

## Chapter 23

### Unit I

#### Medical Terminology: Word Elements Analyzing, and Word Building

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### Introduction to Medical Terms

- Most medical terms are Greek or Latin.
- A few are adapted from modern languages
- In this course parts of the word are memorized rather than the whole word.
- By learning parts, words can be built.
- Words can be broken down into word parts to determine the meaning.
- For example, the medical term:  
nephr/ectomy  
neph means kidney  
ectomy means surgical removal  
thus nephrectomy means surgical removal of kidney

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### Introduction (con't)

- Some medical terms have an implied meaning
- For example the word an/emia literally translated means without (an) blood (emia)
- The correct interpretation of anemia (implied meaning) is a deficiency of red blood cells.
- Knowledge of word parts with an implied meaning takes you almost to the exact meaning of the term.
- Medical terms are used because they require less words than English.
- Medical terms are efficient, factual, save space, and describe more exactly.
- Pronunciation varies

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**Word Elements**  
means to describe the components  
of words

- Four word elements:
  1. The word root
  2. The prefix
  3. The suffix
  4. The combining vowel

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**The Word Root**

- Basic part of word
- Expresses the principal meaning
- For example, in the term gastric  
gastr (which means stomach) is the word root

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**The Prefix**

- The prefix is in front of the word root
- It alters the meaning of the root.
- For example, in the term intra/gastr/ic  
intra (which means within) is the prefix

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## The Suffix

- The suffix is added after the word root.
- It alters the roots meaning.
- For example, in the term gastr/ic ic (means pertaining to) is the suffix

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## The Combining Vowel

- It is usually an o
- It is between two root words
- It can be between a root word and a suffix
- It eases pronunciation
- When combining a word root and a suffix, if suffix begins with vowel a combining vowel is not necessary. For example gastr/ectomy.
- When connecting two root words the o is used even if the second root begins with a vowel, example: gastroenteritis.

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## Homework

- Analyzing Medical Terms - Means to divide the term into word elements and identify each word element. Complete Exercise 1 on pg 429.
- Word Building – is the process of creating a medical term using word elements. Complete Exercise 2 pg 429-430
- Complete Review Questions pg 430
- Turn in homework next week.

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