

Teachers Guide

Medical Terminology for Entry Level Anatomy and Physiology Students

Time: About 30 minutes

Goal: After completing the worksheet, students should be able to examine a common medical term and decipher its meaning.

Specific lists of roots, prefixes, and suffixes will vary between schools, institutions, and instructors. It is important to know that this activity is a very basic introduction to medical terminology, and our lists of terms are kept to a minimum.

Important: this worksheet/assignment is best used during the first week of class.

After completing this module, a good class activity is to take a long medical term and have students try to determine its meaning. For example, the following questions can be used for either an in-class activity or for questions on a quiz or exam.

Example questions

1. Using what you know of medical terminology, which of the following best describes a **transesophageal echocardiogram**.
 - a. written measurements of the heart taken via an instrument within the esophagus.
 - b. pictures of the lungs taken by means of an instrument within the esophagus.
 - c. using the heart beat to measure the size of the esophagus.
 - d. moving a tube through the esophagus and into the heart.
 - e. cutting out the heart and moving it into the esophagus.
2. The term "herpo" is Greek for:
 - a. itch
 - b. infection
 - c. creep along
 - d. sex
 - e. icky
3. Modern medical terminology is derived from what two sources?
 - a. roots and prefixes
 - b. languages (English and Spanish) and geographic locations
 - c. language (Latin and Greek) and personal names
 - d. prefixes and suffixes

4. The suffix “-itis” means inflammation. Which of the following terms means inflammation of the membrane lining the body cavity that contains the liver and stomach?
- a. pericarditis
 - b. peritonitis
 - c. colitis
 - d. hepatitis