



## Word list

**root** = the basic part of a word. (**heal** is the root of **health** / **healthy**, **sick** is the root of **sickness**, **caution** is the root of **precaution**).

**stem** = an added part of a word (like 's', 'ed', 'ing', 'un', 'dis', 'ly'), that changes the word in some way (as **paid** changes to **unpaid**, or **careless** changes to **careful**).

**letter patterns** = groups of letters that you often see written together (like 'ay', 'th', 'eed', 'ame', 'ow', 'ough', 'ent', 'aid', 'atch')

unhealthy  
healthy  
heal  
health



## When do we use it? Context

Whenever we are learning, we come across new and hard words. We can break them up by **listening** to the parts, for example:

### cardiovascular

car / di / o / vas / cu / lar (car - dee - o - vas - kyu - lah)

### hygiene

hy / giene (hy - jeen)

### contamination

con / tam / in / a / tion (con - tam - in - ay - shun)

We can also break them up by looking at the parts:

**roots** infection      **infect** / ion

**stems** assessment    assess / **ment**

**letter patterns**    cleansing    cl / **ean** / s / **ing**

**tricky spelling**    weight    w / **eigh** / t

# Word Patterns



## Why?

If you know the root of a word, then you can probably work out a new word with the same root.

For example

- **unknown** instead of not known
- **irregular** instead of not regular
- **infrequent** instead of not frequent,

All languages have common word endings or suffixes.

In English the suffix '*er*' often means it is a person.

- A **walker** is someone who walks.
- A **singer** is someone who sings.
- '*com*' is Latin for with (*com/con/col/co*): **compare**, **contagious**, **colleague**, **co-operate**.
- '*post*' is Latin for after: **postnatal**, **postoperative**, **post** traumatic stress, post meridiem - p.m.
- '*mal*' is Latin for bad: **malignant**, **malnutrition**.
- other prefixes used in medicine are: hyper, hypo, haemo, inter, dys.

Often medical words have come into English from Greek and Latin. Many English words have Greek and Latin suffixes.

Here are some suffixes which you will know from reading, writing and speaking Medical English.

- **tion** as in – medication, examination, malnutrition
- **sis** as in – tuberculosis, dialysis, urinalysis
- **ment** as in – treatment, employment,
- **ure** as in – puncture, suture, ligature
- **ic** as in – antibiotic, diuretic, sympathetic
- **itis** as in – dermatitis, nephritis, hepatitis





## Talk about – Discuss

Are there any words you would like to learn at work?  
 Ask someone at work if they will help you.  
 Remember to break them up if they are hard.  
 Then add them to your word list.

What do you call that  
 blood pressure thing?

It's a sphygmomanometer

A sphy..... what?



## Do

Look at these root words and the new words they can make.  
 Notice how the ends of the words can be quite different.  
 Practise saying them in their parts.

root word	parts	new words	parts
injure	in / jure	injury injured	in / jur / y in / jur / ed
danger	dang / er	dangerous dangerously	dang / er / ous dang / er / ous / ly
pain	pain	painful painkiller	pain / ful pain / kill / er
allergy	all / er / gy	allergic allergen	all / er / gic all / er / gen

# Word Patterns



Do

Look at these. Can you break them up so they are easier to learn?

root word	parts	new words	parts
artery		arterial	
inject		injection	
anaesthesia		anaesthetic	
technical		technique	
sterile		sterilise	
medical		medication	
equip		equipment	
pharmacy		pharmaceutical	
symptom		asymptomatic	
vessel		vascular	

Use this table for your own words.

root word	parts	new words	parts



# Word Patterns



Do

Highlight the root word inside the whole word. (The first two are done.)

Root (Greek or Latin)	Meaning	Whole Words
circulare	to move around	<b>circulation</b> system
spirare	to breathe	re <b>spiratory</b> system
excernere	to sift	excretory system
digerere	to carry	digestive system
lympa	water	lymphatic system
clanicus	a bed	clinic
lakeros	to tear	lacerate
otikos	an ear	otitis

Find the root in the words in the table below.

In these examples you just remove the prefix. Check each word in your dictionary

word	prefix	root
disagree	dis	agree
unaware		
renegotiate		
uncertain		
degenerate		
discount		
defraud		
unconcerned		

# Word Patterns



Do

Highlight then write the suffixes in the following words.

Whole word	Word parts	Suffix
nephritis	neph+itis	itis
bronchiolitis	bronchiol + itis	
otitis medea	ot+ isis	
arthritis	arthr + itis	
poliomyelitis	polio + myel + itis	



Write

Use what you know about suffixes to finish these sentences. The first one is done for you.

- You are part of a community **network**.  
Meeting new people is called **networking**.
- You are a **councillor**.  
You have an important role in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Councillors need to **consult** with their community members to find out what they think.  
Finding out what people think is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Contractors **maintain** the new swimming pool in your community.  
They have a \_\_\_\_\_ contract.
- You sometimes liaise with people in government departments.  
This type of connecting is called government \_\_\_\_\_.
- A mentor gives you **guidance** as you learn a new skill.  
They \_\_\_\_\_ and support you through difficulties.

