

2010 Marlene V. Obermeyer

ELECTRONIC DICTIONARY

FOR

**CULTURE ADVANTAGE
STUDENTS**

**Web site engine's code is copyright © 2001-2007
ATutor®.**



**Compiled by Dr. Carl Lam, Interpreter
Consultant**

A	
Acute	Sudden onset of illness
Ascites	Accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity.
Ablation	The surgical removal of tissue through the use of scalpel or laser.
Abscess	An abscess is a collection of pus within the body. "boil"
Abdominoplasty	Cosmetic surgery procedure used to make the abdomen more firm.
AAA	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
Suffix <i>-ase</i>	Enzyme. Lipase - breaks down fats. Lactase -breaks down milk sugar into simple sugar.
Suffix <i>-ary</i>	Pertaining to. Biliary -pertaining to bile, bile ducts, or gallbladder. Mammary -pertaining to the breast.
Suffix <i>-algia</i>	Pain. Cephalgia - head pain, headache. Myalgia - muscle pain.
Suffix <i>-al</i>	Pertaining to. Abdominal - pertaining to the abdomen.
Prefix " <i>an-</i> " or " <i>a-</i> "	absence of, without. <i>Analgesia-</i> without pain.
Prefix " <i>ad-</i> "	Toward, or increase. <i>Adduction</i> - movement of a limb toward the midline of the body
Axill-	Underarm or armpit. Axillary lymph nodes- lymph nodes under the arms.
AFP (alphafetoprotein)	<u>a blood test that is performed during pregnancy to screen the fetus for certain conditions;</u>
AVG	arteriovenous graft, or AVG, used connect the artery and vein for dialysis.
AVF	Arteriovenous fistula, an artery and a vein are directly connected to each other for dialysis.
Autonomic	(Involuntary) Nervous System - "Fight or Flight" reaction during stress.
Autoimmune	A condition where the body's tissues or cells are destroyed by a person's immune system.
Auto-	Self (example, autotransfusion a process when a person receives their own blood for a transfusion)
Aur(i)-, auricu	Pertaining to the ear.
Atrial, atrium	Usually refers to the heart atrium, the upper chambers of the heart.
Atrial flutter	A type of arrhythmia where the upper chambers of the heart (the atria) are beating uncontrollably or "fluttering".
Atherosclerosis	Arteries become clogged with fatty material which collects on the walls.
Asthenia	Weakness. Myasthenia gravis.
ASAP	As soon as possible.
Arthrocentesis	Joint aspiration - a procedure where a sterile needle and syringe are used to drain fluid from the joint.
Arthro, or articul(o)-	Relates to joints.
Arthrodesis	Surgical fusion of a joint
Arthritis	From Greek arthro-joint + -itis, inflammation.
Arteriosclerosis	Hardening of the arteries.
Arteriosclerosis	Hardening of the arteries.
Arterio	Stem which means artery
Arrhythmia (or dysrhythmia)	An abnormal heartbeat.
Arrhythmia (or dysrhythmia)	Abnormal heart rhythm.
Appendicitis	Inflammation of the appendix
Apnea	Suspension of breathing during sleep; absence of breathing.

aphasia	"a" means without; "phasia" means speech or to speak. Aphasia means loss of language
APD	Auditory Processing Disorder (Central) Auditory Processing Disorder CAPD
Aorta	the largest artery in the body, originating from the left ventricle of the heart
Antihypertensive	Any medicine or other therapy that lowers blood pressure.
Anticoagulant	Any medicine that keeps blood from clotting; a blood thinner.
Anti-	'against' or 'opposed to' another. Antibody, antipsychotic, antihypertensive.
Anterior	In front of, front
Ante-	In front of, front. Antepartum - occurring before parturition, or childbirth.
Anosmia	Loss of sense of smell.
Angioplasty.	Widening or repairing a blood vessel. Angio -vessel, plasty -to form or to mold.
Angiography	Coronary angiography is a test that uses dye and special x rays to visualize the coronary arteries.
Angio	Blood vessel.
Angina or angina pectoris	Chest pain due to ischemia (lack of blood supply) to the heart.
Aneurysm	A protrusion from a blood vessel or the heart, resulting from a weakening of the vessel wall or heart muscle.
Anencephaly	When brain and head do not develop properly. Malformed or absent brain in a newborn.
Anemia	Anemia is a condition in which your blood has a lower than normal number of red blood cells.
Andro	Male. Androgen, a male hormone.
Anatomy	Science that studies the structure of the body.
Anatomical Terms	Terms employed by science to locate anatomy of the body.
Anaphylaxis	Anaphylaxis is a severe, whole-body allergic reaction to a chemical or medication.
Analgesia	Loss of pain sensation.
Amylase	Enzyme that breaks down starches in the saliva.
Amniocentesis	A procedure in which amniotic fluid is removed from the uterus for testing or treatment.
Amnio-	fetal sac (amnion). A thin membrane surrounding the fetus during pregnancy. Amniocentesis.
Alveoli	Primary site of gas exchange in the lungs. Air sacs in the lungs.
Allergy	A reaction of your immune system to something that does not bother most other people.
Algesi	Pain. Analgesia- without pain.
Albuterol	Common drug used in inhalers to relieve narrowing of the airways.
Agraphia	Inability to communicate ideas in writing due to damage in the parietal lobe.

Aesthesio- or esthes	Sensation. Anesthesia - without sensation
Aer(o)-	Air or gas. Aerophagia - air swallowing, is a common cause of gas in the stomach.
Adren(o)	Relating to adrenal glands. Ad + renal = close to the renal (kidney)
Adip, adipo	Fat. Adipose -fat tissue.
Adeno	Glands. Adenocarcinoma - a tumor in a gland.
Ad lib	At will; as desired.
Acute kidney failure	The sudden loss of the ability of the kidneys to remove waste and concentrate urine .
Acro	Extremities or topmost. Acromegaly is enlargement of the extremities associated with gigantism.
Acou	Relating to sound, or hearing. Acoustic.
Accessory organs of the digestive tract	The salivary glands, liver, gallbladder, and pancreas.
ACL	Anterior cruciate ligament. Commonly injured part of the knee.
AC	Before meals. Ante cibum
ABG	Arterial Blood Gases. Usually obtained from the radial artery (wrist) or femoral artery.
Abdomin	Abdomen.
(Suffix -ac)	Pertaining to (example: cardiac)
(Prefix ab-)	Away from. Abduction - movement of a body part away from the midline
B	
Bacterial endocarditis	A bacterial infection of the lining of the heart's chambers (called the endocardium) or the heart's valves.
Barium enema	or lower gastrointestinal (GI) examination, is an X-ray examination of the large intestine (colon and rectum)
Bi-	Twice or double. Bilateral - both sides.
BID	Twice a day.
Bio	Life (anti-biotic = against a living microorganism)
Bladder	Hollow organ which collects urine in the body.
Blephar(o)-	Eyelid. Blepharoplasty- cosmetic surgery of the eyelid.
Blood glucose	Main sugar that the body makes from food in the diet.
Blood pressure	The force or pressure exerted by the heart in pumping blood; the pressure of blood in the arteries.
BM	Bowel movement.

Bowel	Another name for intestine.
Bowel movement	Elimination of fecal matter from the digestive tract via the anus. Defecation.
BP	Blood pressure.
Brachi(o)	Of or relating to the arm. Brachial artery - the major blood vessel of the (upper) arm.
Brachy-	Short or little. Brachytherapy or implant radiation therapy where small radioactive seeds are implanted.
Brady	Slow.
Bradycardia	Abnormally slow heartbeat.
Brain stem	Breathing, heartbeat, and blood pressure functions.
Bronch	Bronchus (plural bronchi) where the air entering the lungs are sent to each lung.
Bronchitis	Inflammation of the main air passages to the lungs.
Bronchus (plural bronchi)	Where the air entering the lungs are sent to each lung. Bronchitis.
BRP	Bathroom privileges.
Bucco (bucca)	Cheek. Buccinator - chief muscle used for blowing (trumpet).
Burns - First Degree	Affects only the outer layer of the skin; painful, redness, and swelling.
Burns - Second Degree	Affects both the outer and underlying layer of the skin; painful, redness, swelling, and blistering.
Burns - Third Degree	Affects inner; deep tissue; underlying layer of the skin; charred skin.
Burs-, burso-	Bursa -a fluid-filled sac that reduces friction between tendons, muscles, and joints.
Bursitis	Painful inflammation or irritation of the bursa.
C	
CABG	Coronary artery bypass graft. Sometimes called Open Heart or Heart Bypass Surgery
CAD	Coronary Artery Disease.
Carbohydrates	Sugar and starches which compose nutrients used by the body.
Carcino	Term that relates to cancer. Greek (karkinos - crab). Sometimes shortened to Ca.
Carcinogen	A substance that is involved in causing cancer.
Cardiac arrest	The stopping of the heartbeat.
Cardiac cycle	Alternating contraction and relaxation of the myocardium walls of the heart.
Cardio	Heart.
Cardiologist	A doctor who specializes in the study of the heart.
Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)	Breathing air into their mouth to give them oxygen, and compressing the chest to circulate the blood.
Carotid endarterectomy, or CEA	Surgery to remove plaque from the carotid arteries.
Carp(o)-	Of or pertaining to the wrist. The metacarpals (knuckles) articulate with the carpals (wrist bones).
Cervi	pertains to the neck. Cervical traction - neck traction.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	When the median nerve, which runs from the forearm into the hand, becomes pressed or squeezed at the wrist.
CAT or CT Scan	Computerized axial tomography, a diagnostic procedure.
Cataract	A cataract is a cloudy area in the lens of the eye.
CBC	Complete blood count
Cephal-, cephalo-	Head. Encephalitis - acute inflammation of the brain.
Cerebellum	Muscle coordination and maintains normal muscle tone and posture. Back of the brain.
Cerebrum	The largest area of the brain, related to higher mental functions.
-centesis	surgical puncture for aspiration. Thoracentesis. Amniocentesis.
Chem-, chemo-	Chemistry, or the use of chemicals
Chemotherapy	Treatment of a disease by chemicals, especially by killing micro-organisms or cancerous cells.
Chole	Bile, green.
Cholecysto	Relates to the gall-bladder.
Cholelithiasis	Formation of gallstones.
Chondr-	Cartilage.
Chondroplasty	Surgery of the cartilage.
Chronic	Persisting over a long time.
Cirrho	Yellow.
-cidal, -cide	To kill or destroy. Bactericidal - kills bacteria. Virucidal - destroys viruses.
Cirrhosis	Hardening of the liver.
CNS	Central Nervous System
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide.
Concretions	Mineral sediment in form of porous rocks.
Congenital Heart Defect	Present at birth. Ventricular septal defect VSD. Atrial septal defect ASD. Patent Ductus Art. PDA.
colp(o)-	Pertains to the vagina. Colposcopy - procedure to closely examine your cervix and vagina for signs of disease.
Suffix <i>-crine</i>	To secrete. Endocrine.
Congestive heart failure (CHF)	A condition in which the heart cannot pump all the blood returning to it.
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Also called Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease
col-, colo-, colono	Pertains to the colon. Colonoscopy - visualization of the colon.
Coron-	Heart. Coronary artery.
Cost-	Rib.
Costochondritis.	Inflammation of a rib or the cartilage connecting a rib.
CPK	Creatine phosphokinase. Blood test for heart attack.
Cutan, or derma	Skin. Subcutaneous - underneath the skin. Dermatitis -inflammation of the skin.
CVA	Cerebro Vascular Accident also called a stroke or brain attack.
CXR	Chest x-ray
Cyano	Blue.
Cyanosis	Blue tinge of the skin.

Cystic fibrosis (CF)	An inherited disease of the mucus and sweat glands, affecting the lungs, liver, pancreas.
Cysto	Terms that relates to the bladder. Cystoscopy - visualizing the bladder.
Cyto, -cyte or cytic	Term that relates to cell. (Examples: cytology means study of cells; leucocyte is a white blood cell.)
Suffix <i>-cele</i>	Pouch or a hernia. Rectocele -bulging of the rectum into the vagina.
D	
D&C	Dilatation and curettage. Surgical procedure on the uterus (womb).
Deep vein thrombosis (DVD)	A blood clot in a deep vein usually in the calf.
Defibrillator	A machine that helps restore a normal heart rhythm by delivering an electric shock.
Dent, don't	Teeth. Dentist. Odontologist.
Dermat(o)-, dermat(o)-	Skin. Dermatologist - specialist in skin conditions.
-desis	To bind or to fuse. Arthrodesis - Surgical fusion of a joint with the goal of pain relief.
di-, dis-	To separate. Dislocation - luxation (Latin: luxatio), occurs when bones in a joint become displaced or misaligned.
Dialysis	A method of removing toxic substances or wastes from the blood when the kidneys stop functioning.
Diaphragm	Dome-shape muscle at the bottom of the lungs. Main muscle for breathing.
Diastole	Relaxation phase of the heart cycle.
DIC	Disseminated intravascular coagulation
Digit	Finger or toe.
Dissection	To disassemble or pull apart.
DJD	Degenerative joint disease. Another name for arthritis.
DM. IDDM	Diabetes mellitus. Insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.
dors(o)-, dors(i)	Pertaining to the back.
Drug interactions	Changes in the effect of one or more drugs when taken together
DTP	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis vaccine.
duodeno-	Upper part of the small intestine, connecting to the stomach.
DX	Diagnosis.
-dynia	Pain. Vulvodynia - pain in the vulva.
Dys-	Difficult, bad, not normal. Dysplasia - abnormal development.
Dysmenorrhea	Pain during menstruation.
Dysphagia	Difficulty in swallowing.
Dyspnea	Difficulty in breathing, often associated with lung or heart disease
E	
ec-	out, away. Ectopic pregnancy - pregnancy outside the womb.
Echocardiography, or echo	a painless test that uses sound waves to create pictures of your heart
--ectasis	Expansion, dilatation. Bronchiectasis - abnormal dilation of the airways.
-ectomy	Surgical removal or excision. Appendectomy -surgical removal of the appendix.
Edema	Swelling caused by fluid accumulation.
EKG	Electrocardiogram - Test that detercts and records the activity of the heart.

-emesis	vomiting. Hematemesis -vomiting blood. Hyperemesis - uncontrolled vomiting usually during pregnancy.
En, Endo	Inside. Endocarditis.
Encephalo	Brain. Encephalitis - inflammation of the brain.
EMG	Electromyography. A test that measures electrical impulses of muscles.
Encephalogram (EEG)	Procedure to record the brain waves.
Endocarditis	is an infection of the inner lining of the heart chambers and valves.
enter(o)-	Intestine. Gastroenteritis - inflammation of the digestive tract, sometimes called stomach flu.
Erythro	Red.
Erythrocyte	Red blood cells.
ESRD	End stage renal disease
ERCP	Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (examine liver, gallbladder, bile ducts and pancreas)
Esthesia	Relates to feeling or how you feel. Sensation. Anesthesia -without feeling
Exhalation	Air (carbon dioxide) flowing out of the lungs during exhalation.
ENT	Ear, nose and throat
Epilepsy	a brain disorder involving repeated, spontaneous seizures of any type. Seizures ("fits," convulsions)
Suffix <i>-emia</i> or <i>-aemia</i>	Blood condition. Anemia - "without blood"
F	
Fainting	temporary loss of consciousness due to a drop in blood flow to the brain.
Frontal Lobe	Relates with personality and emotions; reasoning, parts of speech and movement.
Fracture	fracture is a break, usually in a bone.
Flank pain	Pain in one side of the body between the upper abdomen and the back.
Fistula	Abnormal connection between an organ, vessel, or intestine and another structure.
Fibromyalgia	Long-term, body-wide pain and tender points in joints, muscles, tendons, and other soft tissues.
Fibr-, fibro-	Fiber. Atrial fibrillation - the muscles of the atria are "fibrillating" or quivering.
FHR or FHT	Fetal Heart Rate. Fetal heart tones.
Fever blisters or cold sores	Also called cold sores are caused by herpes simplex virus type 1 and are very contagious.
Fetal Heart Monitoring	Monitoring the baby's heartbeat in the uterus.
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	Growth, mental, and physical problems that may occur in a baby when a mother drinks alcohol during pregnancy.
Femoral fracture	fracture (break) in the femur, also called the thigh bone, in your leg.
Feeding tube	A small, soft, plastic tube placed through the nose (NG) or mouth (OG) into the stomach.
FluMist	an influenza vaccine that is the first nasally administered vaccine
Failure to thrive	Children whose current weight or rate of weight gain is significantly below that of other children.
G	
Gingiv	Gums. Gingivitis - inflammation of the gums
Ganglia (plural of Ganglion)	Nerve tissue containing nerve cells but outside of the brain and spinal cord.
GI	Gastrointestinal. Another term for digestive system.
Gonorrhea	Sexually transmitted disease, called "clap"

Gyn-, gyno-, gynec-	Female
Gyn	Gynecology - specialty dealing with the health of the female reproductive system. Gynecologist
Gon	Seed, reproductive. Gonorrhea.
gloss(o)-, glott(o)- (lingua)	Tongue. Glossitis -inflammation of the tongue.
GFR	Glomerular filtration rate. Test of kidney damage.
gram or graph	record or picture. Electrocardiogram - recording of the electrical activity of the heart.
-gnosis	knowledge. Diagnosis - identifying the cause of the disease. Prognosis - predicting the outcome
Gluco-, glycol-	Glucose, sugar
Geront	Old age, aged. Gerontology - study of the aging process. Gerontologist -specialist in aging process,
GU	Genitourinary, urinary and sex organs.
GERD	Gastroesophageal reflux disease
Gastrostenosis	Shrinkage of the stomach.
Gastrorrhexis	Rupture of the stomach.
Grand mal seizure	Generalized tonic-clonic seizure. Rapid alternating tensing and contracting of muscles with loss of consciousness.
Gastr	Stomach.
H	
H and H	Hemoglobin and hematocrit blood test.
HAV	Hepatitis A virus. A virus that causes one type of liver disease.
HBV	Hepatitis B virus
HCV	Hepatitis C virus
HDL	High density lipoprotein. A type of cholesterol, also known as "good" cholesterol
Heart attack	Blood vessels to the heart are blocked.
Heart murmur	Unusual whooshing sound heard during a heartbeat.
Heart rate	Number of heart beats per minute. Pulse.
hemat-, haemato- (haem-, hem-)	Pertains to blood.
Hematology	Study of blood disorders. Hematologist -specialist in blood disorders.
Hematoma	A bruise. Bleeding into the skin usually due to injury.
Hematuria	Urine in the blood.
Heme	Refers to blood.
hemi-	One half. Hemiparesis - weakness of one side of the body.
Hemiplegia	Paralysis in one side of the body.
Hemophilia	A disorder that prevents the blood from clotting properly.
Hemorrhoids	Swollen, inflamed veins around the anus or lower rectum.
Hepat	Liver.
Hepatitis B virus	Hepatitis B virus

Hepatomegaly	Enlarged liver.
Hepatorrhexis	Rupture of the liver.
Herpes simplex	viral infection that mainly affects the mouth or genital area.
Herpes zoster (Shingles)	Herpes zoster is a painful, blistering skin rash due to the varicella-zoster virus, the virus that causes chickenpox.
Hetero-	Other, different. Heterosexual
HGB	Hemoglobin
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus The virus that causes AIDS
Hives	Also called urticaria. Hives are raised red welts of various size on the surface of the skin, often itchy.
Holes in the heart	A congenital heart defect (ASD, VSD, PDA)
Holter monitor	A machine that continuously records the heart's rhythm, is usually worn for 24 hrs.
Homo-	Similar or the same. Examples: Homeopathy, a form of alternative medicine. Homosexual.
HPV	Human papilloma virus. A virus that causes cervical cancer
HR	Heart rate.
HRT	Hormone replacement therapy
HTN	Hypertension, high blood pressure.
Hydr-, hydro-	Water. Hydrocephalus - build up of fluid inside the skull, leading to brain swelling. "water in the brain"
Hyper_	Excessive. Hypertension - high blood pressure.
Hypo.	Deficient, below. Hypotension - low blood pressure.
hyster(o)-	Womb or uterus. Hysterectomy - surgical removal of the uterus
Hystero	Term relates to the uterus.
I	
iatrogenic	Adverse reaction from treatment or procedures
"--itis	Inflammation of.
I & O	Intake and output.
iatr(o)-	Pertaining to medicine or physician
IBD	Inflammatory bowel disease. A name for two digestive disorders-- ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease
IBS	Inflammatory bowel syndrome. Disorder of the large intestine.
ICD	Implantable cardioverter defibrillator. It monitors and heart and delivers shock as needed.
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IM	Intramuscular. Usually refers to intramuscular injection.
Immun	Immune.
Inferior	Below, under.
Ingestion	Taking food through the mouth.
Inhalation	The process of air flowing into the lungs during inspiration.
Inhaler	Device used to deliver drugs into the body through the lungs.
intra	within. Intracranial hemorrhage - bleeding within the skull

Intrapleural pressure	Pressure within the pleural cavity.
Iris	Eye muscle.
isch-	restriction. Ischemia - restriction in blood supply. Ischemic heart disease.
Islets of Langerhans	Located in the pancreas; secrete insulin and glucagon into the blood system.
ism	condition or disease. Dwarfism - short stature resulting from an particular medical condition.
-ist	one who specializes in. Podiatrist - specializes in disorders of the feet.
IUD	Intrauterine device - used for birth control in women,
IV	Intravenous. Administered in the vein.
IVP	Intravenous pyelogram - An x-ray test of the urinary system
J-K	
Jaundice	
Kinesi	Movement, motion.
Kin	Movement.
Kidneys	Primary organ of the urinary system.
L	
--lithiasis	formation of stones. Nephrolithiasis - stone in the kidney. Cholelithiasis - stone in the gallbladder
Laparo	Abdominal wall
-lepsy, -lepsy	attack or seizure. Epilepsy.
Laminectomy	Laminectomy is a spine operation to remove the portion of the vertebral bone called the lamina
--lysis	Breakdown; destruction of.
Leukopenia	Decrease in the number of white blood cells.
Lactose intolerance	Inability to digest lactose or milk due to deficiency of lactase, the milk enzyme.
Laryngoscope	Instrument for viewing the larynx.
Liver	Largest organ in the body and has a variety of functions in the body.
LDL	Low density lipoprotein. A type of cholesterol, also known as "bad" cholesterol.
lact-, lacti-, lacto-	Milk. Lactation consultant -specializes in breast feeding mothers
Large intestine	Part of the digestive tract where water and electrolytes are absorbed and feces is eliminated.
Lipo	Relates to fat. Liposuction - removal of fatty tissue by suction.
Lingual	Relates to the tongue.
Laparoscopic prostatectomy	Removal of part or the complete prostate with the help of a laparoscope.
lith, litho	Stone, also called calculus. Lithotripsy -procedure to crush a stone in the kidney.
Lactose	Sugar found in milk.
Lysis of adhesions	Surgical removal of scar tissues in the internal body organs.
Laparoscope	Thin lighted instrument used by surgeons to visualize the internal organs.
Larynx	Voice box or glottis.

Leuko	White
Leukocyte	White blood cells.
M	
macro	large. Can usually be seen with the unaided eye.
Macular degeneration	An eye disorder that damages the center of the retina, which is called the macula. Age-related AMD
-malacia	softening. Osteomalacia
Mammogram	xray of the breast.
Mast(o)-, mammo (a)	breast. Mammogram. Mastectomy.
Mastectomy	Surgical removal of the breast.
Meniscectomy	
Melano	Black or dark.
Melanoma	Black or dark tumor.
meningismus	Stiff neck, may be a sign of meningitis
Meningitis	Swelling and irritation (inflammation) of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord
Meso	Middle.
MI	Myocardial infarction or heart attack.
micro-	small. Microscopic.
Mitral valve	This valve prevents blood from flowing back from the left ventricle to the left atrium.
MMR	Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection
MS	Multiple sclerosis, a disease of the nervous system
myel-, myelo-	spinal cord OR bone marrow
Myelin	Segmented, white, fatty substance surrounding axons.
Myelogram	uses a special dye and an X-ray (fluoroscopy) to make pictures of the bones of the spine.
Myo, musc, musculo	Muscle.
Myringotomy	is a surgical procedure in which a small incision is made in the eardrum (the tympanic membrane)
Suffix <i>-meter</i>	Measurement. Thermometer. Sphygmomanometer. Spirometer.
N	
Narcotic	Drugs that induce sleep. Narkos -sleep. Potent pain medications.
narc(o)-	Sleep, numb. Narcotic. Narcolepsy.
Narcolepsy	excessive sleepiness and daytime sleep attacks.
NAS	No added salt.
Necros	Death, tissue death. Necrotic - dead tissue
Neo-	New. Neoplasm -an abnormal growth of tissue.
Nephro	Relates to the kidneys.

Nephrolithiasis	Formation of stones in the kidneys.
Nephrologist	Kidney specialist
Neuro	Nerve.
Neuroglia	Do not conduct nerve impulses, but protects, supports, and nourishes neurons.
Neurons	Nervous cells that carry impulses to the nervous system.
NG tube	Nasogastric tube inserted through the nose and into the stomach to provide nutrition or to empty the stomach.
NIDDM	Non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus or Type 2 Diabetes
NIHL	Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL)
NKDA	No known drug allergies
Non Stress Test (NST)	It measures the FHR accelerations with normal movement.
Nosocomial infection	An infection obtained while a patient or worker is in a hospital.
NPO	Nothing by mouth.
NSAID	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug such as Ibuprofen.
O	
OCD	Obsessive-compulsive disorder
ortho	straight or correct. Orthodontist - to correct the teeth; Orthopedic -to correct alignment of the bones
Obstetrics	Specialty dealing with the care of women and their children during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period.
Onco	tumor.Oncology. Oncologist.
Oncology	branch of medicine that deals with tumors (cancer)
OB; OB-GYN	Obstetrics, obstetrician -a physician who specializes in the care of women.
otorhinolaryngology, otolaryngology	diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the ear, nose, and throat.
olig(o)-	too little or too few. Oliguria - scant urine production
oculo-	eye.
odont-, odonto-	tooth. Odontologist - prevents and treats mouth, teeth, and jaw problems using braces, retainers, and other devices.
oo, oophor-, oophoro-	egg, ovary. Oophorectomy - surgical removal of the ovaries.
ophthalm-, ophthalm-	eye. Ophthalmologist - a medical doctor who specializes in treatment and surgery of the eyes.
Optician	An optician makes, verifies and delivers lenses, frames and other specially fabricated optical devices
Optometrist	specializes in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases and disorders of the eyes
Osteomalacia	softening of the bones due to a lack of vitamin D
orchid-, orchido-, orchio-	Testis, testicles. Orchidectomy - removal of the testis.
osseo, oste-, osteo-	bone. Osteoporosis - porous bones.
P	
Palpitations	Palpitations are unpleasant sensations of irregular and/or forceful beating of the heart
Palate	Roof of the oral cavity.
Pancreas	Organ produces enzymes and hormones necessary to digest and break down food, such as insulin.

Pancreatitis	Inflammation of the pancreas.
PAP test or PAP smear	Papanicolau exam to check for cervical cancer.
para	alongside, abnormal.
Paraplegia	loss of sensation and movement in the legs and in part or all of the trunk.
Paracentesis	a procedure to remove fluid that has accumulated in the abdominal cavity (peritoneal fluid), called ascites.
Parasympathetic Nervous System	Nerves have a calming effect.
Parietal Lobe	Associated with perception of touch, pressure, temperature and pain.
Patent Ductus Arteriosus or PDA	abnormal blood circulation between the heart and lungs.
path(o)-	Disease. Pathology - examination of tissues to identify disease.
Pericarditis	Inflammation of the pericardium, the outer membrane of the heart.
-pepsia	Digestion. Dyspepsia - "indigestion"
Peristalsis	Wave like contraction that takes place in the digestive tract to move food particles.
PET scan	Positron emission tomography - an imaging procedure
pyro	Fever. Pyrexia -fever. Antipyretic -medication to reduce fever.
Petit mal seizure	Absence seizure.
PFT	Pulmonary function test to measure how well the lungs are working.
-phagia	To eat or to swallow. Dysphagia.
pH	Measure of alkalinity or acidity of a solution.
Phalange-	Any bones in the fingers or toes.
Pharyngocele	Hernial protrusion of a part of the pharynx.
-ptysis	Spitting. Hemoptysis -spitting or coughing up of blood from the lungs.
Phlebectomy	Removal of a vein.
Phlebitis	Inflammation of a vein.
Phlebo	Stem which means vein.
Phobia	Fear.
Photophobia	Eye discomfort in bright light.
-plasty	surgical repair, reconstruction. Gastroplasty -surgical repair of the stomach
Poly-	many. Polyuria - increased urine production.
-plegia	paralysis. Paraplegia. Quadraplegia. Hemiplegia.
pleur-, pleura-, pleuro-	Lining of the lungs. Pleurisy - inflammation of the lining of the lungs and chest.
PMS	Premenstrual syndrome. A group of symptoms that may happen before a woman's period
Pneum, pnea	Lung; air. Pneumonia. Dyspnea.
pneum-, pneuma-, pneumat-, pneumato-	air, lung. Pneumonia - infection of the lung. Dyspnea -difficulty breathing.
Pneumonia	Inflammation of the lungs.
PNS	Peripheral Nervous System
Pod, podo	Foot.Podiatrist - specialist of foot disorders
Posterior, post	After, behind. Postpartum - the period of time after childbirth

Preterm birth	Refers to the birth of a baby of less than 37 weeks gestational age.
PPD	Purified protein derivative, a skin test for tuberculosis.
Preeclampsia	Hypertension and protein in the kidneys during pregnancy.
Presbyopia	The lens of the eye loses its ability to focus, making it difficult to see objects up close.
pre-	before. Premature or preterm - an infant born before organs are mature for postbirth survival.
PRN	As needed. Not on a scheduled basis.
Pro time,	PT or Prothrombin Time. Blood test to measure blood clotting
Proct-, procto-	anus, rectum. Proctology-field in medicine dealing with disorders of the rectum, anus, and colon.
Proctocele	Protrusion of the rectum.
Prostate	Prostate gland that makes and stores seminal fluid.
Prostatitis	Inflammation of the prostate.
Proteinuria	Protein in the urine. Used to test for kidney disease.
PSA	Prostate-Specific Antigen - blood test to determine if cancer is present in the prostate.
Psycho	Relates to the mind.
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress syndrome
PTT	Partial thromboplastin time, a measure of blood clotting
PUD	Peptic ulcer disease. Ulcer in the stomach.
PVC	Premature ventricular contraction, an irregular heart rhythm
Pyo	Pus. Empyema - collection of pus in the space between the lung and the pleural cavity.
Suffix <i>-penia</i>	Lacking, deficiency. Leukopenia - lacking white blood cells
P	
Oto	Relates to the ear.
Osteo-arthritis	Inflammation of the bones and joints.
Oste	Bone.
--osis	Condition of ...
--ose	Composed of carbohydrates. Glucose.
ORIF	Open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF): Surgery to repair a fracture or broken bone.
Orchi	Testis, testicles
Oo	Ovum, egg.
--ology	The study of. Dermatology - study of skin disorders.
Ocul	Eye.
onych(o)-	Nail. "ungui"
Occipital Lobe	Associated with vision function.
Q	
quadr(i)-	Four.
Quadriplegia	Paralysis in all four limbs and the trunk usually from spinal cord injury. Also called Tetraplegia.

qod	Every other day.
qid	Four times a day.
qh	Every hour.
qd	Every day.
R	
-rrhea	flowing, discharge. Rhinorrhea - "runny nose"
re-, retro	back or backwards.
Rect. Recto	Rectum
Relapse	Relapse - to go back to a previous state of illness
Remission	the state of absence of disease activity in patients with a chronic illness.
ren-, reno-	kidney. Renal transplant - kidney transplant
---rrhage, ---rhagia	Flowing, or bursting. Hemorrhage - profuse bleeding.
Rhinitis	Inflammation of the inner tissues of the nose. "Stuffy nose"
Rhino	Nose. Rhinoplasty - plastic surgery on the nose.
-rrhaphy	Surgical suturing. Hernirrhaphy -suturing of a hernia.
rubr(o)-	Red in color.
-rrhexia	Rupture. Examples: gastrorrhexis; hepatorrhexis.splenorrhexis
RSV	Respiratory syncytial virus infection that usually affects children.
Rx	Prescription; treatment.
S	
Septoplasty	surgery to correct the nasal septum
Salping(o)-	fallopian tubes. Salpingectomy - surgical removal of the fallopian tubes.
SAD	Seasonal affective disorder. Depression during seasons with little light
stom(a), stomy	mouth or opening. Colostomy. Tracheostomy.
Sclero-	Hard or stiff.. Arteriosclerosis refers to a stiffening of arteries.
Salivary glands	Saliva production.
spondyl(o)-	Spine or vertebra
steth(o)-	Pertains to the upper chest. Stethoscope -instrument for auscultating or listening to the chest.
sc/sq/subq	Subcutaneous.
-stasis	Standing still, stopped. Venous stasis - impaired circulation.
-staxis	Dripping, trickling. Epistaxis - nosebleed. Dripping blood from the nose.
-scopy	Use of an instrument for viewing. Gastroscope -an instrument for looking inside the stomach.
Schwann cells	Produces myelin in the peripheral nervous system.
Scope	An instrument for viewing. Otoscope - device used to look inside the ears.
Schwannomas	Benign tumors of the peripheral nervous system.
Shock	Severe condition that occurs when not enough blood flows through the body.

Sickle cell disease	Abnormal hemoglobin in the blood. Much more common in people of African and Mediterranean descent.
Side Effects	Side effects are unwanted effects caused by medications which can be mild or serious.
SIDS	Sudden infant death syndrome
Sinoatrial node or SA node	Pacemaker of the heart.
SLE	Systemic lupus erythematosus, an inflammatory autoimmune disorder.
Small intestine	Part of the digestive tract where food is absorbed and passes residue to the large intestine.
Sonography	Another name for the ultrasound scan.
Sphygmomanometer	is a device used to measure blood pressure,
Spina bifida.	"Open spine." Spinal cord is exposed or covered only with a thin membrane.
Spirometer	Instrument to measure the volume of air going into and out of the lungs.
Splenorrhexis	Ruptured spleen.
Sprain	A sprain is a stretched or torn ligament. Ligaments are tissues that connect bones at a joint.
STD	Sexual Transmitted Diseases
--stenosis	constriction, narrowing. Carotid artery stenosis - narrowed carotid arteries
Stent	Small mesh tube placed in the artery to keep it open after the procedure.
Strain	A strain is a stretched or torn muscle or tendon. Tendons are tissues that connect muscle to bone.
Sub	Under or below. Subdural hematoma - bleeding in the dura, the layer underneath the skull.
Superior	Above, over.
Sympathetic Nervous System	Sends impulses to the internal organs such as heart and Nervous Systems.
Systole	Contraction phase of the heart cycle.
T	
Thalassemia or Beta-thalassemia	Most common among people of Mediterranean descent, this disorder can cause anemia.
T3, T4	Blood test to detect thyroid disease.
Tachycardia	A very fast or accelerated heart rate.
TAH	Total abdominal hysterectomy
Tay Sachs disease	Beta-thalassemiaEuropean Jewish descent. Abnormal fatty substance in tissues and nerve cells of the brain.
TB	Tuberculosis - disease cause by bacteria that affect the lungs.
Temporal	Relates to hearing.
Temporal Lobe	Associated with recognition of auditory stimuli (hearing) and memory
Thermometer	a device that measures temperature
thorac(i)-, thorac(o)-, thoracico-	Upper chest area.
Thoracentesis.	a procedure to remove fluid from the space between the lungs and the chest wall called the pleural space.
Toco	Childbirth.
Thrombo	Clot of blood.
-tomy	Act of cutting, incision. Craniotomy.
Thrombophlebitis	Inflammation of a vein due to a blood clot.
tox(i)-, tox(o)-, toxico-	Poison.

TIA	Transient ischemic attack or mini stroke
TMJ	Temporomandibular joint
-trophy	Development. Hypertrophy - increased growth or development. Atrophy - decreased growth
Trachea	Windpipe. Tube like portion that connects the larynx to the bronchial parts.
Tracheostomy	Procedure to create an opening in the trachea (windpipe) to bypass an obstructed airway passage.
Tracheotomy	Incision into the trachea.
TURP	Transurethral resection of prostate gland
Tympano	Relates to the eardrum.
U	
UGI or Upper GI series	Examines the upper and middle portions of the gastrointestinal tract (intestines) using contrast material.
URI	Upper Respiratory Infection. Another name for the common cold.
UTI	Urinary tract infection
Uterine prolapse	When the uterus drops into the vagina.
Uter	Uterus.
un(i)-	One side. Unilateral hearing loss - loss of hearing in one ear.
Uria, ur(o)-,	Refers to urine. Ureter, Urology.
Urology	Surgical specialty that focuses on the urinary tracts of males and females.
Unconsciousness	When a person cannot respond to any kind of stimulus.
Ultrasound, obstetric	Ultrasound scan used as a diagnostic tool in Obstetrics.
V	
Vagin	Vagina.
varic(o)-	Swollen or twisted vein
Vaso	Vessel.
Veno	Stems which mean vein.
Venogram	Test to see the veins in the legs.
Ventilator	Machine that takes air into and out of the lungs.
Vertebr	Relates to the spine.
Vertigo	Dizziness; sensation of spinning.
vesic(o)-	Usually pertains to the bladder. Vessel. Pouch.
Vestibular Function	Sense of balance.
VF	Ventricular Fibrillation
viscer(o)-	Internal organs.
Visual Acuity Test	Determines the smallest letters a person can read on a standardized chart or card held 14 - 20 feet away
Visual Field Cuts	Defects in vision.
VS	Vital signs.
X	
Xanth	Yellow.

xen(o)-	Foreign or different. Xenograft - tissue transplant from one species to another.
Xer	Dry. Xerophthalmia - dry eyes; or eyes unable to produce tears.
XRT	Radiotherapy. Therapy that uses radiation, usually for cancer
XS	Excessive.
W	
WB	Whole blood.
WBC	White blood cell or count.
Wernicke's Aphasia	Difficulty in understanding spoken words.
WN	Well Nourished
WOP	Without pain.
Y	
YOB	Year of birth.
YF	Yellow fever.
Z	
Zn	Zinc.
ZnO	Zinc oxide.
Zoonosis	An infectious disease in animals that can be transmitted to people. Parasites, fleas, Lyme disease. Swine flu.

All terminology presented in this version of an electronic dictionary came from the Culture Advantage Course material and website. This dictionary is for the exclusive use of our students unless otherwise permitted.

Resources:

Medical Encyclopedia: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html>

Medline Medical Encyclopedia: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html>

Medline Plus in Spanish: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/medlineplus.html>

Medical Dictionary: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mplusdictionary.html>

Online Medical Terminology and Anatomy Reference: <http://www.free-ed.net/sweethaven/MedTech/MedTerm/>

Word Parts: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/appendixa.html>

Wikipedia Root Words, Prefixes: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_medical_roots

Health Information in Multiple Languages:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/languages/languages.html>

Nervous System Information: <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/auto.html>

Respiratory System: <http://hes.ucfsd.org/gclaypo/repiratorysys.html#Trachea>

How a person breathes: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYSIWceGMxY&feature=related>

Alzheimer's disease: <http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Publications/adfact.htm>

Cancer disease: <http://training.seer.cancer.gov/anatomy/nervous/organization/> ,
<http://training.seer.cancer.gov/anatomy/nervous/>

Compiled by
Carl Lam, PhD
2010