˌtəˈsaɪstɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the prostatic urethra and the bladder
prostatorrhoea /ˌprɔstəˈrɑːrə/ noun discharge of fluid from the prostate gland (NOTE: The US spelling is prostatotomy.)
prosthesis /ˈprɔstəˌθiːs/ 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.)
prosthetic /ˈprɔst̩θetɪk/ adjective replacing a part of the body which has been amputated or removed ○ He was fitted with a prosthetic hand.
prosthetic dentistry /ˈprɔst̩θetɪk ˌdentɪstri/ noun the branch of dentistry which deals with replacing missing teeth parts of the jaw, and fitting dentures, bridges and crowns. Also called protodontics
prosthetics /ˈprɔst̩θətɪks/ noun the study and making of prostheses
prosthetist /ˈprɔst̩θətɪst/ noun a qualified person who fits prostheses
prostheses /ˈprɔst̩θəsɪz/ noun same as prosthetic dentistry (NOTE: Takes a singular verb.)
prostate /ˈprɔstəret/ adjective lying face down (NOTE: Do not confuse with prostate.)
prostration /ˈprɔstrəʃən/ noun extreme tiredness of body or mind
prothrombin /ˌprɔθroʊˈmɪn/ noun a simple protein found in fish, used with insulin to slow down the insulin absorption rate
protease /ˈprɔtʃeɪz/ noun a digestive enzyme which breaks down protein in food by splitting the peptide link. Also called proteolytic enzyme
protect /prəˈtek/ verb to keep a person or thing safe from harm ○ The population must be protected against the spread of the virus.
protection /prəˈtekʃən/ noun 1. the act of keeping a person or thing safe from harm 2. something which protects ○ Children are vaccinated as a protection against disease.
Protection of Children Act 1999 /prəˌtekʃən əv ˈkɪldrən əkt/ noun in the U.K., 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
protective /prəˈtektrɪv/ adjective providing protection
protective isolation /prəˌtektrɪv əˈləʊ/ 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
protection /prəˈtekʃən/ 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 (NOTE: 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 /prəˈtektn baʊnd ˈeɪldrətɪn/ noun a situation when the nitrogen intake in protein is equal to the excretion rate in the urine
protein-bound iodine /prəˈtektn baʊnd ˈaʊdɪn/ noun a compound of thyroxine and iodine
protein-bound iodine test /prəˌtektn baʊnd ˈaʊdɪn ɪnˈteɪst/ noun a test to measure if the thyroid gland is producing adequate quantities of thyroxine. Abbreviation PBI test
protein deficiency /prəˈtektn ˈdiʃənti/ noun a lack of enough proteins in the diet
proteinuria /prəˈtektnəˈjʊəriə/ noun a condition in which there are proteins in the urine
proteolysis /prəˈteknlɪsɪs/ noun the breaking down of proteins in food into amino acids by enzymes
proteolytic /prəˈtekli ˈlɪtɪk/ adjective referring to proteolysis
proteolytic enzyme /prəˈtekli oʊˈlətɪk ˌɛnˌzəm/ noun same as protease
proteose /prəˈteksoʊs/ noun a water-soluble compound formed during hydrolytic processes such as digestion
Proteus /prəˈtekəs/ noun a genus of bacteria commonly found in the intestines
prothrombin /prəˌθrəʊbɪnm/ noun a protein in blood which helps blood to coagulate and which needs Vitamin K to be effective. Also called Factor II
prothrombin time /prəˌθrəʊbɪnm ˈtɜːm/ noun the time taken in Quick test for clotting to take place
protocol /prəˈtekərəl/ noun the set of instructions for the clinical management of a particular condition, including tests, surgery and drug treatments.
found in haemoglobin and chlorophyll and young fibrous tissue which form when a

3. toms or lesion

porary and which may be changed

protozoons

another body such as a PCG or social services.

hospital provides an ambulance service to the

provisional

proud flesh

protuberance

rash on the vulva.

pruritus vulvae

prothetic section which may be changed. The host-

pital has given me a provisional date for the

 provisionally

The drug acts on the proton pump mechanism.

proton-pump inhibitor

protopathic 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

compare epiphitic

protoplasrn /prəʊˈtɒpləzm/ noun a substance like a jelly which makes up the largest part of each cell

protoplastic /prəʊˈtɒplæstɪk/ adjective referring to protoplasrn

protoporphyrin IX /prəʊˈtɒpərfoʊrprəɪn/ noun the commonest form of porphyrin, found in haemoglobin and chlorophyll

prototozoa /prəʊˈtɒtəʊzoʊə/ plural of prototozoan

prototozoan /prəʊˈtɒtəʊzən/ adjective referring to prototozoa

prototozoan noun a tiny simple organism with a single cell (note: the plural is prototozoa or prototozoans)

COMMENT: Parasitic prototozoa can cause several diseases, including amoebiasis, malaria and other tropical diseases.

protract /prəʊˈtrækt/ verb 1. to make something last a long time 2. to extend or lengthen a body part

protractor /prəʊˈtræktər/ noun a muscle with the function of extending a body part

proutude /prəʊˈtrʌd/ verb to stick out. She wears a brace to correct her protruding teeth. (note: protruding – protruded)

protruberance /prəʊˈtjuːbərəns/ noun a rounded part of the body which projects above the rest

proud flesh /prəʊdˈfleʃ/ noun new vessels and young fibrous tissue which form when a wound, incision or lesion is healing

provide /prəʊˈvɪd/ 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. (note: providing – provided)

provider /prəʊˈvɪdər/ noun a hospital which provides secondary care which is paid for by another body such as a PCG or social services.

purchaser

provision /prəʊˈvɪʒən/ noun 1. the act of providing something 2. the provision of aftercare facilities for patients recently discharged from hospital 2. something provided

provisional /prəʊˈvɪʒənəl/ adjective temporary and which may be changed. The host-

pital has given me a provisional date for the operation. The paramedical team attached sticks to the broken leg to act as provisional splints.

provisionally /prəʊˈvɪʒənəli/ adverb in a temporary way, not certainly. She has provisionally accepted the offer of a bed in the hospital.

provitamin /prəʊvpəˈvɪtəmən/ noun a chemical compound which is converted to a vitamin during usual biochemical processes, e.g. the amino acid tryptophan, which is converted to niacin, and beta carotene, which is converted into vitamin A

provokes – provoking – provoked

proximal /prəʊˈksɪməl/ adjective near the midline, the central part of the body

proximal convoluted tubule /prəʊˈksɪməl kənvələtəd təblu/ noun a part of the kidney filtering system between the loop of Henle and the glomerulus

proximal interphalangeal joint /prəʊˈksɪməl inətəfəlæŋjɪəl dʒənts/ noun a joint nearest the point of attachment of a finger or toe. Abbrev PIP

proximally /prəʊˈksɪməli/ adverb further towards the centre or point of attachment. Opposite distally. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

Prozac /prəʊˈzæk/ a trade name for fluoxetine

prurigo /prəʊrɪˈdʒʊɡ/ noun an itchy eruption of papules

pruritus /prəʊrɪˈtəʊtəs/ noun an irritation of the skin which makes a person want to scratch. Also called itching

pruritus ani /prəʊrɪˈtəʊtəs əˈni/ noun itching round the anal orifice

pruritus vulvae /prəʊrɪˈtəʊtəs ˈvʌlvɪz/ noun itching round the vulva

prussic acid /prəʊˈsɪs əˈsid/ noun same as cyanide

PSA test /piː ət ˈɛst/ noun a blood test for prostate cancer which detects a protein produced by prostate cells. Full form prostatic specific antigen test

pseud-/ˈsuːzd/ prefix same as pseudo- (used before vowels)

pseudarthrosis /ˌsaʊsdəˈθrɔːrəs/ noun a false joint, as when the two broken ends of a fractured bone do not bind together but heal separately. (note: the plural is pseudarthroses)
pseudo-

pseudo- /ˈsiːdɔʊ-/ prefix similar to something but not the same.

pseudoangina /ˈsiːdɔʊʌŋɡɪnə/ noun pain in the chest, caused by worry but not indicating heart disease.

pseudoangina /ˈsiːdɔʊʌŋɡɪnə/ 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.

pseudocrisis /ˈsiːdɔʊʌkrɪsɪs/ noun a sudden fall in the temperature of a person with fever which does not mark the end of the fever.

pseudocroup /ˈsiːdɔʊʌkruːp/ noun a condition of extreme apathy found in hysteric people in which their behaviour corresponds to what they imagine to be insanity, though they show no signs of true dementia.

pseudodementia /ˈsiːdɔʊdəˈmɛnʃə/ noun a condition in which a woman has the physical symptoms of pregnancy but is not pregnant. Also called phantom pregnancy, pseudopregnancy.

pseudocyst /ˈsiːdɔʊˌkɒst/ noun a space which fills with fluid in an organ but without the walls which would form a cyst, as a result of softening or necrosis of the tissue.

pseudodementia /ˈsiːdɔʊdəˈmɛnʃə/ noun a condition similar to true dementia.

pseudodermatitis /ˈsiːdɔʊdɛrˌmɪtətɪs/ noun a condition in which a person has either oozes or testes but external genitalia that are not clearly of either sex.

pseudohypertrophic muscular dystrophy /ˈsiːdɔʊˌhaɪpəˈtɹətɪk ˈmjuːsəl ˈdɪstrəfi/ noun a hereditary disease affecting the muscles, which swell and become weak, beginning in early childhood. Also called Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

pseudohypertrophy /ˈsiːdɔʊˈhɪpəˈtɹəfɪ/ noun an overgrowth of fatty or fibrous tissue in a part or organ, which results in the part or organ being enlarged.

pseudomonad /ˈsiːdɔʊˌməʊnəd/ noun a rod-shaped bacterium which lives in soil or decomposing organic material and can cause disease in plants and sometimes in humans.

pseudomyoxoma /ˈsiːdɔʊˌmɔɪəˈkɒmə/ noun a tumour rich in mucus. (Note: The plural is pseudomyoxomas or pseudomyxomata.)

pseudo-obstruction /ˈsiːdɔʊˌəbˈstrʌktʃən/ noun a condition in which symptoms such as stomach cramps, nausea and bloating indicate a blockage in the intestines although no blockage exists.

pseudo-plegia /ˈsiːdɔʊˌplɪdʒə/, pseudo-paralysis /ˈsiːdɔʊˌpærəˈlɪzəs/ noun 1. loss of muscular power in the limbs without true paralysis. 2. paralysis caused by hysteria.

pseudo-plegia /ˈsiːdɔʊˌplɪdʒə/, pseudo-paralysis /ˈsiːdɔʊˌpærəˈlɪzəs/ noun 1. loss of muscular power in the limbs without true paralysis. 2. paralysis caused by hysteria.

pseudo-pregnancy /ˈsiːdɔʊˌpɜːrnænsi/ noun also called pseudocyesis.

psilosis /ˈsɪləsɪs/ noun a disease of the small intestine which prevents a person from absorbing food properly. Also called sprue.

psittacosis /ˈsɪtəˌkɒsɪs/ noun a disease of the small intestine which prevents a person from absorbing food properly. Also called sprue.

psoriasis /ˈsɛrəˌrɪəsɪs/ noun a common inflammatory skin disease where red patches of skin are covered with white scales.

psychiatry /ˈsaɪkiətrɪ/ noun a branch of medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of mental and behavioural disorders.
which may have contributed to it

which a specialist and patient talk and together

analyse the patient’s condition and past events which may have contributed to it

psychoanalyst /saɪkəʊˈænəlɪst/ noun a person who is trained in psychoanalysis

psychodrama /ˈsaɪkəʊdramə/ noun a type of psychotherapy in which patients act out roles in dramas illustrating their emotional problems, in front of other patients

psychodiagnostics /ˌsaɪkəʊdɪˌnæktɪks/ noun the study of how the forces which affect human behaviour and mental states work, especially on a subconscious level

psychogenic /ˈsaɪkəʊdʒɛnɪk/ adjective referring to an illness which starts in the mind, rather than in a physical state

psychogeriatrics /ˌsaɪkəʊdʒərɪˈætrɪks/ noun the study of the mental disorders of the late stages of the natural life span

psychological /ˌsaɪkəʊlɒˈkɒlɪk/ adjective referring to psychology, or caused by a mental state

psychological dependence /ˌsaɪkəʊˌlɒdʒɪkl/ noun the study of how the forces which affect human behaviour and mental states work, especially on a subconscious level

psychological drug dependence /ˌsaɪkəʊˌlɒdʒɪkl dræg dɪˌpendəns/ noun a state in which a person is addicted to a drug such as cannabis or alcohol but does not suffer physical effects if he or she stops taking it

psychologically /ˌsaɪkəʊˌlɒdʒɪkl/ adverb in a way which is caused by a mental state. He is psychologically addicted to tobacco.

psychologist /saɪkəˈlɒbdʒɪst/ noun a person who specialises in the study of the mind and mental processes

psychology /ˌsaɪkəʊlɒdʒi/ noun the study of the mind and mental processes

psychometrics /ˌsaɪkəʊmətrɪks/ noun a way of measuring intelligence and personality in which the result is shown as a number on a scale

psychomotor /ˌsaɪkəʊˈmɑːtər/ adjective referring to muscle movements caused by mental activity

psychomotor disturbance /ˌsaɪkəʊˈmɑːtər dɪˈstɔːrəs/ noun muscle movements caused by a mental disorder, e.g. twitching

psychomotor epilepsy /ˌsaɪkəʊˈmɑːtər ˈeplɪsɪ/ noun epilepsy in which fits are characterised by blurring of consciousness and ac-

panied by coordinated but wrong movements

psychomotor retardation /ˌsaɪkəʊˈmɑːtər retəˈdeɪʃən/ noun the slowing of movement and speech, caused by depression

psychoneuroimmunology /ˌsaɪkəʊˌnjuːroʊˌɪmjuːˈnɒlədʒi/ noun a branch of medicine which deals with how emotions affect the immune system

psychoneuropathology /ˌsaɪkəʊˌnjuːroʊˌpæθəlɒdʒi/ adjective referring to psychopathology or psychopathologising

psychopath /ˌsaɪkəʊˈpæθ/ noun a person with a long-term mental disorder characterised by antisocial and often violent behaviour

psychopathology /ˌsaɪkəʊˈpæθəlɒdʒi/ noun the study of the actions and applications of drugs which have a powerful effect on the mind and behaviour

psychophysiology /ˌsaɪkəʊˌfɪzɪəˌlɒdʒi/ noun the study of the actions and applications of drugs which have a powerful effect on the mind and behaviour

psychophysical /ˌsaɪkəʊˌfɪzɪəˌlɒdʒɪkl/ adjective referring to psychophysiology

psychophysiology /ˌsaɪkəʊˌfɪzɪəˌlɒdʒi/ noun the physiology of the mind and its functions

psychoses /ˌsaɪkəʊsɪz/ plural of psychosis

psychosexual /ˌsaɪkəʊˌsɛksjuəl/ adjective relating to the mental and emotional aspects of sexuality and sexual development

psychosexual development /ˌsaɪkəʊˌsɛksjuəl dɪˈveləpmənt/ noun the development of human personality in stages based upon the ability to experience sexual pleasure, and the way in which sexuality plays a role in a person’s life

psychosis /ˌsaɪkəʊˈsɪsɪs/ noun any serious mental disorder in which a person has a distorted perception of reality (note: the plural is psychoses.)

psychosocial /ˌsaɪkəʊˈsəʊʃəl/ adjective relating to the interaction of psychological and social factors

… recent efforts to redefine nursing have moved away from the traditional medically dominated approach towards psychosocial care and forming relationships with patients. [British Journal of Nursing]
psychosomatic

psychosomatic /ˌsaɪkəˈsəmətɪk/ adjective referring to the relationship between body and mind

COMMENT: Many physical disorders, including duodenal 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 /ˌsaɪkəˈsɜrədʒəri/ noun brain surgery, used as a treatment for psychological disorders

psychosurgical /ˌsaɪkəˈsɜrdʒək(ə)l/ adjective referring to psychosurgery

psychotherapeutic /ˌsaɪkəθəˈterəpɪk/ adjective referring to psychotherapy

psychotherapist /ˌsaɪkəθəˈræpɪst/ noun a person trained to give psychotherapy

psychotherapy /ˌsaɪkəθəˈterəpi/ 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 /ˌsaɪkəˈtɒrɪpik/ adjective referring to a drug such as a stimulant or sedative which affects a person’s mood

pt /abbr/ post

pteron /ˈtɛərətɒn/ noun the point on the side of the skull where the frontal, temporal parietal and sphenoid bones meet

pteroylglutamic acid /ˌtɛəroʊˈglʌtəmɪk/ noun the same as folic acid

pteroylglutamic acid /ˌtɛəroʊˈglʌtəmɪk/ noun a degenerative condition in which a triangular growth of conjunctiva covers part of the cornea, with its apex towards the pupil

pterogyo- /ˌtɛərgəʊ/ suffix the pterygoid process

pteroyloid plate /ˌtɛərgəˌloɪd/ noun a small flat bony projection on the pterygoid process

pteroyloid plexus /ˌtɛərgəˌloɪd/z/ noun a group of veins and sinuses which join together behind the cheek

pteroyloid process /ˌtɛərgəˌloɪd/ noun one of two projecting parts on the sphenoid bone

pteroygomandibular /ˌtɛərgəˈɡəʊmənˈdɪbjuələ/ adjective referring to the pterygoid process and the mandible

pteroyopalatine fossa /ˌtɛərgəˈpələtən/ noun the space between the pterygoid process and the upper jaw

pteroyopalatine ganglion /ˌtɛərgəˌpələtən/ noun a ganglion in the pterygopalatine fossa associated with the maxillary nerve. Also called sphenopalatine ganglion

ptomaine /ˌptoʊˈmeɪn/ 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

ptosis /ˌptəʊsɪs/ noun suffix prolapse

PTSD abbr post-traumatic stress disorder

ptyal- /ˈtæral/ prefix same as ptyalo- (used before vowels)

ptyalin /ˈtæralɪn/ noun an enzyme in saliva which cleanses the mouth and converts starch into sugar

ptyalism /ˈtæralɪzm/ noun the production of an excessive amount of saliva

ptyalolith /ˈtæralɪθ/ noun same as sialolith

ptyalo- /ˈtæraləʊ/ prefix referring to saliva

ptyalography /ˌtæraləʊˈɡrafi/ noun same as sialography

pubertal /ˈpjuːbər(ə)l/, puberal /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. (COMMENT: Puberty starts at about the age of 10 in girls, and slightly later in boys.)

pubes /ˈpjuːbəsi/ noun the part of the body just above the groin, where the pubic bones are found

pubes /ˈpjuːbəsi/ plural of pubis

pubescent /ˈpjuːbəsnt/ adjective reaching or having reached puberty

public /ˈpjuːbəkl/ adjective referring to the area near the genitals

public bone /ˈpjuːbəkl bəʊn/ noun the bone in front of the pelvis. Also called pubis. See illustration at urogenital system (male) in Supplement

public hair /ˈpjuːbəkl hər/ noun tough hair growing in the genital region

public louse /ˈpjuːbəkl ˈloʊs/ noun also called Pediculus pubis

public symphysis /ˈpjuːbəkl ˈsɪmpfəsɪs/ 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.

pubiotomy /ˈpjuːbiətəmi/ 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.)
puerperous /ˈpjʊərprəs/ adjective same as puerperal
puke /ˈpuːk/ verb same as vomit (informal)
Pulex /ˈpjuːlɛks/ 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 /ˈpʊli/ 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 /ˈpʊlmənərɪ/ adjective referring to the lungs
pulmonale /ˈpʊlmənəl/ cor pulmonary
pulmona/ˈpʊlmənə/ adjective referring to the lungs
pulmonary artery /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ˈɑrɪ təri/ noun one of the two arteries which take oxygenated blood from the heart to the lungs for oxygenation. See illustration at heart in Supplement
pulmonary circulation /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ˈkɜːrənəns/ 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 /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ˈembəlɪzəm/ noun a blockage of a pulmonary artery by a blood clot. Abbr PE
pulmonary hypertension /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ˈhɑrpətənʃən/ noun high blood pressure in the blood vessels supplying blood to the lungs
pulmonary insufficiency /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ɪnsəˈfɪʃənsi, ˈpʊlmənərɪ ɪnˈsʌfɪsənsi/, pulmonary incompetence /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ɪnˈkʌmpərənsi/ noun a condition characterised by dilatation of the main pulmonary artery and stretching of the valve ring, due to pulmonary hypertension
pulmonary oedema /ˈpʊlmənərɪ əˈdiːmə/ noun the collection of fluid in the lungs, as occurs in left-sided heart failure
pulmonary stenosis /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ˈstɛnəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the opening to the pulmonary artery in the right ventricle becomes narrow
pulmonary tuberculosis /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ˈtʌbəkələsrəs/ noun tuberculosis in the lungs, which makes the person lose weight, cough blood and have a fever
pulmonary valve /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ˈvælv/ noun a valve at the opening of the pulmonary artery
pulmonary vein /ˈpʊlmənərɪ ˈvɪn/ noun one of the four veins which carry oxygenated blood from the lungs back to the left atrium of
the heart. See illustration at HEART in Supplement.

pulmonectomy /pəlˈmɑːnəˌkɛktəmɪ/ noun same as pneumonectomy (Note: The plural is pulmonectomies.)

pulmonology /pəlˈmɑːnləˈdʒi/ 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_ˌkævətɪ/ noun the central part of a tooth containing soft tissue.

pulpym /ˈpʌlpɪ/ adjective made of pulp ○ the pulpym tissue inside a tooth.

pulsate /ˈpʌlˌseɪt/ verb to expand and contract with a strong regular beat (Note: pulsating – pulsated).

pulsation /ˈpʌlˌseɪʃən/ 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.

pulse rate /ˈpʌls_ˌreɪt/ noun the number of times the pulse beats per minute.

pulsus /pʌlˈkus/ noun same as pulse.

pulsus alternans /pʌlˈkus əˈlɜːrnənənz/ noun a pulse which is alternately strong and weak.

pulsus bigeminus /pʌlˈkus bɪˈgɛmɪnəs/ noun a double pulse, with an extra ectopic beat.

pulsus paradoxus /pʌlˈkus ˈpærəˌdɑːkəs/ noun a condition in which there is a sharp fall in the pulse when the person breathes in.

pulpis /pʌlˈvɪs/ noun powder.

pump /pʌmp/ noun a machine which forces liquids or air into or out of something ○ The heart pumps blood round the body. ○ The nurses tried to pump the poison out of the stomach.

pumping chamber /ˈpʌmpɪŋ ˈtʃɛmbə/ noun one of the sections of the heart where blood is pumped.

punch drunk syndrome /pʌntʃ ˈdrʌŋk ˌsɪndrəm/ 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 ləˈkrɪmləri/ plural noun small openings at the corners of the eyes through which tears drain into the nose.

punctate /ˈpʌŋktət/ 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/ verb to make a hole in the tissue ○ to puncture a vein.

puncture wound /ˈpʌŋktʃə ˌwʊnd/ noun a wound made by a sharp instrument which makes a hole in the tissue.

pupil /ˈpjʊəlɪp/ noun the central opening in the iris of the eye, through which light enters the eye. See illustration at EYE in Supplement.

pulmonary reaction /ˈpjʊərəmərɪni/ noun a reflex of the pupil of the eye which contracts when exposed to bright light. Also called light reflex.

purchaser /ˈpɜːrʃə/ noun a person who has the ability to make decisions regarding the purchase of goods or services.

pure /pjʊər/ adjective 1. totally free from contamination 2. very clean ○ a pure protein.

purgation /ˌpɜːrʒəˈʃən/ noun the use of a drug to cause a bowel movement.

purge /ˈpɜːrdʒ/ verb to induce evacuation of the bowels (Note: purging – purged).

purified /ˈpɜːrəfaɪt/ adjective a pure form of tuberculin, used in tuberculin tests. Abbreviation: PPD.

purify /ˈpɜːrəfaɪ/ verb to make something pure (Note: purifies – purifying – purified).
purine \(\text{\&} /pjʊərɪn/\) 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 \(\text{\&} /pəˈkɪndʒɪ sɛlz/\) 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 \(\text{\&} /pəˈkɪndʒɪ fɜːbz/\) plural noun a bundle of fibres which form the atrioventricular bundle and pass from the atrioventricular node to the septum [Described 1869], Professor of Physiology at Breslau, now in Poland, and then Prague, Czech Republic.

Purkinje shift \(\text{\&} /pəˈkɪndʒɪ ŋdɪ ʃɪft/\) noun the change in colour sensitivity which takes place in the eye in low light when the eye starts using the rods in the retina because the light is too weak to stimulate the cones

purpura \(\text{\&} /pəpjʊrə/\) noun a purple colouring on the skin, similar to a bruise, caused by blood disease and not by trauma

pursestring operation \(\text{\&} /ˈpɜːsstrɪŋ /\) noun same as Shirodkar’s operation

pursestring stitch \(\text{\&} /ˈpɜːsstrɪŋ stɪʃ/\) noun same as Shirodkar suture

purulent \(\text{\&} /ˈpɜːrələnt/\) adjective containing or producing pus

pus \(\text{\&} /pəs/\) 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 pyo-]

pustular \(\text{\&} /ˈpʌsələr/\) adjective 1. covered with or composed of pustules 2. referring to pustules

pustulate \(\text{\&} /ˈpʌsəljuːt/\) verb to become covered with pustules, or cause pustules to appear on the skin [NOTE: pustulating – pustulated]

pustule \(\text{\&} /ˈpʌsəluː/\) noun a small pimple filled with pus

putrefaction \(\text{\&} /ˈpjuːtrɪfækʃən/\) noun the decomposition of organic substances by bacteria, making an unpleasant smell

putrefy \(\text{\&} /ˈpjuːtrɪfai/\) verb to rot or decompose [NOTE: putrefies – putrefying – putrefied]

put up \(\text{\&} /ˈpʊt /\) verb to arrange something such as a dress [NOTE: putting up – put up]

py. abbrev. per vagina

PVS abbr persistent vegetative state

PWA /piː dæbljuːː ‘ei/ noun a person with AIDS
pyloric antrum

pyloric antrum /ˈpaɪlɔrɪk ˈæntrəm/ noun a space at the bottom of the stomach, before the pyloric sphincter

pyloric orifice /ˌpaɪlɔrɪk ˈɔːrɪfɪs/ noun an opening where the stomach joins the duodenum

pyloric sphincter /ˌpaɪlɔrɪk ˈsɪŋktər/ noun a muscle which surrounds the pylorus, makes it contract and separates it from the duodenum

pyloric stenosis /ˌpaɪlɔrɪk ˈstɛnəsɪs/ noun a blockage of the pylorus, which prevents food from passing from the stomach into the duodenum

pyloro-/paɪlɔro- prefix the pylorus

pyloroplasty /ˌpaɪlɔroʊˈplæstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make the pylorus larger, sometimes combined with treatment for peptic ulcers (NOTE: The plural is pyloroplasties.)

pylorosperm /ˌpaɪlɔrəˈspɜrm/ noun a muscle spasm which closes the pylorus so that food cannot pass through into the duodenum

pylorotomy /ˌpaɪlɔrəˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut into the muscle surrounding the pylorus to relieve pyloric stenosis. Also called Ramstedt’s operation (NOTE: The plural is pylorotomies.)

pylorus /ˌpaɪlɔrəs/ 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 /ˌpaɪəʊsəl/ noun an enlargement of a tube or cavity due to accumulation of pus

pyocytosis /ˌpaɪəʊsɪtɒsɪs/ noun an accumulation of pus in the vagina

pyoderma /ˈpaɪədərma/ noun an eruption of pus in the skin

pyoderma gangrenosum /ˈpaɪədərma ˈgæŋrənəsəm/ noun a serious ulcerating disease of the skin, especially the legs, usually treated with steroid drugs

pyogenesis /ˈpaɪədʒənəsɪs/ noun the production or formation of pus

pyogenic /ˌpaɪədʒənɪk/ adjective producing or forming pus

pyometra /ˌpaɪəˈmɪtərə/ noun an accumulation of pus in the uterus

pyomyositis /ˌpaɪəməʊəsɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a muscle caused by staphylococci or streptococci

pyonephrosis /ˌpaɪənəˈfroʊsɪs/ noun the distension of the kidney with pus

pyopericarditis /ˌpaɪəpərɪkərdətɪs/ noun an inflammation of the pericardium due to infection with staphylococci, streptococci or pneumococci

pyopneumothorax /ˌpaɪəpniˌnuːməθəˈræks/ noun an accumulation of pus and gas or air in the pleural cavity

pyorrhoea /ˈpaɪərəˈriə/ noun discharge of pus (NOTE: The US spelling is pyorrhea.)

pyorrhea alveolaris /ˌpaɪərəˈriə əlˈvɛərəs/ noun suppuration from the supporting tissues round the teeth

pyosalpinx /ˌpaɪəsəˈlɪŋks/ noun inflammation and formation of pus in a Fallopian tube

pyothorax /ˌpaɪəθəræks/ noun same as empyema

pyr- /paɪər/ prefix same as pyro- (used before verbs)

pyramid /ˈpaɪrəmɪd/ 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 /ˈpaɪrəmɪdəl/ adjective referring to a pyramid

pyramidal cell /ˈpaɪrəmɪdəl ˌsel/ noun a cone-shaped cell in the cerebral cortex

pyramidal system /ˈpaɪrəmɪdəl ˌsɪstəm/ 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 /ˈpaɪrətɪk/ adjective referring to fever

pyrexia /paɪrˈrekʃiə/ noun same as fever

pyrexic /paɪrˈrekstɪk/ adjective having fever

pyridostigmine /ˌpaɪrɪdəˈstɪgmiːn/ noun a drug which stops or delays the action of the enzyme cholinesterase, used to treat myasthenia gravis

pyridoxine /ˌpaɪrɪdəʊˈskɪns/ noun same as Vitamin B6

pyrimidine /ˌpaɪrɪmɪˈdɪn/ 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-/paɪrəʊ prefix burning or fever

pyrogen /ˌpaɪrəˈrɛn/ noun a substance which causes a fever

pyrogenic /ˌpaɪrəˈrɛnɪk/ adjective causing a fever

pyromania /ˌpaɪrəˈmeɪniə/ noun an uncontrollable desire to start fires

pyrophobia /ˌpaɪrəˈfoʊbiə/ noun an unusual fear of fire

pyruvic acid /ˌpaɪ,ruːvɪk ˈæsɪd/ noun a substance formed from glycolegen in the muscles when it is broken down to release energy

pyuria /ˈpaɪərjərɪə/ noun pus in the urine
Q

q.d.s. adverb (written on prescriptions) to be taken four times a day. Full form quater in die

sumendus

Q fever /'kwɛfə/ noun an infectious rick-
ettsial disease of sheep and cows caused by
Coxiella burnetii 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 /'kju: ətr 'es ,kompleks/ noun the deflections on an electrocardiogram, labelled Q, R, and S, which show ventricular contraction. ⋅ PQRST complex

Q-T interval /'kju: tət 'intevəl/ noun the length of the QRS complex in an electrocardiogram. ⋅ PQRST complex

quad /'kwɔd/ noun same as quadruplet (informal)

quadrant /'kwɔdrænt/ noun one of four sec-
tors of the body thought of as being divided by
the sagittal plane and the intertubercular plane
COMMENT: The quadrants of the body are
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.

quadriplegia /kwɔdripli'dʒiə/ noun paralysis
of all four limbs, both arms and both legs

quadriplegic /kwɔdripli'dʒiık/ adjective
paralysed in both arms and both legs. ▪ noun a
person paralysed in both arms and both legs

quadruple /kwɔdripəl/ adjective 1, con-
sisting of four times as much 2. having four
parts

quadruplet /kwɔdripəl/t noun one of four
babies born to a mother at the same time. Also
called quad

quadruple vaccine /kwɔdripəl/ 'vækʃin noun a vaccine which immunises
against four diseases, diphtheria, whooping
cough, poliomyelitis and tetanus

qualification /'kwɔlɪfɪkeɪʃn/ noun a characteristic of
people which makes a person suitable to do
something 2. an official recognition of a stand-
adard of achievement, e.g. a degree or diploma. ▪ She has a qualification in pharmacy. ▪ Are his qualifications recognised in Great Britain? to make a person
suitable to do something 2. to pass a course of
study and be accepted as being able to practise
COMMENT: He qualified as a doctor two years ago.
(NDT: [all senses] qualifies – qualifying –
qualified)

qualitative /'kwɔlɪtətɪv/ adjective referring to
a study in which descriptive information is
collected. Compare quantitative

quality /'kwɔlɪtɪ/ 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 /'kwɔlɪtɪ ə'sərzəns/ noun a set of criteria which are designed to
check that people in an organisation maintain
quality circle  

**quality circle** /ˈkwɒlɪtətɪəl/ noun a high standard in the products or services they supply.

**Quantic /kwɒntɪtɪv/ adjective** referring to a study in which numerical information is collected. Compare **quantitative**

**Quantic /kwɒntɪtɪv digital radiography** /ˌkwɒntɪtɪv dɪˈdʒɪtl rəˈdʒɪəf/ 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** /ˈkwɔːrəntɪn/ 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. 3. six months quarantine 

**quotient** /ˈkwɔːntʃənt/ noun a number divided by another. e.g. in some types of malaria

**quartan** /ˈkwɔːrtən/ adjective referring to a fever which occurs every fourth day, e.g. in some types of malaria

**quartan fever** /kwɔːrtən ˈfɜːvər/ noun a form of malaria caused by *Plasmodium malariae* in which the fever returns every four days.

**quetidian fever** /kwœtɪˈdɪən ˈfevər/ noun the feeling of being about to vomit

**queasy** /ˈkwæzɪzi/ adjective feeling as though about to vomit

**Queckenstedt test** /kwɛkˈkɛnstɛd 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** /ˈkwɪkknɪŋ/ noun the first sign of life in a human baby, usually after about four months of pregnancy, when the mother can feel it moving in her uterus

**Quick test** /ˈkwɪk 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** /kwəˈvɛsənt/ 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** /kwəˈnɪn/ noun an alkaloid drug made from the bark of cinchona, a South American tree

**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)

**Quinsy** /kwɪnzɪ/ noun acute throat inflammation with an abscess round a tonsil. Also called peritonsillar abscess

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**Quiescent** /kwəˈvɛsənt/ adjective referring to a disease with symptoms reduced either by treatment or in the usual course of the disease

**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)

**Quinsy** /kwɪnzɪ/ noun acute throat inflammation with an abscess round a tonsil. Also called peritonsillar abscess
R symbol roentgen
R/ abbreviation prescription. Full form recipe
rabbit fever /ræbɪt /fɪvər/ noun same as tularemia
rabid /ræbd/ adjective referring to rabbits, or affected by rabbits © She was bitten by a rabid dog.
rabid encephalitis /ræbd ɪnˌkɛfɔˈlɛtɪs/ noun a fatal form of encephalitis resulting from the bite of a rabid animal
rabies /ræbɪzı/ noun a frequently fatal viral disease transmitted to humans by infected animals © The hospital ordered a batch of rabies vaccine. Also called hydrophobia
COMMENT: Rabies affects the mental balance, and the symptoms include difficulty in breathing or swallowing and an intense fear of water (hydrophobia) to the point of causing convulsions at the sight of water.
racemose /ˌræsɪməs/ adjective referring to glands which look like a bunch of grapes
rachianesthesia /ˌrækɪəˈnɛθɪəriə/ same as spinal anaesthesia (NOTE: The US spelling is rachianesthesia.)
rachio- /rækɪəʊ-/ prefix referring to the spine
rachiotomy /ˌrækɪəˈtɒmɪ/ noun same as laminectomy (NOTE: The plural is rachiotomies.)
rachis /rækɪs/ noun same as backbone (NOTE: The plural is rachises or rachides.)
rachischisis /ˌrækɪskəsɪs/ noun same as spine bifida
rachitic /ˈrækɪtɪk/ adjective referring to rickets
rachitis /rækɪˈtɪts/ noun same as rickets
rad /ræd/ noun a unit of measurement of absorbed radiation dose. © becquerel, gray (NOTE: Gray is now used to mean one hundred rads.)
radial /ˈrɛdiəl/ adjective 1. referring to something which branches 2. referring to the radius bone in the arm
radial artery /ˈrɛdiəl ərˈteəri/ noun an artery which branches from the brachial artery, running near the radius, from the elbow to the palm of the hand
radial nerve /ˈrɛdiəl nɜːv/ 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 /ˈrɛdiəl pəls/ noun the main pulse in the wrist, taken near the outer edge of the forearm just above the wrist
radial recurrent /ˈrɛdiəl ɹɪˈkænt/ noun an artery in the arm which forms a loop beside the brachial artery
radial reflex /ˈrɛdiəl ˈrɛflɛks/ noun a jerk made by the forearm when the insertion in the radius of one of the muscles, the brachioradialis, is hit
radiate /rəˈdeɪt/ verb 1. to spread out in all directions from a central point © The pain radiates from the site of the infection. 2. to send out rays © Heat radiates from the body. (NOTE: radiating – radiated)
radiation /rəˈdeɪʃən/ noun waves of energy which are given off by some substances, especially radioactive substances
COMMENT: Prolonged exposure to many types of radiation can be harmful. Nuclear radiation is the most obvious, but exposure to X-rays, either as a patient being treated or as a radiographer, can cause radiation sickness. First symptoms of the sickness are diarrhea and vomiting, but radiation exposure can also be followed by skin burns and loss of hair. Massive exposure to radiation can kill quickly, and any person exposed to radiation is more likely to develop certain types of cancer than other members of the population.
radiation burn /ˈrɛdɪʃən bɜrn/ noun a burn on the skin caused by exposure to large amounts of radiation
radiation enteritis /ˌrɛdɪʃən ˈɛntəriətɪs/ noun enteritis caused by X-rays
radiation sickness /ˌrɛdɪʃən ˈsɪksnəs/ noun an illness caused by exposure to radiation from radioactive substances
radiation treatment /ˌrɛdɪʃən ˈtretərɪm/ noun same as radiotherapy
radical /ˈrædɪkl/ adjective 1. aiming to deal with the root of a problem, taking thorough action to remove the source of a disease
radical mastectomy /ˈreɪdɪkəl ˈmæstroʊtəmj/ noun a surgical operation to remove a breast and the lymph nodes and muscles associated with it.

Radical mastectomy is a surgical operation to remove a breast and the lymph nodes and muscles associated with it. It is used in the treatment of cancer when the tumor cannot be removed by more localized surgery.

Radical mastectomy is called rather than treat its symptoms, referring to an operation which removes the whole of a part or of an organ, together with its lymph system and other tissue.

Radical mastectomy is a surgical operation to remove a breast and the lymph nodes and muscles associated with it. It is used in the treatment of cancer when the tumor cannot be removed by more localized surgery.

Radical mastectomy /ˈreɪdɪkəl ˈmæstroʊtəmj/ noun a surgical operation to remove all of the mastoid process.

radical treatment /ˈreɪdɪkəl ˈtrɪtmənt/ noun treatment which aims at complete eradication of a disease.

radicle /ˈreɪdɪkəl/ noun 1. a small root or vein.

2. a tiny fibre which forms the root of a nerve.

Radicular /ˈreɪdɪkəl/ adjective referring to a radicle.

radiculitis /ˌreɪdiˌkjuːlɪˈtɪs/ noun inflammation of a radicle of a cranial or spinal nerve.

radio- /ˈreɪdiəʊ/ prefix 1. referring to radiation.

2. referring to radioactive substances.

3. referring to the radius in the arm.

Radioactive /ˈreɪdiəʊəkˈtɪv/ 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 /ˈreɪdiəʊəkˈtɪv əˈsətəʊp/ noun an isotope which sends out radiation, used in radiotherapy and scanning.

Radioactivity /ˈreɪdiəʊəkˈtɪv ɪˈnɛrəsi/ noun energy in the form of radiation emitted by a radioactive substance.

Radiobiologist /ˈreɪdiəʊbaɪəlˈdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in radiobiology.

Radiobiology /ˈreɪdiəʊbaɪəlˈɒðʒi/ noun the scientific study of radiation and its effects on living things.

Radiocarpal joint /ˈreɪdiəʊˌkɑːrpəl dʒɔɪnt/ noun the joint where the radius articulates with the scaphoid, one of the carpal bones. Also called wrist joint.

Radiodermatitis /ˈreɪdiəʊdɜːrmiˌteɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the skin caused by exposure to radiation.

Radiodiagnosis /ˈreɪdiəʊdɪˌɡnoʊsɪs/ noun an X-ray diagnosis.

Radiograph /ˈreɪdiəɡrɑːf/ 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.

Radiographer /ˈreɪdiəʊˈɡrɑːfaɪ/ 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.

Radiography /ˈreɪdiəʊˈɡrəfɪ/ noun the work of examining the internal parts of the body by taking X-ray photographs.

Radioimmunoassay /ˌreɪdiəʊˌɪmjuːnəˈəʊsɛ/ noun the use of radioactive tracers to investigate the presence of antibodies in blood samples, in order to measure the antibodies themselves or the amount of particular substances, such as hormones, in the blood.

Radioisotope /ˌreɪdiəʊˌaisˈtəʊp/ 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 working of, or disease in, internal organs.

Radioonucide /ˌreɪdiəʊəˈnjʊklaɪd/ noun an element which gives out radiation.

Radioonucide scan /ˌreɪdiəʊəˌnjʊklaɪd ˈskæn/ noun a scan, especially of the brain, where radioisotides are put in compounds which are concentrated in particular parts of the body.

Radio-opaque /ˌreɪdiəʊˌəʊˈpeɪk/ adjective absorbing and blocking radiant energy, e.g. X-rays.

Comment: Radio-opaque substances appear light or white on X-rays and are used to make it easier to have clear radiographs of certain organs.

Radio-opaque dye /ˌreɪdiəʊˌəʊˈpeɪk ˈdaɪ/ noun a liquid which appears on an X-ray, and which is introduced into soft organs such as the kidney so that they show up clearly on an X-ray photograph.

Radioisotope /ˌreɪdiəʊˌeɪˈpeɪk/ adjective same as radio-opaque.

Radiopharmaceutical /ˌreɪdiəʊˌfərməˈseɪʃən/ noun a radioisotope used in medical diagnosis or treatment.

Radio pill /ˌreɪdiəʊ pɪl/ noun a tablet with a tiny radio transmitter.
COMMENT: The person swallows the pill and as it passes through the body it gives off information about the digestive system.

**radiosensitivity** /ˈreɪdɪəsənˈsɪtɪv/ adjective referring to a cancer cell which is sensitive to radiation and can be treated by radiotherapy

**radiotherapy** /ˈreɪdɪərəˌθɜːrəpɪ/ noun the treatment of diseases by exposing the affected part to radioactive rays such as X-rays or gamma rays

**COMMENT:** Many forms of cancer can be treated by radiotherapy which can be used to treat arthritis. The difference between lowest and highest values in a series of data.

**ranitidine** /ˈrænɪtdɪn/ noun a drug which reduces the amount of acid released by the stomach. It is used to treat peptic ulcers and gastritis.

**ranula** /ˈrænnjuːlə/ noun a small cyst under the tongue, on the floor of the mouth, which forms when a salivary duct is blocked

**Ramnirv** /ˈrɑːnɪvər/ a node of Ramnier

**rape** /ræp/ noun the crime of forcing somebody to have sexual intercourse

**raphe** /rəf/ a long thin scroll which looks like a seam, along a midline such as on the dorsal face of the tongue

**rapid** /ˈræpɪd/ adjective fast

**rapid-acting** /ˌræpɪdˈæktɪŋ/ adjective referring to a drug or treatment which has an effect very quickly

**rapid eye movement sleep** /ˈræpɪd eɪ ˈmiːvnənt slɛp/ noun same as REM sleep

**rapport** /ˈrɑːpɔrt/ noun an emotional bond or friendly relationship between people

**rare** /rɛər/ adjective referring to something such as a disease of which there are very few cases

**rarefaction** /ˈreərɪfækʃən/ noun a condition in which bone tissue becomes more porous and less dense because of a lack of calcium

**rarefy** /ˈrɛərɪf/ verb 1. to become less dense 2. to make something less dense

**rash** /rɑʃ/ noun a mass of small spots which stays on the skin for a period of time, and then disappears or to break out in a rash to have a rash which starts suddenly

**REM sleep** /ˈrɛm slɛp/ noun a stage of sleep in which dreams occur

**raphe** /ˈrəf/ a long thin fold which is a long thin fold which

**reraphy** /ˈrɛərəθɜːpɪ/ noun a surgical instrument like a file, which is used to scrape the surface of a bone

**ratbite fever** /ˈrætbaɪt ˈfɜːvər/ noun a disease caused by a bite from a rat

**rathitis** /ˈræθɪtɪs/ noun a disease of which there are very few cases

**ratio** /ˈreɪʃəʊ/ noun 1. the amount or proportion of something compared with something else 2. the number of times something happens in a set time

**raphe** /ˈrəf/ a long thin scroll which looks like a seam, along a midline such as on the dorsal face of the tongue

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**ratite** /ˈrætɪtɪs/ noun a surgical instrument like a file, which is used to scrape the surface of a bone

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rattle

of the person’s mental age to his or her chronological age.

rattle /rɪtəl/ noun a harsh noise made in the throat, caused by a blockage to breathing and heard especially near death.

Rauwolfia /rɔ:ˈwʊlfɪə/ noun a tranquilising drug extracted from the plant Rauwolfia serpentina, sometimes used to treat high blood pressure.

Raynaud’s phenomenon /ˈreɪnəʊd zɪzn/ 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, vasospasm. [Described 1862. After Maurice Raynaud (1834–81), French physician.]

RCNS abbr Royal College of Physicians

RCOG abbr Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

RCP abbr Royal College of Surgeons

RCT abbr randomised controlled trial

reabsorption /rɪˈæbərˌzɪpʃən/ 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.

reach /riːtʃ/ noun 1. the distance which one can stretch to get hold of or touch something. 2. to make good again a damaged structure or part of the body. 3. to react to something. 4. The distance travelled. 5. The height of an object almost instantly.

react /rɪˈækt/ verb 1. to react to something. 2. to react to something. 3. to react to something. 4. to react to something. 5. to react to something. 6. to react to something.
something that it would be a good thing if someone did
the environment or in the body and reacts to it by
change such as cold or heat in the surrounding
blood transfusion from a donor
ceives something such as a transplant or a
reconstruct
/rek′strakt/ verb to rebuild a damaged part of the body
reconstruction /rek′strak′ʃon/ noun the process of repairing and rebuilding a damaged part of the body
reconstructive surgery /rek′strak′tiv sər′jərē/ noun surgery which rebuilds a damaged part of the body.
record /rek′strod/ verb /rek′strod/ to note information ○ The chart records the variations in the patient’s blood pressure. ○ You must take the patient’s temperature every hour and record it in this book. ○ noun a piece of information about something
COMMENT: Patients now have a legal right to have access to their medical records.
recover /rek′vər/ verb 1. to get better after an illness, operation or accident ○ She recovered from her concussion in a few days. ○ It will take him weeks to recover from the accident. (NOTE: You recover from an illness.) 2. to get back something which has been lost ○ Will he ever recover the use of his legs? ○ She recovered her eyesight even though the doctors had thought she would be permanently blind.
recovery /rek′vər/ noun the process of returning to health after being ill or injured ○ he is well on the way to recovery he is getting better ○ she made only a partial recovery she is better, but is not completely well ○ she has made a complete or splendid recovery she is completely well
recovery position /rek′vər po′zishən/ noun a position in which someone is lying face downwards, with one knee and one arm bent forwards and the face turned to one side
COMMENT: It is recommended for accident victims ○ for people who are suddenly ill, while waiting for an ambulance to arrive. The position prevents the person from swallowing and choking on blood or vomit.
recovery room /rek′vər ru′m/ noun a room in a hospital where patients are cared for after they have had a surgical operation and are recovering from the effects of the anaesthetic.
Abbr RR
recreational drug /rek′rek′di/ noun a drug that is taken for pleasure rather than because of medical need
recrudescence /rek′rūdəsəns/ noun the reappearance of symptoms of a disease which seemed to have got better
recrudescence /rek′rūdəsənt/ adjective referring to a symptom which has reappeared
recruit /rek′kruit/ verb to get people to join the staff or a group ○ We are trying to recruit more nursing staff.
’recruited patients presenting with symptoms of urinary tract infection were recruited in a general practice surgery’ (Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners)
rect- /rek/ prefix same as re- (used before vowel)
recta /rek′tə/ plural of rectum
rectal /rek′təl/ adjective referring to the rectum
rectal fissure /rek′təl fi′sər/ noun a crack in the wall of the anal canal
rectally /rek′təl/ adverb through the rectum ○ The temperature was taken rectally.
rectal prolapse

rectal prolapse /ˈrektəl prəˈlopəs/ noun a condition in which part of the rectum moves downwards and passes through the anus.

rectal temperature /ˈrektəl ˈtempərətʃər/ noun the temperature in the rectum, taken with a rectal thermometer.

rectal thermometer /ˈrektəl ˈθəmətər/ noun a thermometer which is inserted into the rectum to take the person’s temperature.

rectal triangle /ˈrektəl ˈtraŋgəl/ noun same as anal triangle.

recti /ˈrektə/ plural of rectus

rectocoele /ˈrektəkɔiəl/ noun a condition associated with prolapse of the uterus, in which the rectum protrudes into the vagina. Also called proctocoele.

rectopy /ˈrektəpi/ noun a surgical operation to attach a rectum which has prolapsed.

rectoscope /ˈrektəskɔu/ noun an instrument for looking into the rectum.

rectosigmoid /ˈrektəˌsɪgmoʊd/ noun the part of the large intestine where the sigmoid colon joins the rectum.

rectosigmoidectomy /ˈrektəˌsɪgmoʊdˌektəmə/ noun the surgical removal of the sigmoid colon and the rectum.

rectovaginal /ˈrektəˌvægənəl/ adjective relating to both the rectum and the vagina.

rectovesical /ˈrektəˌvesɪkəl/ adjective referring to the rectum and the bladder.

rectum /ˈrektəm/ 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 procto-.)

rectus /ˈrektəs/ noun a straight muscle (note: The plural is recti.)

rectus abdominis /ˈrektəs abˈdəmənəs/ noun a long straight muscle which runs down the front of the abdomen.

rectus femoris /ˈrektəs ˈfɛmərəs/ noun a flexor muscle in the front of the thigh, one of the four parts of the quadriceps femoris. See medical.

recumbent /ˈrektəbənt/ adjective lying down.

recover /ˈrɛkəvər/ verb to recover, to get better after an illness or accident. He is recovering after an attack of flu. She is going to stay with her mother while she recovers.

recuperation /rɪkəˈpərəʃən/ noun the process of getting better after an illness. His recuperation will take several months.

recure /rɪˈkʊər/ verb to return. The headaches recurred frequently, but usually after the patient had eaten chocolate.

recurrence /rɪˈkərəns/ noun an act of returning. He had a recurrence of a fever which he had caught in the tropics.

recurrent /rɪˈkərənt/ adjective 1. occurring in the same way many times. 2. referring to a vein, artery or nerve which forms a loop.

recurrent abortion /rɪˈkərənt əˈbɔrʃən/ noun a condition in which a woman has abortions with one pregnancy after another.

recurrent fever /rɪˈkərənt ˈfɪvər/ a fever like malaria which returns at regular intervals.

red /red/ 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. A noun a colour similar to that of blood.

red blood cell /red bləd səl/ noun a blood cell which contains haemoglobin and carries oxygen to the tissues and takes carbon dioxide from them. Abbrev RBC. Also called erythrocyte.

red corpuscle /red kərˈpʌsˌkl/ noun same as red blood cell.

Red Crescent /red 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 /red ˈkros/ 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 ˈgreɪn kərˈbəlnˌɪndəs/ noun same as deuteranopia.

Redivac drain /redɪˈvæk dren/ 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 ˈmɔrəʊ/ noun the type of bone marrow where red blood cells and some white blood cells are formed.

redness /rednəs/ 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 /rɪˈdʒjuːs/ 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 /riːdʒʊsəbəl/ adjective capable of being reduced

reducible hernia /rɪdʒʊsəbəl hərˈnɪə/ 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 ○ They noted a reduction in body temperature. 2. the action of putting a hernia, a dislocated joint or a broken bone back into the correct position

division /rɪˈdɪʃən/ noun same as meiosis

re-emerge /riː ɪˈmɪzdʒ/ verb to come out again

re-emergence /rɪˌemərʒəns/ noun an act of coming out again

refer /rɪˈfɜːr/ verb 1. to mention or to talk about something ○ The doctor referred to the patient’s history of sinus problems. 2. to suggest that someone should consult something ○ For method of use, please refer to the manufacturer’s instructions. ○ The user is referred to the page giving the results of the tests. 3. to pass on information about a patient to someone else ○ They referred her case to a gynaecologist. ○ 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 ○ 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] ○ ‘…many patients from outside districts were referred to London hospitals by their GPs [Nursing Times]

referral /rɪˈfɜːrəl/ noun the act of sending someone to a specialist ○ She asked for a referral to a gynaecologist.

refractor /rɪˈfæktr/ noun 1. a machine which cools and keeps things cold ○ The serum should be kept refrigerated.

refrigerator /rɪˌfrɪɡəˈrɛtər/ noun a machine which cools and keeps things cold
regain /ri’ɡen/ 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.

regenerate /ri’deɡenərət/ verb to grow again, or grow something again.

regeneration /ri’deɡenərəʃən/ noun the process where tissue that has been destroyed grows again.

regenerative medicine /ri’dʒenərətɪv ‘med(ɪ)ʃən/ noun the branch of medicine that deals with the repair or replacement of tissues and organs by using advanced materials and methods such as cloning.

regimen /’regəmən/ noun a fixed course of treatment, e.g. a course of drugs or a special diet.

region /’ridʒən/ noun an area or part which is around something. The rash started in the region of the upper thigh. The plantar region is very sensitive.

regional /’ridʒənəl/ adjective in a particular region, referring to a particular region.

regional enteritis /’ridʒənəl ˈɛntərɪtɪs/ noun same as Crohn’s disease.

Regional Health Authority /’rɪdʒənəl ‘helθ ər/ərátərɪ/ noun an administrative unit in the branch of medicine which is responsible for planning the health service in a region.

Registrar /’reɡɪstrər/ noun an official who keeps the records of people who have been born, married or who have died in a particular area.

registration /’redʒɪstrəʃən/ noun the act of registering. A doctor cannot practise without registration by the General Medical Council.

regress /’reɡres/ verb to return to an earlier stage or condition.

regression /’redʒərəʃən/ noun 1. a stage where symptoms of a disease are disappearing and the person is getting better. 2. (in psychiatry) the process of returning to a mental state which existed when the person was younger.

regular /’redʒjʊlər/ adjective 1. taking place again and again after the same period of time. She had her regular six-monthly checkup. 2. happening at the same time each day.

regularly /’redʒjʊləli/ adverb happening repeatedly after the same period of time. The tablets must be taken regularly every evening.

register /’reɡɪstreɪʃən/ noun the act of registering. The regulation of the body’s temperature.

regurgitate /’rɪɡərʒət/ verb to bring into the mouth food which has been partly digested in the stomach.

regurgitation /’rɪɡərʒətʃən/ noun the process of flowing back in the opposite direction to the usual flow, especially of bringing up partly digested food from the stomach into the mouth.

rehabilitate /’riːhəbɪlətət/ verb to make someone fit to work or to lead their usual life.

rehabilitation /’riːhəbɪlətəʃən/ noun the process of making someone fit to work or to lead an ordinary life again.

rehydrate /’riːhaɪdrət/ verb to restore body fluids to a healthy level, or cause this to occur.

rehydration /’riːhaɪdrəʃən/ noun the act of giving water or liquid to someone who has dehydration.

reinfected /’riːinfekt/ verb to infect someone or something again.

reinfection /’riːinfekʃən/ noun infection of an area for another time after recovery, especially with the same microorganism.

Reiter’s syndrome /’riːtəz ˈsɜːndrəmz/ noun a disease caused by an infection of the mouth and conjunctivitis. [Described 1916. After Hans Conrad Reiter (1881–1969), German bacteriologist and hygienist.]
Medicine.fm  Page 347  Thursday, November 20, 2003  4:26 PM

again after getting better something close relationship to the environment. The production of stress in a person of fever recur from time to time disease caused by a bacterium, where attacks something else keep food down and vomit it up again after seeming to be cured getting better, or where a disease appears again which someone gets worse after seeming to be cured relaxation therapy a treatment in which people are encouraged to relax their muscles to reduce stress

relaxative /ˈlæksətɪv/ noun US a drug which reduces stress relaxin /ˈlæksɪn/ 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 /ˈrɪlis/ noun the process of allowing something to go out or the slow release of the drug into the bloodstream ■ verb to let something out ○ Hormones are released into the body by glands.

relapsing factor /ˈrɪljɪŋ ˈfæktoʊr/ noun a substance produced in the hypothalamus which encourages the release of hormones releasing hormone /ˈrɪljɪŋ ˈhɑːməʊn/ noun a hormone secreted by the hypothalamus which makes the pituitary gland release particular hormones. Also called hypothalamic hormone relief /ˈrɪlɪft/ noun the process of making something better or easier ○ The drug provides rapid relief for 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 /ˈrɪliv/ 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.

remedy /ˈremədi/ noun a cure, a drug which will cure ○ Honey and glycerine is an old remedy for sore throats.

remembrancer /ˈremərbrəns/ noun something to go out for a period each day, like typhoid fever

remittance /ˈrɛmitənt/ noun a payment of money to another person, especially a payment of money by a country to another country as payment for some service or good done by that country for the benefit of the other country.
removal /ˈrɪrmuːv(ə)l/ noun the action of removing something. An appendicectomy is the surgical removal of an appendix.
remove /ˈrɪrmuːv/ verb to take something away. He will have an operation to remove an improving tonsil.
REM sleep /ˈrem 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- /ˈrɛn-/ prefix same as reno- (used before vowels)
renal /ˈrɛnəl/ adjective referring to the kidneys
renal artery /ˈrɛnəl ərˈtɛri/ noun one of two arteries running from the abdominal aorta to the kidneys.
renal calculus /ˈrɛnəl kəlˈkjuːləs/ noun a small hard mineral mass called a stone in the kidney
renal capsule /ˈrɛnəl ˈkæpsjʊl/ noun same as fibrous capsule
renal clearance /ˈrɛnəl kliərəns/ noun the measurement of the rate at which kidneys filter impurities from blood
renal colic /ˈrɛnəl ˈkɒlɪk/ noun a sudden pain caused by a kidney stone or stones in the ureter
renal corpuscle /ˈrɛnəl ˈkɔrpskəl/ noun part of a nephron in the cortex of a kidney. Also called Malpighian body
renal cortex /ˈrɛnəl kɔrˈtɛks/ noun the outer covering of the kidney, immediately beneath the capsule. See illustration at kidney in Supplement
renal dialysis /ˈrɛnəl dəˈlɛsləs/ 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 /ˈrɛnəl hətəˈpreʃən/ noun high blood pressure linked to kidney disease
renal medulla /ˈrɛnəl ˈmedələ/ noun the inner part of a kidney containing no glomeruli. See illustration at kidney in Supplement
renal pelvis /ˈrɛnəl ˈpɛlvıːs/ 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 /ˈrɛnəl ˈrɪktıːs/ noun a form of rickets caused by kidneys which do not function properly
renal sinus /ˈrɛnəl ˈsɪnəs/ noun a cavity in which the renal pelvis and other tubes leading into the kidney fit
renal transplant /ˈrɛnəl ˈtrænsplænt/ noun a kidney transplant
renal tubule /ˈrɛnəl ˈtjuːbəl/ noun a tiny tube which is part of a nephron. Also called ureteral tubule
renew /rɪˈnjuː/ verb to renew a prescription to get a new prescription for the same drug as before
reni- /ˈrɛnə/ prefix referring to the kidneys
renin /ˈrɛnɪn/ noun an enzyme secreted by the kidney to prevent loss of sodium, and which also affects blood pressure
renin /ˈrɛnɪn/ 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- /ˈrɛnəʊ-/ prefix referring to the kidneys
renogram /ˈrɛnəɡrəm/ 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 /ˈrɛnəɡrəfi/ noun an examination of a kidney after injection of a radioactive substance, using a gamma camera
renovascular /ˌrɛnəˈvæskjʊəl/ adjective referring to the blood vessels of the kidneys
renovascular system /ˌrɛnəˈvæskjʊəl ˈsɪstəm/ noun the blood vessels associated with the kidney
reorganisation /ˌrɛriˈɡənəˌzeɪʃən/ 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 /ˌrɛriˈvɜːrəs/ noun a virus which affects both the intestine and the respiratory system, but does not cause serious illness. Compare echovirus
rep /rɛp/ adverb (written on a prescription) to repeat. Full form repetatur
repeat /rɪˈpiːt/ verb to make something that is damaged good again. 2. Surgeons operated to repair a hernia.
repeat prescription /ˌrɪˈpiːt prɪˈskrɪpʃən/ 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 /rɪˈpell/ verb to make something go away again. 3. If you spread this cream on your skin it will repel insects.
repetitive strain injury /rɪˈpetɪtɪv ˈstrɪn ˌɪnˈjʊəri/ repetitive stress injury /rɪˈpetɪtɪv ˈstrɪss ˌɪnˈjʊəri/
mention used to push a prolapsed organ back into its natural position.

replacement /ri'plei∫mənt/ noun an operation to replace part of the body with an artificial part.

replacement transfusion /ri'plei∫məntˌtransfjuˈzən/ noun an exchange transfusion, a treatment for leukaemia or erythroblastosis where almost all the unhealthy blood is removed from the body and replaced by healthy blood.

replant /riˈplænt/ verb to reattach or reinsert a body part such as a limb or tooth that has become detached.

replantation /riˈplæntəˈteɪʃən/ noun a surgical technique which reattaches parts of the body which have been accidentally cut or torn off.

replicate /ˈreplɪkaɪt/ verb (of a cell) to make a copy of itself.

replication /ˌreplɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun the process in the division of a cell, where the DNA makes copies of itself.

repolarisation /riˈpɒlərəˈzeɪʃən/, repolarization /riˈpɒlərəˈzeɪʃən/ noun the restoration of the usual electrical polarity of a nerve or muscle cell membrane after reversal of its polarity while a nerve impulse or muscle contraction travelled along it.

report /rɪˈpɔːrt/ noun an official note stating what action has been taken, what treatment given or what results have come from a test. ○ The patient’s report card has to be filled in by the nurse. ○ The inspector’s report on the hospital kitchens is good.

reportable diseases /rɪˈpɔːrtəb(ə)l/ plural noun diseases such as asbestososis, hepatitis or anthrax which may be caused by working conditions or may infect other workers and must be reported to the Health Authority.

repositor /rɪˈpɔːrətər/ noun a surgical instrument used to push a prolapsed organ back into its usual position.

repress /rɪˈpres/ verb to decide to ignore or forget feelings or thoughts which may be unpleasant or painful.

repression /rɪˈpresʃən/ noun (in psychiatry) the act of ignoring or forgetting feelings or thoughts which might be unpleasant.

reproduction /ˌriˈpraʊdʌkʃən/ noun the process of making new living beings by existing ones, e.g. producing children or derived other descendants.

reproductive /ˌriˈpraʊdʌktɪv/ adjective referring to reproduction.

reproductive organs /ˌriˈpraʊdʌktɪv ′ɔrganz/ plural noun parts of the bodies of men and women which are involved in the conception and development of a fetus.

reproductive system /ˌriˈpraʊdʌktɪv ′sɪstəm/ 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 /ˌriˈpraʊdʌktɪv ′trækt/ noun the series of tubes and ducts which carry spermatozoa or ova from one part of the body to another.

require /rɪˈkwɛr/ verb to need something. ○ His condition may require surgery. ○ Is it a condition which requires immediate treatment? ○ required effect effect which a drug is expected to have. ○ If the drug does not produce the required effect, the dose should be increased.

requirement /rɪˈkwɛrəmənt/ noun something which is necessary. ○ One of the requirements of the position is a qualification in pharmacy.

resab reticuloendothelial system.

research /rɪˈsɛs(ə)ʃən/ noun a scientific study which investigates something new. ○ He is the director of a medical research unit. ○ She is doing research into finding a cure for leprosy. ○ Research workers or Research teams are trying to find a vaccine against AIDS. ○ Research and development /rɪˈsɛs(ə)ʃən ′ænd ′vɛləpˌmənt/ 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 /rɪˈsɛkʃən/ noun the surgical removal of any part of the body.

resection /rɪˈsɛkʃən/ noun the surgical removal of any part of the body.
resection of the prostate /rɪˈsɛkʃən/ noun same as transurethral prostatectomy

resectoscope /rɪˈsɛktəskəʊp/ noun a surgical instrument used to carry out a transurethral resection

reservoir /rɪˈziːvər/ 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 /rɪˈsɛt/ verb to break a badly set bone and set it again correctly ○ His arm had to be reset.

residency /rɪˈziːdənsi/ noun US a period when a doctor is receiving specialist training in a hospital

resident /rɪˈziːdənt/ 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 1 adjective living in a place

resident doctor /rɪˈziːdənt dɔkтор/ noun a doctor who lives in a building such as an old people’s home

residential /rɪˈziːdənʃəl/ adjective 1. living in a hospital 2. living at home

residential care /rɪˈziːdənʃəl kɛə/ noun the care of patients either in a hospital or at home, but not as outpatients

residual /rɪˈzɪdjuəl/ adjective remaining, which is left behind

residual air /rɪˈzɪdjuəl æər/ residual volume /rɪˈzɪdjuəl vəljuːm/ noun air left in the lungs after a person has breathed out as much air as possible

residual urine /rɪˈzɪdjuəl ˈjʊərɪn/ noun urine left in the bladder after a person has passed as much urine as possible

resin /rɪˈzɛn/ noun a sticky sap or liquid which comes from some types of tree

resist /rɪˈzɪst/ verb to be strong enough to avoid being killed or attacked by a disease ○ A healthy body can resist some infections.

resistance /rɪˈzɪsten t/ 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 /rɪˈzɪstənt/ adjective able not to be affected by something ○ The bacteria are resistant to some antibiotics.

resistant strain /rɪˈzɪstənt ˈstreɪn/ noun a strain of bacterium which is not affected by antibiotics

resolution /rɪˈzɛlʃən/ 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 /rɪˈzɔlv/ 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 /rɪˈzɔlvənt/ adjective able to reduce inflammation or swelling

resonance /rɪˈzɔnəns/ noun a sound made by a hollow part of the body when hit ○ Magnetic resorption /rɪˈsɔrpʃən/ noun the process of absorbing a substance produced by the body back into the body

respiration /rɪˈspɛrəʃən/ noun the act of taking air into the lungs and blowing it out again through the mouth or nose. Also called breathing

respirator /rɪˈspɛrətər/ noun 1. same as ventilator ○ the patient was put on a respirator the patient was attached to a machine which forced him to breathe 2. a mask worn to prevent someone breathing harmful gas or fumes ○ The patient was put on a respirator to prevent someone breathing harmful gas or fumes.

respiratory /rɪˈspɛrətɔr/ adjective referring to breathing

respiratory allergy /rɪˈspɛrətɔr əˈɛlədʒi/ noun an allergy caused by a substance which is inhaled ○ alveolitis, food allergy

respiratory bronchiolitis /rɪˈspɛrətɔr əˈbrɒŋkʃəliətɪs/ noun the end part of a bronchiolitis in the lung, which joins the alveolitis

respiratory centre /rɪˈspɛrətɔr ˈsɛntə/ noun a nerve centre in the brain which regulates the breathing

respiratory distress syndrome /rɪˈspɛrətɔr ˈdrɛstəs ˈstrɛndrəs/ 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 /rɪˈspɛrətɔr ˈfeɪljər/ noun failure of the lungs to oxygenate the blood correctly
respiratory illness /respirətori i′l尼斯/ noun an illness which affects someone’s breathing
respiratory pigment /respirətori pɨgmənt/ noun blood pigment which can carry oxygen collected in the lungs and release it in tissues
respiratory quotient /respirətori kwəʃənt/ noun the ratio of the amount of carbon dioxide taken into the alveoli of the lungs from the blood to the amount of oxygen which the alveoli take from the air. Abbr RQ
respiratory syncytial virus /respirətori sɪŋsi′tʃəl vɜrs/ noun a virus which causes infections of the nose and throat in adults, but serious bronchiolitis in children. Abbr RSV
respiratory system /respirətori sɪstəm/ noun the series of organs and passages which take air into the lungs, and exchange oxygen for carbon dioxide
respite care /rɪ′spət kɛr/ noun temporary care provided to people with disabilities, serious conditions or terminal illness, so that their families can have a rest from the daily routine
respond /rɪ′spɔnd/ verb 1. to react to something 2. to begin to get better because of a treatment ○ She is responding to treatment.
responsible /rɪ′spɔnsəbl/ adjective referring to something which is the cause of something else or the allergen which is responsible for the patient’s reaction ○ This is one of several factors which can be responsible for high blood pressure
responsible /rɪ′spɔnsəbl/ adjective not able to relax or be still ○ restless
rest /rɛst/ 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 /rɪстə′nəʊsɪs/ 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 /rɛstləs/ adjective not able to relax or be still ○ restless
restless leg syndrome /rɛstləs lɛg ,stri′dʒən/ noun painful discomfort in the legs when not active that can lead to interrupted sleep and fatigue
restore /rɪ′stɔr/ 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 /rɪ′strɪkt/ verb 1. to make something less or smaller ○ The blood supply is restricted by the tights bandage. 2. to set limits to something ○ The doctor suggested she should restrict her intake of alcohol.
restrictive /rɪstrɪktɪv/ adjective restricting, making something smaller
result /rɪ′zəlt/ 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 /rɪ′səsɪtət/ verb to make someone who appears to be dead start breathing again, and to restart the circulation of blood
resuscitation /rɪsəsɪtəˈteɪʃən/ noun the act of reviving someone who seems to be dead, by making him or her breathe again and restarting the heart
resuscitation /rɪ′səsɪtəˈteɪʃən/ 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 resuscitation are artificial respiration and cardiac massage.
retainer /rɪ′tenər/ noun a body part less for a period of time ○ He was incontinent and unable to retain urine in his bladder. ○ retention
retard /rɪ′tɑrd/ verb to make something slower, 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 /rɪ′tɑrdəˈteɪʃən/ noun the process of making something slower
retch /rɛtʃ/ verb to try to vomit without bringing any food up from the stomach
retching /rɛtʃɪŋ/ noun the fact of attempting to vomit without being able to do so
rete /rət/ noun a network of veins, arteries or nerve fibres in the body. ○ reticular (note: The plural is retia.)
retention /'reteniʃn/ noun the act of not letting something, especially a fluid, which is usually released from the body, e.g. holding back urine in the bladder

retention cyst /'reteniʃn si:st/ noun a cyst which is formed when a duct from a gland is blocked

retention of urine /'reteniʃn av juzern/ noun a condition in which passing urine is difficult or impossible because the urethra is blocked or because the prostate gland is enlarged

rete testis /ˈretetəstɪs/ plural of rete

recticular /'retikjʊlər/ adjective relating to or in the form of a network

recticular fibres /ˈretikjʊlər fɜːbəs/ plural noun fibres in connective tissue which support, e.g., organs or blood vessels

recticular tissue /ˈretikjʊlər tʃuːs/ noun same as reticular fibres

recticulin /ˈretikjʊlən/ noun a fibrous protein which is one of the most important components of reticular fibres

rectilocyte /ˈretikjʊləsɔt/ noun a red blood cell which has not yet fully developed

rectilocytosis /ˈretikjʊləsətəsɪs/ noun a condition in which the number of reticulocytes in the blood increases unusually

recticuloendothelial cell /ˈretikjʊlənˌdændəl sel/ noun a phagocytic cell in the reticuloendothelial system

recticuloendothelial system /ˈretikjʊləˌdændəl ˌsɪstəm/ noun a series of phagocytic cells in the body, found especially in bone marrow, lymph nodes, liver and spleen, which attack and destroy bacteria and form antibodies. Abbr RES

recticuloendotheliosis /ˈretikjʊləˌdændəl əˈθelɪəsɪs/ noun a condition in which cells in the RES grow large and form swellings in bone marrow or destroy bones

recticulosis /ˈretikjʊləsəsɪs/ noun any of several conditions where cells in the reticuloendothelial system grow large and form usually malignant tumours

recticum /ˈretɪktʃʊm/ noun a series of small fibres or tubes forming a network

retin- /'retɪn/ prefix same as retino- (used before vowels)

retina /ˈretɪnə/ noun the inside layer of the eye which is sensitive to light. A detached retina. See illustration at EYE in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is retinas.)

COMMENT: Light enters the eye through the pupil and strikes the retina. Light-sensitive cells in the retina (cones and rods) convert the light to nerve impulses. The optic nerve sends these impulses to the brain which interprets them as images. The point where the optic nerve joins the retina has no light-sensitive cells, and is known as the blind spot.

retinaculum /ˈretɪnəkjuːləm/ noun a band of tissue which holds a structure in place, as found in the wrist and ankle over the flexor tendons

retinae /ˈretɪnə/ plural of retina

retinal /ˈretɪnəl/ adjective referring to the retina

retinal artery /ˈretɪnəl ætəri/ noun the only artery of the retina, which accompanies the optic nerve

retinal detachment /ˈretɪnəl dɪˈtætʃmənt/ noun a condition in which the retina is partly detached from the choroid

retinitis /ˈretɪnətɪs/ noun inflammation of the retina

retinitis pigmentosa /ˈretɪnətɪs ˈpɪɡmənθəsə/ noun a hereditary condition in which inflammation of the retina can result in blindness

retino-/ˈretɪnəʊ/ prefix referring to the retina

retinoblastoma /ˈretɪnəˌblæstəmə/ noun a rare tumour in the retina, affecting infants

retinol /ˈretɪnəl/ noun a vitamin found in liver, vegetables, eggs and cod liver oil which is essential for good vision. Also called Vitamin A

retinopathy /ˈretɪnəpəθi/ noun any disease of the retina

retinoscope /ˈretɪnəskəʊp/ noun an instrument with various lenses, used to measure the refraction of the eye

retinoscopy /ˈretɪnəskəʊpi/ noun a method of measuring refractive errors in the eye using a retinoscope

retnire /ˈretərɛ/ verb 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 /ˈretɪrəmənt/ noun 1. the act of retiring 2. The retirement age for men is 65, the act of being retired

retraction /ˈretrektʃən/ noun the fact of moving backwards or becoming shorter. There is retraction of the overlying skin.

retraction ring /ˈretrektʃən rɪŋ/ noun a groove round the uterus, separating its upper and lower parts, which, in obstructed labour, prevents the baby from moving forward as expected into the cervical canal. Also called Band's ring

retractor /ˌrɛtrəˈtraktr/ noun a surgical instrument which pulls and holds back the edge of the incision in an operation

retro-/ˈrɛtrəʊ/ prefix at the back, behind

retrobulbar /ˌrɛtrəʊˈbʌlbaʊr/ adjective behind the eyeball

retrobulbar neuritis /ˌrɛtrəʊˌbʌlbaʊr ˈnjuːrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the optic nerve
which makes objects appear blurred. Also called optic neuritis
retroflexion /ˌretroˈfleksən/ 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 retrograde /ˌretroɡreɪd/ adjective going backwards or deteriorating, getting worse retrograde pyelography /ˌretroɡreɪd ˈpɛlikrəʊfi/ noun an X-ray examination of the kidney where a catheter is passed into the kidney and an opaque liquid is injected directly into it retrogression /ˌretroɡrəˈʃiʒən/ noun returning to an earlier state retrorenal fibroplasia /ˌretroˈrɛni ˈfɪbroʊpləˈzeɪə/ noun a condition in which fibrous tissue develops behind the lens of the eye, resulting in blindness. Comment: Retrorenal fibroplasia can occur in premature babies if they are treated with large amounts of oxygen immediately after birth.
retro-ocular /ˌretro ˈɒkʃəl/ adjective at the back of the eye retroperitoneal /ˌretroˈperɪtəʊniəl/ adjective at the back of the peritoneum retroperitoneal space /ˌretroˈperɪtəʊniəl ˈspeɪs/ noun the area between the posterior parietal peritoneum and the posterior abdominal wall, containing the kidneys, adrenal glands, duodenum, ureters and pancreas retropharyngeal /ˌretroˈfæriŋdʒiəl/ adjective at the back of the pharynx retropubic /ˌretroˈpjuːbɪk/ adjective at the back of the pubis retropubic prostatectomy /ˌretroˈpjuːbɪk ˈprəstətɪkətəmi/ noun removal of the prostate gland which is carried out through a suprapubic incision and by cutting the membrane which surrounds the gland retrospection /ˌretroˈspɛktʃən/ noun the act of recalling what happened in the past retrospective /ˌretroˈspɛktətɪv/ adjective applying to the past, tracing what has happened already to selected people retroversion /ˌretroˈvɜːzən/ noun the act of sloping backwards or retroversion of the uterus Same as retroverted uterus retroverted uterus /ˌretroˈvɜːzətɪd ˈjʊtərəs/ noun a condition in which the uterus slopes backwards away from its usual position. Also called retroversion of the uterus, tipped womb retrovirus /ˌretroˈvɜːvərəs/ noun a virus whose genetic material contains RNA from which DNA is synthesised (Note: The AIDS virus and many carcinogenic viruses are retroviruses.) revascularisation /ˌriːvæskjuˈleɪʃən, ˌriːvæskjuˈleɪzəriˈzeɪʃən/ noun, revascularization the act of restoring an adequate blood supply to an organ or tissue, especially in a surgical operation us-
ing a blood vessel graft, the condition of having an adequate blood supply restored reveal /riːˈvɪl/ verb to show something or Digital palpation revealed a growth in the breast. reversal /riːˈvɜːzəl/ noun the procedure to change something back or reversal of sterilisation reverse isolation /riːˈvɜːzəl ˈɛrələʃən/ noun same as protective isolation revision /riːˈvɜːzən/ noun an examination of a surgical operation after it has been carried out or a revision of a radical mastectomy revive /riːˈvɪv/ verb to bring someone back to life or to consciousness. They tried to revive him with artificial respiration. She collapsed on the floor and had to be revived by the nurse.
Reye's syndrome /ˈriː, siːndrəm/ 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 /ˌræbdəˌmjuːzəˈkɔːmə/ noun a malignant tumour of striated muscle tissue. It occurs mostly in children.
rhabdovirus /ˌræbdəˈvɜːvərəs/ noun any of a group of viruses containing RNA, one of which causes rashes. rhachio- /ˌrækʃiəʊ-/ prefix referring to the spine rhagades /ˈræɡədiz/ plural noun long thin scars in the skin round the nose, mouth or anus, seen in syphilis. S fissure Rh disease /ˈrɛθəs ˈdɛsi/ noun same as rhesus factor disease rheo- /ˈrɛθəʊ-/ prefix relating to the flow of liquids. R relating to the flow of electrical current rheometer /ˈrɛθəˈmətər/ noun a device that measures the flow of thick liquids such as blood rhesus baby /rɪˈθəs, ˈbɛbi/ noun a baby with erythroblastosis fetalis rhesus factor /rɪˈθəs ˈfæktaɪ/ noun an antigen in red blood cells, which is an element in blood grouping. Also called Rh factor. Comment: The rhesus factor is important in blood grouping, because although most people are Rh-positive, an Rh-negative patient should not receive an Rh-positive blood transfusion as this will cause the formation of permanent antibodies. If an Rh-negative mother has a child by an Rh-positive father, the baby will inherit Rh-positive blood, which may then pass into the mother’s circulation at childbirth and cause antibodies to form. This can be prevented by an injection of anti-D immunoglobulin immediately after the birth of the first Rh-positive child and any subsequent Rh-positive children. If an Rh-negative mother has formed antibodies to Rh-positive blood in the past, these antibodies will affect the blood
rhesus factor disease

of the fetus and may cause erythroblastosis fetalis.
rhesus factor disease /‘rɪsəs ,fæktə di /ˈzɪz/ 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 /ruːˈmætɪk/ adjective referring to rheumatism
rheumatic fever /ruːˌmætɪk ˈfɪvə/ 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 /ˈrɪmətɪzəm/ noun pains and stiffness in the joints and muscles (informal) O She has rheumatism in her hips. O He complained of rheumatism in the knees.
rheumatoid /rɪˈmɔtɪd/ adjective relating to rheumatism
rheumatoid arthritis /rɪˈmɔtɪd ərˈθɪtəs/ noun a general painful disabling collagen disease affecting any joint, but especially the hands, feet and hips, making them swollen and inflamed. O 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.
[Nursing Times]
rheumatoid erosion /rɪˈmɔtɪd ɪˈrɔsən/ noun erosion of bone and cartilage in the joints caused by rheumatoid arthritis
rheumatoid factor /rɪˈmɔtɪd ˈfæktər/ noun an antibody found in the blood serum of many people who have rheumatoid arthritis
rheumatologist /rɪˈmɔtɪd ələˈdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in rheumatology
rheumatology /rɪˈmɔtɪd əˈlɒdʒi/ noun a branch of medicine dealing with rheumatic disease of muscles and joints
Rh factor /rɑː, fæktər/ noun same as rhesus factor
rhin- /rɪn/ prefix same as rhino- (used before vowels)
rhinai /rɪnə/ adjective referring to the nose
rhinencephalon /rɪnənˈsɛfələn/ noun the area of the forebrain that controls the sense of smell
rhinitis /rɪnəˈtɪtɪs/ 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

rheino- /rɪnə/ prefix referring to the nose
rhinology /rɪnəˈnəldʒi/ noun a branch of medicine dealing with diseases of the nose and the nasal passages
rhinomyositis /ˌrɪnəˈməʊsɪtɪs/ noun an inflammation of the nasal passages by a fungus
rhinopharyngitis /ˌrɪnəfəˈrɛnɪdʒɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the mucous membranes in the nose and pharynx
rhinophyma /rɪnəˈfɪmə/ noun a condition caused by rosacea, in which the nose becomes permanently red and swollen
rhinoplasty /ˌrɪnəˈpləstɪ/ noun plastic surgery to correct the appearance of the nose
rhinorrhoea /ˌrɪnəˈrəʊə/ noun a watery discharge from the nose
rhinoscope /ˌrɪnəskəʊp/ noun an instrument for examining the inside of the nose
rhinoscopy /ˌrɪnəˈskɒpɪ/ noun an examination of the inside of the nose
rhinosinusitis /ˌrɪnəˌsɪnəˈsɪtɪs/ 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 /ˌrɪnəˌspɔrɪdɪˈsɪəsiəs/ 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/, rhizo- /ˌrɪtsəʊ/ prefix referring to a root
rhizotomy /ˌrɪtsəˈtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to cut or divide the roots of a nerve to relieve severe pain
Rh-negative /ɑːt ˈnɛgətɪv/ adjective who does not have the rhesus factor in his or her blood
rhodopsin /ˌrɔdəˈpɜːsɪn/ 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 /ˌrɒmbənsˈkefələn/ noun the hindbrain, the part of the brain which contains the cerebellum, the medulla oblongata and the pons
rhomboid /ˌrɒmbəʊd/ noun one of two muscles in the top part of the back which move the shoulder blades
rhonchus /ˌrɒŋkəs/ 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 /ɑːt ˈpɒzətɪv/ adjective who has the rhesus factor in his or her blood
rhythm /ˈrɪðəm/ noun a regular movement or beat
rhythmic \( \text{/ˈrɪðmɪk/} \) adjective regular, with a repeated rhythm

rhythm method \( \text{/ˈrɪðməmˌmɛθəd/} \) 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 \( \text{/rɪb/} \) noun one of twenty-four curved bones which protect the chest. For other terms referring to the ribs, see words beginning with cost-, costo-.

ribavirin \( \text{/rɪbaˈvɛrɪn/} \) noun a synthetic drug which helps to prevent the synthesis of viral DNA and RNA, used in the treatment of viral diseases

rib cage \( \text{/rɪb ˈkeɪdʒ/} \) 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. Most of the remaining third pair, which are not attached to the breastbone at all, are called the floating ribs.

ribonucleic acid \( \text{/ˈrɪbəʊˌnjuːklɪˈsɪk/} \) noun one of the nucleic acids in the nucleus of all living cells, which takes coded information from DNA and translates it into specific enzymes and proteins. \( \text{DNA.} \)

Ribose \( \text{/rɪbəʊs/} \) noun a type of sugar found in RNA

ribosomal \( \text{/rɪbəˈsɒməl/} \) adjective referring to ribosomes

ribosome \( \text{/rɪbəˈsɒm/} \) noun a tiny particle in a cell, containing RNA and protein, where protein is synthesised

rice water stools \( \text{/rʌsɪwɔːtə stjuːlz/} \) plural noun watery faeces that are typically passed by people who have cholera

rich \( \text{/rɪtʃ/} \) adjective 1. well supplied 2. referring to food which has a high calorific value '…the sublingual region has a rich blood supply derived from the carotid artery.' \( \text{Nursing Times} \)

ricin \( \text{/ˈrɪtsɪn/} \) noun a highly toxic albumin found in the seeds of the castor oil plant

rick \( \text{/rɪk/} \) noun a slight injury to a joint caused by wrenching or straining it \( \text{verb} \) to wrench or sprain a joint of the body slightly

rickets \( \text{/ˈrɪktz/} \) 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 \( \text{/ˈrɪkɛtʃɪə/} \) noun a genus of microorganisms which causes several diseases including Q fever and typhus

rickettsial \( \text{/ˈrɪkɛtʃɪəl/} \) adjective referring to Rickettsia

rickettsial pox \( \text{/ˈrɪkɛtʃɪəl pɒks/} \) noun a disease found in North America, caused by Rickettsia akari passed to humans by bites from mites which live on mice

rid \( \text{/rɪd/} \) verb 1. to get rid of something to make something go away 2. He can't get rid of his cold - he's had it for weeks. 3. to be rid of something not to have something unpleasant any more 4. I'm very glad to be rid of my flu.

ridge \( \text{/rɪdʒ/} \) noun a long raised part on the surface of a bone or organ

rifampicin \( \text{/ˈrɪfæmˌpɪsɪn/} \) 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 \( \text{/rɪt/} \) noun the fact of being legally entitled to do or to have something \( \text{You always have the right to ask for a second opinion.} \)

right-handed \( \text{/rɪtˈhændid/} \) adjective using the right hand more often than the left \( \text{He's right-handed.} \)

Most people are right-handed.

right-left shunt \( \text{/rɪtˈlɛft/} \) noun a malformation in the heart, allowing blood to flow from the pulmonary artery to the aorta

right lymphatic duct \( \text{/rɪt lɪmˈfætɪk} \text{ˈdrʌkt/} \) 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 larger being the thoracic duct.

rigid \( \text{/rɪdʒɪd/} \) adjective stiff, not moving

rigidity \( \text{/rɪˈdʒɪdɪtɪ/} \) noun the fact of being rigid, bent or not able to be moved.

spasticity \( \text{/spəˈtæsɪətɪ/} \) noun an attack of shivering, often with fever

rigor mortis \( \text{/ˈrɪɡər} \text{ˈmortɪs/} \) 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 \( \text{/rɪmə/} \) noun a narrow crack or cleft

rima glottidis \( \text{/ˌrɪmə ˈɡlɒtɪdɪs/} \) noun a space between the vocal cords
risk rose sharply.

a particular disease

distal to the block.

local anaesthetic all the way round a

likely to be harmed or to catch a disease

rash on the face, usually near the mouth or eyes.

Rinse your mouth out with mouthwash.

Rinne's test \\

is very contagious and difficult to get

infection spreads out in a circle from a central

point. It is very contagious and difficult to get

removed to an isolation ward, all the patients

era epidemic.

harm or have bad results

to do something which may possibly cause

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Role playing /ˈroʊl ˈpIɛln/ 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 /ˈrɔld bændɪdʒ/ roller bandage /ˈrɔld 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 /ˈrʊmbərgz 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 Moritz Heinrich Romberg (1795–1873), German physician and pioneer neurologist.]

Comment: 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 /ˈrɒŋ/ 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 a tooth or root of the mouth grows 2. root of hair or hair root 3. root of nerve or nerve root 2. a part of a tooth which is connected to a socket in the jaw. Also called radix.

Root canal /ˈrʊt kəʊnl noun a canal in the root of a tooth through which the nerves and blood vessels pass.

Rooting reflex /ˈrʊtɪŋ rɪfliks 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 /ˈrɒpər, ləʊɡən ən tɪərni mɒdəl 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 /ˈrɔshək test noun a test to see if acetone is present in urine, a sign of ketosis which is a complication of diabetes mellitus [After Hermann Rorschach (1884–1922), German-born psychiatrist who worked in Bern, Switzerland.]

Roth spot /rɔθ spɔt noun a pale spot which sometimes occurs on the retina of a person who has leukemia or some other diseases [After Arthur Cecil Hamel Roth (1839–1915), Swiss pathologist and physician.]
roundworm

cochlea, and closed by a membrane. Also
called *fenestra rotunda*. See illustration at *ear*
in Supplement

roundworm /ˈroʊndwɜrn/ noun any of sev-
eral common types of parasitic worms with round bodies, such as hookworms. Compare
flatworm

Rovsing’s sign /ˈroʊvssɪŋ/ 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 Copenha-
gen, Denmark.]

Royal College of General Practitioners
/ˌroʊləl kəlɪdʒ əv ˈdeɪɛmənər/ noun a profes-
sional association which represents family
doctors. Abbr RCGP

Royal College of Nursing /ˌroʊləl kəlɪdʒ əv ˈnɜːsiŋ/ noun a professional association
which represents nurses. Abbre RCN

Roy’s model /ˌroʊz ˈmɔrdəl/ noun a model
for nursing developed in the US in the 1970s.
It describes a person’s health as being a state of
successful positive adaptation to all those
stimuli from the environment which could in-
terfere with their basic need satisfaction. Ill-
ness results from an inability to adapt to such
stimuli, so nurses should help patients to over-
come this.

RQ abbr respiratory quotient

RR abbr 1. recovery room 2. relative risk

-rrhaphy /ˈrəfə/ suffix referring to surgical
sewing or suturing

-rrhexis /ˈrɛksɪs/ suffix referring to splitting or
rupture

-rrhoea /ˈrɛdʒə/ suffix referring to an unusual
flow or discharge of fluid from an organ

RS abbr Registered Sick Children’s Nurse

RSI abbr repetitive strain injury

RSV abbr respiratory syncytial virus

RTN abbr Registered Theatre Nurse

rub /rub/ noun 1. a lotion used to rub on the skin
○ The ointment is used as a rub. ■ verb 1. to
move something, especially the hands, back-
wards and forwards over a surface ○ She
rubbed her leg after she knocked it against the
table. ○ He rubbed his hands to make the cir-
culation return. 2. ○ to rub into 3. ○ to rub
out 4. ○ Rub the lintment gently into the
skin.

rubber /ˈrabə/ noun 1. a material which can
be stretched and compressed, made from the
thick white liquid called latex, from a tropical
tree 2. a condom (informal)

rubber sheet /ˈræbə ʃiːt/ noun a waterproof
sheet put on hospital beds or on the bed of a
child who is prone to bedwetting, to protect the
mattress

rubbing alcohol /ˈrʌbɪŋ əlˈkoʊhəl/ noun US

rubefacient /ˈrʌbəfəˈsent/ noun a sub-
stance which makes the skin warm, and pink
or red ■ adjective causing the skin to become
red

rubella /rəˈbɛlə/ noun a common infectious
viral disease of children with mild fever, swol-
len lymph nodes and rash. Also called German
measles

COMMENT: Rubella can cause stillbirth or mal-
formation of an unborn baby if the mother
catches the disease while pregnant. One
component of the MMR vaccine immunises
against rubella.

rubella /rəˈbɛlə/ noun same as measles

Rubin’s test /ˈrʌbɪnz test/ noun a test to
see if the Fallopian tubes are free from ob-
struction [After Isador Clinton Rubin (b. 1883),
US gynaecologist]

rubor /ˈrʊbər/ noun redness of the skin or tis-

rudimentary /ˌruːdiˈmentərɪ/ adjective ex-
inisting in a small form, or not developed fully ○
The child was born with rudimentary arms.

Ruffini corpuscles /ˈrʌfiˌni kɔrˈpʊrəsəlz/, Ruffini
nerve endings /ˌrʌfiˌni ˈnɜrv ˈɛndɪŋz/ plural noun branching nerve endings in the skin, which are thought to be sensitive to

ruge /ˈruːɡə/ noun a fold or ridge, especially
in a mucous membrane such as the lining of the
stomach [NOTE: The plural is rugea.)

rule out /rʊl ˈaʊt/ verb to state that someone
does not have a specific disease ○ We can rule
out shingles.

rumbling /ˈrʌmblɪŋ/ noun borborygmus,
noise in the abdomen, caused by gas in the
intestines.

rumination /ˈrʊmɪneɪʃən/ noun 1. a con-
dition in which someone has constant irration-
al thoughts which they cannot control 2. the
re-gurgitation of food from the stomach which
is then swallowed again

run /rʊn/ verb (of the nose) to drip with liquid
secreted from the mucous membrane in the na-
sal passage ○ His nose is running. ○ If your

run /rʊn/ adjective from which liquid
is flowing ○ running eyes

running sore /ˈrʌŋɪŋ ˈsɔr/ noun a sore which
is discharging pus

runny nose /ˈrʌnɪ ˈnəʊz/ noun a nose which
is dripping with liquid from the mucous mem-

runs /ˈrʌnz/ noun the runs same as diar-rhoea
(informal) ○ I’ve got the runs again. (NOTE: 
Takes a singular or plural verb.)
rupture /ˈrʌptʃər/ 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 /ˈrʌptʃərd ˈsplɛn/ noun a spleen which has been torn by piercing or by a blow
Russell traction /ˈrʌsəl ˈtrækʃən/ noun a type of traction with weights and slings used to straigten 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 /ˈsæbɪn ,vækˈsɪn/ 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 /sæk/ noun a part of the body shaped like a bag
saccades /sækˈkeɪdəs/ 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 /ˈsækərəd/ 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
saccharo- /ˈsækərəʊ/ prefix same as sacchar- (used before vowels)
saccharification /ˈsækərəˌfiʃən/ noun a condition in which the sacral nerves pass. See illustration at pelvis in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is sacra.)
SAD abbr seasonal affective disorder
saddle joint /ˈsædəl dʒɔɪnt/ noun a synovial joint where one element is concave and the other convex, like the joint between the thumb and the wrist
saddle-nose /ˈsædəl nəʊz/ noun a deep bridge of the nose, usually a sign of injury but sometimes a sign of tertiary syphilis
sadism /ˈsædɪzəm/ noun a sexual condition in which a person finds sexual pleasure in hurting others
sadist /ˈsædɪst/ noun a person whose sexual urge is linked to sadism
sadistic /ˈsædɪstɪk/ adjective referring to sadism. Compare masochism
sodium, USA, where it was first diagnosed].

drug which relaxes and dilates the bronchi, used in the relief of asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis.
salicylate /salıˈsilaɪt/ noun one of various pain-killing substances derived from salicylic acid, e.g. aspirin.
salicylic acid /səlıˈsɪlk/ adjective a white antiseptic substance which destroys bacteria and fungi and which is used in ointments to treat corns, warts and other skin disorders.
salicylism /səlıˈsɪlɪzı̃m/ noun the effects of poisoning due to too much salicylic acid. Symptoms include headache, tinnitus, faintness and vomiting.
saline /ˈseɪlɪn/ adjective referring to or containing salt. & The patient was given a saline transfusion. ■ noun same as saline solution.
saline drip /ˈseɪlɪn drip/ noun a drip containing a saline solution.
saline solution /ˈseɪlɪn səˈleɪn səˈljuːn/ noun a solution made of distilled water and sodium chloride, which is introduced into the body intravenously through a drip.
saliva /ˈsælɪvə/ 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-).
salivation /səlɪˈveɪʃən/ noun the production of saliva.
salivary /səˈlɪvər/ adjective referring to saliva.
salivary calculus /səˈlɪvər kəˈlɪk jʊləs/ noun a stone which forms in a salivary gland.
salivary gland /səˈlɪvər ˈɡlænd/ 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 /səˈlɪvət/ verb to produce saliva.
salivation /səˈlɪvəʃən/ noun the production of saliva.
saliva /ˈsælɪvə/ 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 /ˈsæləˌmətərəl/ noun a drug which relaxes and widens the airways, used to treat severe asthma.
Salmonella \textit{Salmonella} /səlməˈnɛlə/ \textbf{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 \textit{Salmonellae}.)

Salmonella poisoning /səlməˈnɛla ˌpɔzəˌnəni/ \textbf{noun} poisoning caused by Salmonellae which develop in the intestines.

Salmonellosis /ˌsælməˈneləsɪs/ \textbf{noun} food poisoning caused by \textit{Salmonella} in the digestive system

Salpingo- /sælˈpɪŋɡo-/ \textbf{prefix} same as salpingo- (used before vowels)

Salpingectomy /sælˈpɪŋɡəˈtɛktəmi/ \textbf{noun} a surgical operation to remove or cut a Fallopian tube, used as a method of contraception

Salpingitis /ˌsælˈpɪŋɡəˈtɪtəs/ \textbf{noun} inflammation, usually of a Fallopian tube

Salpingo-oophorectomy /ˌsælˈpɪŋɡəˌɒfəˈfɔrətəmi/ \textbf{noun} a surgical operation to remove or cut a Fallopian tube and the ovary connected to it

Salpingo-oophorocele /ˌsælˈpɪŋɡəˌɒfəˈfɔrəˌsɛlə/ \textbf{noun} hernia where a Fallopian tube and its ovary pass through a weak point in the surrounding tissue

Salpingostomy /ˌsælˈpɪŋɡəˈstɒmə/ \textbf{noun} a surgical operation to open up a blocked Fallopian tube

Salpinx /ˌsælˈpɪŋks/ \textbf{noun} same as Fallopian tube (NOTE: The plural is salpinges.)

Salt /sɔlt/ \textbf{noun} 1. small white crystals mainly of sodium chloride used to flavour and preserve food 2. a crystalline compound, usually containing a metal, formed when an acid is neutralised by an alkali

COMMENT: Salt forms a necessary part of diet, as it replaces salt lost in sweating and helps to control the water balance in the body. It also improves the working of the muscles and nerves. Most diets contain more salt than each person actually needs, and although it has not been proved to be harmful, it is generally wise to cut down on salt consumption. Salt is one of the four tastes, the others being sweet, sour and bitter.

Salt depletion /sɔlt dɪˈpliʃən/ \textbf{noun} loss of salt from the body, by sweating or vomiting, which causes cramp.

Salt-free diet /sɔlt friːˈdeɪt/ \textbf{noun} a diet in which no salt is allowed

Salve /ˈsælv/ \textbf{noun} an ointment

Sample /ˈsæmpl/ \textbf{noun} a small quantity of something used for testing

Sanatorium /ˌsænəˈtɔriəm/ \textbf{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)

Sandfly fever /ˌsændflɪˌfevər/ \textbf{noun} a virus infection like influenza, which is transmitted by the bite of the sandfly Phlebotomus papatasii and is common in the Middle East

Sanguineous /ˈsæŋgyəˈnəs/ \textbf{adjective} referring to blood

Sanitary /ˈsænəri/ \textbf{adjective} 1. clean 2. referring to hygiene or to health

Sanitary towel /ˌsænətriˌtaʊl/ \textbf{noun} a disposable pad of absorbent material worn by women to absorb the blood flow during menstruation

Sanitation /ˌsænəˈteɪʃən/ \textbf{noun} the practice of being hygienic, especially referring to public hygiene

Saphenous /ˌsæfəˈnəs/ \textbf{adjective} relating to the saphenous veins

Saphenous vein /ˌsæfəˈnəs/ \textbf{noun} a branch of the femoral nerve which connects with the sensory nerves in the skin of the lower leg

Saphenous opening /ˌsæfəˈnəs/ \textbf{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 to the leg. Also called saphena

COMMENT: 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 /ˈsɑpfaɪzm/ noun same as lesbianism

sapraemia /sɑˈpræmɪə/ noun blood poisoning by saprophytes

saprophyte /ˌsɑpəˈfaɪt/ noun a microorganism which lives on dead or decaying tissue

saprophytic /ˌsɑpəˈfɪtɪk/ adjective referring to an organism which lives on dead or decaying tissue

sarc- /sɑrk-/ prefix (1935) referring to flesh 2. referring to muscle

sarcoid /ˈsɑrkɔɪd/ noun a tumour which is like a sarcoma (adjective like a sarcoma)

sarcoïdosis /ˌsɑrkɔɪˈdɒsɪs/ 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 sarcoïd (NOTE: The Kveim test confirms the presence of sarcoïdosis.)

sarcolemma /ˌsɑrkəˈlemə/ noun a membrane surrounding a muscle fibre

sarcoma /ˈsɑrkəma/ noun a cancer of connective tissue such as bone, muscle or cartilage

sarcomatosis /ˌsɑrkəˈmətɒsɪs/ noun a condition in which a sarcoma has spread through the bloodstream to many parts of the body

sarcomatous /ˌsɑrkəˈmætəs/ adjective referring to a sarcoma

sarcomere /ˌsɑrkəˈmɪrə/ noun a filament in myofibril

sarcomplasm /ˌsɑrkəˈplæzməs/ noun semi-liquid cytoplasm in muscle membrane. Also called myoplasm

sarcomplasmic /ˌsɑrkəˈplæzmɪk/ adjective referring to sarcoplasm

sarcoïdotic reticulum /ˌsɑrkəˈplaɪk tɪˈrɪkjuˌləm/ noun a network in the cytoplasm of striated muscle fibres

sarcocytes /ˌsɑrkəˈsɔtɪz/ noun a type of muscle which causes scabies

sardonicus /sɑrdəˈnɪks/ a risus sardonicus

SARS /sɑr/ 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 /sɑrˈtɔrɪəs/ 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 /ˌsætʃəˈreɪtɪd /ˈfæt/ 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 /ˌsaʊrənˈzəm/ noun lead poisoning

sautéfri/ˈsɔtə frɛ/ noun an obsessive sexual urge in a man (NOTE: A similar condition in a woman is called nymphomania.)

saucerisation /ˌsɔsərəˈzeɪʃən/ noun a surgical operation in which tissue is cut out in the form of a saucer-like depression, usually in order to help 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. 2. 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 /sɔw/ noun a tool with a long metal blade with teeth along its edge, used for cutting verb to cut something with a saw (NOTE: sawing – sawed – sawn)

Sayre’s jacket /ˈsɛərˌdʒækt/ noun a plaster cast which supports the spine when vertebræ have been deformed by tuberculosis or spinal disease [After Lewis Albert Sayre (1820–1901), US surgeon]

s.c. abbr subcutaneous

scab /ˈskæb/ noun a crust of dry blood which forms over a wound and protects it

scabicide /ˈskæbɪsɪd/ noun a solution which kills mites (adjective killing mites

scabies /ˈskɛbɪz/ noun a very irritating infection of the skin caused by a mite which lives under the skin

scala /ˈskɑlə/ 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. 2. a term used for the Scala tympani

scald /skɔld/ noun an injury to the skin caused by touching a very hot liquid or steam. Also called wet burn (adjective injuring the skin with a very hot liquid or steam
scalding

scalding /skɔldin/ adjective 1. referring to a liquid which is very hot 2. referring to urine which gives a burning sensation when passed

scale /skel/ 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

scalenus /skəˈlɪnəs/, scalene /ˈskəlɪn/ noun one of a group of muscles in the neck which bend the neck forwards and sideways, and also help expand the lungs in deep breathing

scalenus syndrome /skəˈlɪnəs ˌsniːdʒəʊm/ noun a pain in an arm, caused by the scalenus anterior muscle pressing the subclavian artery and the brachial plexus against the vertebrae. Also called thoracic outlet syndrome

scale off /skæl ˈtɒf/ verb to fall off in scales

scaler /ˈskælər/ noun a surgical instrument for scaling teeth

scalist /skəˈlist/ noun a machine for weighing

The nurses weighed the baby on the scales.

scaly /ˈskæli/ adjective covered in scales

The pustules harden and become scaly.

scapula /skæpˈjʊlə/ noun one of two large flat bones covering the top part of the back. Also called shoulder blade

scapulo-

scapulohumeral /skæpˈjʊlmjuːˈməːrəl/ adjective referring to the scapula and humerus

scar /skɑr/ noun the mark left on the skin after a wound or surgical incision has healed

He still has the scar of his appendectomy. Also called cicatrix

verb to leave a scar on the skin

The burns have scarred him for life.

Plastic surgeons have tried to repair the scarred arm.

Patients were given special clothes to reduce hypertrophic scarring.

scarification /skəˈrɪfɪˈkeɪʃn/ noun scratching, making minute cuts on the surface of the skin, e.g. for a smallpox vaccination

scarificator /skəˈrɪfɪˈkeɪtər/ noun an instrument used for scarification

scarlatina /ˈskɑlətɪnə, -ɨnə/ noun scarlet fever

An infectious disease with a fever, sore throat and a red rash. It is caused by a haemolytic streptococcus and can sometimes have serious complications if the kidneys are infected.

Scarpa’s triangle /skɔrˈpɑː t्रέɪɡl/ noun same as femoral triangle (After Antonio Scarpa (1747–1832), Italian anatomist and surgeon)

scar tissue /skɑrˈtuːʃ/ noun fibrous tissue which forms a scar

scent- /skɛnt/,

scent- /ˈskɛnt/ prefix referring to the faeces

scatole /ˈskætələ/ noun a substance in faeces, formed in the intestine, which causes a strong smell (NOTE: Also spelled skatole.)

SACC abbr squamous cell carcinoma

scented /ˈsentɪd/ adjective with a strong pleasant smell

He is allergic to scented soap.

scent/ /ˈsent/ noun 1. a pleasant smell

The scent of flowers makes me sneeze.

SCC abbr squamous cell carcinoma

scent- /ˈsent/ prefix referring to the faeces

scent- /ˈsent/ noun same as body image

Shuey/ /ʃuˈeɪ/ noun inflammation of the bones and cartilage in the spine, usually affecting adolescents [Described 1920. After Holger Werfel Schueymann (1877–1960), Danish orthopaedic surgeon and radiologist]

Schick test /ʃɪk test/ 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]

COMMENT: In the Schick test, a small amount of diphtheria toxin is injected, and if the point
anaemia

Schilling test /ˈʃilɪŋ 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. 1919), US physiologist]

-schisis /ˈskætəs/ suffix referring to a fissure or split

schisto- /ˈʃɪstroʊ/ prefix referring to something which is split

Schistosoma /ˈʃɪstəsəʊmə/ noun same as bilharzia

schistosomiasis /ˈʃɪstəsəʊməˌrɪəsɪs/noun same as bilharziasis

schiz- /ˈskɪzətʃ/ schizo-/ˈskɪtsəʊ/ prefix referring to something which is split

schizoid /ˈskɪtsɔɪd/ adjective referring to schizophrenia 

schizoid personality /ˈskɪtsɔɪd pəˈnɛltɪ/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 /ˈskɪtʃənərɪə/ 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 /ˈskɪtʃənəˈrɪk/ noun someone who has schizophrenia 

schizotypal personality disorder /ˌskɪtʃətˈpɔltɪləd/ noun a schizoid personality type disorder

Schlatter’s disease /ˈʃlætərz dɪz/ noun inflammation in the bones and cartilage at the top of the tibia [Described 1839. After Friedrich Schlemm (1837–1910), German otologist]

Schlemm’s canal /ˈʃlɛmz kəˌnal/ 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 /ˈsʰənəˌlɛn həˈnɔk pərˈpɜrə/ 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 /skʊl/ noun 1. a place where children are taught 2. a specialised section of a university

school health service /skʊlˈhelθ ′sevəs/ noun a special service, part of the local health authority, which looks after the health of children in school

school nurse /skʊlˈnɜːr/ noun a nurse who works in a school, treating health problems and promoting health and safety

Schwann cells /ˈʃvɔn selz/ 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 /ˈʃvɔnˌnəʊmə/ noun a neurofibroma, a benign tumour of a peripheral nerve

Schwartz’s operation /ˈʃvɔr茨 əˌpərəˈteɪʃən/ noun the original surgical operation to drain fluid and remove infected tissue from the mastoid process [After Hermann Schwartz (1837–1910), German oto-logist]

sciatric /ˈsətərɪk/ adjective 1. referring to the lzp 2. referring to the sciatic nerve

sciatia /ˈsətətɪə/ noun pain along the sciatic nerve, usually at the back of the thighs and legs

COMMENT: Sciatica 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.

sciatric nerve /ˈsətətɪər nər/ 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 serious combined immunodeficiency

science /ˈsənsɛs/ noun a study based on looking at and recording facts, especially facts arranged into a system

scientific /ˈsənstɪˈfɪk/ adjective referring to science  ○ He carried out scientific experiments

scientist /ˈsənstɪst/ noun a person who specialises in scientific studies

scintigram /ˈsɪntɪgrəm/ noun an image recording radiation from radioactive isotopes injected into the body

scintillograph /ˈsɪntɪləɡrɑːf/ noun an instrument which produces a scintigram

scintillator /ˈsɪntɪleɪtər/ noun a substance which produces a flash of light when struck by radiation

scintiscan /ˈsɪntɪskæn/ noun a scintigram which shows the variations in radiation from one part of the body to another

scirrhous /ˈsɪrroʊs/ adjective hard ○ a scirrhous tumour

scirrhus /ˈsɪrəs/ noun a hard malignant tumour, especially in the breast

scissor leg /ˈsɪzər leɡ/ 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 leɡz/ plural noun malformed legs, where one leg is permanently crossed over in front of the other
scissors /skəʊzɪ/ plural noun an instrument for cutting, made of two blades and two handles fastened together
scissura /ˈsɪsʊrə/ noun an opening in something or a splitting of something
scler- /ˈsklər-/ prefix same as sclero- (used before vowels)
sclera /ˈsklərə/ noun the hard white outer covering of the eyeball. See illustration at eye in Supplement. Also called sclerotic, sclerotic coat, albuginea 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 /ˈsklərəl/ adjective referring to the sclera
scleral lens /ˈsklərəl lɛn/ noun a large contact lens which covers most of the front of the eye
scleritis /ˈsklərətɪs/ noun inflammation of the sclera
sclero- /ˈsklərəʊ-/ prefix 1. hard, thick 2. referring to the sclera
scleroderma /ˈsklərəʊdərəmə/ noun a collagen disease which thickens connective tissue and produces a hard thick skin
scleroma /ˈsklərəʊmə/ noun a patch of hard skin or hard mucous membrane
scleromalacia /ˈsklərəʊmələksiə/ noun 1. softening or thinning of the sclera 2. a condition of the sclera in which holes appear in it
sclerosant agent /ˈsklərəʊsənt ədʒənt/ noun an irritating liquid injected into tissue to harden it
sclerosing /ˈsklərəʊsɪŋ/ adjective becoming hard, or making tissue hard
sclerosing agent /ˈsklərəʊsɪŋ ədʒənt/, sclerosing solution /ˈsklərəʊsɪŋ ˈsəluʃən/ noun same as sclerosant agent
sclerosis /ˈsklərəʊsɪs/ noun a condition in which tissue becomes hard
sclerotherapy /ˈsklərəʊθərəpi/ noun the treatment of a varicose vein by injecting a sclerosant agent into the vein, and so encouraging the blood in the vein to clot
sclerotic /ˈsklərətɪk/ adjective referring to sclerotic, or having sclerosis 1. noun same as sclera
sclerotic coat /ˈsklərətɪk kəʊt/ noun same as sclera
sclerotomy /ˈsklərətəmə/ noun a surgical operation to cut into the sclera
scolex /ˈskəʊsəlɛks/ noun the head of a tapeworm, with hooks which attach it to the wall of the intestine (NOTE: The plural is scoleces or scoleces.)
screening /skrɪnɪŋ/ noun the process of testing large numbers of people to see if any of them have a particular type of disease. (genetic screening)

GP is increasingly requesting blood screening for patients concerned about HIV [Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners]

screening test /skrɪnɪŋ 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.

scrip /skrip/ noun a doctor’s prescription (informal)

scrofula /skrəˈfʊlə/ noun a form of tuberculosis in the lymph nodes in the neck, formerly caused by unpasteurised milk but now rare.

scrofuloderma /skrəˈfʊldərma/ noun a form of tuberculosis of the skin, forming ulcers, and secondary to tuberculous infection of an underlying lymph gland or structure.

scrotal /skrəˈtɔːl/ adjective referring to the scrotum.

scrototomy /skrəˈtəʊtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to open up and examine the scrotum. (Note: The plural is scrototomies.)

scrotum /skrəˈtəʊm/ noun a bag of skin hanging from behind the penis, containing the testes, epididymides and part of the spermatic cords. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (male) in Supplement (note: The plural is scrotums or scrotal.)

scrub nurse /skrəb, ˈsɜːs/ noun a nurse who cleans the operation site on someone’s body before an operation.

scrub typhus /skrəb, tɪfəs/ noun same as tsutsugamushi disease.

scrub up /skrəb ʌp/ verb (of a surgeon or theatre nurse) to clean the hands and arms thoroughly before performing surgery. (note: scrubbing up – scrubbed up)

scrumpox /skrəmpɔks/ noun a form of herpes simplex found especially in male sports players, passed on easily due to the presence of small cuts in the skin combined with the abrasive effects of facial stubble.

scurf /səkəf/ noun same as dandruff.

scurvy /ˈskɜːrvi/ noun a disease caused by lack of vitamin C or ascorbic acid which is found in fruit and vegetables. Also called scurbutus.

COMMENT: Scurvy causes general weakness and anaemia, with bleeding from the gums and joints, and under the skin. In severe cases, the teeth drop out. Treatment consists of vitamin C tablets and a change of diet to include more fruit and vegetables.

scybalum /ˈsɪbələm/ noun very hard faeces.

seasick /ˈsiːsɪk/ adjective feeling sick because of the movement of a ship. (Note: As soon as the ferry started to move she felt seasick.)

seasickness /ˈsiːsɪknəs/ noun illness, with nausea, vomiting and sometimes headache, caused by the movement of a ship. (Note: Take some seasickness tablets if you are going on a long journey.)

seasonal affective disorder /ˌsiːznəl əˈfɛktɪv ˈdɪzər/ 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 bɛlt ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a group of injuries between the neck and the abdomen which occur in a car accident when a person is using either a lap belt or a shoulder belt incorrectly, not over the strongest part of the chest.

sebaceous /ˈsebəʃəs/ adjective 1. referring to sebum 2. producing oil.

sebaceous cyst /ˈsebəʃəs ˈsɪst/ noun a cyst which forms when a sebaceous gland is blocked.

sebaceous gland /ˈsebəʃəs ˈɡlænd/ noun a gland in the skin which secretes sebum at the base of each hair follicle.

seborrhoea (seborreic) /ˈsebərɪək/ noun an excessive secretion of sebum by the sebaceous glands, common in young people at puberty, and sometimes linked to seborrhoeic dermatitis. (Note: The US spelling is seborrhea.)

seborrhoeic /ˈsebəˌriək/ adjective 1. caused by seborrhoea 2. having an oily secretion. (Note: [All senses] The US spelling is seborrheic.)

seborrhoeic dermatitis /ˈsebəˌrɪək ˈdərmaˌtɪtɪs/ noun a type of eczema where scales form on the skin.

seborrhoeic rash /ˈsebəˌrɪək ˈræʃ/ noun.

seborrhoeic dermatitis.

sebum /ˈsiːbəm/ noun an oily substance secreted by a sebaceous gland, which makes the skin smooth. It also protects the skin against bacteria and the body against rapid evaporation of water.

second /ˈsɛkənd/ noun a unit of time equal to 1/60 of a minute. (Note: The plural is seconds.)

second /ˈsɛkənd/ adjective 1. occurring after the first stage. 2. less important than something else. (Note: Primary (note: The plural is secondaries.)

secondary amenorrhoea /ˈsɛkəndəri əˈmɛnəˌrəʊə/ noun a situation in which a pre-
second-degree haemorrhoids / ˈseked-oʊd ˈhe-mər-o-rhɔɪdɪz/ noun hemorrhoids which protrude into the anus but return into the rectum automatically

second intention / ˈsedənt ɪn-tənʃ(ə)n/ noun healing of an infected wound or ulcer, which takes place slowly and leaves a prominent scar

second-level nurse / ˈsekənd ˈlev(ə)r/ noun a second-level registered nurse / ˈsekənd ˌlev(ə)r/ noun a second-level nurse

second-level registered nurse / ˈsekənd ˌlev(ə)r/ noun a registered nurse who is involved in more complex and critical care than a first-level nurse and is supervised by a more senior nurse or doctor.

secret / ˈsɛktr/ noun (in medicine) the act of calming a person by giving him or her a drug which acts on the nervous system to reduce stress or pain, and in larger doses makes the person sleep.

secretion / ˈsɛktrɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the process by which a substance is produced by a gland. 2. The pituitary gland produces the secretion of hormones by the adrenal gland.

secretor / ˈsɛktrər/ noun a person who secretes substances indicating ABO blood group.

secretory otitis media / ˈsɛktrərɪ ˈɔtɪtɪs ˈmedɪə/ noun an inflammation of the middle ear, caused by infection from an adjoining tissue, e.g. the eustachian tube.

secretory otitis media / ˈsɛktrərɪ ˈɔtɪtɪs ˈmedɪə/ noun an inflammation of the middle ear, caused by infection from an adjoining tissue, e.g. the eustachian tube.

sedate / ˈsedət/ 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.

sedation / ˈsedəʃ(ə)n/ noun the act of calming someone using a sedative under sedation having been given a sedative.

second molar / ˈsekənd ˈmɔlər/ noun any of the molars at the back of the jaw, before the wisdom teeth, erupting at about 12 years of age.

second opinion / ˈsekənd əˈpɪnjən/ noun a diagnosis or opinion on treatment from a second doctor, often a hospital specialist.

sedative / ˈsedətɪv/ noun a medication that reduces stress or anxiety.

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secondary bronchi / ˈsekənd ˈbrɒŋki/ plural noun same as lobar bronchi

secondary bronchi / ˈsekənd ˈbrɒŋki/ plural noun same as lobar bronchi

secondary care / ˈsekənd ˈkɛə/ noun a hospital, rather than by a GP or other primary care provider and the primary health care team. Compare primary care, tertiary care.

secondary care / ˈsekənd ˈkɛə/ noun a hospital, rather than by a GP or other primary care provider and the primary health care team. Compare primary care, tertiary care.

secondary dysmenorrhoea / ˈsekənd ˈdaɪsmənərərəʊə/ noun dysmenorrhoea which starts at some time after the first menstruation.

secondary dysmenorrhoea / ˈsekənd ˈdaɪsmənərərəʊə/ noun dysmenorrhoea which starts at some time after the first menstruation.

secondary haemorrhage / ˈsekənd ˈhe-mər-ər-ɪdʒ/ noun a haemorrhage which occurs some time after an injury, usually due to infection of the wound.

secondary haemorrhage / ˈsekənd ˈhe-mər-ər-ɪdʒ/ noun a haemorrhage which occurs some time after an injury, usually due to infection of the wound.

secondary infection / ˈsekənd ˈin-fər-ənʃ(ə)n/ noun an infection which affects a person while he or she is weakened through having another infection.

secondary infection / ˈsekənd ˈin-fər-ənʃ(ə)n/ noun an infection which affects a person while he or she is weakened through having another infection.

secondary medical care / ˈsekənd ˈmi-kəl ˈkɛə/ noun specialised treatment provided by a hospital trained person who delivers nursing care under the direction and supervision of a first-level nurse.

secondary peritonitis / ˈsekənd ˈpɜr-tə-ˌnɪtɪs/ noun peritonitis caused by infection from an adjoining tissue, e.g. from the rupturing of the appendix.

secondary peritonitis / ˈsekənd ˈpɜr-tə-ˌnɪtɪs/ noun peritonitis caused by infection from an adjoining tissue, e.g. from the rupturing of the appendix.

secondary prevention / ˈsekənd ˈprɪv-ər-ənʃ(ə)n/ noun the use of methods such as screening tests which avoid a serious disease by detecting it early.

secondary prevention / ˈsekənd ˈprɪv-ər-ənʃ(ə)n/ noun the use of methods such as screening tests which avoid a serious disease by detecting it early.

secondary sexual characteristic / ˈsekənd ˈsɪz-əl ˈkær-ərɪktɪv/ noun a sexual characteristic which develops after puberty, e.g. pubic hair or breasts.

second-degree burn / ˈsekənd ˈdɪgri/ noun a burn where the skin becomes very red and blisters.

second-degree biliary cirrhosis / ˈsekənd ˈbi-lɪərɪ ˈsɪr-rə-ˌrɒs/ noun a liver caused by an obstruction of the bile ducts.

second-degree dysmenorrhoea / ˈsekənd ˈdɪs-mənərərə-ˌrɑ/ noun dysmenorrhoea which starts at some time after the first menstruation.

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section / ˈsɛkʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. a part of something. 2. the middle section of the aorta. 3. a slice of tissue cut for examination under a microscope. 4. a cut made in tissue.

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section 47 / ˈsektən ˈfemsɪ ˈsec-sh(ə)n/ noun a UK law under which 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.

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secundum / ˈsekənd-əm/ adjective referring to, accompanied by or producing a secretion.

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sedative / ˈsedət/ noun a medication that reduces stress or anxiety.

sedative / ˈsedət/ noun a medication that reduces stress or anxiety.
still under sedation, and could not be seen by
the police.
sedative /ˈsedətiv/ 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 pre-
scribed sedatives by the doctor. ■ adjective
acting to help a person sleep or to relieve stress
sedentary /ˈsedəntəri/ adjective involving
a lot of sitting and little exercise
... changes in lifestyle factors have been related to
the decline in mortality from ischaemic heart dis-
eease. In many studies a sedentary lifestyle has been
reported as a risk factor for ischaemic heart disease’
[Journal of the American Medical Association]
sedentary occupation /ˈsedəntərəri əkˈjuərənt/ noun a job where the workers
sit down for most of the time
sediment /ˈsedəmənt/ noun solid particles,
usually insoluble, which fall to the bottom of a
liquid
sedimentation /ˈsedəməntəˈtefən/ noun the action of solid particles falling to the bot-
tom of a liquid
sedimentation rate /ˈsedəməntəˈtefən ərət/ noun the rate at which solid particles are de-
posited from a solution, measured especially
in a centrifuge
segment /ˈsiɡmənt/ noun a part of an organ
or piece of tissue which is clearly separate from other parts
segmental /ˈsiɡməntəl/ adjective formed of segments
segmental ablation /ˈsiɡməntəl əˈbləʃən/ noun a surgical operation to re-
move part of a nail, e.g. treatment for an in-
growing toenail
segmental bronchi /ˈsiɡməntəl ˈbrɒŋkəli/ noun air passages supplying a segment of a lung. Also called tertiary bronchi
segmentation /ˈsiɡməntəˈtefən/ 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 /ˈsiɡməntəd/ adjective formed of segments
segregation /ˈsiəɡrəˈjeifən/ 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 or-
ganisms with paired chromosomes
seizure /ˈsiːʒər/ noun a fit, convulsion or sud-
den contraction of the muscles, especially in a
heart attack, stroke or epileptic fit
select /ˈsekt/ verb to choose one person,
things group, but not others ○ She was se-
lected to go on a midwifery course
369

self-harm

selection /ˈselekʃən/ noun an act of choosing
one person, thing or group, but not others ○ the selection of a suitable donor for a bone mar-
row transplant ○ The candidates for the post
have to go through a selection process.
selective /ˈsektəliv/ adjective choosing only
one person, thing or group, and not others
selective oestrogen receptor modulator /ˈsektəliv ˈiːstrədʒən ˈrektər, ˈmədju lətər/ selective estrogen receptor modulator noun a drug which acts on specific oestrogen receptors to prevent bone loss without affect-
ing other oestrogen receptors, e.g. raloxifene
hydrochloride. Abbr SERM
selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor /ˈsektəliv ˈsərətərənin reˈəptək, ˈiːnˌhɪktər/ selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor noun a drug which causes a selective accumu-
lation of serotonin in the central nervous sys-
tem, and is used in the treatment of depression,
e.g. fluoxetine. Abbr SSRI
COMMENT: The drug should not be started im-
mediately after stopping an MAOI and should
be withdrawn slowly.
selenium /ˈsəliənəm/ noun a non-metallic
trace element (NOTE: The chemical symbol is
Se.)
self-, self- /ˈself-/, self- /ˈself/ prefix yourself
self-abuse /ˈself əˈbjuːz/ noun same as self-
harm
self-actualisation /ˈself əˈkæktjuələˈzeifən/,
self-actualization noun the successful develop-
ment and use of personal talents and abili-
ties
self-admitted /ˈself əˈdəmitd/ adjective refer-
ing to a patient who has admitted himself
or herself to hospital without being sent by a
doctor
self-care /ˈself ˈkeər/ noun the act of looking
after yourself properly, so that you remain
healthy
self-catheterisation /ˈself ˈkæθətəriəzən/,
self-catheterization noun a procedure in which
a person puts a catheter through the urethra into his or her own bladder to emp-
ty out the urine
self-defence /ˈself ˈdefəns/ noun the act of
defending yourself when someone is attacking
you
self-examination /ˈself əˈzɛmənərəˈzeifən/,
self-examination noun the regular examination of parts of your
own body for signs of disease
self-governing hospital /ˈself əˈgəvərəŋ ˈhɒspəltər/ 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 /ˈself ˈhærm/ 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 'smɪdʒɪ/ noun the opinion which a person has about how worthwhile, attractive, or intelligent he or she is

self-injury /self 'ɪndʒəri/, self-mutilation /ˌsɛlf ɪˌmjuːˈtʃərɪəl/ noun same as self-harm

self-retaining catheter /ˌsɛlf rɪˈteɪnɪŋ 'kæθɪtr/ noun a catheter which remains in place until it is deliberately removed

self-wounding noun same as self-harm

sella turcica /ˈsɛlə 'tɜːrkɪkə/ noun a hollow in the upper surface of the sphenoid bone in which the pituitary gland sits. Also called pituitary fossa

semiology /ˌsɪmɪəˈlɔːdʒi/ noun same as symptomatology

semicircular /ˌsɛmɪˈsɜːrkjuːlər/ adjective shaped like half a circle

semicircular canal /ˌsɛmɪsɜːrkjuːlərˈkænl/ 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 /ˌsɛmɪsɜːrkjuːlərˈdʌkt/ noun a duct in the semicircular canals in the ear

semicomatose /ˌsɛmɪˈkɒmətəʊs/ adjective almost unconscious or half asleep, but capable of being woken up

semiconscious /ˌsɛmɪkənˈkɒnʃəs/ adjective half conscious, only partly aware of what is going on. She was semiconscious for most of the operation.

semiliquid /ˌsɛmɪˈlɪkwɪd/ adjective half liquid and half solid

semilunar /ˌsɛmɪˈljuːnər/ adjective shaped like half a moon

semilunar cartilage /ˌsɛmɪˌluːnər 'kɑːrtɪklɪdʒ/ noun same as meniscus

semilunar valve /ˌsɛmɪˌluːnər 'vælvəl/ noun either of two valves in the heart, the pulmonary valve and the aortic valve, through which blood flows out of the ventricles

seminal /ˌsɛmɪnəl/ adjective referring to semen

seminal fluid /ˌsɛmɪnəlˈfljuːd/ noun the fluid part of semen, formed in the epididymis and seminal vesicles

seminal vesicle /ˌsɛmɪnəlˈvesɪkl/ 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

semiferous tubule /ˌsɛmɪˈnɪfərəs 'tjuːbrəl/ noun a tubule in the testis which carries semen

semimona /ˌsɛmɪˈnoʊmə/ noun a malignant tumour in the testis (NOTE: The plural is seminomas or seminomata)

semipermeable /ˌsɛmɪˈpɜːmɪəbəl/ adjective allowing some types of particle to pass through but not others

semipermeable membrane /ˌsɛmɪˈpɜːmɪəbəl 'membərn/ noun a membrane which allows some substances in liquid solution to pass through but not others

semiprone /ˌsɛmɪˈprəʊn/ adjective referring to a position in which someone lies face downwards, with one knee and one arm bent forwards and the face turned to one side

semisolid /ˌsɛmɪˈsɔld/ adjective half solid and half liquid

SENabbr State Enrolled Nurse

senescence /ˌsɛnəˈsenss/ noun the ageing process

senescent /ˌsɛnəˈsɛnt/ adjective approaching the last stages of the natural life span

Sengstaken tube /ˌsɛŋstəkən ˈtjuːbr/ 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 /ˌsɛnɪl/ 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 /ˌsɛnɪl ˈkætərækt/ noun a cataract which occurs in an elderly person

senile dementia /ˌsɛnɪl ˈdɛmənʃəs/ noun mental degeneration affecting elderly people (dated)

senile plaque /ˌsɛnɪl ˈpleɪk/ noun a spherical deposit of beta amyloid in brain areas in Alzheimer's disease

senillos /ˈsɛnɪləʊs/ noun a feeling or information about something which has been sensed by a sensory nerve and is passed to the brain
sense /sɛns/ 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 /sɛns v ˈbæランス/ noun a feeling that keeps a person upright, governed by the fluid in the inner ear balance mechanism

sense organ /sɛns ˈɔɡən/ 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 /sɛnsɪˈbɪlɪti/ noun the ability to detect and interpret sensations

sensible /sɛnsəb(ə)l/ adjective 1. showing common sense or good judgment 2. able to be detected by the senses

sensible perspiration /ˈsɛnsəb(ə)l pəˈsɛpʃən/ noun drops of sweat which can be seen on the skin, secreted by the sweat glands

sensitisation /ˌsɛnstəˈzaɪʃən/ 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 /ˈsɛnstɪzaɪ/ verb to make someone sensitive to a drug or allergen (NOTE: sensitising - sensitised)

sensitised person /ˌsɛnstɪzaɪd(ə)ˈpɜːsn/ noun a person who is allergic to a drug

sensitising agent /ˈsɛnstɪzaɪɪŋ ˈeジェniŋ/ 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

sensitivty /ˈsɛnsɪtɪvɪti/ 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 classified as negative. Compare specificity

sensoryneural deafness /sɛnsəriˌnjʊərəl ˈdɛfnəs, ˈsɛnsərɪˌnjʊərəl ˈhɑːrɪŋ ˌlɒs/ 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 /sɛnsərɪ/ adjective referring to the detection of sensations by nerve cells

sensory cortex /ˈsɛnsərɪ ˈkɔrtɛks/ noun the area of the cerebral cortex which receives information from nerves in all parts of the body (dated)

sensory deprivation /ˌsɛnsərɪ ˌdɪpəriˈveɪʃən/ noun a condition in which a person becomes confused because they lack sensations

sensory nerve /sɛnsərɪ ˈnɜːv/ 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 neurone /ˈsɛnsərɪ ˈnjuːrən/ 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

separate /ˈsɛpərət/ 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 /ˌsɛpəˈrɛʃən/ noun the act of separating or dividing two or more people or things, or the state of being separated

separation anxiety /ˌsɛpəˈrɛʃən ˈæŋɪəti/ 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 /ˈsɛpsɪs/ noun the presence of bacteria and their toxins in the body, which kill tissue and produce pus, usually following the infection of a wound

sept- - septi- prefix same as sept- (used before vowels)

septa /ˈsɛptə/ plural of septum

septal /ˌsɛptəl/ adjective referring to a septum

septal defect /ˌsɛptəl dɪˈfɛkt/ 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
duced by sepsis

There is a dramatic drop in concentration in which bacteria or their toxins are present in the blood, multiply rapidly and destroy tissue. Blood poisoning (N.B. The US spelling is septicemia.)

The plural is septicemia.

Sepsis is a state of septicemia which is caused by bacterial toxins in the blood as a result of infection and may be caused by a surgical operation to remove a sequestrum (NOTE: The plural is sequestra.)

Seroconvert means to produce specific antibodies in response to the presence of an antigen such as a bacterium or virus.

Seroconvert from testing serum containing antibodies of a disease using serum from immune people or immunised animals.

Serology is the study of serum and the antibodies contained in it.

Serology means to refer to a serological test.

Seropositive means referring to blood serum.

Seronegative means referring to someone who gives a negative reaction to a serological test.

Serotherapy means to refer to a serological test.

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The plural is **dium** from rubbing together fluid to prevent the two parts of the pericardium, forming a double sac which contains which support the seminiferous tubules in the **serous pericardium**.

**Abbr**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>serosa</em></td>
<td>adjective referring to, producing, or like serum</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>serous membrane</em></td>
<td>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 <em>serosa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>serous pericardium</em></td>
<td><strong>noun</strong> inner part of the pericardium, forming a double sac which contains fluid to prevent the two parts of the pericardium from rubbing together</td>
</tr>
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<td><em>serpens</em></td>
<td>noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><em>serum</em></td>
<td>noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>serum therapy</em></td>
<td><strong>noun</strong> administration of treated serum, often from horses, formerly used as a way of boosting passive immunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>serve</em></td>
<td>verb 1. 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 appointment. (NOTE: [all senses] serves – serving – served)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>sero-</em></td>
<td>noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>sero-therapy</em></td>
<td><strong>noun</strong> therapy using serum as a way of boosting passive immunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>sesamoid</em></td>
<td>noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>sesamoid bone</em></td>
<td><strong>noun</strong> any small bony nodule in a tendon, the largest being the kneecap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>session</em></td>
<td>noun 1. the act or fact or a visit to a therapist ○ She has two sessions a week of physiotherapy. ○ The evening session had to be cancelled because the therapist was ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>settle</em></td>
<td>verb 1. to begin to feel comfortable or at ease, or to make a person feel comfortable or at ease (NOTE: settles – settling – settled) ○ 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: settlements – settling – settled) ○ (of a sediment) to fall to the bottom of a liquid 4. to cut something off ○ His hand was severed at the wrist. ○ Surgeons tried to sew the severed finger back onto the patient's hand. ○ (of a sediment) to cut something off ○ His hand was severed at the wrist. ○ Surgeons tried to sew the severed finger back onto the patient's hand.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>severe</em></td>
<td>adjective very bad or dangerous ○ The patient experienced severe bleeding ○ A severe outbreak of whooping cough occurred during the winter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**NOTE:**

- *serum* is the fluid portion of blood that is plasma without the clotting agents. Also called blood serum 2.
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severely

severe acute respiratory disorder /si:vər ˈeɪtʃə ˈraːsɪtrɪ diˈɔːr/ noun full form of SARS

severely /ˈsɪvərli/ adverb very badly or dangerously: Her breathing was severely affected.

severity /ˈsɪvərtri/ noun the degree to which something is bad or dangerous: Treatment depends on the severity of the attack.

sex /ˈseks/ 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 ˈækt/ noun an act of sexual intercourse

sex change /ˈseks ʧeɪndʒ/ 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 ˈkrɒmɪzəm/ noun a chromosome which determines if a person is male or female

sex determination /ˈseks ˈdɪtəmərən/ 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 ˈhɔrmon/ noun an oestrogen or androgen which promotes the growth of secondary sexual characteristics

sex-linked /ˈseks ˈlɪŋkt/ 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 əˈlɒdʒi/ noun the study of sex and sexual behaviour

sex organ /ˈseks ˈɔrgən/ noun an organ which is associated with reproduction and sexual intercourse, e.g. the testes and penis in men, and the ovaries, Fallopian tubes, 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 /ˈseksjuˈplɛt/ noun one of six babies born to a mother at the same time

sexual /ˈseksjuəl/ adjective referring to sex

sexual act /ˈseksjuəl ˈækt/ noun an act of sexual intercourse

sexual attraction /ˈseksjuəl əˈtrækʃən/ noun a feeling of wanting to have sexual intercourse with someone

sexual deviation /ˈseksjuəl əˈdeviəʃən/ 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 ɪntəˈsɜːrns/ 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 ovum from the woman’s ovaries. Also called sex, coitus, copulation

sexually transmitted disease /ˈseksjuəli ˈtrænsˌmɪtɪd ˈdiʃən/ noun one of a group of diseases spread through sexual contact, e.g. gonorrhoea, syphilis and HIV

sex transaminase /ˈseks ˈtrænsəˌmɛnz/ noun an enzyme that is involved in the synthesis of amino acids from sugars

sexology /ˈseks əˈlɒdʒi/ noun the study of sex and sexual behaviour

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time worked by a group of workers 3. a movement  
Shigella /ʃɪˈɡɛlə/ noun a genus of bacteria which causes dysentery  
shigellosis /ʃɪˈɡɛləsɪs/ noun infestation of the digestive tract with Shigella, causing bacillary dysentery  
shin /ʃɪn/ noun the front part of the lower leg  
shinbone /ʃɪnbɔːn/ noun same as tibia  
shiner /ˈʃaɪnə/ noun same as black eye (informal)  
shingles /ˈʃɪŋgəzl/ noun same as herpes zoster  
shin splints /ʃɪn ˈsplɪnts/ plural noun extremely sharp pins in the front of the lower leg, felt by athletes  
Shirodkar's operation /ʃɪrəˈdɔːkər/ 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.]  
Shirodkar suture /ʃɪrəˈdɔːkər ˈsʊrt/ noun a type of suture which is placed around a cervix to tighten it during pregnancy and prevent miscarriage. Also called pursestring stitch  
shiver /ˈʃaɪvər/ verb to tremble or shake all over the body because of cold or a fever, caused by the involuntary rapid contraction and relaxation of the muscles  
shivering /ˈʃaɪvərɪŋ/ noun the condition of trembling or shaking all over the body because of cold or a fever, caused by the involuntary rapid contraction and relaxation of the muscles  
shivery /ˈʃaɪvərі/ adjective trembling from cold, fear or a medical condition  
shock /ʃɒk/ noun a state of weakness caused by illness or injury that suddenly reduces the blood pressure  
shock therapy /ʃɒk ˈθɛrəpi/ noun a method of treating the psychological and physical consequences of a trauma by producing a state of short-term unconsciousness.
the pharynx av 'breath' the inability to breathe quickly enough to supply the oxygen needed
short of breath /ʃɔt av 'breath/ adjective un-
able to breathe quickly enough to supply the oxygen needed. After running up the stairs he was short of breath.
shortsighted /ʃɔt 'saɪətɪd/ adjective same as myopic
shortsightedness /ʃɔt 'saɪətɪdnəs/ noun same as myopia
shot /ʃɔt/ noun same as injection (informal)
shoulder /ʃaʊldə/ noun a joint where the top of the arm joins the main part of the body. He dislocated his shoulder. She was complaining of pains in her shoulder or of shoulder pains.
shoulder blade /ʃaʊldə bled/ noun same as scapula
shoulder girdle /ʃaʊldə 'gɜrdəl/ noun same as pectoral girdle
shoulder joint /ʃaʊldə dʒɔint/ noun a ball and socket joint which allows the arm to rotate and move in any direction
shoulder lift /ʃaʊldə lɪft/ noun a way of carrying a heavy person, in which the upper part of his or her body rests on the shoulders of two carriers
shoulder presentation /ʃaʊldə prɛzərən ,tʃɛf(ə)rn/ noun a position of a baby in the uterus, in which the shoulder will first appear
short /ʃɔt/ adjective 1. not having enough of something 2. not very tall or long
short-acting /ʃɔt 'ɛktɪŋ/ adjective effective only for a short period
shortness of breath /ʃɔt nəs av 'breath/ noun the inability to breathe quickly enough to supply the oxygen needed
shunt /ʃaʊnt/ verb (of blood) to cause or allow something to be visible 2. to provide convincing evidence of something
shrive /ʃriv(ə)/ verb to become dry and wrinkled (NOTE: shrivelling – shrivelled. The US spellings are shriveling – shrivered.)
shuffling walk /ʃʌflɪŋ wɔk/ noun a way of walking in which the feet are not lifted off the ground, e.g. in Parkinson’s disease
shot /ʃɔt/ noun 1. the passing of fluid through a channel which is not the usual one 2. a channel which links two different blood vessels and carries blood from one to the other 3. verb (of blood) to pass through a channel which is not the usual one 4. As much as 5% of venous blood can be shunted un-oxygenated back to the arteries.
shunting /ʃaʊntɪŋ/ 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
sialo- /saɪələ/ prefix same as sialo- (used before vowels)
sialadenitis /saɪələdɛnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of a salivary gland. Also called sialoadenitis, sialitis
sialagogue /saɪələˈɡɒɡ/ noun a substance which increases the production of saliva
sialitis /saɪəlɪtɪs/ noun same as sialadenitis
sialo- /saɪələʊ/ prefix 1. referring to saliva 2. referring to a salivary gland
sialoadenitis /saɪələdɛnɪtɪs/ noun same as sialadenitis
sialagogue /saɪələˈɡɒɡ/ noun same as sialo-
agogue
sialography /saɪələˈɡrɑːfɪ/ noun X-ray examination of a salivary gland. Also called ptyalography
sialolith /saɪəˈləʊlɪθ/ noun a stone in a salivary gland. Also called ptyalith
sialorrhoea /saɪələˈrɔːθiə/ noun the production of an excessive amount of saliva (NOTE: The US spelling is sialorrhoea.)
Siamese twins /saɪəmɪz/ twin/ plural noun same as conjoined twins
sib /sɪb/ noun same as sibling (informal)
sibilant /sɪˈbɪlənt/ adjective referring to a sound which whistles
sibling /sɪˈbɪlnɡ/ noun a brother or sister
Sichuan flu /sɪtʃwʌn fjuː/ 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 2. He was sick for two weeks. 3. to report or call in sick to say officially that you are unwell and cannot work 4. about to vomit 5. The patient got up this morning and felt sick. 6. to be sick to vomit 7. The child was sick all over the floor. 8. to make someone sick to cause someone to vomit 9. He was given something to make him sick.
sickbay /sɪkˈbeɪ/ noun a room in a factory or on a ship where people can visit a doctor for treatment
sickbed /sɪkˈbed/ noun a bed where a person is lying sick 2. She sat for hours beside her daughter’s sickbed.
sick building syndrome /ˌsɪkbɪldɪŋˈsɪm drəʊm/ noun a condition in which many people working in a building feel ill or have headaches, caused by blocked air-conditioning ducts in which stale air is recycled round the building, often carrying allergenic substances or bacteria (informal)
sicken for /ˈsɪkən fɔr/ verb to feel the first symptoms of an illness (informal) • She’s looking pale – she must be sickening for something.
sickle cell /ˈsɪkl(ə)l sɛl/ noun a red blood cell shaped like a sickle, formed as a result of the presence of an unusual form of haemoglobin. Also called drepanocyte
sickle-cell anaemia /ˈsɪkl(ə)l sɛl ˈneɪmɪə/ noun an inherited condition in which someone develops sickle cells which block the circulation, causing anaemia and pains in the joints and abdomen. Also called drepanocytosis, sickle cell disease

...children with sickle-cell anaemia are susceptible to severe bacterial infection. Even children with the milder forms of sickle-cell disease have an increased frequency of pneumococcal infection [Lancet] COMMENT: Sickle-cell anaemia is a hereditary condition which is mainly found in people from Africa and the West Indies.
sickle-cell chest syndrome /ˌsɪkl(ə)l ˈchest/ noun a common complication of sickle-cell disease, with chest pain, fever and leucocytosis
sickle cell disease /ˈsɪkl(ə)l sɛl dɪˈziːz/ noun same as sickle-cell anaemia. Abbr SCD
sickle-cell trait /ˌsɪkl(ə)l sɛl ˈtreɪt/ noun a hereditary condition of the blood in which some red cells become sickle-shaped, but there are not enough affected cells to cause anaemia sickle list /ˈsɪkləlist/ noun a list of people who are sick, e.g. children in a school or workers in a factory • We have five members of staff on the sicklist.
sickly /ˈsɪklɪ/ adjective (usually of children) subject to frequent sickness • He was a sickly child, but now is a strong and healthy man.
sickness /ˈsɪknəs/ noun 1. a state of having an illness or infection • There is a lot of sickness in the winter months. • Many children are staying away from school because of sickness. 2. a feeling of wanting to vomit
sickroom /ˈsɪkrʊm/ noun a room where someone is ill • Visitors are not allowed into the sickroom.
side /ˈsaɪd/ noun 1. the part of the body between the hips and the shoulder • She was lying on her side. 2. the part of an object which is not the front, back, top or bottom • The nurse wheeled the trolley to the side of the bed.
side-effect /ˈsaɪd əˈfekt/ noun an effect produced by a drug or treatment which is not the main effect intended • One of the side-effects of chemotherapy is that the patient’s hair falls out.
sign language

**sign language** /sunˈlɛŋkwɪdʒ/ **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.

**sildenafil citrate** /ˌsɪldəˈnæfɪl ˈsaɪtrət/ **noun** an enzyme-inhibiting drug used in the treatment of male impotence.

**silent** /ˈsaɪlənt/ **adjective** 1. not making any noise or talking 2. not visible or showing no symptoms ○ *Genital herpes may be silent in women.* ○ *Graft occlusion is often silent with 80% of patients.*

**silica** /ˈsaɪlkə/ **noun** a compound of silicon, the mineral which forms quartz and sand. Also called *silicon dioxide*.

**silicon** /ˈsaɪlkən/ **noun** a non-metallic chemical element (note: The chemical symbol is Si).

**silicon dioxide** /ˌsaɪlkən dəˈɒksɪd/ **noun** same as silica.

**silicosis** /ˈsaɪlɪkəʊsɪs/ **noun** a disease of the lungs caused by inhaling silica dust from mining or stone-crushing operations.

**singultus** /ˈsaɪŋgəltəs/ **noun** same as hiccup.

**sinoatrial** /ˈsaɪnətrɪəl/ **adjective** relating to or located on the left side, especially the left side of the body.

**sino-** /ˈsaɪnəʊ/ **prefix** referring to a sinus.

**sinoatrial node** /ˌsaɪnəˈtrɪərəlnəʊd/ **noun** a node in the heart at the junction of the superior vena cava and the right atrium, which regulates the heartbeat.

**sino-** /ˈsaɪnəʊ/ **prefix** same as *sino-*.  **sinoatrial** **adjective** same as sinoatrial.

**sinus** /ˈsaɪnəs/ **noun** 1. a cavity inside the body, including the cavities inside the head behind the cheekbone, forehead and nose ○ *The doctor diagnosed a sinus infection.* 2. a tract or passage which develops between an infected place where pus has gathered and the surface of the skin 3. a wide venous blood space.

**sinusitis** /ˈsaɪnəsɪtɪs/ **noun** inflammation of the mucous membrane in the sinuses, especially the maxillary sinuses.

**sinus node** /ˌsaɪnəˈnəʊd/ **noun** a specially shaped small blood vessel in the liver, adrenal glands and other organs.

**sinusoid** /ˈsaɪnəʊɪd/ **noun** a specially shaped small blood vessel in the liver, adrenal glands and other organs.

**sims' position** /sɪms pəˌzdʒ(ə)n/ **noun** a position of the body in which the person lies on his or her left side with their left arm behind their back and their right knee and thigh flexed. It is used to allow the anal or vaginal area to be examined easily.

**sinvastatin** /sɪnˈvæstətən/ **noun** a drug which lowers lipid levels in the blood, used in the treatment of high cholesterol.

**sinciput** /sɪnsɪˈskjuːt/ **noun** the part of the skull that includes the forehead and the area above it.

**singer's nodule** /ˈsaɪŋərz ˈnəʊdʒəl/ **noun** a small white polyp which can develop in the larynx of people who use their voice too much or too loudly.

**single parent family** /ˈsaɪnəlɡəŋˈfæməli/ **noun** a family which consists of a child or children and only one parent, e.g. because of death, divorce or separation.

**single photon emission computed tomography** /ˌsaɪŋɡəˈpɒln ɪˈkɒmptən təˈmɒɡrəfi/ **noun** a scan to study brain blood flow in conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease.

**silicosis** /ˈsaɪlɪkəʊsɪs/ **noun** an X-ray photograph of a sinus.

**sinusography** /ˈsaɪnəsəˈɡrəfɪ/ **noun** an examination of a sinus by taking an X-ray photograph.

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sinus venosus /ˈsɪnəs ˈvɛnəsəs/ noun a cavity in the heart of an embryo, part of which develops into the coronary sinus and part of which is absorbed into the right atrium
siphonage /ˈsaɪfənɪdʒ/ noun the removal of liquid from one place to another with a tube, as used to empty the stomach of its contents
Sippy diet /ˈspiː dɪt/ 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]
sister /ˈsɪstər/ noun 1, a female who has the same father and mother as someone ○ He has three sisters. ○ Her sister works in a children’s clinic. 2, a senior nurse ○ sister in charge a senior nurse in charge of a hospital ward
sit /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 site /sای/ noun 1, the position of something ○ The X-ray showed the site of the infection. 2, the place where something happened 3, the place where an incision is to be made in a surgical operation ○ verb to put something in a particular place, or be in a particular place ○ The infection is sited in the right lung. [NOTE: sitting – sited]
'the anasthesiologist’s permission, the scrub nurse and surgeon began the process of cleaning up the skin round the operation site’ [NATNews]
situated /ˈsɪt jʊətɪd/ adjective in a particular place ○ The tumour is situated in the bowel. ○ The atlas bone is situated above the axis.
sit up /sɪt ʌp/ verb 1, to sit with your back straight ○ The patient is sitting up in bed. 2, to move from a lying to a sitting position [NOTE: sitting up – sat up]
situs /ˈsaɪtəs/ noun the position of an organ or part of the body, especially the usual position [NOTE: The plural is situs.
The situs inversus viscerum /ˈsaɪtəs ɪnˈvɜrsə vɪskərəm/ noun a congenital condition, in which the organs are not on the usual side of the body, i.e. where the heart is on the right side and not on the left
sitz bath /ˈsaɪts bɑθ/ noun a small low bath where someone can sit, but not lie down
Si units /ˈsaɪ əˌjʊnts/, plural noun the units used in an international system of units for measuring physical properties such as weight, speed and light
Sjögren’s syndrome /ˈzeɪɡrən ˌzoʊnə/ noun an autoimmune disease in which the lacrimal and salivary glands become infiltrated with lymphocytes and plasma cells, and the mouth and eyes become dry
skatole /ˈskætəʊl/ noun another spelling of skatole
skeletal /ˈskɛlt(ə)l/ adjective referring to the skeleton
skeletal muscle /ˈskɛlt(ə)l ˈmʌs(ə)l/ noun a muscle attached to a bone, which makes a limb move
skeleton /ˈskɛltən/ noun all the bones which make up a body
Skene’s glands /ˈskiːn z ˈglændz/ noun small mucous glands in the urethra in women [Described 1838. After Alexander Johnston Chalmers Skene (1838–1900), Scottish-born New York gynaecologist.]
skin /skɪn/ prefix referring to shadow skia-gram /ˈskiə̊ ˈɡræm/ noun an old term for X-ray photograph
skier’s thumb /ˈskiəz 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
skill /skɪl/ noun an ability to do difficult work, which is acquired by training ○ You need special skills to become a doctor.
skilled /ˈskɪld/ adjective having acquired a particular skill by training ○ He’s a skilled plastic surgeon.
skill mix /ˈskɪl mɪks/ noun the range of different skills possessed by the members of a group or required for a particular job
skin /skɪn/ noun the tissue which forms the outside surface of the body ○ His skin turned brown in the sun. ○ Skin problems in adolescents may be caused by diet. [NOTE: For other terms referring to skin, see words beginning with cut-derm-, derma-, dermato-, dermo-]
skin graft /ˈskɪn ɡrɑft/ noun a layer of skin transplanted from one part of the body to cover an area where the skin has been destroyed ○ After the operation she had to have a skin graft.
skinny /ˈskɪn/ adjective very thin (informal) skin test /ˈskɪn ˈtɛst/ noun a test for allergy, in which a substance is applied to the skin to see if a reaction occurs
skull /ˈskɔl/ noun the eight bones which are fused or connected together to form the head,
along with the fourteen bones which form the face. Also called cranium. skull fracture a condition in which one of the bones in the skull has been fractured

slash /slæʃ/ 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.

sleep /slıp/ 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) AE sleep

SLE /æt/ systemic lupus erythematosus

sleep /slıp/ 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, usually at night, when the eyes are closed and you are not conscious of what is happening, usually at night, when the eyes are closed and you are not conscious of what is happening. 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 /slıp æp.nıə/ noun a condition related to heavy snoring, with prolonged respiratory pauses leading to cerebral hypoxia and subsequent daytime drowsiness.

sleeping pill /slıpın pill/ noun a pill containing a drug, usually a barbiturate, which makes a person sleep. She died of an overdose of sleeping pills.

sleeping sickness /slıpın simnos/ noun an African disease, spread by the tsetse fly, where trypanosomes infest the blood. Also called African trypanosomiasis

sleepwalker /slıpawıkər/ noun same as somnambulist

sleepwalking /slıpawıkın/ noun same as somnambulism

sleepy /slıpi/ adjective feeling ready to go to sleep (NOTE: sleepy – sleepiest)

sleepy sickness /slıpi ,skınəs/ noun same as lethargic encephalitis

slice /slıst/ noun a thin flat piece of tissue which has been cut off. He examined the slice of brain tissue under the microscope.

slide /slıd/ noun a piece of glass, on which a tissue sample is placed, to be examined under a microscope.

sliding traction /slıdın trækʃın/ noun traction for a fracture of a femur, in which weights are attached to pull the leg

slight /slıtt/ adjective not very serious. He has a slight fever.

slimming /slımın/ 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.

slough /slıu/ 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 /slıpt /dısk/ noun same as displaced intervertebral disc, prolapsed intervertebral disc.

slit lamp /slıt lım̩p/ 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 /slıu/ noun dead tissue, especially dead skin, which has separated from healthy tissue. vitamin tablet

slow-release vitamin tablet

slumber /slımbər/ verb to lose dead skin which falls off slow-wave sleep /sləu ,wı, slıp/ 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.
sneezing fit

small /smɔl/ adjective 1. not large. a His chest was covered with small red spots. 2. She has a small cyst in the colon. 3. young. a He had chickenpox when he was small.

small children /smɔl ˈtʃɪldrən/ noun young children, between about 1 and 10 years of age

small for dates /smɔl fəˈdɛts/ adjective referring to an unborn baby which is small in comparison to the average size for that number of weeks. Abbreviation SFD

small intestine /ˈsmɔl ɪnˈtestɪn/ noun a section of the intestine from the stomach to the small of the back

small of the back /ˈsmɔl əv ðə ˈbæk/ noun the middle part of the back between and below the shoulder blades

smallpox /ˈsmɔlpɔks/ 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 variola.

small stomach /ˈsmɔl ˈstæmək/ noun a stomach which is reduced in size after an operation, making the person unable to eat large meals

smear /smɛə/ 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 /ˈsmɛər test/ noun same as Papanicolaou test

smegma /ˈsmɛgma/ 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. a I can smell smoke. b He can’t smell anything because he’s got a cold.

smelling salts /ˈsmɛlɪŋ ˈsɛlts/ noun crystals of an ammonia compound which give off a strong smell and can revive someone who has fainted

Smith-Petersen nail /ˈsmɔθ ˈpɪtəz(ə)n/ noun a metal nail used to attach the fractured neck of a femur. [Described 1931. After Marius Nygaard Smith-Petersen (1886–1953), Norwegian-born Boston orthopaedic surgeon.

Smith’s fracture /ˈsmɔths ˈfræktʃə/ noun a fracture of the radius just above the wrist

smog /smɔɡ/ noun pollution of the atmosphere in towns, caused by warm damp air containing with smoke and exhaust fumes from cars

smoke /smɔk/ noun a white, grey or black product made of small particles, given off by something which is burning. a verb to breathe in smoke from a cigarette, cigar or pipe which is held in the lips. b 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 /ˈsmɔk ɪnˈhaleʃən/ noun the breathing in of smoke, as in a fire

smoker /ˈsmɔukər/ noun a person who smokes cigarettes

smoker’s cough /ˈsmɔukəz ˈkɒf/ noun a dry asthmatic cough, often found in people who smoke large numbers of cigarettes

smoking /ˈsmɔukɪŋ/ noun the action of smoking a cigarette, pipe or cigar. a Smoking can injure your health.

• 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 quarter of heart disease deaths. [Health Services Journal]

smooth /ˈsmɔud/ adjective flat, not rough. a verb to make something smooth. b She smoothed down the sheets on the bed.

smooth muscle /ˈsmɔud ˈmʌskəl/ noun a type of muscle found in involuntary muscles. Also called unstriated muscle

SMR abbr 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 /sniːz/ noun a reflex action to blow air suddenly out of the nose and mouth because of irritation in the nasal passages. a She gave a loud sneeze. b verb to blow air suddenly out of the nose and mouth because of irritation in the nasal passages. c The smell of flowers makes her sneeze. d 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 /ˈsniːzɪŋ fɪt/ noun a sudden attack when someone sneezes many times
Snellen chart

Snellen chart /ˈsnɛlən/ 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 tæp/ noun different type sizes used on a Snellen chart

sniff /snɪf/ noun an act of breathing in air or smelling through the nose ○ They gave her a sniff of smelling salts to revive her. ■ 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/ verb to keep on sniffing because you have a cold or are crying (NOTE: sniffing – sniffed)

sniffles /ˈsnɪfləlz/ plural noun a slight head cold, or an allergy that causes a running nose (informal; used to children) ○ Don’t go out into the cold when you have the sniffles.

snore /nɔr/ noun a loud noise produced in the nose and throat when a person is asleep ■ verb to make a loud noise in the nose and throat when asleep (NOTE: snoring – snored) COMMENTS: 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 /ˈsnɔrɪŋ/ noun noisy breathing while asleep

snout /snaut/ noun mucus in the nose (informal)

snow blindness /ˈsnɔʊ ˈbliːndnəʊ/ noun temporary painful blindness caused by bright sunlight shining on snow

snuffles /ˈsnʌfləlz/ 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)

soak /səʊk/ verb to put something in liquid so that it absorbs some of it ○ Use a compress made of cloth soaked in warm water.

social /ˈsəʊʃəl/ adjective referring to society or to groups of people

social disease /ˈsəʊʃəl dɪˈzaɪs/ noun US sexually transmitted disease

socialisation /ˈsəʊʃələˈzeɪʃən/, socialization noun the process involved when young children are becoming aware of society and learning how they are expected to behave

social medicine /ˈsəʊʃəl ˈmed(ə)si/ noun medicine as applied to treatment of diseases which occur in particular social groups

social services /ˈsəʊʃəl ˈsɜːvəsɪz/ plural noun the special facilities which the government or local authorities provide to people in the community who need help, such as the elderly, children whose parents have died or the unemployed

social worker /ˈsəʊʃəl ˈwɜːkə/ noun a government employee who works to provide social services to people in need and improve their living standards

society /ˈsəʊsəti/ noun 1. the community of people who live in a particular country and share its institutions and customs 2. an organisation of people who have a shared interest

sociopath /ˈsəʊsɪəˌpæθ/ noun same as psychopath

socket /ˈsɒkət/ noun a hollow part in a bone, into which another bone or organ fits ○ The tip of the femur fits into a socket in the pelvis.

sodium /ˈsɔdəm/ noun a chemical element which is the basic substance in salt (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Na.)

COMMENT: Sodium is an essential mineral and exists in the extracellular fluid of the body. Sweat and tears also contain a high proportion of sodium chloride.

sodium balance /ˈsɔdəm bæləns/ noun the balance maintained in the body between salt lost in sweat and urine and salt taken in from food. The balance is regulated by aldosterone.

sodium bicarbonate /ˈsɔdəm baɪˈkɑrənbɔːt/ noun sodium salt used in cooking, and also as a relief for indigestion and acidity. Also called bicarbonate of soda

sodium chloride /ˈsɔdəm klaɪərd/ noun common salt

sodium fusidate /ˈsɔdəm ˈfjuːsidət/ noun an antibiotic used mainly to treat penicillin-resistant staphylococcal infections

sodium pump /ˈsɔdəm pɔm/ noun a cellular process in which sodium is immediately excreted from any cell which it enters and potassium is brought in

sodium valproate /ˈsɔdəm vəlˈprəʊət/ noun an anticonvulsant drug used especially to treat migraines, seizures and epilepsy

sodokosis /ˌsɔdəˈkɔʊsɪs/ noun 1. a form of rat-bite fever, in which swellings in the jaws do not occur 2. sodomy /ˈsɔdəmi/ noun sexual intercourse between men

soft /sɒft/ adjective not hard or not resistant to pressure

soft chancre /ˈsɒft ˈʃæŋkə/ noun same as soft sore

soften /ˈsɒft(ə)n/ verb to make something soft, or become soft

soft palate /ˈsɒft ˈpælət/ noun the back part of the palate leading to the uvula. ○ cleft palate

soft sore /ˈsɒft ˈsɔr/ noun a venereal sore with a soft base, situated in the groin or on the genitals and caused by the bacterium Haemophilus ducreyi. Also called chancroid, soft chancre
soma /ˈsoʊmə/ noun the body, as opposed to the mind (NOTE: The plural is somata or somas.)

somat- /ˈsoʊmət-/ prefix same as somato-

solubility /ˈsələbələti/ noun the ability to dissolve in a solvent or a mixture of a solid substance dissolved in a liquid

solvent /ˈsəlvənt/ 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]

son /sən/ noun a male child of a parent (NOTE: They have two sons and one daughter.)

Sonne dysentery /ˈsɔnə ˌdɪsəntrı/ noun a common form of mild dysentery in the UK, caused by Shigella sonnei [Described 1915. After Carl Ole Sonne (1882–1948), Danish bacteriologist and physician.]
sonogram

noun a chart produced using ultrasound waves to find where something is situated in the body

sonography /'saʊnəgrəfi/ noun same as ultrasoundography

sonopelvisography /saʊnəpɛlvi'saʊgrəfi/ noun the use of ultrasound waves to find how the placenta is placed in a pregnant woman

sonotopography /saʊnəтопə'grəfi/ noun the use of ultrasound waves to produce a sonogram

soothe /suːθ/ verb to relieve pain or irritation or make a person less tense

soothing /'suːθɪŋ/ adjective relieving pain or irritation or making someone less tense

sopor /soʊpər/ noun deep sleep or unconsciousness

soporific /soʊpə'rɪfɪk/ noun a drug which makes a person go to sleep

sorbite /'sɔrbɪt/ noun a white crystalline sweet alcohol which is used as a sweetener and a moisturizer, and in the manufacture of Vitamin C

sordes /sɔrdz/ 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

sore throat /sɔrθ/ noun a condition in which the mucous membrane in the throat is inflamed, sometimes because the person has been smoking too much, but usually because of an infection (inflam)

s.o.s. adverb (on prescriptions) if necessary. Full form si opus sit (NOTE: it means that the dose should be taken once)

sotalol /sətə'lɔl/ noun a drug used to treat an irregular heartbeat and high blood pressure

sour /saʊr/ adjective not bitter, salt or sweet (NOTE: it is one of the basic tastes.)

source /sɔrs/ noun 1. the substance which produces something

sugar /'sʌɡər/ noun 1. Sugar is a source of energy. Vegetabless are important sources of vitamins, 2. the place where something comes from, 3. The source of the allergy has been identified. 4. The medical team has isolated the source of the infection

space /spɑs/ noun a place, empty area between things

spare /spɛr/ adjective extra or only used in emergencies

spasm /spæzm/ noun a sudden, usually painful, involuntary contraction of a muscle, as in cramp

sparing – spared – sparing

spasmatic /spæz'mætɪk/ adjective affecting mainly the legs. Also called Little’s disease

spastic /spæstɪk/ adjective with spasms or sudden contractions of muscles

sore throat /sɔrθ/ noun a condition 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 gait /spæstɪk 'geɪt/ noun a way of walking where the legs are stiff and the feet not lifted off the ground

Can you spare the time to see the next patient? (NOTE: sparrow – spared)

spare part surgery /spɛr 'pɑrt səzdʒər/ noun surgery in which parts of the body such as bones or joints are replaced by artificial pieces

sparganosis /spɑr'ɡænɒsɪs/ noun a condition caused by the larvae of the worm Sparganum under the skin. It is widespread in East Asia

spasm /spæzm/ noun a sudden, usually painful, involuntary contraction of a muscle, as in cramp. 2. The muscles in his leg went into spasms. 3. She had painful spasms in her stomach

spasmology /spæz'mɒlədʒɪ/ noun surgery in which parts of the body such as bones or joints are replaced by artificial pieces

spasmus nutans /spæzməs 'njuːtæns/ 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

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spasticity /spəˈstæstɪk/ noun a condition in which a limb resists passive movement.

spastic paralysis /spəˈstæstɪk ˈpərəˌlæsɪs/ noun same as cerebral palsy

spastic paraplegia /spəˈstæstɪk ˈpærəˌplæˈlɪdʒə/ noun paralysis of one side of the body after a stroke

spatula /ˈspeptjʊlə/ 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 /ˈspɪk ʌp/ verb to speak more loudly  ○ Speak up, please – I can’t hear you!

special /ˈspeʃəl/ 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 /ˈspeʃəl keə ˈbeibɪˌ ˈjuːnɪt/ noun a unit in a hospital which deals with premature babies or babies with serious disorders

special health authority /ˈspeʃəl ˈhelθ ɔːrˈθɔːtɪ/ 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 /ˈspeʃəl ˈhɒspɪtl(ə)/ noun a hospital for people whose mental condition makes them a potential danger to themselves and/or others

specialisation /ˈspeʃələˈzeɪʃən/ noun 1. the act of specialising in a particular branch of medicine 2. a particular branch of medicine which a doctor specialises in

specialise /ˈspeʃəlaɪz/ 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.

specialist /ˈspeʃəlist/ noun a doctor who specialises in a particular branch of medicine

specular /ˈspekjuələ/ adjective carrying out using a specular

385 specular

○ He is a heart specialist.  ○ She was referred to an ENT specialist.

specialist registrar /ˈspeʃəlist ˈredʒɪstrə/ noun a junior doctor in a hospital who is doing further specialist training

speciality /ˈspeʃələtɪ/ noun a particular activity or type of work which someone is specially trained for or very interested in. Also called specialism, specialty

special school /ˈspeʃəl skjuːlə/ noun a school for children with disabilities

speciality /ˈspeʃəlɪtɪ/ noun US same as speciality

species /ˈspeʃɪz/ noun a group of living things with the same characteristics and which can interbreed (NOTE: The plural is species.)

specific /ˈspɛsɪfɪk/ adjective referring to a disease caused by one type of microorganism only. Opposite non-specific  ■ noun a drug which is only used to treat one disease

specific gravity /ˈspeʃəs ˈgrɛvətɪ/ noun same as relative density

specificity /ˈspeʃəsɪtɪ/ noun the rate of negative responses in a test from persons free from a disease. A high specificity means a low rate of false positives. Compare sensitivity

specific urethritis /ˈspeʃɪs ˈjuːrəˌθrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the urethra caused by gonorrhoea

specimen /ˈspeʃɪmən/ 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 short-sightedness, long-sightedness 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 /ˈspektrə/ plural of spectrum

spectroscopy /ˈspektrəˌskɒpi/or noun the recording of a spectrum on photographic film

spectroscope /ˈspektrəskəʊp/ 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 /ˈspekjuˌla/ plural of speculum

specular /ˈspekjuələ/ adjective
speech /spirt/ noun 1. the ability to make intelligible sounds with the vocal cords 2. a talk given to an audience.
speech block /’spirt blok/ noun a temporary inability to speak, caused by the effect of nervous stress on the mental processes.
speech impediment /’spirt im’pedmant/ noun an inability to speak easily or in the usual way because of the physical structure of the mouth or other disorders.
speech therapist /’spirt fə’terapist/ noun a qualified person who practises speech therapy.
spermatocyte /’spərmatəs ‘ɔlənt/ noun the precursors of sperm.
spermatid /’spərmatid/ noun an immature male sex cell that develops into a spermatozoon.
spermatid stage /’spərmatid ‘stædʒ/ noun the stage of spermatogenesis during which a spermatid changes into a spermatozoon.
spermatogenesis /’spərmatədʒ ‘næsəsɪs/ noun the formation and development of spermatogonia in the testes.
spermatogonium /’spərmatədʒ ‘nɔnəm/ noun a cell which forms a spermatocyte (NOTE: The plural is spermatogonia.)
spermatomorrhoea /’spərmatɔmər’rəʊə/ noun the discharge of a large amount of semen frequently and without an orgasm (NOTE: The US spelling is spermatorrhoea.)
spermatozoan /’spərmatɔs’əʊən/ 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 spermatozoan.)

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.

sperm /’spərm/ noun 1. a mature male sex cell, which is ejaculated from the penis and is capable of fertilising an ovum.
sperm bank /’spərm bæŋk/ noun a place where sperm can be stored for use in artificial insemination.
sperm donor /’spərm ‘dənər/ noun a male who gives sperm, for a fee, to allow a childless woman to bear a child.
spermicidal jelly /’spərmɪsɪdəl ‘dʒelɪ/ noun a jelly-like product which acts as a contraceptive.
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narrow or close the opening or passage by contracting
sphincterectomy /sfɪŋktəˈrektmə/ 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 /sfɪŋktəˈplæstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to relieve a tightened sphincter (NOTE: The plural is sphincteroplasties.)
sphincterotomy /sfɪŋktəˈrotəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an incision into a sphincter (NOTE: The plural is sphincterotomies.)
sphincter pupillae muscle /sfɪŋktəˈpjuɪlər maxɪəl/ noun an annular muscle in the iris which constricts the pupil
sphyg /sfɪɡ/ noun same as sphygmomanometer (informal)
sphygmic /sfɪɡmɪk/ adjective referring to the pulse of an artery
sphygmo-/sfɪɡməʊ prefix referring to the pulse
sphygmocardigraph /sfɪɡməʊˈkɑrdɪgrɑf/ noun a device which records heartbeats and pulse rate
sphygmograph /sfɪɡməˈgrɑf/ noun a device which records the pulse
sphygmomanometer /sfɪɡməʊˈməʊnətə/ noun an instrument which measures blood pressure in the arteries
COMMENT: 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.
spicia /ˈspɪkʃə/ 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 spicic.)
spicule /ˈspɪkJʊl/ noun a small splinter of bone
spigot /ˈspɪɡət/ 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 /ˈspɪnəˈbɪfɪdə/ noun a serious condition in which part of the spinal cord protrudes through the spinal column. Also called rachischisis
COMMENT: 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
spinal accessory nerve /ˈspɪnəl/ əkˈsɛsəri ˈnɜːr/ noun the eleventh cranial nerve which supplies the muscles in the neck and shoulders
spinal anaesthesia /ˈspɪnəl/ əˌneəˈθiːziə/ noun local anaesthesia in which an anaesthetic is injected into the cerebrospinal fluid
spinal anaesthetic /ˈspɪnəl/ əˌneəˈθiːziəˈtɪk/ 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/ əˈblɪk/ noun anaesthesia produced by injecting the spinal cord with an anaesthetic
spinal canal /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈkænəl/ noun the hollow channel running down the back of the vertebral column, containing the spinal cord. Also called vertebral canal
spinal column /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈkɒlnəm/ noun same as spine
spinal cord /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈkɔrd/ 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/ ˈkrəːvər/ noun unusual bending of the spinal column
spinal fusion /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈfjuːzʃən/ noun a surgical operation to join two vertebrae together to make the spine more rigid. Also called spondylodesis
spinal ganglion /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈgæŋɡlɪən/ 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/ ˈmɛnɪŋənˌtɪtəs/ 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/ ˈpʌŋkʃər/ noun same as lumbar puncture (NOTE: The US term is spinal tap.)
spinal shock /ˈspɪnəl/ ˈʃɔk/ noun a loss of feeling in the lower part of the body below a point at which the spine has been injured
spindle /ˈspɪndəl/ 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
supporting column running from the pelvis to the skull. She injured her spine in the crush. 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.

Spinalal\i/ /sp\i\l/ /he\l\a/ a trade name for a device from which a person with breathing problems can inhale a preset dose of a drug

Spinnbarkeit /sp\i\nbak\i\r/ /noun/ a thread of mucus formed in the cervix which is used in determining the time of ovulation. At this time it can be drawn out on a glass slide to its maximum length.

Spino- /sp\i\no/ /prefix/ 1. referring to the spine 2. referring to the spinal cord

Spinocebellar tract /sp\i\no\s\e\l\e\r/ /noun/ a nerve fibre in the spinal cord, taking impulses to the cerebellum

Spinosus process /sp\i\no\s\u/ /noun/ a projection on a vertebra or a bone which looks like a spine

Spinal \r/ /spi\r/ /adjective/ running in a continuous circle upwards

Spinal \r\d/ /spi\r\d/ /noun/ a bandage which is wrapped round a limb, each turn overlapping the one before

Spinal ganglion /spi\r\g\l/ /noun/ a ganglion in the eighth cranial nerve which supplies the organ of Corti

Spinal organ /spi\r\l/ /noun/ \r\l/ /noun/ same as organ of Corti

Spirillum /spi\r\l/ /noun/ one of the bacteria which cause rat-bite fever

Spiro- /spi\r/ /prefix/ 1. referring to a spiral 2. referring to respiration

Spirochaetemia /spi\r\o\k\a\t\i\m/ /noun/ the presence of spirochaetes in the blood (note: The US spelling is spirochethemia.)

Spirochoate /spi\r\o\k\a\t/ /noun/ a bacterium with a spiral shape, e.g. the one which causes syphilis (note: The US spelling is spirochete.)

Spirogram /spi\r\o\g\r\m/ /noun/ a record of someone’s breathing made by a spiograph

Spirograph /spi\r\o\g\r\f/ /noun/ a device which records depth and rapidity of breathing

Spirography /spi\r\o\g\r\f\e/ /noun/ the recording of someone’s breathing by use of a spiograph

Spirometer /spi\r\e\m\r/ /noun/ an instrument which measures the amount of air a person inhales or exhales

Spirometry /spi\r\e\m\r\t\i/ /noun/ a measurement of the vital capacity of the lungs by use of a spirometer

Spiironolactone /spi\r\o\n\l/ /noun/ a steroid which helps the body produce urine, used in the treatment of oedema and hypertension

Spit /sp\i\t/ /noun/ saliva which is sent out of the mouth.

Spit out the medicine. (note: spitting – spat)

Spitz-Holter valve /sp\i\t\z\i\l\t\r/ /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 /spl\e\n\k\n/ /adjective/ referring to the visera

Splanchnic nerve /spl\e\n\k\n\n/ /noun/ any sympathetic nerve which supplies organs in the abdomen

Splanchnology /spl\e\n\k\n\l\o\g\e/ /noun/ the study of the organs in the abdominal cavity

Spleen /spl\e\n/ /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.

Splen- /spl\e\n/ /prefix/ same as splanco- (used before vowels)

Splenectomy /spl\e\n\k\e\m/ /noun/ a surgical operation to remove the spleen (note: The plural is splenectomies.)

Splenic /spl\e\n/ /adjective/ referring to the spleen

Splenic anaemia /spl\e\n\i\k\n/ /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

Splen Plexure /spl\e\n/ /noun/ a bend in the colon where the transverse colon joins the descending colon

Splen /spl\e\n/ /noun/ plural noun plural of splenia

Splenitis /spl\e\n\t\i\t\s/ /noun/ inflammation of the spleen

Splenius /spl\e\n\i\n\s/ /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 spleni.)

Splenomegaly /spl\e\n\o\m\e\g\l/ /noun/ a condition in which the spleen is unusually large, associated with several disorders including malaria and some cancers

Splenorenal /spl\e\n\o\\i\n\r\l\e\n/ /adjective/ relating to both the spleen and the kidneys
bathing and cleaning

intervertebral discs, with osteoarthritis. This condition is common in older people.

spongioblastoma /ˈspɒŋgiəblɒstəmə/ noun a type of glioblastoma (note: the plural is spongioblastosomas or spongioblastomatoma.)

spongioblastoma /ˈspɒŋgiəblɒstəmə/ a condition in which one of the lumbar vertebrae moves forwards over the one beneath

spongiola /ˈspɒntagləʊə/ noun a piece of light absorbent material, either natural or synthetic, used in bathing and cleaning

spongy /ˈspɒndʒi/ adjective soft and full of holes like a sponge

spongy bone /ˈspɒndʒi bɒn/ 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 /ˈspɒntənɪəs/ adjective happening without any particular outside cause

spontaneous abortion /ˈspɒntənɪəs əˈbɔːtʃən/ 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 /ˈspʊn/ noun an instrument with a long handle at one end and a small bowl at the other, used for taking liquid medicine

split /ˈsplt/ verb to divide something, or become divided (note: splitting – split)

split personality /ˈsplt ˈpɜːrənələti/ noun same as schizoid personality

split skin graft /ˈsplt ˈskɪn ˈgræft/ noun a type of skin graft in which thin layers of skin are grafted over a wound. Also called thiersch graft

sporangia /ˈspɔræŋʒiə/ plural of sporangium

sporangium /ˈspɔræŋʒiəm/ noun a reproductive body of parasitic Protozoa which produces spores

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

sporidical /ˈspɔrədɪkəl/ adjective killing spores

sporicide /ˈspɔrɪsɪd/ noun a substance which kills bacterial spores

sporotrichosis /ˈspɔrətɹɪkəʊsɪs/ noun a fungus infection of the skin which causes abscesses

sporozaa /ˈspɔrəʊza/ noun a type of parasitic Protozoa which includes Plasmodium, the cause of malaria

sports injury /ˈspɔtɪz ɪˈnɜːri/ noun an injury caused by playing a sport, e.g. a sprained ankle or tennis elbow

supplement /ˈsvpləment/ noun the study of the treatment of sports injuries

spot /ˈspɒt/ noun a small round mark or pimple

spotted fever /ˈspɔtɪd ˈfɜːvə/ noun same as meningococcal meningitis

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spotted fever /ˈspɔtɪd ˈfɜːvə/ noun same as meningococcal meningitis
spotty /ˈspɔtɪ/ adjective covered with pimples
sprain /spreɪn/ noun a condition in which the ligaments in a joint are stretched or torn because of a sudden movement ■ verb to tear the ligaments in a joint with a sudden movement ○ She sprained her wrist when she fell.
spray /ˈspreɪ/ 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.
spread /spred/ verb to go out over a large area, or to cause something to do this ○ The infection spread right through the adult population. ○ Sneezing in a crowded bus can spread infection. (NOTE: spreading – spread)
spurt /spt/ noun same as psilosis
spud /spud/ noun a needle used to get a piece of dust or other foreign body out of the eye
spur /spɔr/ noun a sharp projecting part of a bone
sputum /ˈspjʊtəm/ noun mucus which is formed in the inflamed nose, throat or lungs and is coughed up ○ She was coughing up bloodstained sputum. Also called phlegm
squama /skweɪmə/ noun a thin piece of hard tissue, e.g. a thin flake of bone or scale on the skin (NOTE: The plural is squamae.)
squamous /skweɪməs/ adjective thin and hard like a scale
squamous bone /skweɪməs bone/ noun a part of the temporal bone which forms the side of the skull
squamous cell carcinoma /skweɪməs sel kərˈnəmə/ noun a common type of cancer which usually develops in the outer layer of the skin, on the lips, or inside the mouth or oesophagus. Abb SRC
squamous epithelium /skweɪməs epsɪˈthetaɪəm/ noun epithelium with flat cells like scales, which forms the lining of the pericardium, the peritoneum and the pleura. Also called pavement epithelium
squint /skwɪnt/ noun a condition in which 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.
SRN abbr State Registered Nurse
SSRI abbr selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor
stab /ˈstæb/ noun a sudden burst of pain ○ She had a stab of pain above her right eye. ■ verb to cut by pushing the point of a knife into the flesh ○ He was stabbed in the chest. (NOTE: stabbing – stabbed)
stabbing pain /ˈstæbɪŋ pɛn/ noun pain which comes in a series of short sharp bursts ○ He had stabbing pains in his chest
stabilise /steɪˈbɪlɪzaɪ/ stabilise verb to make a condition stable ○ We have succeeded in stabilising his blood sugar level. (NOTE: stabilising – stabilised)
stable /ˈstenəl/ adjective not changing ○ Her condition is stable.
stab wound /ˈstæb wʊnd/ noun a deep wound made by the point of a knife
staccato speech /ˈstəˌkɑtəʊ ˈspɛʧ/ noun an unusual way of speaking with short pauses between each word
Stacke’s operation /ˈstækɪz ᵗɛsˈfjuəri/ noun a surgical operation to remove the posterior and superior wall of the auditory meatus [After Ludwig Stacke (1859–1918), German otorhino]
stagnant loop syndrome /steɪgnənt /noun a condition which occurs in cases of diverticulosis or of Crohn's disease, with steatorrhoea, abdominal pain and megaloblastic anaemia.

stain /steɪn/ 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 /ˈstɛniŋ/ 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 /stækl/ noun a piece of tissue which attaches a growth to the main tissue.

Stamey procedure /ˈsteɪmi prəˈsidʒə/ 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.

The report criticised the standards of hygiene in the clinic.

stand up /ˈstænd ap/ 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 /ˈsteɪpedɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the stapes. (NOTE: The plural is stapedectomies.)

stapedial mobilisation /ˌstæpɪdɪəl ˌməʊbɪləˈzeɪʃən/ noun a surgical operation to relieve deafness by detaching the stapes from the fenestra ovalis. (NOTE: The plural is stapediodyses.)

staples /ˈstɛpliz/ noun one of the three ossicles in the middle ear, shaped like a stirrup. See illustration at EAR in Supplement.

COMMENT: The stapes fills the fenestra ovalis, and is articulated with the incus, which in turn articulates with the malleus.

staph /stæf/ abbr Staphylococcus

staphylectomy /ˈstæfɪˌlekˌtəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the uvula. (NOTE: The plural is staphylectomies.)

staphylococcal poisoning /ˌstæfɪləˈkɒkl pəˈzonɪŋ/ noun poisoning by Staphylococci.

staphylocoical /ˈstæfɪˌləkˈkɒkl/ adjective referring to Staphylococci.

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Staphylococcus /ˌstæfɪˈləkəs/ noun a bacterium which grows in a bunch like a bunch of grapes, and causes boils and food poisoning. (NOTE: The plural is Staphylococci.)

staphylocoma /ˈstæfɪˌləˌkɒmə/ noun a swelling of the cornea or the white of the eye. (NOTE: The plural is staphylocomas or staphylomata.)

staphylorrhaphy /ˈstæfɪˌləˈrɑːfi/ noun a surgical operation to close a small piece of bent metal, used to attach tissues together. ■ verb to attach tissues with staples.

stapler /ˈstæplə/ noun a device used in surgery to attach tissues with staples, instead of suturing.

starch /stɑːtʃ/ 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.
which contains a lot of starch. Statisticians show that the birth rate is slowing down.

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.

The fact of having had very little or no food.

A diet which contains little nourishment, and is not enough to keep a person healthy.

The condition of something.

The fact of having little or no food.

The condition of something.

The disease is in an advanced state.

The parents let the baby starve to death.

A decreased blood flow in the extremities has been associated with venous stasis which may precipitate vascular complications.

The usual response of a person

The standard pulmonary artery catheters have four lumens from which to obtain information about the patient’s hemodynamic status.

A thin piece of tissue which attaches an organ or growth to the main tissue.
steno- /ste'no/s prefix narrow or constricted
steno- /ste'no/s verb to make something narrow
stenosed valve /ste'nozd 'valv/ noun a valve which has become narrow or constricted
stenosing condition /ste'nozıŋ /noun a condition which makes a passage narrow
stenosis /ste'nozıs/ noun a condition in which a passage becomes narrow
stenostomia /ste'nostə'mı/, stenostomy /ste'nostə'mı/ noun the narrowing of an opening

Stensen's duct /stënsənz 'dækt/ noun a duct which carries saliva from the parotid glands [Desc. 1661. After Niels Stensen (1638-86), Danish physician and priest, anatomist, physiologist and theologian.]
stent /ste.nt/ noun a support of artificial material often inserted in a tube or vessel which has been sutured
step /step/ noun a movement of the foot and the leg as in walking ○ He took two steps forward. ○ The baby is taking her first steps.
step up /step 'ap/ verb to increase something (informal) ○ The doctor has stepped up the dosage.
stere- /stə're/ prefix referring to facces
stereobilin /stə'rebilın/ noun a brown pigment which colours the facces
stereobilinogen /stə'rebilı'nə曲折/ noun a substance which is broken down from bilirubin and produces stereobilin
stereocilith /stə'reokılt/ noun a hard ball of dried faeces in the bowel
stereocereous /stə'reokə'reus/ adjective 1. made of or containing faeces 2. similar to faeces
stereognosis /ster'ıgnəzıs/ noun the ability to tell the shape of an object in three dimensions by means of touch
stereoscopic vision /ster'ıskəsık / noun the ability to judge the distance and depth of an object by binocular vision
stereotactic /ster'ıto'təktık/ 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.
stereotaxy /ster'ıto'taksı/, stereotoxic surgery /ster'ıto'taksık/ 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 /ster'ıto'tıpı/ noun the repetition of the same action or word again and again
Stererets /steretı/ a trademark for a type of swab used for cleaning the skin before an injection
stereile /ster'ıel/ adjective 1. with no harmful microorganisms present ○ a sterile environment 2. not able to produce children
stereile dressing /ster'ıel 'dresıŋ/ noun a dressing which is sold in a sterile pack, ready for use
sterilisation /ster'ıla'sıʒı̂n/, sterilization noun 1. the action of making instruments or areas completely free from microorganisms which might cause infection 2. a procedure that makes someone unable to have children
comment: Sterilisation of a woman can be done by removing the ovaries or cutting the Fallopian tubes. Sterilisation of a man is carried out by cutting the vas deferens (vasectomy).
sterilise /ster'ılası/, sterilize verb 1. to make something completely free from microorganisms which might cause infection 2. to make someone unable to have children
steriliser /ster'ıla'sıəz/, sterilizer noun a machine for sterilising surgical instruments by steam or boiling water
sterilising /ster'ıla'sıŋ/ adjective able to kill microorganisms ○ Wipe the surface with sterilising fluid.
sterility /ster'ılitı̂/ noun 1. the state of being free from microorganisms 2. the state of being unable to have children
Steri-Strips /ster'/ı̂ strıps/ 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 /ste'nəl/ adjective referring to the breastbone
sternal angle /ste'nəl 'æŋgəl/ noun the ridge of bone where the manubrium articulates with the body of the sternum
sternal puncture /ste'nəl pəŋktʃə/ noun a surgical operation to remove a sample of bone marrow from the breastbone for testing
stern- /stərn/ prefix relating to the breastbone
sternoclavicular /stərnoklə'vekələr/ adjective referring to the sternum and the clavicle
sternoclavicular angle /stərnoklə'vekələl /vı̂ kələ 'æŋgəl/ noun the angle between the sternum and the clavicle
sternocleidomastoid muscle /stərnoklaid'mastəd /noun a muscle in the neck, running from the breastbone to the mastoid process
sternocostal joint /stərnəkəs'tol/ noun a joint where the breastbone joins a rib
sternohyoid /stərnə'hıəd/ adjective relating to the sternum and the hyoid bone
sternohyoid muscle 394

sternohyoid muscle /ˌstɛrnoʊˈhaɪəd/ noun a muscle in the neck which runs from the breastbone into the hyoid bone

sternomastoid /ˌstɛrnəˌmeɪstəd/ adjective referring to the breastbone and the mastoid

sternomastoid tumour /ˌstɛrnəˌmeɪstəd/ noun a benign tumour which appears in the sternomastoid muscle in newborn babies

sternotomy /ˌstɛrˈnətəmə/ noun a surgical operation to cut through the breastbone, so as to be able to operate on the heart

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 /ˈstɛrnətərəri/ 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 steroidal 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 /ˈstɛrədəl/ adjective containing steroids. Opposite non-steroidal

sterol /ˈstɛrəl/ noun an insoluble substance which belongs to the steroid alcohols, e.g. cholesterol

stettor /ˈstɛtrər/ noun noisy breathing sounds in someone unconscious

stertorous /ˈstɛtrərəs/ adjective characterised by heavy snoring

steth- /ˈstɛθ-/ stetho- /ˈstɛθə-/ prefix referring to the chest

stethograph /ˌstɛθəˈɡrɑːf/ noun an instrument which records breathing movements of the chest

stethography /ˈstɛθəɡrɑːfi/ noun the process of recording movements of the chest

stethometer /ˈstɛθəˌmətər/ noun an instrument which records how far the chest expands when a person breathes in

stethoscope /ˌstɛθəˈskəʊp/ 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 /ˈstɛvrənz ˈdʒɑrnən sɪnˈdrɔm/ noun a severe form of erythema multiforme affecting the face and genitals, caused by an allergic reaction to drugs [Described 1922. After Albert Mason Ste-
...and makes them react (NOTE: The plural is stim-

ul). sting /stɪŋ/ 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 bees or wasps 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 /ˈstɪŋɡiŋ/ adjective referring to a sharp unpleasant feeling of pricking or burning ○ a sudden stinging sensation in the back of her leg

stirrup /ˈstɪrəp/ noun same as staples

stirrup bone /ˈstɪrəp bɒn/ noun same as staples

stitch /stɪtʃ/ 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 /stɪtʃ ˈæbses/ noun an abscess which forms at the site of a stitch or suture

stock culture /stoʊkˈkʌltʃər/ noun the basic culture of bacteria, from which other cultures can be taken

stocking /stɒkˈɪŋ/ noun a close-fitting piece of clothing to cover the leg

Stokes–Adams syndrome /ˈstoʊks ˈædəmz sɪndrəʊm/ 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 (1791–1875), Irish surgeon]

stoma /ˈstəʊmə/ noun 1. any opening into a cavity in the body 2. the mouth 3. a colostomy (informal) (NOTE: all senses) The plural is stomata.

stomach /ˈstəʊmək/ 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 /ˈstəʊmək eɪk/ noun pain in the abdomen or stomach, caused by eating too much food or by an infection

stomach cramp /ˈstəʊmək krep/ noun a sharp spasm of the stomach muscles

stomach hernia noun same as gastrocele

stomach pump /ˈstəʊmək pʌmp/ noun an instrument for sucking out the contents of the stomach, e.g. to extract a poison that has been swallowed

stomach tube /ˈstəʊmək tjuːb/ noun a tube passed into the stomach to wash it out or to take samples of the contents

stomach upset /ˈstəʊmək əˈsæpt/ noun a slight infection of the stomach ○ She is in bed with a stomach upset. Also called upset stomach

stomach washout /ˈstəʊmək ˈwɒʃaʊt/ noun same as gastric lavage

stomal ulcer /ˈstəʊməl ˈʌlkər/ noun an ulcer in the region of the jejunum

stomal /ˈstəʊməl/ prefix same as stomato-(used before vowels)

stomatitis /ˈstəʊmətɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the inside of the mouth

stomatolo[y] /ˈstəʊmətɒləɹi/ prefix referring to the mouth

stomatology /ˈstəʊmətɒləɹi/ noun a branch of medicine which studies diseases of the mouth

-stomy /ˈstəʊmɪ/ suffix meaning an operation to make an opening

stone /ˈstəʊn/ 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 /ˈstəʊn ˈdɛf/ 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 especially the top of your back is bent forward ○ He walks with a stoop. ■ verb to have a stoop ○ He is seventy-five and stoops.
stop needle /stop_neid(n)əl/ noun a needle with a ring round it, so that it can only be pushed a specific distance into the body
stoppage /stəpdi/ noun an act of stopping the function of an organ
storage disease /stərədʒ di/z/ noun a disease in which unusual amounts of a substance accumulate in a part of the body
stove-in chest /stəu_vən _i/ noun an injury resulting from an accident, where several ribs are broken and pushed towards the inside
strabismal /strəbɪzəm/ adjective with the eyes focusing on different points
strabismus /strəbɪzəm/ noun a condition in which the eyes focus on different points. Also called squint, heterotropia
strabotomy /strəbatəm/ noun a surgical operation to divide the muscles of the eye in order to correct a squint
straight /streı/ adjective with no irregularities such as bends, curves or angles
straighten /streı/ verb to make something straight, or become straight ○ Her arthritis is so bad that she cannot straighten her knees.
strain /streın/ 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 3. nervous tension and stress ○ Her work is causing her a lot of strain. ○ He is suffering from nervous strain and needs to relax. 4. verb to stretch a muscle too far ○ He strained his back lifting the table. ○ She had to leave the game with a strained calf muscle. ○ The effort of running upstairs strained his heart.
strand /strænd/ noun a thread
strangle /stræŋʒ/ verb to kill someone by squeezing the throat so that he or she cannot breathe or swallow
strangled /stræŋʒdʒəld/ adjective referring to part of the body which is caught in an opening in such a way that the circulation of blood is stopped
strangulated hernia /stræŋʒdʒəld _hɜrnıə/ noun a condition in which part of the intestine is squeezed in a hernia and the supply of blood to it is cut off
strangulation /stræŋʒdʒəlʃən/ noun the act of squeezing a passage in the body
strangury /stræŋʒəri/ noun a condition in which very little urine is passed, although the person wants to urinate, caused by a bladder disorder or by a stone in the urethra
strap /stræp/ verb 1 to strap (up) to wrap a bandage round a limb tightly, to attach tightly ○ The nurses strapped up his stomach wound. ○ The patient was strapped to the stretcher.
strapping /stræpıŋ/ noun wide strong bandages or adhesive plaster used to bandage a large part of the body
Strategic Health Authority /strə,tɪdʒi/ _heıθ _ər_əuı/ noun in the UK, an organisation, accountable to government, that assesses the health needs of local people and ensures that local health services are commissioned and provided to meet those needs. Also SHA
stratified /strætɪfɪd/ adjective made of several layers
stratified epithelium /strætɪfɪd eptı_θi/ noun epithelium formed of several layers of cells
stratum /strətəm/ noun a layer of tissue forming the epidermis (note: The plural is stra-ta.)
COMMENT: The main layers of the epidermis are: the stratum germinativum or stratum basale: this layer produces the cells that are pushed up to form the other layers; the stratum granulosum, a layer with granular cells under the stratum lucidum, a thin clear layer of dead and dying cells, and the surface layer, or stratum corneum, a layer of dead keratinised cells which progressively fall off.
strawberry mark /strəstroʊri/ _mɑk/ noun a red birthmark in children, which will often disappear in later life
streak /strı/ noun a long thin line of a different colour
strength /streŋθ/ noun the fact of being strong ○ After her illness she had no strength in her limbs.
strengthen /streŋtʃ/ verb to make something stronger
strenuous /streŋjʊəs/ 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 /strept /θreu/ noun an infection of the throat by a streptococcus (informal)
strepto-/strept /pref/ referring to organisms which grow in chains
streptobacillus /streptə _bəkəli/ _əs/ noun a type of bacterium which forms a chain
streptococcal /streptə _kəkoʊ/ _əl/ adjective caused by a streptococcus
streptococcus /streptə _kəkoʊ/ _əs/ noun a genus of bacteria which grows in long chains, and causes fevers such as scarlet fever, tonsilitis and rheumatic fever (note: The plural is streptococci.)
streptodornase /streptə _dɔrnəs/ _əs/ noun an enzyme formed by streptococci which can make pus liquid
streptokinase /streptə _kəʊni/ _əs/ noun an enzyme formed by streptococci which can break down blood clots and is therefore used in the treatment of myocardial infarction
order caused by stress

who is so ill that he or she has to be carried on

the usual physiological balance of the body

or of a woman who has recently given birth.

the skin of the abdomen of a pregnant woman

be repadded, not removed’ [British Journal of Nursing]

a dis-

stress fracture

stress incontinence

stress disorder

stroke patient

physical pressure on an

an extra factor in a person’s life which makes

a condition in which an outside influence such as work-

or a mental or emotional state such as changes

which affects the working of the body and can

a dis-

stress fracture

stress incontinence

stress disorder

stroke patient

an illness which is due in part or

with strips of gauze.

the abdomen of a pregnant woman or of a

woman who has recently given birth.

marked with pale lines

a type of muscle found in skeletal muscles

whose movements are controlled by the cen-

tal nervous system. Also called striped mus-

cle

strict /strikt/ adjective severe, which must not

be changed ∘ She has to follow a strict diet. ∘ The
doctor was strict with the patients who
wanted to drink alcohol in the hospital.

stripcut /striktʃə noun the narrowing of a

passage in the body

stripcutoplasty /striktʃəˌplæstɪ noun a surgical

operation in which a part of the in-
testine is widened

stridor /strɪdər noun a sharp high sound made when

air passes an obstruction in the larynx.

strike-through /strʌk tʃə noun blood ab-

sorbed right through a dressing so as to be vis-
ible on the outside

‘If stroke-through occurs, the wound dressing should be

repared, not removed’ [British Journal of Nurs-

ing]

string sign /strɪŋ sɔrn noun a thin line

which appears on the ileum, a sign of regional

ileitis or Crohn’s disease

strip /strɪp noun a long thin piece of material or

tissue ∘ The nurse bandaged the wound

with strips of gauze. ∘ He grafted a strip of

skin over the burn. ∘ verb to take off some-

thing, especially clothes ∘ The patients had to

strip for the medical examination. ∘ to strip to

the waist to take off the clothes on the top part of

the body

stripped muscle /strɪptˈmæs(ə)l noun same as striated muscle

stripper /strɪpə noun an instrument in the form of

a flexible wire with an olive-shaped end used for stripping varicose veins

stripping /strɪpɪŋ noun a surgical operation to

remove varicose veins

stroke /strɔʊk noun same as cerebrovascu-

lar accident ∘ He had a stroke and died. ∘ She

was paralysed after a stroke. ∘ verb to touch

something or someone softly with the fingers

stroke is the third most frequent cause of death in

developed countries after ischaemic heart disease

and cancer [British Journal of Hospital Medicine]

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’ [British

Journal of Hospital Medicine]

COMMENT: There are two causes of stroke:

cerebral haemorrhage (haemorrhagic stroke),

when an artery bursts and blood leaks into the

brain, and cerebral thrombosis (occlusive stroke),

where a blood clot blocks an artery.

stroke patient /strɔʊk ˈpɛʃənt noun a person who has had a stroke

s自救/strεptəˈtolәns/ noun a toxin

produced by streptococci in rheumatic fever,

which acts to destroy red blood cells

Streptomyces /strɛpt əˌmeɪsɪz/ noun a ge-

nus of bacteria used to produce antibi-

otics

streptomycin /strɛptəˈmiːsɪn/ noun an an-

tibacterial drug used mainly for the treatment

of tuberculosis

stress /streɪs/ noun 1. physical pressure on an

object or part of the body 2. a factor or combi-

nation of factors in a person’s life which makes

him or her feel tired and anxious 3. a condition

in which an outside influence such as over-

work or a mental or emotional state such as changes

which affects the working of the body and can

affect the hormone balance

stress disorder /strɛs ˈdɪsər/ noun a dis-

order caused by stress

stress fracture /strɛs ˈfræktʃə/ noun a

fracture of a bone caused by excessive force,

as in some types of sport. Also called fatigue

fracture

stress incontinence /strɛs ɪnˌkənˈtɪnəns/ noun

a condition in women in which the mus-

cles in the floor of the pelvis become incapable

of retaining urine when the intra-abdominal

pressure is raised by coughing or laughing

stress reaction /strɛs ˈreɪkʃən/ noun a re-

sponse to an outside stimulus which disturbs

the usual physiological balance of the body

stress-related illness /strɛs ˈreləd ˈɪljəs/ noun an illness which is due in part or

completely to stress

stretch /streʃ/ verb to pull something out, or

make something longer

stretcher /strɛʃə noun a folding bed, with

handles, on which an injured person can be

carried by two people ∘ She was carried out of

the restaurant on a stretcher. ∘ Some of the ac-

cident victims could walk to the ambulances,

but there were several stretcher cases.

stretcher bearer /strɛʃəˈbiərə/ noun a person who helps to carry a stretcher

stretcher case /strɛʃəˈkeɪs/ noun a person who is so ill that he or she has to be carried on

a stretcher

stretcher party /strɛʃəˈpərti/ noun a group of people who carry a stretcher and look

after the person on it

stretch mark /strɛʃ mɑːk/ noun a mark on the skin of the abdomen of a pregnant woman

or of a woman who has recently given birth. ∘ striae gravidarum

stretch reflex /strɛʃ ˈrɛflɛks/ noun a re-

flex action of a muscle which contracts after

being stretched

stria /strɪə/ noun a pale line on skin which

is stretched, as in obese people (Note: The plu-

ral is striae.)

striae gravidarum /strɪəˈg्रɛvɪdɪərəm/ plural noun the lines on the skin of

the abdomen of a pregnant woman or of a

woman who has recently given birth.

stretached /strɛt əˈtʃəd/ adjective marked with pale lines

stretached muscle /strɛt əˈtʃəd ˈmæs(ə)l/ noun a type of muscle found in skeletal muscles

whose movements are controlled by the cen-
tral nervous system. Also called striped mus-
cle
stoke volume

stroke volume /ˈstroʊk vəˈljuː/ noun the amount of blood pumped out of the ventricle at each heartbeat

stroma /ˈstrəʊmə/ noun tissue which supports an organ, as opposed to the parenchyma or functioning tissues in the organ

Strongyloides /strɒŋdʒɪˈlaɪdɪz/ noun a parasitic worm which infects the intestines

strongyloidiasis /strɒŋdʒɪˈlɔɪdɪəsɪs/ noun the fact of being infested with Strongyloides which enters the skin and then travels to the lungs and the intestines

stromium /strɒmɪəm/ noun a metallic element (note: The chemical symbol is Sr)

stromium-90 /ˈstrɒmɪəm ′nɔrni/ noun an isotope of strontium which is formed in 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 /es ′tɛs ′setənt, ′s-T ′segmənt/ 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 ′naʊz/ noun a person who is studying to become a nurse

study /ˈstʌdɪ/ noun the act of examining something to learn about it

St segment	ST segment

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 /staɪ/ noun same as hordeolum

stylet /ˈstaɪlət/ 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 a long thin instrument used for applying antiseptics or ointments to the skin

styptic /ˈstɪptɪk/ adjective pointed

styloid process /ˈstʌlɔd ′prəʊses/ noun a piece of bone which projects from the bottom of the temporal bone

styloid /ˈstʌlɔd/ adjective pointed

subacute /ˈsʌbəkju/ adjective

subacute sclerosing panencephalitis /ˈsʌbəkju skəriəs pənənˈsɛptəlɪtɪs/
subjective noun a rare inflammatory disease of the brain, mostly affecting children. It is linked to having measles at a very young age, and is usually fatal.

subarachnoid /ˈsʌbərəˈrækənɔɪd/ adjective beneath the arachnoid membrane

subarachnoid haemorrhage /ˌsʌbəˌrækənɔɪd ˈheɪməˌrɪndʒ/ noun bleeding into the cerebrospinal fluid of the subarachnoid space

subarachnoid space /ˌsʌbəˌrækənɔɪd ˈspeɪs/ noun a space between the arachnoid membrane and the pia mater in the brain, containing cerebrospinal fluid

subaxillary /ˈsʌbækˈsɪlərɪ/ adjective beneath the arm pit

subcartilaginous /ˈsʌbkɑːrˈtɪlədʒɪnəs/ adjective 1. beneath cartilage or a body part composed of cartilage 2. made partly of cartilage

subclavian /ˈsʌbkləvɪən/ adjective beneath the clavicle

subclavian artery /ˈsʌbkləvɪən ˈɑːtɜːri/ noun one of two arteries branching from the aorta on the left and from the innominate artery on the right, continuing into the brachial arteries and supplying blood to each arm

subclavian vein /ˈsʌbkləvɪən ˈvɛrn/ noun one of the veins which continue the axillary veins into the brachiocephalic vein

subclinical /ˈsʌbklɪˈmɪŋkəl/ adjective referring to a disease which is present in the body, but which has not yet developed any symptoms

subconscious /ˈsʌb Kongˈsɛs/ noun the part of a person’s mental processes which he or she is not aware of most of the time, but which can affect his or her actions ■ adjective present in the mind although a person is not aware of it

subcutaneous /ˈsʌbˌkʌtənɪəs/ adjective beneath the skin

subcutaneous oedema /ˈsʌbˈkjuːˌdɪmə/ noun fatty tissue under the skin, usually at the ankles

subcutaneous tissue /ˈsʌbˈkjuːˌtjuːz/ noun tissue under the skin

subjective noun a rare inflammatory disease of the brain, caused by a blow on the head

subjective adjective representing the views or feelings of the person concerned and not impartial ○ The psychiatrist gave a subjective opinion on the patient's problem. Compare objective

subjective adjective referring to a disease which is present in the body, but which has not yet developed any symptoms

subject to /ˈsʌbˈdʒekt tu/ verb likely to experience ○ The patient is subject to fits. ○ After returning from the tropics she was subject to attacks of malaria.

subjective adjective too slight to be noticed by the senses

subjective adjective underlying the skin. Abbrev. s.c.

subjective adjective representing the views or feelings of the person concerned and not impartial ○ The psychiatrist gave a subjective opinion on the patient's problem. Compare objective

subjective adjective referring to a disease which is present in the body, but which has not yet developed any symptoms

subjective adjective too slight to be noticed by the senses

subjective adjective underlying the skin. Abbrev. s.c.
submental /ˈsʌbˈmɛnt(ə)/ noun a salivary gland on each side of the lower jaw

submental /ˈsʌbˈmɛnt(ə)/ adjective under the chin

submucosa /ˈsʌbjuːkəʊsə/ noun tissue under a mucous membrane

submucous /ˈsʌbjuːkəʊs/ adjective under a mucous membrane

submucous resection /ˈsʌbjuːkəʊrɛsən/ noun the removal of a bent cartilage from the septum in the nose. Abbr SMR

subnormal /ˈsʌbnərəməl/ adjective with a mind which has not developed fully (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive)

subnormality /ˈsʌbnərəmələti/ noun a condition in which someone’s mind has not developed fully (NOTE: This term is regarded as offensive)

suboccipital /ˈsʌbəkˈsɪpiːt(ə)/ adjective beneath the back of the head

suborbital /ˈsʌbərˈɔːbɪt(ə)/ adjective beneath the eye socket

subperiosteal /ˈsʌbəˌpɪrɪˈɒsɪt(ə)/ adjective immediately beneath the connective tissue around bones

subphrenic /ˈsʌbˈfrenɪk/ adjective under the diaphragm

subphrenic abscess /ˈsʌbˈfrenɪk ˈæbsɛs/ noun an abscess which forms between the diaphragm and the liver

subside /ˈsʌbˌsaɪd/ verb to go down or become less violent (NOTE: After being given the antibiotics, her fever subsided)

substance /ˈsʌbstɑːns/ noun a chemical material, e.g. a drug or toxic substances released into the bloodstream (NOTE: He became addicted to certain substances)

substance abuse /ˈsʌbstɑːns əˈbaʊs/ noun 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 P /ˈsʌbstɑːns p/ noun a neurotransmitter involved in pain pathways

substitution /ˈsʌbstɪˈʃuːʃən/ noun the act of replacing one thing with another

substitution therapy /ˌsʌbstɪˈʃuːʃən ˈθɛrəpi/ noun a way of treating a condition by using a different drug from the one used before

substrate /ˈsʌbstrət/ noun a substance which is acted on by an enzyme

substrate /ˈsʌbstrət/ noun a protein hormone and the body’s major anabolic hormone, regulating the metabolism of all body fuels and substrates (Nursing 87)

substitut /ˈsʌbstɪtjʊt/ noun a twitching of the muscles and tendons, caused by fever

subterranean /ˈsʌbˌtɛrɪəni/ noun (Latin) a type of malaria, where the fever is present most of the time

subthreshold /ˈsʌbθreʃəld/ adjective describing a stimulus that is not strong enough to have an effect

subtotal /ˈsʌbˈtɔːt(ə)/ adjective referring to an operation to remove most of an organ

subtotal gastrectomy /ˈsʌbˈtɔːtəˌɡrɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of all but the top part of the stomach in contact with the diaphragm

subtotal hysterectomy /ˈsʌbˈtɔːtəˌhɪstərɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of most of the pancreas

subtotal thyroidectomy /ˈsʌbˈtɔːtəˌθɜːrdɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of most of the thyroid gland

subungual /ˌsʌbəˈʌŋgwəl/ adjective under a nail

succeed /səkˈsɪd/ verb to do well at what one was trying to do (NOTE: Scientists have succeeded in identifying the new influenza virus).  

success /səkˈsɪs/ 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 /səkˈsɪsəl/ adjective working well (NOTE: The operation was completely successful)

succession /səkˈsɪʃən/ noun a line of happenings, one after the other (NOTE: She had a succession of miscarriages)

successive /səkˈsɪsvi/ adjective following one after the other (NOTE: She had a miscarriage with each successive pregnancy)

succus /sʌkəs/ noun the juice secreted by an organ

succus entericus /sʌkəs ˈɛntərɪkəs/ noun the juice formed of enzymes, produced in the intestine to help the digestive process

suck /sʌk/ verb to pull liquid or air into the mouth or into a tube

succrose /sʌkˈk्रəs/ noun an enzyme in the intestine which breaks down sucrose into glucose and fructose

sucrose /sʌkˈk्रəs/ noun a sugar, formed of glucose and fructose, found in plants, especially in sugar cane, beet and maple syrup

suction /səkʃən/ noun a force created by the action of sucking (NOTE: The dentist hooked a suction tube into the patient’s mouth).
sudamen /ˈsʌdəmən/ noun a little blister caused by sweat (NOTE: The plural is sudamines.)
sudden /ˈsʌd(ə)n/ adjective happening quickly.
sudden death /ˈsʌd(ə)n dɛθ/ noun death without any identifiable cause, not preceded by an illness.
sudden infant death syndrome /ˈsʌd(ə)n inʃənt ˈdɛθəntrəʊm/ noun the sudden death of a baby under the age of about twelve months in bed, without any identifiable cause. Abbrev:SIDS. Also called cot death.
Sudeck’s atrophy /ˈsʌdɛks ətəˈfroʊ/ noun osteoporosis in the hand or foot [Described 1900. After Paul Hermann Martin Sudeck (1866–1938), German surgeon.]
sudor /ˈsʌdər/ noun sweat
sudoriferous /ˈsʌdərəfa rəs/ adjective producing sweat
sudorific /ˈsʌdəru fərɪk/ noun a drug which makes someone sweat
suffer /ˈsʌfər/ verb 1. to have an illness for a long period of time ○ I suffer 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 /ˈsʌfəkəˈʃən/ noun the act of making someone become unconscious by cutting off his or her supply of air
suffuse /ˈsʌfjuːz/ verb to spread over or through something
suffusion /ˈsʌfjuːʃən/ noun the spreading of a red flush over the skin
sugar /ˈʃʊɡə/ noun any of several sweet carbohydrates (NOTE: For other terms referring to sugar, see words beginning with glyc-, 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 ɪnˈtələrəns/ noun diarrhoea caused by sugar which has not been absorbed
suggest /ˈsʌstɪg/ verb to mention an idea ○ The doctor suggested that she should stop smoking.
suggested daily intake /ˈsʌstɪd ˈdeɪli ɪnˈtɑːkt/ noun the amount of a substance which it is recommended a person should take in each day
suggestibility /ˈsʌstɪgəˈbɪləti/ 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.
suggestive /ˈsʌstɪgətɪv/ adjective easily influenced by other people
suggestion /ˈsʌstɪgənʃən/ 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 /ˈsjuːsələd/ 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 /ˈsʌlkəs/ 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 /ˈsʌlfə dɹʌɡ/; sulfa compound /ˈsʌlfəkuːmpənd/ noun same as sulfonamide
sulfasalazine /ˈsʌlfəsəˈzæliˌzɛn/ 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 same as sulphate
sulfonamide /ˈsʌlfənˌnəməd/ noun a bacteriostatic drug, e.g. trimethoprim, used to treat bacterial infection, especially in the intestine and urinary system, but now less important due to increasing bacterial resistance
sulfonylurea /ˈsʌlfənˌnaɪljuˈriə/ 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
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 sulph- are spelt sul- in US English.)
sulphuric acid /ˈsʌlfərɪk ˈækсид/ 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

sumatriptan is a drug which helps to narrow the blood vessels, used in the treatment of acute migraine.
sun /sun/ noun the very hot and large star around which the earth travels and which gives light and heat
sunbathing /’sunbæθɪŋ/ noun the practice of lying in the sun to absorb sunlight
sun blindness /’sʌn, bledənəs/ noun same as photoretinitis
sunburn /’sʌnbɜːn/ noun damage to the skin by excessive exposure to sunlight
sunburnt /’sʌnbɜːnt/ adjective referring to skin made brown or red by exposure to sunlight
sunlight /’sʌnlɪft/ noun the light from the sun ○ He is allergic to strong sunlight.
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 dries and puts forms beneath. Constant exposure to the sun can cause cancer of the skin.
sunscreen /’sʌnskrɪn/ noun 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
sunstroke /’sʌnstrəʊk/ noun 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
super- /’sjuːpər/ prefix 1. above 2. extremely
superciliary /’sjuːpər’sɪliərɪ/ adjective referring to the eyebrows
superego /’sjuːpər’ıdʒuː/ noun (in psychology) the part of the mind which is a person’s conscience, which is concerned with right and wrong
superejection /’sjuːpər’iːkʃən/ noun a condition in which two or more ova produced at the same time are fertilised by different males
superejection /’sjuːpər’iːkfɪʃən/ noun a condition in which an ovum is fertilised in a woman who is already pregnant
superficial /’sjuːpərfɪʃl/ adjective on the surface, close to the surface or on the skin ○ superficial burn on the skin surface
superficial fascia /’sjuːpər’fɪʃəl ə’fəsіə/ plural noun membranous layers of connective tissue found just under the skin
superficial thickness burn /’sjuːpərfɪʃəl ’θɪknəs bɜːrn/ noun same as partial thickness burn
superficial vein /’sjuːpərfɪʃəl ’vіːn/ noun a vein which is near the surface of the skin
superinfection /’sjuːpərin’fɛkʃən/ noun a second infection which affects the treatment of the first infection, because it is resistant to the drug used to treat the first
superior /’sjuːprɪər/ adjective (of part of the body) higher up than another part
superior aspect /’sjuːprɪər ’æspekt/ noun a view of the body from above
superior ganglion /’sjuːprɪər ,gæŋgliən/ noun a small collection of cells in the jugular foramen
superiority /’sjuːprɪərɪtɪ/ noun the fact of being better than something or someone else
superiority complex /′sjuːprɪərɪtɪ ‘kɒmpleks/ noun 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 /′sjuːprɪər mesən’tɜːrɪk, ə’terɪri/ noun one of the arteries which supply the small intestine
superior vena cava /′sjuːprɪər ,vənə ‘keɪvə/ noun 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
supernumerary /′sjuːpɜːnəmərərɪ/ adjective extra, more than the usual number
SUPERVISION /′sjuːpɜːrvɪzɪʃən/ noun the act of supervising. There is allocation of supernumerary students to clinical areas for their educational needs and for service requirements. [Varun Times]
superovulation /′sjuːpər, əʊvə’luːʃən/ noun an increased frequency of ovulation, or production of a large number of ova at one time. It is often caused by giving a woman with infertility problems gonadotrophin hormones to stimulate ovulation.
supervise /′sjuːpɜːrvɪz/ verb to manage or organise something ○ The administration of drugs has to be supervised by a qualified person. ○ She has been appointed to supervise the transfer of patients to the new ward.
supervision /′sjuːpɜːrvɪʃən/ noun management or organisation ○ Elderly patients need constant supervision. ○ The sheltered housing is under the supervision of a full-time nurse.
supervisor /′sjuːpɜːrvɪzər/ noun a person who supervises ○ the supervisor of hospital catering services
supinate /′sjuːpɪnət/ verb to turn the hand so that the palm faces upwards
supination /′sjuːpɪˈneɪʃən/ noun the act of turning the hand so that the palm faces upwards. Opposite pronation. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement
supinator /′sjuːpɪnətə/ noun a muscle which turns the hand so that the palm faces upwards
supine /′sjuːpɪn/ adjective 1. lying on the back. Opposite prone 2. with the palm of the hand facing upwards
...the patient was to remain in the supine position, therefore a pad was placed under the Achilles tendon to raise the legs [VATNews]
supplement /′sjuːplɪmənt/ noun 1. any extra nutrients that are taken to help a specific condition when someone is not getting all they need from their food ○ vitamin and folate acid supplements 2. a pill or product regarded as helpful in improving health that can be bought
without a prescription. Supplements are not tested in the same way as prescription drugs. ○ dietary or food supplements  verb to add on or increase above what is taken usually. ○ She supplemented her diet with folic acid when she was planning a pregnancy.

supply /səˈplaɪ/ 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. ○ 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 /səˈpɔːrt/ 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

supportive /səˈpɔːrtɪv/ 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 /səˈpɔːrt stəʊkɪŋ/ noun a stocking worn to prevent postural hypotension and peripheral oedema

support worker /səˈpɔːrt ˈwɜːkə/ 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 /səˈpɔːzɪt(ə)ri/ 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 /səˈpres/ 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.

suppressor T-cell /səˈpresər ‘tiː/ noun a T-cell which stops or suppresses the immune response to an antigen of B-cells and other T-cells

suppurate /səˈpʊrət/ verb to form and discharge pus

suppurating /səˈpʊrətɪŋ/ adjective purulent, containing or discharging pus

suppression /səˈpreʃ(ə)n/ noun the formation and discharge of pus

supra- /səˈpraː/ prefix above or over

supraglottis /səˈpɾæɡlɒtɪs/ noun the part of the larynx above the vocal folds, including the epiglottis

supraoptic nucleus /səˈpraʊpɒtɪk njuːˈklɪs/ noun a nucleus in the hypothalamus from which nerve fibres run to the posterior pituitary gland

supraorbital /səˈpraʊərˈbɪt(ə)l/ adjective above the orbit of the eye

supraorbital ridge /səˈpraʊərˈbɪt(ə)l rɪdʒ/ noun the ridge of bone above the eye, covered by the eyebrows

suprapubic /səˈpraʊpəˈbɪk/ adjective above the pubic bone or pubic area

suprarenal /səˈpraʊərəˈnɛl/ adjective above the kidneys ○ The same as suprarenal gland

suprarenal area /səˈpraʊərəˈnɛl ərə/ noun the area of the body above the kidneys

suprarenal cortical hormone /səˈpraʊərəˈnɛl kərˈtɪkl həˈmɔːn/ noun a hormone secreted by the cortex of the adrenal glands, e.g. cortisone

suprarenal gland /səˈpraʊərəˈnɛl ɡlænd/ noun one of two endocrine glands at the top of the kidneys, which secrete adrenaline and other hormones

suprarenal medulla /səˈpraʊərəˈnɛl meˈdʌlə/ noun same as adrenal medulla

suprasternal /səˈpraʊəstərnl(ə)/ adjective above the sternum

supraventricular tachycardia /səˈpɜːrventrɪkjʊlər təˈkɪdərɪə/ noun tachycardia coming from the upper chambers of the heart.

surface /sɜːfɪs/ noun the top layer of something ○ The surfaces of the two membranes may rub together.

surfactant /sɜːfæktənt/ noun a substance in the alveoli of the lungs which keeps the surface 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 ‘Mr’ and not ‘Dr’, so ‘Dr Smith’ may be a GP, but ‘Mr Smith’ is a surgeon.)

surgeon general /ˈsɜːdʒən ‘dʒɛnerəl/ 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 /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l/ 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 /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l but/ noun a specially made boot for a person who has an unusually shaped foot, to support or correct it

surgical care /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l keə/ noun looking after patients who have had surgery

surgical diathermy /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l daɪəθərmi/ noun a procedure which uses a knife or electrode which is heated by a strong electric current until it coagulates tissue

surgical emphysema /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l ɪmˈfɪzəm/ noun air bubbles in tissue, not in the lungs

surgical fixation /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l ʃɪkˈfɪʃ(ə)n/ 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 /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l glævz/ plural noun thin plastic gloves worn by surgeons

surgical hose /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l həʊs/ noun a strong elastic stocking worn to support a weak joint in a knee or to relieve varicose veins. Also called elastic hose, surgical stocking

surgical intervention /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l ɪntəˈvɛnʃən/ noun the treatment of disease or other condition by surgery

surgically /ˈsɜːrdʒɪkli/ adverb using surgery ○ The growth can be treated surgically.

surgical neck /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l nɛk/ noun the narrow part at the top of the humerus, where the arm can easily be broken

surgical needle /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l nɪdəl/ noun a needle for sewing up surgical incisions

surgical procedure /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l prəˈsaɪdʒə/ noun a surgical operation

surgical shoe /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l ʃuː/ noun a specially made boot for a person who has an unusually shaped foot, to support or correct it

surgical spirit /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)lˈspɪrɪt/ 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 stockin /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)lˈstɒkɪn/ noun same as surgical hose

surgical ward /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l wɔrd/ noun a ward for patients who have undergone surgery

surgical wound /ˈsɜːdʒɪk(ə)l wʊnd/ noun an incision made during a surgical operation

surrogate /ˈsɜːrəɡət/ adjective taking the place of a 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 /ˈsɜːraʊnd/ verb to be all around something ○ The wound is several millimetres deep and the surrounding flesh is inflamed.

survive /ˈsɜːrvɪv/ verb to continue to live ○ He survived two attacks of pneumonia. ○ The baby only survived for two hours.

survivor /ˈsɜːrvɪvər/ noun a person who survives

susceptibility /ˈsʌskɛptəbɪləti/ noun lack of resistance to a disease ○...low birthweight has been associated with increased susceptibility to infection [East African Medical Journal]. ○...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 [Lancet].

susceptible /ˈsʌskɛptəbl/ adjective likely to catch a disease ○ She is susceptible to colds or to throat infections.

suspect noun /ˈsəspɛkt/ a person who doctors believe may have a disease ○ They are screening all typhoid suspects. ○ verb /əˈsɛpt/ 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 barrier nursed in other wards [Nursing Times].

suspension /ˈsəspənʃən/ noun a liquid with solid particles in it

suspensory /ˈsəspənsoʊri/ adjective hanging down

surgical bandage /ˈsɜːrəɡəlˈbændidʒ/ noun a bandage to hold a part of the body which hangs

surgical ligament /ˈsɜːrəɡəlˈlɪɡəmənt/ noun a ligament which holds a part of the body in position. See illustration at EYE in Supplement

suspend /ˈsənˌstɛn/ verb 1. to keep, to support, to maintain someone ○ These bones can sustain quite heavy weights. ○ He is not eating...
are sour.

skin through which the sweat comes out.

also called dermis and connected to the skin surface by a

which produces sweat, situated beneath the

vical swab

a wound so that they can heal.

Also called a

stitch.

COMMENT: Wounds are usually stitched using thread or catgut which is removed after a

week or so. Sutures are either absorbable, made of a substance which is eventually ab-
sorbed into the body, or non-absorbable, in

which case they need to be removed after a
certain time.

suxamethonium /saksə'mənɪəm/noun a drug similar to acetylcholine in structure, used as a muscle relaxant during surgery

swab /swæb/noun 1. a cotton wool pad, often attached to a small stick, used, e.g., to clean a wound, to apply ointment or to take a speci-

men 2. a specimen taken with a swab.

cervical swab

swallow /swɒləʊ/verb to make liquid, food

and sometimes air go down from the mouth to the

stomach. Patients suffering from nose-

bleeds should try not to swallow the blood.

swallowing /swɒləʊɪŋ/noun same as
deglutition

Swan-Ganz catheter /swæn 'ɡæntʃ,keθətərn/noun a special catheter which can be

floated through the right chamber of the heart into the pulmonary artery. The balloon at its tip is then inflated to measure arterial pressure.

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 cov-

ered with sweat. Also called perspiration.

verb to produce moisture through the sweat

glands and onto the skin.

sweat duct /sweɪt dʌkt/noun a thin tube

connecting the sweat gland with the surface of the

skin

sweat gland /sweɪt glænd/noun a gland

which produces sweat, situated beneath the
dermis and connected to the skin surface by a

sweat duct

sweat pore /sweɪt pɔ:rnoun a hole in the

skin through which the sweat comes out

sweat /swet/adj one of the basic tastes,

not bitter, sour or salt. Sagar is sweet, lemons

are sour.
The feeling or expression of pity or sorrow for the pain or distress of somebody else.

Pain in one part of the body is often caused by a condition in another part, e.g., pain in the groin may be referred to the back, or pain in the shoulder may be due to a heart condition. Pain may occur in one part of the body, but be caused by a condition in another part, e.g., pain in the groin can be a symptom of a kidney stone or pain in the right shoulder which can indicate a heart attack.

A doctor must study the patient presented all the symptoms of rheumatism, e.g., in the skull, where the bones have fused together.

A continuous pain may be either referred or caused by a condition in another part of the body, e.g., in the skull, where the bones have fused together.

There are many different causes of pain, including:

1. A condition in the body, such as a heart attack or stroke.
2. A disease or disorder, such as cancer or multiple sclerosis.
3. An injury or trauma, such as a broken bone or sprain.
4. A neurological disorder, such as a stroke or multiple sclerosis.
5. A psychological disorder, such as anxiety or depression.

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synovial membrane /sɪnəʊˈvɪə/ /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.

synovial joint /sɪnəʊˈvɪəl/ /adjective/ referring to the synovium

synovial cavity /sɪnəˌvɪəl ˈkeɪvəti/ /noun/ a space inside a synovial joint. See illustration at synovial joint in Supplement.

synovial fluid /sɪnəˌvɪəl ˈflʌɪd/ /noun/ a fluid secreted by a synovial membrane to lubricate a joint. See illustration at synovial joint in Supplement.

synovectomy /sɪnəˈvɛktəmɪ/ /noun/ surgical operation to remove the synovial membrane of the joint.

synovitis /sɪnəˌvɪtəs/ /noun/ inflammation of the synovial membrane.

synovia /sɪnəˈvɪə/ /noun/ same as synovial membrane.

Medicine.fm  Page 407  Thursday, November 20, 2003  4:47 PM
Septicaemia is a systemic infection.

systemic lupus erythematosus

systemic murmur

systolic pressure
T
deterioration
locomotor ataxia, general paralysis and mental
domem

2. was given a TAB injection. TAB injections
give only temporary immunity against paraty-
phoid. TAB vaccine
tabes /tebiz/ noun a condition in which
someone is wasting away
tabes dorsalis /tebiz dɔ:`sefli/ 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 /tebiz məsen`terika/ noun the
wasting of glands in the ab-
domen
tabetic /tə`betik/ adjective wasting away or
affected by tabes dorsalis
tablet /ta`blt/ 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 /teu`po`ri:sis/ noun the fi-
nal stage of syphilis in which the person has
locomotor ataxia, general paralysis and mental
deterioration
TAB vaccine /tei`vi:n/ noun a vaccine which
immunises against typhoid fe-
vor and paratyphoid A and B
tachy-
tachyarrhythmia /tə`ki:ri`θmiə/ noun a
fast irregular heartbeat

tachycardia /tə`ki`ka`rdia/ noun a rapid
beating of the heart
tachyphasia /tə`ki`fri`ziə, tə`ki`fa`sia/ noun a
particularly rapid way of speaking, as occurs with some people with
mental disorders
tachyphylaxis /tə`ki`fili`ksis/ noun an effect of a drug or neurotransmitter which be-
comes less with repeated doses
tachypnoea /tə`ki`pniə/ noun very fast
breathing
tacrolimus /tə`krɔ`liməs/ noun a powerful
immunosuppressant drug used to reduce the
risk of organ transplant rejection
tactile /tə`ktaul/ adjective able to be sensed
by touch
tactile anaesthesia /tə`ktaul `a`nə`zizə/ noun
the loss of the sensation of touch
taenia /tə`niə/ 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-
ite, 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.
taenicide /tə`niəsa`sid/ noun a substance
which kills tapeworms
taenia coli /tə`niə ko`li/ noun the outer
band of muscle running along the large intes-
tine
taeniafuge /tə`niəfug/ noun a substance
which makes tapeworms leave the body
taeniasis /tə`niəsa`sis/ noun infestation of the
intestines with tapeworms
Tagamet /`ta`gəme/ a trade name for a prep-
aration of cimetidine
tai chi /tai `ʧi/; `tai chi noun an ancient Chi-
nese system of exercises designed for health,
selg-defence and spiritual development
take /teik/ 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 /`teik `əftə/ verb to be like one or
other parent ○ He takes after his father.
take care of /ˈteɪk ˈkɛə/ 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.

talc /ˈteɪlk/ noun a soft white powder used to dust on irritated skin.

talcum powder /ˈteɪlkəmˌpaʊdər/ 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 – he's taller than all his brothers.

He's 5 foot 7 inches (5'7") tall.

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tan /teɪn/ noun a substance found in the bark of trees and in tea and other liquids, which stains brown when it is added to it.

tannin /teɪnɪn/ noun, tannic acid /ˈteɪnik ˈteɪnd/ noun a chemical symbol is Ta.

Tantalum /ˈteɪntələm/ noun a rare metal, used to repair damaged bones (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Ta.)

Tantalum mesh /ˈteɪntələm meʃ/ noun a type of net made of tantalum wire, used to repair cranial conditions.

tantrum /ˈteɪntərum/ 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. verb 1, to remove or drain liquid from part of the body. 2, to hit someone or something lightly. The doctor tapped his chest with his finger.

tape /ˈteɪp/ noun a long thin flat piece of material.

tapeworm /ˈteɪpwɜːrn/ 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.

Tapping /ˈteɪpɪŋ/ noun same as paracentesis.

Target /ˈteɪrɡt/ 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.

tarsal /ˈteɪsal/ prefix same as tarso- (used before vowels)

tarsos /ˈteɪsoʊs/ adjective referring to the tarso- prefix as tarsos.

Tarsal bone /ˈteɪsəl bəʊn/ noun one of seven small bones in the ankle, including the talus and calcaneus. Also called tarsal.

Tarsalgia /ˈteɪsəldʒɪə/ noun a pain in the ankle.

Tarsal gland /ˈteɪsəl ɡlænd/ noun same as meibomian gland.

Tarsectomy /ˈteɪsɛktəmɪ/ 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.

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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 /ˈtɑːtrəzain/ 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 əˌlɛkˈʃən/ noun a system in which patient care is divided into tasks which are given to different nurses with specific skills
taste /tɛst/ 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. ■ verb 1. to notice the taste of something with the tongue. I have a cold so I can’t taste anything. You can taste the salt in this butter. 2. to have a taste. The tablets taste of peppermint.
taste bud /ˈtɛst 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 /ˈtɔərən/ noun an amino acid which forms bile salts
taxi /ˈtæksii/ noun the procedure of pushing or massaging dislocated bones or hernias to make them return to their usual position ■ -taxi /ˈtæksi/ suffix manipulation
taxonomy /tækˈsənəməri/ 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 ˈsɛks diˈziːz/ 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.]
TB abbr tuberculosis ○ He is suffering from TB. ○ She has been admitted to a TB sanatorium.
T bandage /ˈtiː ˈbændidʒ/ noun a bandage shaped like the letter T, used for bandaging the area between the legs
TBI abbreviation total body irradiation
t-cell /ˈtɛ sl/ noun same as T lymphocyte
TCP a trade name for various mild antiseptic liquids
T.D.S. or T.D.S. TDS adverb (written on prescriptions) three times a day. Full term ter in diem s
denuendus
tea /tiːə/ noun 1. the dried leaves of a plant used to make a hot drink. 2. a hot drink made by pouring boiling water onto the dried leaves of a plant. teach /tiːʃ/ verb 1. to give lessons in something. Professor Smith teaches neurosurgery. 2. to show someone how to do something. She was taught first aid by her mother. (NOTE: teaching – taught)
teaching hospital /ˈtiːʃiŋ ˌhɒspɪt(ə)l/ noun a hospital attached to a medical school where student doctors work and study as part of their training
team /tiːm/ noun a group of people who work together. The heart-lung transplant was carried out by a team of surgeons.
team nursing /ˈtiːm ˈnɜːznɪŋ/ noun a system in which the care of a group of patients is assigned to a team of four or five health workers, led by a professional nurse who assigns them various tasks. They meet at the beginning and end of each shift to exchange information.
tear /teər/ noun 1. a drop of the salty fluid which forms in the lacrimal gland. The fluid keeps the eyeball moist and clean and is produced in large quantities when a person cries. 2. a tear in the perineal tissue. ■ verb to make a hole or a split in a tissue by pulling or stretching it too much. He tore a ligament in his ankle. 3. They carried out an operation to repair a torn ligament. (NOTE: tearing – tore – torn)
tear duct /ˈtiːr dɛkst/ noun same as lacrimal duct
tear gland /ˈtiːr ɡlænd/ noun same as lacrimal gland
teat /tiːt/ noun a rubber nipple on the end of a baby’s feeding bottle
technician /tekˈʃənɪən/ noun a qualified person who does practical work in a laboratory or scientific institution. ○ He is a laboratory technician in a laboratory attached to a teaching hospital.
technique

**technique** /tekˈnɪsk/ **noun** a way of doing scientific or medical work ○ a new technique for treating osteoarthritides ○ She is trying out a 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 catheterization [Journal of the American Medical Association]
- cardiac resuscitation techniques used by over half the nurses in a recent study were described as 'completely ineffective' [Nursing Times]

**tectorial membrane** /tekˈtɔriəl ˈmembrən/ **noun** a membrane in the inner ear which contains the hair cells which transmit impulses to the auditory nerve

**tecostal tract** /tekˈstɔl/ **noun** a tract which takes nerve impulses from the mesencephalon to the spinal cord

**TED** /ˈtiːd/ **abbr** /pipe/vertstrokesuperior /noun/ /term /lengthmark /noun/ /abbreviation for textile

**teething** /ˈtiːθɪŋ/ **noun** the period when a baby's milk teeth are starting to erupt, and the baby is irritable ○ He is awake at night because he is teething. ○ She has teething trouble and won’t eat.

**Teflon** /ˈteflɒn/ **noun** trademark a synthetic polymer injected into the joints of the larynx to increase movement and help hoarseness of voice

**telangiectasia** /ˈteləˌjɛktəsiə/ **noun** a condition in which the small blood vessels, especially in the face and thighs, are permanently dilated producing dark red blotches especially in the face and thighs, are permanent-condition in which the small blood vessels, especially in the face and thighs, are permanently dilated producing dark red blotches, as from the mesencephalon to the spinal cord

**telangiectasis** /ˈteləˌjɛktəsiə/ **noun** small dark red spots on the skin, formed by swollen capillaries

**telangioma** /ˈteləˌjɛnəmə/ **noun** a tumour or haematomata of the blood capillaries

**tele-** /ˈtelə/ **prefix** referring to distance

**teleceptor** /ˈteləˌsɛptər/ **noun** a sensory receptor which receives sensations from a distance. These occur in the eyes, ears and nose. Also called *telerceptor*

**telemedicine** /ˈteləˌmiːdɛsn/ **noun** the provision of diagnosis and health care from a distance using media such as interactive computer programs or off-site advisers

**telencephalon** /ˈteləˌkɛfələn/ **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

**teleradiography** /ˌteləˌreɪdiəˈɡrafi/ **noun** a type of radiography where the source of the X-rays is at a distance from the person being X-rayed

**teleradiology** /ˌteləˌreɪdiəˈlədʒi/ **noun** the process of transmitting scans and other images electronically so that they can be viewed by surgeons or other health care workers in different locations at the same time

**teleradiotherapy** /ˌteləˌreɪdiəˈθerəpi/ **noun** a type of radiotherapy, where the person being treated is some way away from the source of radiation

**telerceptor** /ˌteləˌrɛsˈpɛtər/ **noun** same as teleceptor

**telo-** /ˈteləʊ/ **prefix** referring to an end

**telereceptor** /ˌteləˌriˌsɛptər/ **noun** a sensory receptor which receives sensations from a distance. These occur in the eyes, ears and nose. Also called *telerceptor*

**temperature** /ˈtemprərəsi/ **noun** 1. the heat of the body or of the surrounding air, measured in degrees ○ The doctor asked the nurse what the patient’s temperature was. ○ His temperature was slightly above normal. ○ The thermometer showed a temperature of 99°F. ○ to take a patient’s temperature to insert a thermometer in someone’s body to see what his or her body temperature is ○ They took his temperature every four hours. ○ When her temperature was taken this morning, it was normal. 2. illness when your body is hotter than normal ○ He’s in bed with a temperature. ○ Her mother says she’s got a temperature, and can’t come to work.

**temazepam** /ˈteːməzəˌpeɪpəm/ **noun** a hypnotic drug used in the short-term treatment of insomnia

**temperature chart** /ˈtemprərəsi tʃɑːt/ **noun** a chart showing changes in a person’s temperature over a period of time

**temperature graph** /ˈtemprərəsi graʊf/ **noun** a graph showing how a person’s temperature rises and falls over a period of time

**temper tantrum** /ˈtempər ˈtæntrəm/ **noun** a temper tantrum

**temple** /ˈtempəl/ **noun** the flat part of the side of the head between the top of the ear and the eye
tenosynovitis /ˈtenəsɪnəvətɪs/ noun the condition of inflammation of the tendon sheaths.
tenotomy /tɛnəˈtɒmi/ noun a surgical operation to cut through a tendon

tenovaginitis /ˈtenəʊveɪdʒɪnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the tendon sheath, especially in the thumb

TENS /tɛns/ 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 /tɛns/ 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 2. an emotional strain or stress
tension headache /ˈtenʃən hɛdˈek/ noun a headache all over the head, caused by worry and stress
tension pneumothorax /ˈtenʃən njuːməʊræks/ 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 /ˈtenəs/ noun a muscle which makes a joint stretch out
tent /tɛnt/ noun a small shelter put over and around someone’s bed so that gas or vapour can be passed inside
tentorium cerebelli /ˈtenəriəm ,serəˈbɛlɪ/ noun a part of the dura mater which separates the cerebellum from the cerebral hemispheres
tera- /ˈtɛrə/ prefix commonly used in names of branched alcohols and sterols

terat- /ˈterət-, tɛrət-/ prefix congenitally unusual
teratocarcinoma /ˌterətəˈkɑːrkəˌnəʊmə/ noun a malignant teratoma, usually in the testes
teratogen /tɪˈrɑːtɪdʒən/ noun a substance which causes the usual development of an embryo or fetus to be disrupted, e.g. the German measles virus
teratogenesis /ˌterətəˈdʒenəsɪs/ noun an unusual pattern of development in an embryo and fetus

teratogenic /ˌtɛrətədʒəˈnɪk/ 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 /ˌtɛrələˈtɒlədʒɪ/ noun the study of the unhealthy development of embryos and fetuses
teratoma /ˌtɛrəˈtɒmə/ noun a tumour, especially in ovary or testis, which is formed of tissue not usually found in that part of the body
terbutaline /ˈtɛrˈbʌtəlɪn/ noun a drug which relaxes muscles, used in the treatment of respiratory disorders and to control premature labour
teréz /ˈtɛrɛz/ 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.
tefenadine /tɛfənəˈdɪn/ noun an antihistamine used in the treatment of hay fever and urticaria
term /tɛrm/ noun 1. a limited period of time, especially the period from conception to childbirth, or a point in time determined for an event ○ she was coming near to term 2. referring to the last stage of a fatal illness ○ the disease is in its terminal stages. 3. a name or word for a particular thing terminal /ˈtɛrmɪnəl/ adjective 1. referring to the last stage of a fatal illness ○ 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 /ˈtɛrmɪnəl brɑːntʃ/ noun the end part of a neurone which is linked to a muscle. See illustration at neurone in Supplement

terminale /ˌtɛrmɪnəl/ lfilum terminale terminal illness /ˈtɛrmɪnəl ˈɪləʊ/ noun an illness from which someone will soon die

terminally ill /ˌtɛrmɪnəlɪ /ˈɪl/ adjective very ill and about to die ○ she was admitted to a hospital for terminally ill patients or for the terminally ill.
termination /ˌtɛrmɪnəʃən/ noun the act of ending something ○ termination of pregnancy abortion
-terol /ˈtɛrəl/ suffix used in names of bronchodilators
tertian /tɜːˈtʃiən/ 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. ○ quartan fever

tertiary /ˈtɛrəri/ adjective third, coming after secondary and primary

tertiary bronchi /ˈtɛrərɪ ˈbrɒŋkɪ/ plural noun s phlegm. same as segmental bronchi

tertiary care /ˈtɛrərɪ ˈkɛə, tɛrərɪ ˈkɛə/ 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 /'testi:s/ plural of testis
testicle /'testik(ə)l/ noun same as testis
testicular /te'istikjʊlə/ adjective referring to the testes ○ Testicular cancer comprises only 1% of all malignant neoplasms in the male.
testicular artery /te'istikjʊlə 'ɛrətə/ noun same as spermatic artery
testicular hormone /te'sistikjʊlə 'hɔːməʊrən/ noun testosterone
tests /'testɪs/ noun one of two male sex glands in the scrotum. See illustration at URO-
test meal /'test miːl/ noun a test to check the secretion of gastric juices, no longer much used
testosterone /te'ʃtəstərəʊn/ 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 /'test ⁵tjuːb/ noun a small glass tube with a rounded bottom, used in laboratories to hold samples of liquids
test-tube baby /'test ⁵tjuːb bɛbɪ/ 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 /'tetənɪk/ adjective referring to tetanus
tetano- /'tetənəʊ/ prefix 1. relating to tetanus 2. relating to tetany
tetanus /'tetənəʊs/ 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 lock-jaw

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 /'tetənɪ/ 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- /'tɛtra/ prefix four
tetacycline /ˌtɛtraˈsɛkliːn/ 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.
tetradactyly /ˌtɛtraˈdæktɪli/ noun a congenital condition in which a child has only four fingers or toes
tetralogy of Fallot /ˌtɛtraˈlɒɡi əv 'fæləu/ noun a disorder of the heart which makes a child’s skin blue. Also called Fallot’s tetralogy. ○ Bialock’s operation, Waterston’s operation

COMMENT: The condition is formed of four conditions occurring together: the artery leading between the ventricles and the aorta is not correctly placed.
tetraplegia /ˌtɛtraˈplɪdʒiə/ same as quadriplegia
textbook /'tekstbʊk/ noun a book which is used by students ○ a haematology textbook ○ a textbook on haematology
textbook case /'tekstbʊk kεs/ noun a case which shows symptoms which are exactly like those described in a textbook, a very typical case
thalam- /'θæləm-/ prefix same as thalamo-

(used before vowels) thalamencephalon /'θæləmenkə'ʃɛlən/ noun a group of structures in the brain linked to the brain stem, formed of the epithalamus, hypothalamus and thalamus
thalamic syndrome /'θæləmɪk ,sɪndrəm/ noun a condition in which someone is extremely sensitive to pain, caused by a disorder of the thalamus
thalamo- /'θæləməʊ/ prefix referring to the thalamus
thalamocortical tract /ˌθæləməʊkɔr'tɪkl trækt/ noun a tract containing nerve fibres, running from the thalamus to the sensory cortex
thalatomy /ˌθælə'mɒmi/ noun a surgical operation to make an incision into the thalamus to treat intractable pain
thalamus /'θæləməʊs/ noun one of two masses of grey matter situated beneath the cerebrum where impulses from the sensory nerves are transmitted to the cerebral cortex.
thalassaemia

See illustration at [BRAN] in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is thalasmi.)

thalassaemia /θeɪˈleɪsəmiə/ noun a hereditary disorder of which there are several forms caused by an anomalies 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 /θeɪˈlɪdmɔɪd/ 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.

thalium scan /θeɪˈliəm skən/ noun a method of finding out if 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 /θeɪˈnætəlɒdʒi/ noun the study of the medical, psychological and sociological aspects of death and the ways in which people deal with it

thaw /θɔʊ/ verb to bring something which is frozen back to usual temperature

theatre /θeɪˈtɜːr/ 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 /θeɪˈtɜːr ɡəʊn/ 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 /θeɪˈtɜːr ɜːnɜːs/ noun a nurse who is specially trained to assist a surgeon during an operation

theca /θeɪkə/ noun a tissue shaped like a sheath

theiarch /θeɪˈɪərək/ noun the beginning of the process of breast development in young women

thenar /θiˈnər/ adjective referring to the palm of the hand; [nɔr] the palm of the hand. Compare hypotenar

thenar eminence /θiˈnər ɪˈmɪnəns/ noun the ball of the thumb, the lump of flesh in the palm of the hand below the thumb

theophylline /θiˈfɪləni/ 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 /θiˈri/ noun an argument which explains a scientific fact

therapeutic /θərəˈpiːjʊtɪk/ adjective given in order to cure a disorder or disease

therapeutic abortion /θərəˈpiːjʊtɪk əˈbɔrˈʃən/ noun an abortion which is carried out because the health of the mother is in danger

therapeutic index /θərəˈpiːjʊtɪk ˈɪndeks/ 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 /θərəˈpiːjʊtɪk ˈreɪdɪəˌɡrɑːfə/ noun someone specially trained to use X-rays or radioactive isotopes in the treatment of patients

therapeutics /θərəˈpiːʃtɪks/ noun the study of various types of treatment and their effect on patients

therapist /θeɪˈræpsɪst/ noun a person specially trained to give therapy 2 an occupational therapist 3 a psychotherapist

therapy /θeɪˈri/ 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 10⁸ joules

thermal /θɜːməl/ adjective referring to heat

thermal anaesthesia /θɜːməl əˈænəsɪs/ noun the loss of the feeling of heat

thermo- /θɜːmə/ prefix referring to heat or temperature

thermoanaesthesia /θɜːməʊˈænəsɪs/ noun a condition in which someone cannot tell the difference between hot and cold

thermocautery /θɜːməˈkeətəri/ noun the procedure of removing dead tissue by heat

thermocoagulation /θɜːməˈkəʊˌɡələˈkeɪʃən/ 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 /θɜːməˈɡrəfi/ 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

thermolytic /θɜːrməˈlɒtɪs/ noun a loss of body temperature, e.g. by sweating

thermometer /θɜːməˈmɔːtər/ noun an instrument for measuring temperature

thermophilic /θɜːməˈfɪlɪk/ adjective referring to an organism which needs a high temperature to grow

thermoresistant /θɜːməˈrɪznət/ adjective a sensory nerve which registers heat

thermotaxis /θɜːməˈtæksɪs/ noun an automatic regulation of the body’s temperature

thermotherapy /θɜːməˈθerəpi/ noun treatment using heat, e.g. from hot water or infra-red lamps, to treat conditions such as arthritis and bad circulation. Also called heat therapy

thiamine /θeɪˈamiːn/ thiamin /θeɪˈmiːn/ noun same as Vitamin B₁
thicken /ˈθɪkən/ 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 graft /ˈtɪrsʃ ɡræft/ Thiersch’s graft /ˈtɪrsʃ ɡræft/ same as split-skin graft

thigh /θaɪ/ noun the top part of the leg from the knee to the groin

thighbone /θaɪˈbɒn/ 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: thinner – thinnest)

thiopental sodium /θaɪˈpentən ˈsəʊdiəm/ noun a barbiturate drug used as a rapid-acting intravenous general anaesthetic. Also called thiopentone

thiopentone /θaɪˈpentən ˈsəʊnt/ thiopentone sodium /θaɪˈpentən ˈsəʊdəm/ noun same as thiopental sodium (note: Its chemical formula is C8H13N2O2SN.)

thioridazine /θaɪərəˈdezəzn/ noun a synthetic compound used as a tranquiliser for people who are suffering from a psychosis

third-degree burn /θɜːrd diˈɡriː ˈbɜːn/ noun a burn in which the skin and the tissues beneath it are severely damaged

third-degree haemorrhoids /θɜːrd diˈɡriː ˈhæmərəhɔːrdz/ plural noun haemorrhoids which protrude into the anus permanently

third molar /θɜːrd ˈmɔːlər/ 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 /ˈθɜːsti/ adjective wanting to drink ○ If the patient is thirsty, give her a glass of water.

thoracentesis /θɔːrəˈsentɪs/ noun same as thoracocentesis

thoraces /θɔːrəs/ plural of thorax

thoracic /θɔːrəsɪk/ adjective referring to the chest or thorax

thoracic aorta /θɔːrəsɪk ˈɔːrətə/ noun part of the aorta which crosses the thorax

thoracic cavity /θɔːrəsɪk ˈkæviːti/ noun the chest cavity, containing the diaphragm, heart and lungs

thoracic duct /θɔːrəsɪk ˈdʌkt/ noun one of the main terminal ducts carrying lymph, on the left side of the neck

thoracic inlet /θɔːrəsɪk ˈɪnəlt/ noun a small opening at the top of the thorax

thoracic outlet /θɔːrəsɪk ˈaʊtəlt/ noun a large opening at the bottom of the thorax

thoracic outlet syndrome /θɔːrəsɪk ˈaʊtəlr ˌsɜːndərm/ noun same as scalenus syndrome

thoracic vertebrae /θɔːrəsɪk ˈvɜːtəbriː/ plural noun the twelve vertebrae in the spine behind the chest, to which the ribs are attached

thoraco- /θɔːrəkəʊ/ prefix relating to the thorax

thoracocentesis /θɔːrəˈsentɪs/ noun an operation in which a hollow needle is inserted into the pleura to drain fluid

thoracolumbar /θɔːrəˈkʌmərəbər/ adjective referring to the thoracic and lumbar areas of the body

thoracoplasty /θɔːrəˈkɔpləstɪ/ noun a surgical operation to cut through the ribs to allow the lungs to collapse, formerly a treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis

thoracoscope /θɔːrəˈskɒskəp/ noun a surgical instrument, like a tube with a light at the end, used to examine the inside of the chest

thoracoscopy /θɔːrəˈskɒpsə/ noun an examination of the inside of the chest, using a thoracoscope

thoracotomy /θɔːrəˈkɔtəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make a hole in the wall of the chest

thorax /ˈθɔræks/ noun the cavity in the top part of the body above the abdomen, containing the diaphragm, heart and lungs, and surrounded by the ribs

thread /θred/ noun a thin piece of cotton, suture, etc. ○ The surgeon used strong thread to make the suture. Verb: to insert a thin piece of cotton, suture, etc. through the eye of a needle

thread vein /θred ˈvɛrn/ noun a fine vein that is visible through the skin

threadworm /ˈθredwɔːrm/ noun a thin parasitic worm, Enterobius vermicularis, which infects the large intestine and causes itching around the anus. Also called pinworm

thready /ˈθredi/ adjective referring to a pulse which is very weak and can hardly be felt
thready pulse

thready pulse /θrɛdi 'pəls/ noun a very
weak pulse which is hard to detect

threatened abortion /θret(ə)nd ə
'bo:ʃ(ə)n/ noun a possible abortion in the early
stages of pregnancy, indicated by bleeding

threone /θrɛni/ noun an essential ami-
no acid

threshold /θreʃˈhol/ noun 1. the point at
which something starts, e.g. where something
can be perceived by the body or where a drug
starts to have an effect ○ She has a low hearing
threshold. 2. the point at which a sensation is
strong enough to be sensed by the sensory
nerves

...if intracranial pressure rises above the treatment
threshold, it is imperative first to validate the reading
and then to eliminate any factors exacerbating the
rise in pressure' [British Journal of Hospital Medi-
cine]

thrill /θril/ noun a vibration which can be felt
with the hands

thrive /θraɪ/ verb to do well, to live and grow
strongly

-thrix /θrɪks/ suffix relating to a hair

throat /θrɔt/ noun 1. the top part of the tube
which goes down from the mouth to the stom-
ach 2. the front part of the neck below the chin
○ to give a little cough COMMENT: The throat carries both food from
the mouth and air from the nose and mouth. It
divides into the oesophagus, which takes food
to the stomach, and the trachea, which takes
air into the lungs.

throb /θrəb/ verb 1. (of the heart) to beat hard-
and faster than usual, especially from exer-
tion or fear 2. (of a painful part of the body) to
experience pain which continues in repeated short attacks

-throb /θərb/ verb to cause

thromboarteritis /θrəmboʊˈɑrətɪtɪs/ noun
inflammation of an artery caused by
thrombosis

thromboocyte /θrəmboʊˈsɑkt/ noun same as
platelet

thrombocytopenia /θrəmboʊsɪˈtəpɪnɪə/ noun
a disease in which someone has an unusu-
ally high number of platelets in the blood

thrombocytopenia /θrəmboʊsɪˈtəpɪnɪə/ noun
a condition in which someone has an unusually low number of platelets in the blood

thrombocytopenic /θrəmboʊsɪˈtəpɪnɪk/ adjective referring to thrombocytope-
nia

thrombocytosis /θrəmboʊsɪˈtəsɪs/ noun
an increase in the number of platelets in
someone’s blood

thrombo-embolic deterrent stocking /
θrəmboʊʻemˌbəlɪsk ˈdɛrənt stɒkɪŋ/ noun
a support stocking to prevent thrombus for-
mation following surgery. Abbreviated TED

thromboembolism /θrəmboʊˈɪmˌbəlɪsm/ noun
thromboarteritis /θrəmboʊˈɑrətɪtɪs/ noun
inflammation of the inside of an
artery, caused by thrombosis

thrombokinase /θrəmboʊˈkɪnəs/ noun
an enzyme which converts prothrombin into
thrombin and activates the formation of a blood clot

thromboplastin /θrəmboʊˈplɑstɪn/ noun
an enzyme which converts prothrombin into
thrombin, so starting the sequence for coagu-
alation of blood. Also called thromboplatin

thrombolysis /θrəmboʊˈlɪsɪs/ noun same as
fibrinolysis

thrombolytic /θrəmboʊˈlɪtɪk/ adjective
same as fibrinolytic

thromboplastin /θrəmboʊˈplɑstɪn/ noun
an enzyme which converts prothrombin into
thrombin, so starting the sequence for coagu-
alation of blood. Also called thromboplatin

thromboplastin /θrəmboʊˈplɑstɪn/ noun
same as thrombokinase

thrombobolysis /θrəmboʊˈbəlɪsɪs/ noun
the process by which blood platelets are for-
med

thrombosis /θrəmboʊˈsɪs/ noun the block-
ing of an artery or vein by a mass of coagulated
blood

thrombus /θrəmˈbəs/ noun same as blood
clot
cans or the vagina with the bacterium Candida albicans.

thumb /θʌm/ noun the short thick finger, with only two bones, which is separated from the other four fingers on the hand.

thumb-sucking /θʌm sækɪŋ/ noun the action of sucking a thumb. Thumb-sucking tends to push the teeth forward.

thym- /θaɪm/ prefix referring to the thymus gland.

thymectomy /θaɪmˈɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the thymus gland.

-thymia /θaɪmɪə/ suffix referring to a state of mind.

thymic /θaɪmɪk/ adjective referring to the thymus gland.

thymine /θaɪmɪn/ noun one of the four basic chemicals in DNA.

thymitis /θaɪmɨtɪs/ noun inflammation of the thymus gland.

thymocyte /θaɪməʊsɪt/ noun a lymphocyte formed in the thymus gland.

thymol /θaɪməʊl/ noun a colourless compound which is made synthetically or extracted from thyme oil, used as an antiseptic.

thymus /θaɪməs/, thymus gland /θaɪməs glænd/ noun an endocrine gland in the front part of the top of the thorax, behind the breast bone.

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 grows less active as the person becomes an adult. Lymphocytes produced by the thymus grows less active as the person becomes an adult. Lymphocytes produced by the thymus.

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 gland. Abbr TSH.

thyroid gland

thyroiditis /θaɪrɔɪdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the thyroid gland.

thyroid hormone /θaɪrɔɪd hɔrˈməʊn/ noun a hormone produced by the thyroid gland.

thyroiditis /θaɪrɔɪdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the thyroid gland.

thyroid hormone /θaɪrɔɪd hɔrˈməʊn/ noun a hormone produced by the thyroid gland.

thyrocalcitonin /θaɪrɔkɔlkəˌsɪtən/ noun same as calcitonin.

thyrocele /θaɪrəʊsɪl/ noun swelling of the thyroid gland.

thyroglobulin /θaɪrəʊˈɡlɒblɪn/ noun protein stored in the thyroid gland which is broken down into thyroxine.

thyroglossal /θaɪrəʊˈɡləsəl/ adjective referring to the thyroid gland and the throat.

thyroglossal cyst /θaɪrəʊˈɡləsəl sɪst/ noun a cyst in the front of the neck.

thyroid /θaɪrɔɪd/ thyroid gland /θaɪrɔɪd glænd/ an endocrine gland in the neck, which is activated by the pituitary gland and secretes a hormone which regulates the body’s metabolism. Adjective referring to the thyroid gland.

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 /θaɪrɔɪd ˈkɑːrtɪlɪdʒ/ noun a large cartilage in the larynx, part of which forms the Adam’s apple. See illustration at larynx in Supplement.

thyroid depressant /θaɪrɔɪd ˈdɪpresənt/ noun a drug which reduces the activity of the thyroid gland.

thyroid dysfunction /θaɪrɔɪd dɪˈfʌŋkʃən/ noun malfunction of the thyroid gland.

thyroidectomy /θaɪrɔɪd ˈɛkstrəkt/ noun a surgical operation to remove all or part of the thyroid gland.

thyroid extract /θaɪrɔɪd ˈɛkstrækt/ noun a substance extracted from thyroid glands of animals and used to treat hypothyroidism.

thyroid gland /θaɪrɔɪd glænd/ noun same as thyroid.

thyroid hormone /θaɪrɔɪd hɔrˈməʊn/ noun a hormone produced by the thyroid gland.

thyroiditis /θaɪrɔɪdɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the thyroid gland.

thyroid-stimulating hormone /θaɪrɔɪd stɪˈmaʊlətɪŋ hɔrˈməʊn/ noun a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland which stimulates the thyroid gland. Abbrev TSH. Also called thyrotropin.

thyroparathyroidectomy /θaɪrɔˌpærəˌθaɪrɔɪdɪˈɛkstrəkt/ 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 /θaɪrətəmɪ/ noun a surgical opening made in the thyroid cartilage or the thyroid gland.

thyrotropic /θaɪrəˈtɒpɪk/ adjective referring to severe hypothyroidism.

thyrotropic crisis /θaɪrəˈtɒpɪk kraɪˈrɪsɪs/ noun a sudden illness caused by hypothyroidism.

thyrotoxic goitre /θaɪrəˈtɒksɪk ˈgɔɪtr/ noun overactivity of the thyroid gland, as in hyperthyroidism.

thyrotropic releasing hormone /θaɪrəˌtrɒfɪn/ noun a hormone secreted by the hypothalamus, which makes the pituitary gland release thyrotropin, which in turn stimulates the thyroid gland. Abbrev TRH.

thyroxine /θaɪrəˈrɒksɪn/ noun a hormone produced by the thyroid gland which regulates the metabolism.
body's metabolism and the conversion of food into heat, used in treatment of hypothyroidism

**TIA**

abbrev transient ischaemic attack

'... blood pressure control reduces the incidence of first stroke and aspirin appears to reduce the risk of stroke after TIAS 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** /tibial/ adjective referring to the tibia

**tibial artery** /tibialˌærˈtɛri/ noun one of two arteries which run down the front and back of the lower leg

**tibialis** /tibˈɪəliəs/ noun one of two muscles in the lower leg running from the tibia to the foot

**tibial torsion** /tibialˈtoʊʃən/ 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.

**tinea** /tɪˈniə/ noun as an antiseptic

**tincture** /ˈtɪŋktʃər əv /vertstrokeinferiortɪˈniə kə/pipe/vertstrokesuperiorpaɪts/ noun

**timolol** /ˌtɪməˈloʊl/ noun

The surgeon quickly tied up the stitches.

**tired** /ˈtɪrd/ adjective feeling a need to rest

**tiredness** /ˈtɪrdnəs/ noun the condition of being tired

**tissue** /ˈtɪsju/ noun a group of cells that carries out a specific function (NOTE: For other terms referring to tissue, see words beginning with hist-. Here is the formal definition: Tissue: Tissue is a group of cells that work together to carry out a specific function."

**titration** /ˈtɪtrəʃən/ noun the process of identifying various elements in tissue

**TNP classification** /ˈtɛn əm klaɪəsɪfɪ/ noun an internationally agreed

**tissue plasminogen activator** /ˈtɪʃuː ˈplæzˌmɪnədʒən əˈkrɛtərɪə/ noun an agent given to cause fibrinolysis in blood clots. Abbrev TPA

**tissue type** /ˈtɪʃuː ˈtaɪp/ noun the immuno-logical characteristics of a tissue that determine whether or not it can be successfully transplanted into another person

**tissue typing** /ˈtɪʃuː ˈtaɪpɪŋ/ 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** /ˈtɪtənɪəm/ noun a light metallic element which does not corrode (NOTE: The chemical symbol is Ti)

**titration** /ˈtɪtʃən/ noun the process of measuring the strength of a solution

**T lymphocyte** /ˈtɪˌlɪmˌfɑsənt/ noun a lymphocyte formed in the thymus gland. Also called T-cell

**TNM classification** /ˈtɛn əm klaɪəsɪfɪ/ noun

**tinnitus** /ˈtɪnɪtəs/ 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 Menière's disease, infections of the middle ear and acoustic nerve conditions.

**tipped womb** /ˈtɪpt ˈwʊm/ noun US same as retroverted uterus

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tochocerephalography

tocography

tocopherol

toddler’s diarrhoea

toddler’s palsy

tonicity

tonic

tonicity

tonic

toilet training

toilet training

toilet training

tongue depressor

tongue-tie

tonsillitis

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tonsillectomy

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tonsillectomy

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tonsillectomy

tone

tomography

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421

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.

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tonsillectomy /ˌtɒnsɪˌlɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut into the tonsils
tonsil /ˈtɒnsɪl/ noun same as tone
tooth /tuːθ/ 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 /tuːθɛk/ noun a pain in a tooth. Also called odontalgia
topagnosia /ˌtɒpəˈɡænəsɪə/ noun an inability to tell which part of your body has been touched, caused by a disorder of the brain
tophus /ˌtuːfəs/ noun a deposit of solid crystals in the skin or in the joints, especially in someone with gout (NOTE: The plural is tophi)
topical /ˈtɑːpɪkəl/ 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 druːg/ noun a drug which is applied to a specific external part of the body only
topically /ˈtɒpɪklɪ/ adverb by putting on a specific external part of the body only O The cream is applied topically.
topo- /ˈtɒpəʊ/ prefix a place or region
topographical /ˌtɒpəˈɡræfɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to topography
topography /ˌtɒpəˈɡræfɪ/ noun the description of each particular part of the body
torina /ˈtɜːrmɪnə/ noun same as collic
torpid /ˈtɔrpd/ adjective describing a part of the body that has lost the ability to move or feel
torpor /ˈtɔrpoʊ/ noun a condition in which someone seems sleepy or slow to react
torsion /ˈtɔrs(ə)n/ 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 /ˌtɔrtɪˈkɒllɪs/ 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 /ˈtɒt(ə)l/ adjective 1. complete O He has total paralysis of the lower part of the body. 2. throughout the whole body
total body irradiation /ˌtɔt(ə)l ˈbɒdɪ ɪˈrædɪeɪʃn/ noun treating the whole body with radiation
total deafness /ˌtɔt(ə)l ˈdefnəs/ noun being unable to hear any sound at all. O hearing loss
total hip arthroplasty /ˌtɔt(ə)l ˈhɪp əˈθroʊplæstɪ, ˌtɔt(ə)l ˈhɪp riˈθrəʊplæstɪ/ noun the replacement of all the head of the femur and the acetabulum with an artificial joint
total hysterectomy /ˌtɔt(ə)l ˈhɪstrəkˈteɪmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the whole uterus
total pancreatectomy /ˌtɔt(ə)l ˈpænkrɪəˈtekʃən/ noun the surgical removal of the whole pancreas together with part of the duodenum. Also called Whipple's operation
total recall /ˌtɔt(ə)l ˈrɛkəl/ noun the fact of being able to remember something in complete detail
touch /tʌʃ/ 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 feel 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 O The meninges are covered by a layer of tough tissue, the dura mater.
Tourette's syndrome /ˌtʊtərets ,sɪmˈdɹən/ noun, Tourette syndrome /ˌtʊtɪt, sɪmˈdɹən/ noun a condition which includes involuntary movements, tics, use of foreign language and respiratory disorders. Also called Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome
tourniquet /ˈtɔrnɪkət/ 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- /ˈtɒks/ prefix same as toxo- (used before vowels)
toxemia /ˈtɒksəmiə/ noun the presence of poisonous substances in the blood. O blood poisoning (NOTE: The US spelling is toxemia)
toxemia of pregnancy /ˈtɒksəmiə əˈpreznəsi/ 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
The patient's urine.

Specific diseases.

Toxoids are used as vaccines, and are produced in the body by microorganisms, and which can still provoke the formation of anti-

Toxicology is the scientific study of poisons and their effects on the human body. Toxoid-antitoxin is a mixture of a toxoid and an antitoxin, used as a vaccine.

Tracheal tugging is the feeling that something is pulling on the windpipe when the person breathes in, a symptom of aneurysm.

Tracheitis is an inflammation of the trachea due to an infection.

Tracheorrhaphy is a surgical operation to repair tears in the cervix of the uterus.

Tracheo- refers to the trachea.

Tracheobronchitis is inflammation of both the trachea and the bronchi.

Tracheo-oesophageal refers to both the trachea and the oesophagus.

Tracheostomy is a surgical operation to treat glaucoma by cutting a channel through trabeculae to link with Schlemm's canal.

Tracer is a substance, often a radioactive one, injected into a substance in the body, so that doctors can follow its passage round the body.

Trachea is 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.

Trachea, trachea, pl. tracheas. Noun

A surgical operation to treat glaucoma by cutting a channel through trabeculae to link with Schlemm's canal.
traction

which initially contaminate the fistula tract [Nursing Times]

traction  /trækʃən/ 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 fixed over the patient’s bed so that the limb can be pulled hard enough to counteract the tendency of the muscles to contract and pull it back to its original position. Traction can also be used for slipped discs and other dislocations. Other forms of traction include frames attached to the body.

tractotomy /trækˈtɒtəmɪ/ 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

trague /træɡ/ noun a piece of cartilage in the outer ear which projects forward over the entrance to the auditory canal

training /ˈtrenɪŋ/ noun the process of educating by giving instruction and the opportunity to practise

trait /breɪt/ noun 1. a typical characteristic of someone 2. a genetically controlled characteristic

trance /træns/ 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 ○ a hypnotic trance

transaminase /trænsˈæmənɪs/ noun an enzyme involved in the transamination of amino acids

transamination /transˌəməˈneɪʃən/ noun the process by which amino acids are metabolised in the liver

transcendental meditation /ˌtrænsˌsɛntəl medˈɪʃn/ noun a type of meditation in which the same words or sounds are repeated silently

transcription /trænsˈskrɪpʃən/ 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 /ˌtrænskjuːtəˈnjuːz iˈlektrɪk/ noun full form of TENS

transdermal /trænzˈdɜːrml/ adjective referring to a drug which is released through the skin

transdermal patch /trænzˈdɜːrml pætʃ/ noun a patch containing medication applied to the skin and releasing its contents into the body over a period of time

transdiaphragmatic approach /trænzˌdaɪəˈfæɡmætɪk əˈprəʊʃ/ noun an operation carried out through the diaphragm

transsection /trænzˈsɛkʃən/ 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 /trænˈfəz/ 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 ○ The patient was transferred to a special burns unit.

transference /trænˈfɜːrəns/ noun (in psychiatry) a condition in which someone transfers to 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 /trænzˈfɜːrɪn/ noun a substance found in the blood, which carries iron in the bloodstream. Also called siderophilin

transfusion /trænˈfjuːzən/ noun the procedure of transferring blood or saline fluids from a container into someone’s bloodstream

transient /trænzˈɛnt/ adjective not lasting long

transient ischaemic attack /trænzˈɛnt ɪˈskeɪmɪk/ noun a mild stroke caused by a brief stoppage of blood supply to the brain. Abbrev TIA

transillumination /trænsˌɪljuˈmɪnən/ noun an examination of an organ by shining a bright light through it

transitional /trænsˈɪʃənl/ adjective in the process of developing into something

transitional epithelium /trænzˈɪʃənl əˈpɪθelɪəm/ noun a type of epithelium found in the urethra

translocation /trænsˈloʊkeɪʃən/ 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 (transluˈsənt) adj allowing light to pass through, but not enough to allow objects on the other side to be clearly distinguished

translumbar (transˈluːmber) adj through the lumbar region

transmigration (ˌtrænzˌmiɡˈrāʃən) n the movement of a cell through a membrane

transmission-based precautions (transˈmizhən-bərd) n 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 (transˈmit) vi to pass something such as a message or a disease or impulses are transmitted along the neural pathways. vi The disease is transmitted by lice.

transparent (transˈpərənt) adj able to be seen through or visible through The cornea is a transparent tissue on the front of the eye

transplanted (transˈpləntid) adj through the placenta

transplant (transˈplant) n 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. vi The kidney transplant was rejected.

transplantation (ˌtrænzˈplæntəˈʃən) n the act of transplanting something. vi Bone marrow transplantation has the added complication of graft-versus-host disease.

transport (transˈpərt) vi to carry someone or something to another place. Arterial blood transports oxygen to the tissues.

transposition (ˌtrænzˈpərəzən) n a conditional condition where the aorta and pulmonary artery are placed on the opposite side of the body to their usual position

transpyloric plane (ˌtrænzˈpələrɪk) n a plane at right angles to the sagittal plane, passing midway between the suprasternal notch and the symphyses pubis. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

transrectal (transˈrɛktəl) adj through the rectum

425 transverse presentation

transsexual (transˈseksjuəl) adj feeling uncomfortable with their birth gender. n a person, especially a man, who feels uncomfortable with their birth gender

transsexualism (transˈseksjooˌlizəm) n a condition in which a person, especially a man, feels uncomfortable with their birth gender

transstibial plane (ˌtrænzˈstəbtəl) n an imaginary horizontal line drawn across the lower abdomen at the level of the projecting parts of the iliac bones. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement. Also called intertubercular plane.

transudate (ˌtrænzˌjooˌdət) n a fluid which passes through the pores of a membrane. It contains less protein or solid material than an exudate.

transudation (ˌtrænzˌjooˌdeˈshən) n the process of passing a fluid from the body’s cells through the pores of a membrane

transureteroureterostomy (ˌtrænzˈjooˌrəˌjooˌrəˌrəˈtərəˌstəməˌtəri) n a surgical operation in which both ureters are brought to the same side in the abdomen, because one is damaged or obstructed

transurethral (ˌtrænzˌjooˌrəˈθərəl) adj through the urethra

transurethral prostatectomy (ˌtrænzˌjooˌrəˌθərəˌprəzəˈtekˌtəməˌtəri) n 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 (ˌtrænzˈvægəˌnəl) adj across or through the vagina

transverse (trənsˈvərs) adj across, at right angles to an organ

transverse arch (trənsˈvərəs) n same as metasternal arch

transverse colon (trənsˈvərəs) n the second section of the colon which crosses the body below the stomach. See illustration at DIGESTIVE SYSTEM in Supplement

transverse fracture (trənsˈvərəs) n a fracture where the bone is broken straight across

transverse line (trənsˈvərəs) n a line or position of a fetus across the body of the mother

transverse plane (trənsˈvərəs) n a plane at right angles to the sagittal plane, running horizontally across the body. See illustration at ANATOMICAL TERMS in Supplement

transverse presentation (trənsˈvərəs) n a position of the baby in the uterus, where the baby’s side will appear first, usually requiring urgent manipulation or cesarean section to prevent complications
Medicine.fm  Page 426  Thursday, November 20, 2003  4:26 PM

transverse process /trænsˈvərˌsiz/ noun the part of a vertebra which protrudes at the side

transvesical prostatectomy /trænsˈvɛsɪkl prəˈstəʊˌtekˈtrɒmə/ noun an operation to remove the prostate gland, carried out through the bladder

transvestism /trænˈvɛstɪzəm/ noun the condition of liking to dress and behave as a member of the opposite sex

trapezium /træˈpɪzɪəm/ noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist, below the first finger. See illustration at HAND in Supplement

trapezoid /træˈpɪzɔd/ trapezoid bone /ˈtræpɪzɔd bɔɪn/ noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist, below the first finger. See illustration at HAND in Supplement

trauma /ˈtrɔmə/ noun 1. a wound or injury 2. a very frightening or distressing experience which gives a person a severe emotional shock

trauma centre /ˈtrɔmə sɛntrer/ noun a hospital or a department in a hospital that treats people who have complex, life-threatening injuries

traumatic /trəˈmætɪk/ adjective 1. caused by an injury 2. extremely frightening, distressing or shocking

traumatic fever /ˈtræmətɪk fɪvər/ noun a fever caused by an injury

traumatic pneumothorax /trəˈmætɪk ˈnjuːməθərɔks/ 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 /trəˈmætəlɒdʒi/ noun a branch of surgery which deals with injuries received in accidents

traveller’s diarrhoea /trəˈvɛlərz ˈdɪərəˌhoʊə/ 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 one they are used to. (informal)

travel sickness /trəˈvɛlərz ˈsɪknəs/ noun same as motion sickness

trazodone /træzəˈdɒni/ noun an antidepressant drug which has a strong sedative effect, used in the treatment of depressive disorders accompanied by insomnia

Treachers Collins syndrome /trɪˈθɜːrs kəlɪnz, ˈsɪndrəʊm/ noun a hereditary disorder in which the lower jaw, the cheek bones, and the ear are not fully developed
Medicine.fm Page 427 Thursday, November 20, 2003 4:26 PM

Treponema /trɪpə'niːmə/ noun a genus of bacteria which cause diseases such as syphilis or yaws
treponematosis /trɪpə'niːmətəʊsɪs/ noun an infection by the bacterium Treponema pertensio; yaws
TRH abbr thyrotropin-releasing hormone
triad /traɪəd/ noun three organs or three symptoms which are linked together in a group
triage /traɪʒ/ noun the system in which a doctor or nurse sees patients briefly in order to decide who should be treated first
trial /traɪəl/ 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 o clinical trials o a six-month trial period o We’re supplying it on a trial basis. m verb to test something as part of a trial
triamcinolone /traɪəm'sɪnələʊn/ noun a synthetic corticosteroid drug used in the treatment of skin, mouth and joint inflammations
triangle /traɪəŋɡəl/ noun 1. a flat shape which has three sides 2. part of the body with three sides
triangular /traɪəŋɡjʊəl/ adjective with three sides
triangular bandage /traɪəŋɡjʊəl 'bændɪdʒ/ noun a bandage made of a triangle of cloth, used to make a sling for the arm
triceps /traɪsɛps/ noun a muscle formed of three parts, which are joined to form one tendon
triceps brachii /traɪsɛps 'braʃkiː/ noun a muscle in the back part of the upper arm which makes the forearm stretch out
trich- /trɪk/ prefix same as tricho- (used before vowel)
trichiasis /trɪkə'ziːs/ noun a painful condition in which the eyelashes grow in towards the eye and scratch the eyeball
trichinosis /trɪkɪ'niːɒsɪs/, trichiniasis /trɪkɪ'tiːnəsɪs/ 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- /trɪkəʊ/ prefix 1. referring to hair 2. like hair
Trichocephaulus /trɪkɔsə'fɛləʊs/ noun same as Trichurus
trichology /trɪkə'loʊdʒiː/ noun the study of hair and the diseases which affect it
Trichomonas /trɪkɔmənəs/ noun a species of long thin parasite which infests the intestines
Trichomonas vaginalis /trɪkɔmənəs vædʒɪnəlɪs/ noun a parasite which infests the vagina and causes an irritating discharge
trichomoniasis /trɪkɔmə'nəsɪs/ noun infestation of the intestine or vagina with Trichomonas
trichomycosis /trɪkɔ'mɔkəsɪs/ noun a disease of the hair caused by a corynebacterium
Trichophytton /trɪkɔ'fɪtɒn/ noun a fungus which affects the skin, hair and nails
trichophytosis /trɪkɔfə'tiːsɪs/ noun an infection caused by Trichophyton
trichosis /trɪkə'kɔsɪs/ noun any unusual condition of the hair
trichotillomania /trɪkə'tɪləmənɪə/ noun a condition in which a person pulls his or her hair out compulsively
trichromatism /trɪkə'kɒrəmətɪz(ə)m/ noun vision which allows the difference between the three primary colours to be seen. Compare dichromatism, monochromatism
trichrome stain /trɪkroʊm ˈsten/ noun a stain in three colours used in histology
trichuriasis /trɪkjuə'riːəsɪs/ noun an infestation of the intestine with whipworms
Trichuris /trɪkjuə'sɪs/ noun a thin round parasitic worm which infests the caecum. Also called whipworm
tricusp /trɪkəsp/ noun something which has three cusps, e.g. a tooth or leaf m adjective 1. having three cusps or points 2. referring to a tricuspid valve or tooth
tricuspid valve /trɪkəspɪd vəl/ 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 /trɪsɪsɪk əd'prɛsɪdənt/ 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 /traɪdˈæktɪli/ noun the condition of having only three fingers or toes
trifocal lenses /traɪˈfɒləs/ plural noun spectacles which have three lenses combined in one piece of glass to give clear vision over different distances. o bifocal
trigeminal /traɪɡəˈmɪnəl/ adjective in three parts
trigeminal ganglion /traɪɡəˈmɪnəl ˈɡæŋglɪən/ noun a sensory ganglion containing the cells of origin of the sensory fibres in the fifth cranial nerve. Also called Gasserian ganglion
trigeminal nerve /traɪɡəˈmɪnəl ˈnɜːv/ noun the fifth cranial nerve, formed of the ophthalmic nerve, the maxillary nerve and the mandibular nerve, which controls the sensory
trigeminal neuralgia

nerves in the forehead, face and chin, and the muscles in the jaw.

trigeminal neuralgia /traɪˈdʒɛmnəl/ noun a disorder of the trigeminal nerve, which sends intense pains shooting across the face. Also called tic douloureux.

trigeminy /traɪˈdʒɛməni/ 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, ˈfrɪɡər/ noun a condition in which a finger can bend but is difficult to straighten, probably because of a nodule on the flexor tendon.

triglyceride /traɪˈɡlɪsərd/ noun a substance such as fat which contains three fatty acids.

trigone /traɪˈɡɒn/ noun a triangular piece of the wall of the bladder, between the openings for the urethra and the two ureters.

trigonitis /traɪˈɡɒnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the bottom part of the wall of the bladder.

trigonocephalic /traɪˈdʒəʊnəkəl/ adjective referring to a skull which shows signs of trigonocephaly.

trigonocephaly /traɪˈdʒəʊnəkəlɪ/ 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.)

trochlear /traʊˈklɪər/ adjective referring to a ring in a bone.

trochlear nerve /traʊˈklɪər nɜːr/ noun the fourth cranial nerve which controls the muscles of the eyeball.

trichotomy /traɪˈkɒtəmi/ 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.

trolley /ˈtrɒli/ noun a wheeled table for transporting patients. The patient was placed on a trolley to be taken to the operating theatre.

tropho-/trof- prefix same as tropho- (used before vowel).

trophic /trɒfɪk/ adjective relating to food and nutrition.

trophic ulcer /traʊˈfɪk, ˈʌlər/ noun an ulcer caused by lack of blood, e.g. a bedsore.

tropho-/trof- prefix referring to food or nutrition.

trophoblast /traʊˈfoʊbʌləst/ noun tissue which forms the wall of a blastocyst.

triquetrum /traɪˈkwɛtrəm/ noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist. See illustration at hand in supplement.

trisact /traɪˈzækt/ noun a common form of colour blindness, in which someone cannot see blue. Compare Daltonism, deuteranopia.

trocar /traʊˈkɑr/ noun a surgical instrument or pointed rod which slides inside a cannula to make a hole in tissue to drain off fluid.

trochanter /traʊˈkæntər/ noun one of the eight small carpal bones in the wrist. See illustration at hand in supplement.
tropical

Also called pulmonary artery pains in the head, general lethargy and long trypanosomes infest the blood. Symptoms are zyme secreted by the pancreas into the duode- blood contains too little calcium. It is a sign of latent tetany, showing that the causes the index and middle fingers to extend. tourniquet is applied to the upper arm, which for back trouble the climate is generally very hot and humid coming from areas around the equator where trypanocides some protein ing or referring to tuberculosis

Comment: In Africa, sleeping sickness, and in South America, Chagas’ disease, are both caused by trypanosomes.

Trypsin /ˈtrɪpsetin/ noun an enzyme converted from trypsinsogen by the duodenum and secreted ed into the digestive system where it absorbs protein trypsinsogen /ˈtrɪpsetsoʊn/ noun an enzyme secreted by the pancreas into the duodenum.
tuberculous /ˈtuːbərkləs/ adjective referring to tuberculosis
tuberose /ˈtuːbərəs/ adjective with lumps or nodules
tubercosis /ˈtuːbərkoʊsɪs/ noun same as epiloma
tuberosity /ˈtuːbərəsɪti/ noun a large lump on a bone
tuberculosis /ˈtuːbərkoʊləsɪs/ adjective referring to lumps or nodules
tubular /ˈtuːbərəl/ adjective referring to a Fallopian tube or to the internal or external auditory meatus
tubal /ˈtuːbəl/ adjective referring to Fallopian tube and the abdomen
tubocurarine /ˈtuːbəkʊrərəriːn/ noun a toxic alkaloid which is the active constituent of curare used as a muscle relaxant
tubo-ovarian /ˈtuːbəʊˌvərəˈrɪən/ adjective referring to a Fallopian tube and an ovary
tubotympanal /ˈtuːbəˌtɪmˈpænəl/ adjective referring to the Eustachian tube and the tympanum
tubular /ˈtuːbərəl/ adjective referring to a Fallopian tube

tunable dye laser /ˈtuːnabl/ noun a laser which coagulates fine blood vessels, used to blanch port wine stains

tunic /ˈtuːnɪk/ noun a layer of tissue which covers an organ

tunica adventitia /ˈtuːnɪkə ˌædventɪʃə/ noun an outer layer of the wall of the wall of an artery or vein. Also called adventitia

tunica albuginea testis /ˈtuːnɪkə ˈælbugɪnɪə ˈtestɪs/ noun a white fibrous membrane covering the testes and the ovaries

tunica intima /ˈtuːnɪkə ˈɪntɪmə/ noun the inner layer of the wall of an artery or vein. Also called intima

tunica media /ˈtuːnɪkə ˈmesɪdə/ noun the middle layer of the wall of an artery or vein. Also called media

tunica vaginalis /ˈtuːnɪkə ˈvæɡɪnəlɪs/ noun a membrane covering the testes and epididymis

tuning fork /ˈtuːnɪŋ fɔrk/ noun a metal fork which, if hit, gives out a perfect note, used in hearing tests such as Rinne’s test

tunnel vision /ˈtuːnəl viʒən/ noun vision which is restricted to the area directly in front of the eye

turbinate /ˈtɜrˌbeɪnət/ adjective 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 /ˈtɜrˌbeɪnət bɔn/ noun a nasal concha

turbanotomy /ˈtɜrˌbænətəm/ noun a surgical operation to remove a turbinate bone
two times a day
dizziness
somes, in which sexual development is retard-
b by the absence of one of the pair of X chromo-
somes.
pick up small objects
which pinch and do not cut, used to pull out or
ment shaped like small scissors, with ends
change into something different
ing in body tissue caused by the accumulation
of fluid
He sometimes has a twinge in his right shoul-
der.

fusis /tjʌsɪs/ / noun a swelling in body tissue caused by the accumula-
tion of fluid

turgid /tɜːrɡɪd/ / adjective swollen with blood

turgor /tərɡə/ / noun the condition of being swollen

turn /tɜːrn/ / 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 solu-
tion is turned blue by the reagent.

Turner’s syndrome /ˈtɜːnərəs ˈsɪnədrəm/ / noun a congenital condition in females, caused
by the absence of one of the pair of X chromo-
somes, in which sexual development is retard-
ed and no ovaries develop [Described 1938. Af-
ter Henry Hubert Turner (b. 1892), US endo-
crinologist, Clinical professor of Medicine, Okla-
oma University, USA.]

Turcica /ˈtɜːrkə/ / noun sella turcica

tutu /ˈtjuːtuː/ / noun a tutu, a teacher, a person who
 teaches small groups of students
tweezers /ˈtwiːzəz/ / plural 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 /ˈtwentɪˌfaʊr ˈfljuː/ / noun
 any minor illness similar to flu
which lasts for a short period (informal)
twenty-twenty vision /ˈtwentɪˌtwentɪ ˈvɪʒən/ / noun
perfect vision
twice /twʌs/ / adverb two times ○ twice daily
 two times a day
twilight myopia /ˈtwɪltəmaɪˈpjoʊə/ / noun
 a condition of the eyes, in which someone has
difficulty in seeing in dim light
twilight sleep /ˈtwɪltəslɛp/ / noun a type of anaesthetic sleep, in which the patient is
semi-conscious but cannot feel any pain
twilight state /ˈtwɪltəstɛt/ / noun a condi-
tion 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 child-
birth, by introducing anaesthetics into the rec-
turn.
twin /ˈtwɪn/ / noun one of two babies born to a
mother at the same time

COMMENT: 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.
twine /twɪn/ / noun a sudden sharp pain ○
He sometimes has a twinge in his right shoul-
der.

typhus /ˈtaɪpəs/ / noun a small movement of a
muscle in the face or hands ■ verb to make
small movements of the muscles

twisting /ˈtwɪstɪŋ/ / noun small movements of the
muscles in the face or hands

tylosis /ˈtaɪloʊsɪs/ / noun the development of a cal-
culus
typan-/ / prefix same as tympano-
NOTE: used before vowels
tympanectomy /ˈtɪmpənəˈektəmi/ / noun a
 surgical operation to remove the tympanic
membrane

tympanic /ˈtɪmpənɪk/ / adjective referring to the
eardrum

tympanic bone /ˈtɪmpənɪk bʌn/ / noun the
part of the temporal bone that supports and
partly surrounds the auditory canal
tympanic cavity /ˈtɪmpənɪk ˈkeɪvəti/ / noun
the section of the ear between the eardrum and
the inner ear, containing the three ossicles.
Also called middle ear, tympanum

tympanic membrane /ˈtɪmpənɪk ˈmemɪbriːn/ / noun
the membrane at the inner end of the
external auditory meatus leading from the
outer ear, which vibrates with sound and pas-
es the vibrations to the ossicles in the mid-
dle ear. Also called tympanum, eardrum.
See illustration at EAR in Supplement

COMMENT: Twilight state is induced at child-
birth, by introducing anaesthetics into the rec-
turn.
twin /ˈtwɪn/ / noun one of two babies born to a
mother at the same time

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family, where the tendency to have twins is
passed through females.
twine /twɪn/ / noun a sudden sharp pain ○
He sometimes has a twinge in his right shoul-
der.
Type I diabetes mellitus

Type I diabetes mellitus is the type of diabetes mellitus 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 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 is inflammation of the caecum (large intestine).

Typhoid is an infection of the intestine caused by Salmonella typhi in food and water. The test for typhoid is the Weil-Felix reaction.

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 is adjective showing the usual symptoms of a condition. His gait was typical of a patient suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Typically is adverb in a typical way.

Tyramine is an enzyme found in cheese, beans, tinned fish, red wine and yeast extract, which can cause high blood pressure if found in excessive quantities in the brain.

Tyrosine is an amino acid in protein which is a component of thyroxine, and is a precursor to the catecholamines dopamine, noradrenaline and adrenaline.

Tyrosinosis is a condition in which there is irregular metabolism of tyrosine.
ulcer /ˈʌlsər/ noun an open sore in the skin or in a mucous membrane, which is inflamed and difficult to heal.  

ulcered /ˈʌlsərəd/ adjective covered with ulcers  

ulcerating /ˈʌlsərətɪŋ/ adjective developing into an ulcer  

ulceration /ˈʌlsərəˈteɪʃən/ noun the development of an ulcer  

ulcerative /ˈʌlsərətɪv/ adjective referring to ulcers, or characterised by ulcers  

ulcerative colitis /ˈʌlsərətɪv kəˈlɪtɪs/ noun severe pain in the colon, with diarrhoea and ulcers in the rectum, often with a psychosomatic cause  

ulceromembranous gingivitis /ˌʌlsəˈrəʊməˈbrənəs jɪŋˈvɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the gums, which can also affect the mucous membrane in the mouth  

ulceroius /ˌʌlsəˈriəs/ adjective 1. referring to an ulcer 2. like an ulcer  

ulitis /juˈlətɪs/ noun inflammation of the gums  

ulna /ˈʌlnə/ 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 /ˈʌlnər/ adjective referring to the ulna  

ulnar artery /ˈʌlnər əˈtɑːrɪ/ 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 /ˈʌlnər nɜːv/ 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 /ˈʌlnə pʌls/ noun a secondary pulse in the wrist, taken near the inner edge of the forearm  

ultra- /ˈʌltrə-/ prefix, further than 2. extremely  

ultrafiltration /ˈʌltrəfɪlˈtreɪʃən/ noun the process of filtering the blood to remove tiny particles, e.g. when the blood is filtered by the kidney  

ultramicroscopic /ˌʌltrəˈmaɪkroʊˈskɒpɪk/ adjective referring to something so small that it cannot be seen using a standard microscope  

ultrasonic /ˌʌltrəˈsʌnɪk/ adjective referring to ultrasound  

ultrasonic probe /ˌʌltrəˈsʌnɪkˈprɔbi/ noun an instrument which locates organs or tissues inside the body using ultrasound  

ultrasonics /ˌʌltrəˈsʌnɪks/ noun the study of ultrasound and its use in medical treatments  

ultrasonic waves /ˌʌltrəˈsʌnɪk wɛvz/ plural noun same as ultrasound  

ultrasonogram /ˌʌltrəˈsɒŋəɡræm/ noun a picture made with ultrasound for the purpose of medical examination or diagnosis  

ultrasonograph /ˌʌltrəˈsɒnəɡrɑːf/ noun a machine which takes pictures of internal organs, using ultrasound  

ultrasonography /ˌʌltrəˈsɒnəɡrəfi/ noun the procedure of passing ultrasound waves through the body and recording echoes which show details of internal organs. Also called echography  

ultrasonotomography /ˌʌltrəˌsɒnəˈtɒməɡrəfi/ noun the procedure of making images using ultrasound of organs which are placed at different depths inside the body  

ultrasound /ˌʌlsəˈtrəʊs/ 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

bruising, it can also destroy bacteria and calcu- late.

ultrasound marker /ˌʌlˈtrəʊsənd ˈmɑːrkər/ 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 /ˌʌlˈtrəʊsənd ˈprɔub/ noun same as ultrasonic probe.

ultrasound scan /ˌʌlˈtrəʊsənd ˈskæn/ noun the examination of internal parts of the body, especially a fetus in the womb, using ultrasound technology.

ultrasound scanning /ˌʌlˈtrəʊsənd ˈskæning/ noun a method of gathering information about the body by taking images using high-frequency sound waves.

ultrasound treatment /ˌʌlˈtrəʊsənd 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. Abbreviation UV.

ultraviolet lamp /ˌʌlˈtrəʊvələt ˈlæmp/ noun a lamp which gives off ultraviolet rays.

ultraviolet radiation /ˌʌlˈtrəʊvələt ˈrædɪəʃən/ noun short invisible rays of ultraviolet light. Abbreviation UVR.

umbilical /ˌʌmˈbɪklɪk/ adjective referring to the navel.

umbilical circulation /ˌʌmˈbɪklɪkəl ˈsɜːklərən/ noun the circulation of blood from the mother's bloodstream through the umbilical cord to the fetus.

umbilical cord /ˌʌmˈbɪklɪkəl ˈkɔrd/ noun a cord containing two arteries and one vein which links the fetus inside the uterus to the placenta.

Comment: The arteries carry the blood and nutrients from the placenta to the fetus and the vein carries the waste from the fetus back to the placenta. When the baby is born, the umbilical cord is cut and the end tied in a knot. After a few days, this drops off, leaving the na- vel marking the place where the cord was originally attached.

umbilical hernia /ˌʌmˈbɪklɪkəl ˈhɜːrnɪə/ noun a hernia which bulges at the navel, usually in young children. Also called omphalocele.

umbilical region /ˌʌmˈbɪklɪkəl ˈrɪʒən/ noun the central part of the abdomen, below the epigastrium.

umbilicated /ˈʌmˈbɪklɪkat/ adjective with a small depression, like a navel, in the centre.

umbilicus /ˌʌmˈbɪklɪkəs/ noun same as navel.

umbo /ˈʌmbəʊ/ noun a projecting part in the middle of the outer side of the eardrum.

unaided /ʌnˈɛəd/ adjective without any help.

unblock /ʌnˈblɒk/ verb to remove something which is blocking.

unconscious /ˌʌnˈkɒnʃəs/ adjective not aware of what is happening.

uncontrolled /ˌʌnˈkɔntələd/ adjective not to be controlled.

undecylenic acid /ˌʌndɪsəˈliːnɪk/ noun a substance made from castor bean oil, used in the treatment of fungal infections such as thrush.

undecylenic acid /ˌʌndɪsəˈliːnɪk/ noun a substance made from castor bean oil, used in the treatment of fungal infections such as thrush.

undergo /ˌʌnderˈɡəʊ/ verb to experience something such as a procedure or operation.

undernutrition /ˌʌnderˌnjuːtrəʃən/ noun the condition of having too little food.

underproduction /ˌʌnderprəˌdəʊprəˈʃən/ noun the act of producing less than normal.

undertake /ˌʌndərˈteɪk/ verb to carry out a procedure such as a surgical operation.

underweight /ˌʌndərˈweɪt/ noun being less than normal.

underweight /ˌʌndərˈweɪt/ noun being less than normal.

underweight /ˌʌndərˈweɪt/ noun being less than normal.

underweight /ˌʌndərˈweɪt/ noun being less than normal.

underweight /ˌʌndərˈweɪt/ noun being less than normal.

underweight /ˌʌndərˈweɪt/ noun being less than normal.
underweight /ˌʌndərˈwerti/ adjective weighing less than is medically advisable ○ He is several pounds underweight for his age.

undescended testis /ˌʌndɛsˈendəd ˈtestɪs/ noun a condition in which a testis has not descended into the scrotum

undiagnosed /ˌʌndɪˈɡneɪst/ adjective not identified as a specific disease or disorder

undigested /ˌʌndɪˈɡestɪd/ adjective referring to food which is not digested in the body

undine /ˌʌndaɪn/ noun a glass container for a solution to bathe the eyes

undress /ˌʌndrɛs/ verb to remove clothes

undulant fever /ˌʌndʒuˈlant ˈfɛvr/ same as brucellosis

unfit /ˌʌnˈfɪt/ noun (in pharmacy) an ointment

unguis /ˌʌŋˈgwɪs/ same as nail

unhygienic /ˌʌnˈhɪdʒənɪk/ adjective not clean or good for health ○ The conditions in the hospital laundry have been criticised as unhygienic;

univalent /ˌʌnəˈvɛlənt/ adjective not having or not in a state of being fused with another such as a univalent neurone

uniparous /ˌʌnɪˈpərəs/ adjective referring to a neurone with a single process. Compare bipolar neurone, unipolar neurone.

unipolar neurone /ˌʌnɪˈpərlər ˈnoʊrən/ a 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 ○ a burns unit 3. a named and agreed standard amount used for measuring something ○ 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 ○ a unit of insulin 5. a machine or device ○ a waste-disposal unit

- the blood loss caused by haemorrhage to drop dangerously low, necessitating two units of RBCs and one unit of fresh frozen plasma

United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Visiting /ˈjuːtɪnd, ˈsɛntəl, ˈkənsəl fə ˈhɛər vɪzɪtɪŋ/ noun in the UK from 1979 until April 2002, an organisation which regulated nurses, midwives, and health visitors. The UKCC and the four National Boards have now been replaced by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Abbr UKCC

univalent /ˌjuːnɪˈveɪlənt/ adjective same as monovalent

universal donor /ˌjuːnɪˈvɜrsəl ˈdɔːnər/ noun a person with blood group O, whose blood may be given to anyone

Universal Precautions /ˌjuːnɪˈvɜrsəl prɪˈkærənz/ noun (in pharma-) a machine or device ○ a sterile dressing with no anti-

unmedicated dressing /ˈjuːnɪˌmedɪkətɪd ˈdrɛsn/ noun a sterile dressing with no antiseptic or other medication on it

unmedicated gauze /ˈjuːnɪˌmedɪˌkeɪtɪd ˈɡɔːz/ noun a gauze bandage without any medication on it

unprofessional conduct /ˌʌnprəˈfɛʃəln/ noun action by a professional person such as a doctor or nurse who is considered wrong by the body which regulates the profession ○ refusing to care for someone with HIV-related illness ○ disregarding proper practice ○ unprofessional conduct [Nursing Times]

unqualified /ˌʌnkwɛlˈfɪəd/ adjective referring to someone who has no qualifications or no licence to practise

unsaturated fat /ˌʌnˈsætərətɪd ˈfæt/ 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 ○ an unstable mental condition

unstable angina /ˌʌnˈstɛbl ˈæŋɡənə/ noun angina which has suddenly become worse
down when walking
by kidney failure, where urea is retained in the
gout
in which urates are present in the blood, e.g. in
a child
well
noun:
steady on her legs.

arm from the shoulder to the elbow

urea

ed by the kidneys into the urine
the liver from excess amino acids, and excret-

upper motor neurone

an arm

JUL: 45/26/2003 10:26 PM

uric acid leaves the blood and enters connective tissue

urea

urinary duct

ureteroneocystostomy

for free one or both ureters from adhesions or surrounding tissue

ureteronephrectomy

for free same as nephroureterectomy

ureteroplasty

a surgical operation to repair a ureter

ureteroscope

an instrument which is passed into the ureter and up into the kidneys, usually used to locate or remove a stone
ureterosigmoidostomy /ju:riˌtəriˈsɪgmoʊɪdˌɔstəmi/ same as ureterocolostomy

ureterotomy /ju:riˌtərˈtɒmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to make an incision into the ureter, mainly to remove a stone

urethral catheter /ju:θrəlˈkætər/ n noun referring to a catheter passed up the urethra to allow urine to flow out of the bladder, used to empty the bladder before an abdominal operation. Also called urinary catheter

urethral stricture /ju:θrəlˈstrɪktʃər/ noun a condition in which the urethra is narrowed or blocked by a growth. Also called urethrostenosisis

urethritis /ju:θrətˈθrɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the urethra

urine /ju:ri/ speak as urino- (used before vowels)

urinanalysis /ju:riˌnəˈlɑːnəlɪsɪs/ noun the analysis of urine, to detect diseases such as diabetes mellitus

urinary bladder /ju:riˈnərɪˈblædər/ 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 /ju:riˈnərɪˈkætər/ noun same as urethral catheter

urinary duct /ju:riˈnərɪˈdʌkt/ noun same as ureter

urinary incontinence /ju:riˈnərɪˈinkənˈtɪnəns/ noun the involuntary emission of urine
urinary obstruction

urinary obstruction /juərərni(ə)rɪəbəstrəkʃən/ noun a blockage of the urethra, which prevents urine being passed

urinary retention /juərərni(ə)rɪəri'tenfən/ 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 /juərərni(ə)rɪə'sɪstəm/ 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 /juərərni(ə)rɪətrækt/ 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 /juərərni(ə)rɪətræktɪn,fekʃən/ noun a bacterial infection of any part of the urinary system. Symptoms are usually a need to urinate frequently and pain on urination. Abbreviation UTI

urinate /juərərni/ verb to pass urine from the body

urination /juərərni'nəʃən/ noun the passing of urine out of the body. Also called micturition

urine /juərəni/ 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 /juərərni ri'tenfən/ noun same as urinary retention

uriniferous /juərənɪfərəs/ adjective carrying urine

uriniferous tubule /juərənɪfərəstju'ribjjuəl/ noun same as renal tubule

urino- /juərənɪə/ prefix referring to urine

urinogenital /juərənəu'dʒenət(ə)l/ adjective same as urogenital

urinometer /juərənənmətər/ noun an instrument which measures the specific gravity of urine

urobilin /juərəbɪ'lɪn/ noun a yellow pigment formed when urobilinogen comes into contact with air

urobilinogen /juərəbɪ'lɪnəbɪ'lɪnədʒən/ noun a colourless pigment formed when bilirubin is reduced to stercobilinogen in the intestines

urocele /juərəsəlɪ/ noun a swelling in the scrotum which contains urine

urochasia /juərə'kɪzəsiə/ noun the passing of urine through the rectum, due to injury of the urinary system (note: the US spelling is urochasia)

urochrome /juərəkrəʊm/ noun the pigment which colours the urine yellow

urodynamics /juərədənə'dæmənɪks/ plural noun the active changes which occur during the function of the bladder, urethral sphincter and pelvic floor muscles.

urogenital /juərədʒə'nət(ə)l/ adjective referring to the urinary and genital systems. Also called urogenital

urogenital diaphragm /juərədʒə'nət(ə)ldə'fræm/ noun a fibrous layer beneath the prostate gland through which the urethra passes

urogenital system /juərədʒə'nət(ə)l,ˈsɪstəm/ noun the whole of the urinary tract and reproductive system

urogram /juərəgrəm/ noun an X-ray picture of the urinary system, or of a part of it

urography /juərə'grefəri/ noun an X-ray examination of part of the urinary system after injection of radio-opaque dye

urokinase /juərə'kainəs/ noun an enzyme formed in the kidneys, which begins the process of breaking down blood clots

uro lith /juərəlɪθ/ noun a stone in the urinary system

urological /juərə'lagəkəl/ adjective referring to urology

urologist /juərə'lɒdʒɪst/ noun a doctor who specialises in urology

urology /juərə'lɒdʒi/ noun the scientific study of the urinary system and its diseases

urostomy /juərə'stəmi/ noun the surgical creation of an artificial urethra

urticaria /'ɔːtɪkrəriə/ noun an allergic reaction to injections, particular foods or plants where the skin forms irritating red patches. Also called hives, nettle rash

USP abbrev United States Pharmacopeia

usual /juəsəl/ adjective expected or typical

uter- /'juːtər/ prefix same as utero- (used before vowels)

uteri /juːtərɪ/ plural of uterus

uterine cavity /juːtərɪn 'keɪvəti/ noun the inside of the uterus

uterine fibroid /juːtərɪn 'fɪbrəd/ noun a fibroid tumour of the uterus

uterine fibroma /juːtərɪn 'fɪbrəmə/ noun same as fibroid tumour

uterine prolapse /'juːtərɪn prələps/ noun a condition in which part of the uterus has passed through the vagina, usually after childbirth

uterine retroflexion /'juːtərɪn rɛtrəfleks/ noun a condition in which the uterus bends backwards away from its usual position
uterine retroversion /ˌjʊtərər vəˈtɜr vərən/ noun a condition in which the uterus slopes backwards away from its usual position.

uterine subinvolution /ˌjʊtərər vəˈtɜr vəl vənəl vəl/ noun a condition in which the uterus does not go back to its previous size after childbirth.

uterine tube /ˌjʊtərər və tjuːb/ noun same as Fallopian tube.

utero-/juːtərəʊ/ prefix referring to the uterus.

uterocele /ˌjʊtərəs ˌkələs/ noun a hemia of the uterus. Also called hysterocèle.

uterogestation /ˌjʊtərər əʊˌstɛrəˈteɪʃən/ noun a pregnancy that takes place during which no event occurs. See pregnancy.

uterography /ˌjʊtərər əˈɡrəfɪ/ noun an X-ray examination of the uterus.

uterovarian /ˌjʊtərər vəˈrɪərən/ adjective referring to the uterus and the ovaries.

uterosalpingography /ˌjʊtərər əˌsaʊlˈpɪŋɡərəˈɡrəfɪ/ same as hysterosalpingography.

uterovesical /ˌjʊtərər əˈvɛsɪkəl/ adjective referring to the uterus and the bladder.

uterus /ˌjʊtərəs/ noun the hollow organ in a woman’s pelvic cavity, behind the bladder and in front of the rectum in which the embryo develops before birth. Also called womb. See illustration at UROGENITAL SYSTEM (FEMALE) in Supplement (Note: For other terms referring to the uterus, see words beginning with hyster-, hystero-, metr-, or metr-.)

COMMENT: The top of the uterus is joined to the Fallopian tubes which link it to the ovaries, and the lower end (cervix uteri) opens into the vagina. When an ovum is fertilised it becomes implanted in the wall of the uterus and develops into an embryo inside it. If fertilisation and pregnancy do not take place, the lining of the uterus (endometrium) is shed during menstruation. At childbirth, strong contractions of the wall of the uterus (myometrium) help push the baby out through the vagina.

uterus didelphys /ˌjʊtərəs dəˈdelfɪs/ noun same as double uterus.

UTI abbr urinary tract infection.

utricile /ˌjʊtrɪˈkəl/ utricle /ˌjʊtrəˈkjuːləs/ noun a large sac inside the vestibule of the ear, which relates information about the upright position of the head to the brain.

UV abbreviation ultraviolet.

UV-absorbing lens /ˌjuːv əˈbɜrəbɪŋ ˈlɛns/ noun a lens devised to absorb UVR in order to protect the eyes against the sun.

uvea /ˌjuːveɪə/ noun a layer of organs in the eye beneath the sclera, formed of the iris, the ciliary body, and the choroid. Also called uveal tract.

uveal /ˌjuːvel/ adjective referring to the uvea.

uveal tract /ˌjuːvel trækt/ noun same as uvea.

uveitis /ˌjuːvəˈɪtəs/ noun inflammation of any part of the uvea.

uveoparotid fever /ˌjuːvəˌpærəˈtɪd ʃɪəvə/ uveoparotid syndrome /ˌjuːvəˌpærəˈtɪd ʃəndrəʊm/ noun inflammation of the uvea and of the parotid gland.

UVR abbr ultraviolet radiation.

uvula /ˌjuːvəˈjʊlə/ noun a piece of soft tissue which hangs down from the back of the soft palate.

uvular /ˌjuːvəˈjʊlər/ adjective referring to the uvula.

uvulectomy /ˌjuːvəˈlɛktəmɪ/ noun the surgical removal of the uvula.

uvulitis /ˌjuːvəˈlɪtəs/ noun inflammation of the uvula.

uvulopalatopharyngoplasty /ˌjuːvəˌpələtəˈfɛərɪŋˈplæstɪ/ 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 /ˈvækəˌnɪt/ 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 /ˌvækəˈneɪʃən/ noun the action of vaccinating someone.

COMMENTS: 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 /ˈvækən/ noun a substance which contains antigens to a disease or a weak form of a disease, used to protect people against it.
vaccinotherapy /ˌvækənəˈθerəpi/ noun the treatment of a disease with a vaccine.
vacuole /ˈvækjuəˈoʊl/ noun a space in a fold of a cell membrane.
vacuum /ˈvækjuəm/ noun a space which is completely empty of all matter, including air.
vacuum extraction /ˈvækjuəm ɪkˈstrækʃən/ noun the procedure of pulling on the head of the baby with a suction instrument to aid birth.
vacuum extractor /ˈvækjuəm ɪkˈstrækτər/ noun a surgical instrument formed of a rubber suction cup which is used in vacuum extraction during childbirth.
vacuum suction /ˈvækjuəm ˈsækʃən/ noun a method used to achieve an abortion, after dilatation of the cervix. Also called aspiration.
vagal /ˈvægəl/ adjective referring to the vagus nerve.
vagal tone /ˈvægəl ˈtoun/ noun the action of the vagus nerve to slow the beat of the sinoatrial node.
vagin- /ˈvægin-/ prefix referring to the vagina.
vagina /ˈvægənə/ 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-.)
vaginal /ˈvægənəl/ adjective referring to the vagina.
vaginal bleeding /ˈvægənəl ˈbliːdɪŋ/ noun bleeding from the vagina.
vaginal delivery /ˈvægənəl ˈdrɪvəl/ noun the birth of a baby through the mother’s vagina, without surgical intervention.
vaginal diaphragm /ˈvæɡənəl ˈdɪəfræɡm/ 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 /ˈvæɡənəl ˈdrɪʃ/ noun the flow of liquid from the vagina.
vaginal douche /ˈvæɡənəl ˈdʌʃ/ noun 1. the process of washing out the vagina. 2. a device or liquid for washing out the vagina.
vaginal examination /ˈvæɡənəl ˈekˈzeɪmən/ noun the act of checking the vagina for signs of disease or growth.
vaginalis /ˈvæɡənəl ɪz/ noun 1. same as Trichomonas vaginalis. 2. same as tunica vaginalis.
vaginal orifice /ˈvæɡənəl ˈɔrɪfɪs/ noun an opening leading from the vulva to the uterus.
vaginal proctocele /ˈvæɡənəl ˈprɒktəsəl/ noun a condition associated with prolapse of the uterus, where the rectum protrudes into the vagina.
vaginal suppository /ˈvæɡənəl ˈsʌpərɪstəri/ noun a substance which a person can insert into the vagina.
vaginalis /ˈvæɡənəl ɪz/ noun 1. same as Trichomonas vaginalis. 2. same as tunica vaginalis.
vaginal suppository /ˈvæɡənəl ˈsʌpərɪstəri/ noun a substance which a person can insert into the vagina.
vaginoplasty /ˈvæɡənəpəˈleɪstri/ noun a surgical operation to graft tissue onto the vagina.
The plural is valve

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varicose eczema

the treatment of varicose veins, relating to or producing swelling.

varicose eczema /ˌværɪkəʊs ˈɛkzəm/ noun eczema which develops on the legs, caused by bad circulation. Also called hypostatic eczema.

varicose ulcer /ˌværɪkəʊs ˈʌlsa/ noun an ulcer in the leg as a result of bad circulation and varicose veins.

varicose vein /ˌværɪkəʊs ˈveɪn/ noun a vein, usually in the legs, which becomes twisted and swollen.

varicosity /ˌværɪˈkɒsɪti/ noun (of veins) the condition of being swollen and twisted.

varicotomy /ˌværɪkˈtɒmə/ noun a surgical operation to make a cut into a varicose vein.

varicose eczema /ˌværɪkəʊs ˈɛkzəmə/ noun eczema which develops on the legs, especially a swollen vein in the leg (NOTE: The plural is varices.)

Varoli /vəˈrɔli/ pl. pons Varoli varus /vəˈrɔsə/ varum /ˈvɛərəm/ vara /ˈvɛərə/ adjective turning inwards. (NOTE: The plural is vara.)

Compare valgus.

vary /ˈvɛəri/ verb 1. to change. (NOTE: The dosage varies according to the age of the patient.) 2. to try different actions. The patient was recommended to vary her diet.

vas /vɑːs/ noun a tube in the body (NOTE: The plural is vasa.)

vas- /ˈvæs-/ prefix same as vaso-

vasa deferens /ˈvæsə ˈdefərɛns/ plural noun the group of small tubes which sperm travel down from the testis to the epididymis.

vasa efferentia /ˈvæsə əˈfɛrɛntiə/ plural noun referring to the vas deferens.

vasa vasorum /ˈvæsə ˈveɪsərəm/ plural noun tiny blood vessels in the walls of larger vessels.

vascular /ˈvæskjʊəl/ adjective referring to blood vessels.

vascular dementia /ˈvæskjʊələr ˈdɛməntiə/ noun a form of mental degeneration due to disease of the blood vessels in the brain.

vascularisation /ˌvæskjʊəˈlərəsən/ noun the development of new blood vessels.

vascular lesion /ˈvæskjʊəl ˈlɛʒən/ noun damage to a blood vessel.

vascular system /ˈvæskjʊələr ˈsɪstəm/ noun the series of vessels such as veins, arteries and capillaries, carrying blood around the body.

vasculitis /ˈvæskjʊlətɪs/ noun inflammation of a blood vessel.
the heart

the temporal bones and the occipital bone

temporal bones and the occipital bone

a diet of only vegetables and fruit

vegetarian

fourth is the rectus femoris.

NOTE: The

of the vagus nerve

of the heartbeats caused by excessive activity

which affects the diameter of the vessel

spasm causing the fingers to become cold,

rowing the blood vessels

stance which increases blood pressure by nar-

white and numb.

sickness.

vegetative

nereal diseases

cialising in the diagnosis and treatment of ve-

vectis

amment used in childbirth

mans

which carries a disease and can pass it to hu-

eat meat, dairy produce, eggs or fish and eats

vein

for other terms referring to veins see word-

phleb-, phlebo- or vene-, veno-)

vena cava

one of two large veins which take deoxygenated blood from all the other veins into the right atrium of the heart. See illustration at HEART in Supplement, KIDNEY in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is venae cavae.)

 COMMENT: The superior vena cava brings blood from the head and the top part of the body, while the inferior vena cava brings blood from the abdomen and legs.

vene-

prefix referring to veins

venene

amixture of different venoms, used to produce antivenene

venepuncture

the act of puncturing a vein either to inject a drug or to take a blood sample

venereal

adjective 1. relating to sex acts or sexual desire 2. relating to the genitals 3. referring to an infection or disease which is transmitted through sexual intercourse ○ venereal warts

venereal disease

a disease which is passed from one person to an-

other during sexual intercourse. AbbreviationVD (NOTE: Now usually called a sexually transmitted disease (STD).)

venereal wart

awart on the genitals or in the urogenital area

venereologist

a doctor who specialises in the study of venereal diseases

venereology

the scientific study of venereal diseases

venereum

venereum

same as

venipuncture

the same as

venepuncture

veno-

prefix referring to veins

veneclysis

vene-

venous

phlebogram

venography

venom

a poison in the bite of a snake or insect
venomous

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. Antivenene will counteract the effects of venom, but is only effective if the animal which gave the bite can be correctly identified.

venomous /'vɛnəməs/ adjective referring to an animal which has poison in its bite. The cobra is a venomous snake. He was bitten by a venomous spider.

venosus /'vɛnəsəs/ • ductus venosus

venous /'vɛnəs/ adjective referring to the veins

...venous 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 leg, thus aiding venous return and preventing deep vein thrombosis [MATNews]

venous bleeding /'vɛnəs b'blidɪŋ/ noun bleeding from a vein

venous blood /'vɛnəs blʌd/ noun same as deoxygenated blood

venous haemorrhage /'vɛnəs 'heɪmərədʒ/ noun the escape of blood from a vein

venous system /'vɛnəs ,sɪstəm/ noun a system of veins which brings blood back to the heart from the tissues

venous thrombosis /'vɛnəs θrəmbəʊsɪs/ noun the blocking of a vein by a blood clot

venous ulcer /'vɛnəs 'ʌlkər/ noun an ulcer in the leg, caused by varicose veins or by a blood clot

ventilation /'vɛntɪləʃ(ə)n/ 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 /'vɛntɪlətər/ 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 /'vɛntɪlətɒri fɪləj/ noun a failure of the lungs to oxygenate the blood correctly

Ventimask /'vɛntɪmeɪsk/ a trademark for a type of oxygen mask

Ventolin /'vɛntəlɪn/ a trade name for salbutamol

ventouse /'vɛntəs/ 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 /'vɛntrəl/ adjective 1. referring to the abdomen, referring to the front of the body. Opposite dorsal

ventricle /'vɛntrɪk(ə)l/ 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 /'vɛntrɪk(j)əluː/ prefix referring to a ventricle in the brain or heart

ventricular /'vɛntrɪk(j)əluː/ adjective referring to the ventricles

ventricular fibrillation /'vɛntrɪk(j)əluː fɪbrɪləʃ(ə)n/ noun a serious heart condition where the ventricular muscles flutter and the heart no longer beats. Abbr VF

ventricular folds /'vɛntrɪk(j)əluː fəʊldz/ plural noun same as vocal cords

ventricular septal defect /'vɛntrɪk(j)əluː ˈsep(t)əl dɪ,fekt/ 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

ventricularis /'vɛntrɪk(j)əluː lərɪs/ noun inflammation of the brain ventricles

ventriculogram /'vɛntrɪk(j)ələɡrəm/ noun an X-ray picture of the ventricles of the brain

ventriculography /'vɛntrɪk(j)əluː grəfɪ/ noun a method of taking X-ray pictures of the ventricles of the brain after air has been introduced to replace the cerebrospinal fluid in the brain ventricles

ventriculography /'vɛntrɪk(j)əluː lɑːtrosɪstəmi/ noun an operation to relieve pressure caused by excessive quantities of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain ventricles

ventriculostomy /'vɛntrɪk(j)əluː ˈstɒməsi/ noun a surgical operation to pass a hollow needle into a ventricle of the brain so as to reduce pressure, take a sample of fluid or enlarge the ventricular opening to prevent the need for a shunt

ventro-/ 'vɛntrəʊ/ prefix 1. ventral 2. referring to the abdomen

ventrofixation /'vɛntrəʊfɪkʃ(ə)n/ noun a surgical operation to treat retroversion of the uterus by attaching the uterus to the wall of the abdomen

ventrosuspension /'vɛntrəʊsəs pəˈspənʃən/ noun a surgical operation to treat retroversion of the uterus
ventral canal /ˈvɜːtbrəl ˈkænl/ noun same as spinal canal
vertebral column /ˈvɜːtbrəl ˈkɒlmən/ 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 /ˈvɜːtbrəl ˈdɪsk/ noun same as intervertebral disc
vertebral foramen /ˈvɜːtbrəl ˈfɔːrəmən/ 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 /ˈvɜːtbrəl ˈɡæŋgliən/ noun a ganglion in front of the origin of the vertebral artery
vertebro-basilar insufficiency /ˈvɜːtbrəˈboʊsələr ɪnsəˈfiʃəni/ noun a condition seen in people with mental disorders, in which they keep saying the same words over and over again
vermicide /ˈvɜːrmɪsaɪd/ noun a substance which kills worms in the intestine
vermiform appendix /ˌvɜːrmɪfɔrˈmən əˈpɛndiks/ noun same as appendix 1
vermifuge /ˈvɜːrmɪfjuːɡ/ noun a substance which removes worms from the intestine
vermilion border /ˈvɜːrmɪlɪən ˈbɜːrdər/ noun the external red parts of the lips
vermis /ˈvɜːrmɪs/ noun the central part of the cerebellum, which forms the top of the fourth ventricle
vermix /ˈvɜːrmɪks/ noun a vermiciform appendage
vermix caseosa /ˈvɜːrmɪks ˈkeɪsəsə/ 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: Wart). The plural is verrucas or verrucae
version /ˈvɜːrʒən/ noun the procedure of turning a fetus in a uterus so as to put it in a better position for birth
vertebra /ˈvɜːtbrə/ 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.)
COMMENTS: 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 /ˈvɜːtbrəl/ adjective referring to the vertebrae
vertebral artery /ˈvɜːtbrəl əˈtərē/ noun one of two arteries which go up the back of the neck into the brain

445 vesicovaginal
vesicovaginal fistula

vesicovaginal fistula /ˈvesɪkəˌvæɡənəl/ A fistula is an unusual opening between the bladder and the vagina.

vesicular /ˈvɛsɪkjuələr/ adjective referring to a vesicle.

vesicular breathing /ˈvɛsɪkjuələr ˈbrɪʃtɪŋ/.

vesicular breath sound /ˈvɛsɪkjuələr ˈbreθ ˈsɔʊnd/ plural noun the sound made during the normal breathing process.

vesiculation /ˈvɛsɪkjuəˌleɪʃən/ noun the formation of blisters on the skin.

vesiculectomy /ˌvɛsɪkjuˌlektəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove a seminal vesicle.

vesiculitis /ˈvɛsɪkjuˌlɪtɪs/ noun an X-ray examination of the seminal vesicles.

vesiculopapular /ˈvɛsɪkjuˌpæpʊlər/ adjective referring to a skin disorder which has both blisters and papules.

vesiculopustular /ˈvɛsɪkjuˌpʌʃtʊlər/ adjective referring to a skin disorder which has both blisters and pustules.

vessel /ˈvɛsəl/ noun 1. a tube in the body along which liquid flows, especially a blood vessel.

vessels /ˈvɛsəlz/ plural noun the glands at the point where the vagina and vulva join, which secrete a lubricating substance.

vesicular nerve /ˈvɛsɪkjuələr ˈnɜrve/ noun the part of the auditory nerve which carries information about balance to the brain.

vestibule /ˈvɛstɪbjuːl/ noun a cavity in the body at the entrance to an organ, especially the first cavity in the inner ear or the space in the larynx above the vocal cords or a nostril. See illustration at EAR in Supplement.

vestibulocochlear nerve /ˈvɛstɪbjuˌləʊkəˈliər/ noun the eighth cranial nerve which governs hearing and balance. Also called acoustic nerve, auditory nerve.

vestigial /ˈvɛstɪdʒɪəl/ adjective existing in a rudimentary form. The coccyx is a vestigial tail.

VF abbr ventricular fibrillation. in VF referring to someone whose heart is no longer able to beat.

viability /ˌvɪərəˈbɪləti/ noun the fact of being viable. The viability of the fetus before the 22nd week is doubtful.

viable /ˈvɪərəb(ə)l/ adjective referring to a fetus which can survive if born. A fetus is viable by about the 28th week of pregnancy.

Viagra /vəˈɡreɪə/ a trade name for sildenafil citrate.

vial /ˈvɪəl/ noun same as phial.

Vibramycin /ˈvɪbərəməsɪn/ a trade name for doxycycline.

vibrate /ˈvɪbrɪt/ verb to move rapidly and continuously.

vibration /ˈvɪbrəʃən/ noun rapid and continuous movement.

vibrating white finger /ˈvɪbrətɪŋ ˈwaɪt ˈfɪŋər/ noun a condition caused by long-term use of a chain saw or pneumatic drill, which affects the circulation in the fingers.

vibrator /ˈvɪbrətər/ noun a device to produce vibrations, which may be used for massages.

Vibrio /ˈvɪbrɪəʊ/ noun a genus of Gram-negative bacteria which are found in water and cause cholera.

vibrissae /vɪrˈbrɪsə/ plural noun hairs in the nostrils or ears.

vicious /ˈvɪksjuəs/ adjective done by one organ or agent in place of another.

vicious menstruation /ˈvɪksjuəs ˈmɛnstrjuəʃən/ noun the discharge of blood other than by the vagina during menstrual periods.

victim /ˈvɪktɪm/ noun a person who is injured in an accident or who has caught a disease. The victims of the rail crash were taken to the local hospital.

victimize /ˌvɪktɪˈsaɪm/ verb to fall victim to something.

vicarious /vɪˈkeəriəs/ adjective experienced by one person or agent in place of another.

vicarious menstruation /vɪˈkeəriəs ˈmɛnstrjuəʃən/ noun the discharge of blood other than by the vagina during menstrual periods.

vigour /ˈvɪʒər/ noun a combination of positive attributes expressed in rapid growth, large size, high fertility and long life in an organism. (NOTE: The US spelling is vigor.)

villous /ˈvɪləs/ adjective shaped like a villus, or formed of villi.

villus /ˈvɪləs/ noun a tiny projection like a fin.

vivisection /vɪvɪˈsɛktʃən/ noun an operation or experimentation on a living animal.

vivid /ˈvɪvɪd/ adjective very strong, very severe.

viva /ˈvɪvə/ noun a dark, purplish blue colour at the end of the visible spectrum.

viraemia /vɪˈeəriəmɪə/ noun a virus in the blood. (NOTE: The US spelling is viremia.)
virulent /ˈvɜːrəlnt/ adjective referring to a disease which develops rapidly and has strong effects

virulence /ˈvɜːrəluːns/ noun 1. the ability of a microorganism to cause a disease 2. the degree of effect of a disease

virulent /ˈvɜːrəlnt/ adjective 1. referring to the ability of a microorganism to cause a disease 2. referring to a disease which develops rapidly and has strong effects

virus /ˈvɜːrəs/ 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, herpes and polio. (Note: Antibiotics have no effect on viruses, but effective vaccines have been developed for some viral diseases.)

virus pneumonia /ˈvɜːrəs paˈnuːmə/ noun same as pharyngeal pouch

viscero- /ˈvɪskəroʊ-/ prefix relating to the viscera

visceromotor /ˈvɪskərəˌmɑːtər/ adjective controlling the movement of viscera

viscerotropism /ˈvɪskərəˌtɹɒpəsɪs/ noun a movement of an internal organ downwards from its usual position

visceroceptor /ˈvɪskərəˌsɛptər/ noun a receptor cell which reacts to stimuli from organs such as the stomach, heart and lungs

viscid /ˈvɪskɪd/ adjective referring to a liquid which is sticky and slow-moving

viscosity /ˈvɪskərəsɪs/ noun the state of a liquid which moves slowly

viscous /ˈvɪskəs/ adjective referring to a liquid which is thick and slow-moving

viscus /ˈvɪskəs/ a viscera

visceral /ˈvɪskərəl/ adjective referring to the internal organs

visceral larva migrans /ˈvɪskərəl ˈlɑrva maˈrɪgriːzn/ noun same as toxocarasis

visceral muscle /ˈvɪskərəl ˈmʌskəl/ noun a smooth muscle in the wall of the intestine which makes the intestine contract

visceral pericardium /ˈvɪskərəl ˈpɜːrɪkɑrˈdiəm/ noun the inner layer of serous pericardium, attached to the wall of the heart

visceral peritoneum /ˈvɪskərəl ˈpɜrətənˈiːəm/ noun part of the peritoneum which covers the organs in the abdominal cavity

visceral pleura /ˈvɪskərəl ˈplʊrə/ noun a membrane attached to the surface of a lung. See illustration at LUNGS in Supplement

The patient is too weak to have any visits.

There were no visible symptoms of the disease.

He is allowed visits of ten minutes only.

There was a visit from the district nurse. She paid a visit to the chiropodist.

On the patient’s last visit to the physiotherapy unit, nurses noticed a great improvement in her walking. Visiting time to stay a short time with someone. I am going to visit my brother in hospital.

There were no visible symptoms of the disease.

On the patient’s last visit to the physiotherapy unit, nurses noticed a great improvement in her walking. Visiting times plural noun the times of day when friends are allowed into a hospital to visit patients.

Visits to a person who visits. Visitors are allowed into the hospital on Sunday afternoons. How many visitors did you have this week?

visual /ˈvɪʒuəl/ adjective referring to sight or vision

visual acuity /ˈvɪʒuəl ˈækjʊəti/ noun the ability to see objects clearly

visual area /ˈvɪʒuəl ˈɛərə/ noun the part of the cerebral cortex which is concerned with sight

visual axis /ˈvɪʒuəl ˈæksəs/ noun the line between the object on which the eye focuses, and the fovea

visual cortex /ˈvɪʒuəl ˈkɔrtekts/ noun the part of the cerebral cortex which receives information about sight
visual field

**visual field** /ˈvɪʒuəl fɪeld/ noun the area which can be seen without moving the eye. Also called field of vision.

**visualisation** /ˈvɪʒuəlɪzəʃən/, **visualisation noun** 1. a technique in which an image of an internal organ or other part of the body is produced by using X-rays or other means such as magnetic resonance imaging 2. a technique in which someone creates a strongly positive mental picture of something such as the way in which they would like to solve a problem, in order to help them cope with it.

**visually impaired** /ˈvɪʒuəli mər/ adjective having difficulty in seeing because of an eye condition.

**visually impaired person** /ˈvɪʒuəli ˈmər/ noun a person whose sight is not clear.

**visual purple** /ˈvɪʒuəl ˈpɜrsəl/ noun same as rhodopsin.

**vitae** /ˈvɪtəi/ ə arbor vitae

**vital** /ˈvɪtəl/ adjective very important or necessary for life. 0. If circulation is stopped, vital nerve cells begin to die in a few minutes. 0. Oxygen is vital to the human system.

**vital capacity** /ˈvɪtəl kəˈpæsəti/ noun the largest amount of air which a person can exhale at one time.

**vital centre** /ˈvɪtəl ˈsɛntə/ noun a group of nerve cells in the brain which govern a particular function of the body such as the five senses.

**vital organs** /ˈvɪtəl ˈɔrgənz/ plural noun the most important organs in the body, without which a human being cannot live, e.g. the heart, lungs and brain.

**vital signs** /ˈvɪtəl ˈsɪŋz/ plural noun measurements of pulse, breathing and temperature.

**vital statistics** /ˈvɪtəl stəˈtɪstɪks/ plural noun a set of official statistics relating to the population of a place, such as the percentage of live births per thousand, the incidence of particular diseases and the numbers of births and deaths.

**vitamin** /ˈvɪtəmən/ noun an essential substance not synthesised in the body, but found in most foods, and needed for good health.

**Vitamin A** /ˈvɪtəmən ə/ noun a vitamin which is soluble in fat and can be formed in the body from precursors but is mainly found in food such as liver, vegetables, eggs and cod liver oil. Also called retinol.

COMMENT: Lack of Vitamin A affects the body’s growth and resistance to disease and can cause night blindness or xerophthalmia. Carotene (the yellow substance in carrots) is a precursor of Vitamin A, which accounts for the saying that eating carrots helps you to see in the dark.

**Vitamin B1** /ˈvɪtəmən ˈbiː/ noun a vitamin found in yeast, liver, cereals and pork. Also called thiamine.

**Vitamin B2** /ˈvɪtəmən ˈbiː/ noun a vitamin found in eggs, liver, green vegetables, milk and yeast. Also called riboflavin.

**Vitamin B3** /ˈvɪtəmən ˈbiː/ noun a vitamin found in meat, cereals and molasses. Also called pyridoxine.

**Vitamin B4** /ˈvɪtəmən ˈbiː/ noun a vitamin found in liver and kidney, but not present in vegetables. Also called cyanocobalamin.

**Vitamin B complex** /ˈvɪtəmən bɪˈkɒmplɛks/ noun a group of vitamins such as folic acid, riboflavin and thiamine.

**Vitamin C** /ˈvɪtəmən sə/ 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** /ˈvɪtəmən ˈdiː/ 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 deficiency** /ˈvɪtəmən dɪˈfɪʃ(ə)nsi/ noun a lack of necessary vitamins. 0. He is suffering from Vitamin A deficiency. 0. Vitamin C deficiency causes scurvy.

**Vitamin E** /ˈvɪtəmən ˈiː/ noun a vitamin found in vegetables, vegetable oils, eggs and wholemeal bread.

**Vitamin K** /ˈvɪtəmən ˈkeɪ/ 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.

**vitiligo** /ˌvɪtəˈliːɡoʊ/ noun a condition in which white patches appear on the skin. Also called leucoderma.

**vitrectomy** /ˌvɪtərɛktəmɪ/ noun a surgical operation to remove some or all of the vitreous humour of the eye.

**vitreous** /ˈvɪtrɪəs/ adjective 1. having the characteristics of glass 2. relating to the vitreous humour of the eye.

**vitreous body** /ˈvɪtrɪəs, bɔrdi/ noun same as vitreous humour.

**vitreous detachment** /ˌvɪtrɪəs dɪˈtætʃmənt/ 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 ˈhjuəmər/ noun a transparent jelly which fills the main cavity of the eye, the vitreous cavity.
Volkmann's contracture /volkma:nz kənˈtraktər/ noun a fibrosis and tightening of the muscles of the forearm because blood supply has been restricted, leading to contraction of the fingers

volsella /vʊˈlɛsə/ noun a type of surgical forceps with claw-like hooks at the end of each arm. Also called vulseta

volumen /ˈvʊljuːmən/ noun an amount of a substance

voluntary /ˈvɒləntəri/ adjective done because one wishes to do it

voluntary admission /ˈvɒləntəri əˈdɪmənʃən/ noun the process of taking someone into a psychiatric hospital with the person's consent

voluntary movement /ˈvɒləntəri ˈmuːvmennt/ noun a movement directed by the person's willpower, using voluntary muscles, e.g. walking or speaking

voluntary muscle /ˈvɒləntəri ˈmʌsk/ 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.

volunteer /ˈvɒləntɪər/ noun a person who offers to do something for free, without being paid. ○ The hospital relies on volunteers to help with sports for disabled children. ○ They are asking for volunteers to test the new cold cure. ■ verb to offer to do something for free. ○ The research team volunteered to test the new drug on themselves.

volvulus /ˌvɒlvjuːləs/ noun a condition in which a loop of intestine is twisted and blocked, so cutting off its blood supply

vomer /ˈvɒmər/ noun a thin flat vertical bone in the septum of the nose

vomica /ˈvɒmɪkə/ 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 /von ˈhɪpɛl ˈlɪndɔʊ ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a disease in which angiomas of the brain are related to angiomas and cysts in other parts of the body

von Recklinghausen’s disease /ˈvɒn rɛkлинəˈhaʊznəz ˈdɪz/ noun 1. same as neurofibromatosis 2. same as ostelitis 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 /ˌvɒn ˈvɪlbrəndz/ 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 /ˌvɒn ˈvɪlbrəndz ˈfæktə/ noun a protein substance in plasma involved in platelet aggregation.

voyeurism /ˈvoʊjərɪzəm/ noun a condition in which a person experiences sexual pleasure by watching others having intercourse.

VSD abbr ventricular septal defect

vu /vu/ • déjà vu

vulgaris /ˈvʌlɡərɪs/ • lupus vulgaris

vulnerable /ˈvʌlnərəb(ə)l/ adjective likely to catch a disease because of being in a weakened state. • Premature babies are especially vulnerable to infection.

vulvella /vʌlˈvɛlə/ vulsmall /vʌlˈsmɛlm/ noun same as volsella

vulva /ˈvʌlva/ 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 /vʌlˈvɛktəmi/ noun a surgical operation to remove the vulva.

vulvitis /vʌlˈvɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the vulva, causing intense irritation.

vulvo vaginitis /vʌlˈvəʊvæɡɪnɪtɪs/ noun inflammation of the vulva and vagina.
medical terminology

**W**

**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** /wɔdɪŋ/ noun material used to make a wad ○ Put a layer of cotton wadding over the eye.

**Waist** /wɛst/ noun the narrow part of the body below the chest and above the buttocks

**Wait** /weɪt/ 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** /ˈweɪtɪŋ lɪst/ noun 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** /ˈweɪtɪŋ rʊm/ 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** /ˈweɪtɪŋ tɜːm/ 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** /weɪk/ verb 1. to interrupt someone’s sleep ○ The nurse woke the patient. ○ The patient was woken by the nurse. 2. to stop sleeping ○ The patient had to be woken to have his injection. (Note: waking – woke – woken)

**Wakeful** /weɪk(ə)l/ adjective wide awake, not wanting to sleep

**Wakefulness** /ˈweɪkfləns/ noun the condition of being wide awake

**Wake up** /weɪk ʌp/ 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** /ˈwɔldərɪz ˈrɪŋ/ 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** /wɔlk/ 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** /ˈwɔlkɪŋ ˈdɪstəns/ 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** /ˈwɔlkɪŋ frɛɪm/ 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 əˈjɪː/ noun an eye which is very pale or which is squinting so strongly that only the white sclera is visible

**Wangensteen tube** /ˈwɑŋɡənstɛn 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 3B. ○ The children’s ward is at the end of the corridor.

**Ward manager** /ˈwɔrd ˌmændʒər/ noun a nurse in charge of a ward

**Ward nurse** /ˈwɔrd ˈnɜːs/ noun a nurse who works in a hospital ward

**Ward sister** /ˈwɔrd ˈsɪstə/ 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.
be kept away from children.

on the bottle of medicine, saying that it should

ing the night.

fluid in the amnion in which a fetus floats

is excreted in urine or faeces

thin

her water.

Can I have a glass of water please?

wasting disease

Wassermann reaction, Wassermann test: a blood serum test to see if someone has syphilis. Abbr WR [Described 1906. After August Paul von Wassermann (1866–1925), German bacteriologist.]

waste product

wasting

wasting disease

water

water balance: 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 bed: a mattress made of a large heavy plastic bag filled with water, used to prevent bedsores

waterbrash: a condition caused by dyspepsia, in which there is a burning feeling in the stomach and the mouth suddenly fills with acid saliva

water-hammer pulse: a pulse which may be taken as Corrigan's pulse

Waterhouse-Friderichsen syndrome: a condition caused by blood poisoning with meningococci, in which the tissues of the adrenal glands die and haemorrhage [Described 1911 by Rupert Waterhouse (1873–1958), physician at Bath, UK; described 1916 by Carl Friderichsen (b. 1866), Danish physician]

watering eye: an eye which fills with tears because of an irritation

waterproof: adjective not allowing water through

Put a waterproof sheet on the baby's bed.

water sac: amnion

Waterston's operation: a surgical operation to treat Fallot's tetralogy, in which the right pulmonary artery is joined to the ascending aorta [After David James Waterston (1910–85), paediatric surgeon in London, UK]

waterworks: as urinary system (informal)

watery: adjective; liquid, like water

He passed some watery stools.

Watson-Crick helix: 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: a small hard harmless weapon used for cutting, a type of surgical weapon to cut away skin or cells:

Watson-Crick helix

WBC abbr white blood cell

weak: not strong

weak pulse

weakness

Weaken

weak

weakness of the patient's pulse.

weak pulse

weak

weakness

Weaken

weak

weakness

Weaken

weak pulse

weak

weakness

Weaken
**Weal** /ˈwɛl/ noun a small area of skin which swells because of a sharp blow or an insect bite

**Weight** /ˈwɛt/ noun the normal use which affects an organ. A heart has to stand a lot of wear and tear. The wear and tear of a strenuous job has begun to affect his heart.

**Weight gain** /ˈwɛt ,wɛn/ noun the fact of becoming fatter or heavier

**Weight loss** /ˈwɛt ,lɔs/ noun the fact of losing weight or of becoming thinner

**Welder’s flash** /ˈwel dəz /ˈfl/ətʃ/ noun a condition in which the eye is badly damaged by very bright light

**Weil-Felix reaction** /ˈwel fɛlɪks ri ,eɪktʃən/ 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 (1887–1956), British bacteriologist.]

**Weil’s disease** /ˈwelz dɪˈzɪz/ noun same as leptospirosis [Described 1886. After Adolf Weil (1846–1916), physician in Estonia who also practised in Wiesbaden, Germany.]

**Weigl’s test** /ˈvɛɡlz tɛst/ noun a test to see if both ears hear correctly, where a tuning fork is struck and the end placed on the head [After Friedrich Eugen Weigl (1865–91), German otologist]

**Weigers granulomatosis** /ˈvɛɡnəz ,ɡrænjuˈləmətɒsɪs/ 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.

**Weigh** /ˈwɛt/ verb 1. to measure how heavy something is

**Weight** /ˈwɛt/ noun 1. how heavy someone or something is

**Weight gain** /ˈwɛt ,gɛn/ noun the fact of becoming fatter or heavier

**Weight loss** /ˈwɛt ,lɔs/ noun the fact of losing weight or of becoming thinner

**Weight can be a symptom of certain types of cancer.**

**Weil-Felix test** /ˈwel fɛlɪks tɛst/ 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 (1887–1956), British bacteriologist.]
Werner's syndrome 454

feeding and breathing problems and rarely live more than two or three years.

Werner's syndrome /ˈwɜːnərz ˈsɪndrəm/ noun an inherited disorder involving premature ageing, persistent hardening of the skin, underdevelopment of the sex organs and cata-

racts

Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome /ˈwɜːnɪkə ˈkɔrəsək/ noun a form of brain damage caused by severe nutritional deficien-
cies in people with long-term alcoholism

Wernicke's encephalopathy /ˈwɜːnɪkəz ˈɛnˌsɛfələˈpɒθi/ noun a condition caused by lack of Vitamin B, which often affects alcoholic 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 /ˈwɜːθiəmz əˈpɜːrnə/ 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.]

West Nile fever /west ˈnɪl ˈfɪvə/ noun a mosquito-borne viral infection which causes fever, pains, enlarged lymph nodes and sometimes inflammation of the brain.

wet /ˈwet/ adjective not dry, covered in liquid ○ He got wet waiting for the bus in the rain and caught a cold. ○ The baby has nappy rash from wearing a wet nappy. ● verb to make the bed wet by urinating while asleep ○ He is eight years old and he still wets his bed every night.

ewet-burn /ˈwet ˈbɜːrn/ noun same as scald

ewet-dream /ˈwet ˈdrɛm/ noun same as noctur-

nal emission

wet-dressing /ˈwet ˈdresɪŋ/ noun ○ compress

Wharton's duct /ˈwɔːrθənz ˈdʌkt/ noun a duct which takes saliva into the mouth from the salivary glands under the lower jaw [After Thomas Wharton (1614–73), English physician and anatomist at St Thomas's Hospital, London, UK]

Wharton's jelly /ˈwɔːrθənз ˈdʒelI/ noun a jelly-like tissue in the umbilical cord

wheel /ˈwiːl/ noun same as weal

Wheelhouse's operation /ˈwiːluhəz/ noun same as urethrotomy [After Claudius Galen Wheelhouse (1826–1909), British surgeon]

wheeze /ˈwiːzi/ noun a whistling noise in the bronchi ○ The doctor listened to his wheezes. ● verb to make a whistling sound when breathing ○ When she has an attack of asthma, she wheezes and has difficulty in breathing.

wheezing /ˈwiːziŋ/ 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 /ˈwiːzi/ adjective making a whistling sound when breathing ○ She was quite wheezy when she stopped running.

whiplash injury /ˈwɪpəliʒ ˈɪndʒəri/ 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 /ˈwɪpəliʒ ˈʃeik ˈsɪndrəm/ noun in young babies, a series of internal head injuries caused by being shaken violently. They can result in brain damage leading to speech and learning disabilities, paralysis, seizures, blindness and hearing loss. They are often life-threatening.

Whipple's disease /ˈwɪpəliʒ diʒ/ noun a disease in which someone has difficulty in absorbing nutrients and passes fat in the fae-
ces, the joints are inflamed and the lymph glands enlarged [Described 1907. After George Hoyt Whipple (1876–1976), US pathologist. Nobel prize for Pathology and Medicine 1934.]

Whipple's operation /ˈwɪpəliʒ əˈpɜːrnə/ noun same as pancreatectomy

Whitmore's operation /ˈwɪtrmərəz əˈpɜːrnə/ noun same as Whipple's operation

white /ˈwaɪt/ adjective of a colour like snow or milk ○ White patches developed on his skin. ○ Her hair has turned quite white. (NOTE: whiter = whitest) ● noun the main part of the eye which is white ○ The whites of his eyes turned yellow when he developed jaundice.

white blood cell /ˈwaɪt ˈblv/ noun same as leucocyte

white corpuscle /ˈwaɪt ˈkɔrəsək/ noun same as white blood cell

white finger /ˈwaɪt ˈfɪŋə/ noun a condition in which a finger has a mottled discoloured appearance because its blood vessels are dam-
gaged. The thumb is usually not affected. Very severe cases can result in finger loss. It occurs most commonly in Raynaud's disease.

white head /ˈwaɪt ˈhed/ noun a small white swelling formed when a sebaceous gland becomes blocked.

white leg /ˈwaɪt ˈleg/ 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 /ˈwaɪt ˈmeɪtə/ noun nerve tissue in the central nervous system which contains more myelin than grey matter.
white noise instrument /ˌwaɪt ˈnɔɪz ɪnˈstrəmənt/ 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 leucorrhoea (informal)

whitlow /ˈwɪtlou/ 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, hʊp/ noun a loud noise made when inhaling by a person who has whooping cough

whooping cough /ˈhuːpɪŋ ˈkɒf/ 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 coug 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 /ˈviːdəl riːækʃn/ noun a test to detect typhoid fever. A sample of the person’s blood is put into a solution containing typhoid bacillus, 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.]

Villis /ˈvɪls/ a circle of Willis

willpower /ˈwɪl, ˈwɪlpoʊr/ noun the fact of having a strong will. "The patient showed the willpower to start walking again unaided.

Wills’ tumour /ˈvɪltəm ˌtjuːmər/ noun same as nephoblastoma [Described 1899. After Max Wims (1867–1918), Professor of Surgery at Leipzig, Basle and Heidelberg.]

Wilson’s disease /ˈwɪlsonz ˈdiːzɪz/ 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 Kinnier Wilson (1878–1937), British neurologist.]

wind /wɪnd/ noun 1. gas which forms in the digestive system and escapes through the anus. "The baby is suffering from wind." Also called flatus 2. an uncomfortable feeling caused by the accumulation of gas in the upper digestive system. "He has pains in the stomach caused by wind." Also called flatulence □ to break wind to bring up gas from the stomach, or to let gas escape from the anus.

windburn /ˈwɪndˈbruːn/ noun redness and inflammation of the skin caused by exposure to harsh wind.

window /ˈwɪndəʊ/ noun a small opening in the ear.

windpipe /ˈwɪndpɑɪp/ 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 /ˈwaɪzdəm 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 hæzəl/ noun a lotion made from the bark of a tree, used to check bleeding and harden inflamed tissue and bruises. Also called hamamelis

withdrawal /ˈwɪdɔːrəl/ 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 /ˈwɪdɔːrəl ˈsɪmpətəm/ 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 ˈpɑːrksnɪn ˈwɜːθ/ noun a condition within the heart’s conducting tissue which makes the heart beat dangerously fast. It can be fatal.

womb /ˈwʊm/ noun same as uterus (NOTE: For other terms referring to the womb, see words beginning with hyster-, hystero-, metr-, metror-, uter-)

women’s ward /ˈwʊmznz ˈwɔːd/ noun a ward or hospital for female patients. ◊ well-woman clinic

Wood’s lamp /ˈwʊdz 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 /ˈwʊlsɔːtərz ˈdiːzɪz/ noun a form of anthrax which affects the lungs.

word blindness /ˌwɜːrd ˈblaɪndnəs/ noun same as alexia

work-related upper limb disorder /ˌwɜːk rɪˈleɪtɪd, ˈæpə ˈtɪm ˈdɪz/ noun same as repetitive strain injury. Abbrev WRULD.

World Health Organization /ˌwɜːld ˈhelθ ɔːrˈɡənəzən/ noun an organisation, part of the United Nations, which aims to improve health in the world. Abbrev WHO.
worm /wɜːrn/ noun a long thin animal with no legs or backbone, which can infest the human body, especially the intestines.

**wound** /wʊnd/ 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** /wʊnd dɪˈhɪs(ə)ns/ noun the splitting open of a surgical incision

**wound healing** /wʊnd_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** /ˈrɪŋkəl/ 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** /ˈrɪtəz_ˈkræmp/ 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
xantho- /ˈzænθəʊ/ prefix same as xantho- (used before vowels)
xanthaeemia /ˌzænθiˈeəmiə/ noun same as carotenaemia (NOTE: The US spelling is xanthemia.)
xanthelasma /ˌzænθəˈlæzma/ noun the formation of little yellow fatty tumours on the eyelids
xanthine /ˌzænθəˈraɪn/ 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 theophylline
xantho- /ˈzænθəʊ/ prefix yellow
xanthochromia /ˌzænθəˈkraʊmiə/ noun yellow colour of the skin as in jaundice
xanthoma /ˌzænθəˈbəʊma/ 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 xanthomata.)
xanthomatosis /ˌzænθoməˈtɒsɪs/ noun a condition 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 /ˌzænθəˈpsoʊsiə/ noun a disorder of the eyes, making everything appear yellow
xanthosis /ˌzænθəˈsɒsɪs/ noun yellow colouring of the skin, caused by eating too much food containing carotene
xeno- /ˈzɛnəʊ/ prefix different
xenograft /ˌzɛnəʊˈɡraɪft/ noun tissue taken from an individual of one species and grafted on an individual of another species. Also called heterograft. Opposite homograft
xenotransplantation /ˌzɛnəʊtrænˈsplaɪnˈteɪʃən/ noun the process of transplanting organs from one species to another, especially from animals to humans
xero- /ˈzɛrəʊ/ prefix dry
xeroderma /ˌzɛrəˈdɛrma/ noun a skin disorder where dry scales form on the skin
xerophthalmia /ˌzɛrəˈfθɛlmiə/ noun a condition of the eye, in which the cornea and conjunctiva become dry because of a lack of Vitamin A
xeroradiography /ˌzɪəˌreɪdʒəˈɡrafi/ noun an X-ray technique used in producing mammograms on selenium plates
xerosis /ˌzɛrəˈsɪs/ noun extreme dryness of skin or mucous membrane
xerostomia /ˌzɪərəˈstʌmɪə/ noun dryness of the mouth, caused by lack of a saliva
xiphisternal plane /′zɪfɪstəˈnɛl plin/ noun an imaginary horizontal line across the middle of the chest at the point where the xiphoid process starts
xiphisternum /ˌzɪfɪstəˈnʌm/ noun same as xiphoid process
xiphoid process /ˌzɪfɪd ˈprəʊsɪs/ noun the xiphoid cartilage /ˌzɪfɪd ˈkɜrtɪldʒ/ noun the bottom part of the breastbone which is cartilage in young people but becomes bone by middle age. Also called ensiform cartilage, xiphisternum
X-linked /ˈeks lɪŋkt/ adjective relating to the genes situated on the X chromosome
X-linked disease /ˈeks lɪŋkt dɪz/ 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 ret/, x-ray 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 diagnosis 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 dentist 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.
X-ray to take an X-ray photograph of a patient ○ There are six patients waiting to be X-rayed.

COMMENT: Because X-rays go through soft tissue, 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 photograph

A picture produced by exposing sensitive film to X-rays. For example, He was examining the X-ray photographs of the patient’s chest.

X-ray screening

A method of gathering information about the body by taking images using X-rays. It is carried out by a radiographer or radiologist.

Xylocaine

A trade name for a preparation of lignocaine.

Xylometazoline hydrochloride

A drug which helps to narrow blood vessels, used in the treatment of colds and sinusitis.

Xylose

A pentose which has not been metabolised.
yawn /ˈjɔ/ 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 treponematosis.

Y chromosome /ˈjɪstrəməʊsəm/ noun a chromosome that determines sex, it is carried by males and is shorter than an X chromosome. Compare X chromosome.

yellow /ˈjeləʊ/ adjective of a colour like that of the sun or of gold

yellow atrophy /ˈjeləʊ əˈtrəʊfi/ noun an old name for severe damage to the liver.

yellow elastic fibrocartilage /ˈjeləʊ ɪˈlæstɪk ˌfɜːbrəʊkˈɑrətɪdl/ noun flexible cartilage, e.g. in the ear and epiglottis.

yellow fever /ˈjeləʊ ˈfɪvə/ 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 /ˈjeləʊ ˈfɜːbaɪ/ noun same as elastic fibre.

yellow marrow noun marrow

yellow spot /ˈjeləʊ spɒt/ noun same as macula lutea.

Yersinia pestis /ˈjɜːsɪnіə ˈpɛstɪs/ 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 /ˈjoʊɡə/ 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 /ˈjəʊk ˈsæk/ noun same as vitelline sac.

yuppie flu /ˈjʌpi ˈflju/ noun myalgic encephalomyelitis (informal).
Z

Zadik's operation /ˈzeɪdɪkz ˈɒpəˌreɪʃən/ noun a surgical operation to remove the whole of an ingrowing toenail

Zantac /ˈzæntæk/ a trade name for ranitidine

zidovudine /ˈzɪdəvjuˈdɪzn/ noun azidothymidine or AZT, a drug used in the treatment of AIDS, which helps to slow the progress of the disease

Zimmer frame /ˈziːmər frem/ a trademark for a metal frame used by people who have difficulty in walking. She managed to walk some steps with a Zimmer frame.

walking frame

zinc /ˈzɪŋk/ noun a white metallic trace element. The chemical symbol is Zn.

zinc ointment /ˈzɪŋk ˈɒintmənt/ noun a soothing ointment made of zinc oxide and oil.

zinc oxide /ˈzɪŋk ˈɒksəd/ noun a compound of zinc and oxygen, which forms a soft white soothing powder used in creams and lotions. (NOTE: Its chemical formula is ZnO).

Zollinger-Ellison syndrome /ˌzɔlˈlɪŋɡər ˈɛlɪsəˈɒn sɪˈnɑːdrəm/ noun a condition in which tumours are formed in the islet cells of the pancreas together with peptic ulcers. Described 1955. After Robert Milton Zollinger (b. 1903), Professor of Surgery at Ohio State University, USA; Edwin H. Ellison (1918–70), Associate Professor of Surgery at Ohio State University, USA.

zona /ˈzɔːnə/ noun 1. same as herpes zoster 2. a zone or area

zona pellucida /ˈzɔːnə prlˈlʊsɪdə/ noun a membrane which forms around an ovum.

zone /ˈzɔːn/ noun an area of the body.

zonula /ˈzɔnjuːlə/, zonule /ˈzɔnjuːl/ noun a small area of the body.

zonule of Zinn /ˈzɔnjuːl əv ˈzɪn/ noun a suspensory ligament of the lens of the eye.

zonulolysis /ˈzɔnjuːləˌlaɪsɪs/ noun the removal of a zonule by dissolving it.

Zoonotic /ˌzoʊˈnɒtɪk/ adj. referring to zoonoses

Zoonosis /ˌzoʊˈnɒsɪs/ noun a disease which a human can catch from an animal. (NOTE: The plural is zoonoses.)

Zoster /ˈzoʊstər/ a herpes zoster

Z-plasty /ˈzedˌplæstɪ/ 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 /ˌzɪɡəˈmeɪnə/ noun same as zygomatic arch (NOTE: The plural is zygomas.)

Zygomatic /ˌzɪɡəˈmætɪk/ adj. referring to the zygomatic arch

zygomatic arch /ˌzɪɡəˈmætɪk ˈɑːtʃ/ noun the ridge of bone across the temporal bone, running between the ear and the bottom of the eye socket. Also called zygomata.

zygomatic bone /ˌzɪɡəˈmætɪk ˈbaʊn/ 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 /ˌzɪɡəˈmætɪk ˈprəʊsɪs/ noun one of the bony projections which form the zygomatic arch.

zygomycosis /ˌzɪɡoʊˈmɪsɪs/ noun a disease caused by a fungus which infects the blood vessels in the lungs.

zygote /ˌzɪɡət/ noun a fertilised ovum, the first stage of development of an embryo.

zyg- /ˈziɡ-/ prefix (used before vowels) 1. enzymes 2. fermentation

zylogen /ˈziəˈmədʒən/ noun same as proenzymes

zygomy /ˌzɪɡəˈmeɪnəs/ noun same as zymose

zyotonic /ˌzeɪəˈmɒtɪk/ adj. referring to zymosis
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.
HEART
1. superior vena cava 6. left ventricle 11. pulmonary veins
2. inferior vena cava 7. aorta 12. epicardium
3. right atrium 8. tricuspid valve 13. myocardium
4. left atrium 9. bicuspid valve 14. endocardium
5. right ventricle 10. pulmonary artery 15. septum

LUNGS
1. thyroid cartilage 8. superior lobe 14. visceral pleura
2. cricoid cartilage 9. middle lobe 15. parietal pleura
3. trachea 10. inferior lobe 16. pleural cavity
4. main bronchus 11. oblique fissure 17. alveolar duct
5. superior lobe bronchus 12. horizontal fissure 18. alveolar duct
6. middle lobe bronchus 13. cardiac notch 19. bronchiole
7. inferior lobe bronchus
BRAIN
1. corpus callosum 5. pituitary gland 9. cerebral peduncle
2. thalamus 6. superior colliculi 10. fornix cerebri
3. hypothalamus 7. inferior colliculi 11. pons
4. pineal body 8. cerebellum

NEURON
(a) multipolar (b) bipolar (c) unipolar
1. nucleus 5. axon 8. node of Ranvier
3. neurofibrilla 7. Schwann cell nucleus 10. terminal branch
4. dendrite 11. cell body
HAND
1. carpus
2. metacarpus
3. phalanges
4. scaphoid
5. lunate
6. triquetrum
7. pisiform
8. trapezium
9. trapezoid
10. capitate
11. hamate
12. styloid process
13. hamate
14. wrist

FOOT
1. tarsus
2. metatarsus
3. phalanges
4. navicular
5. cuboid
6. calcaneus
7. cuboid
8. talus
9. talus
10. navicular
11. cuneiform
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)