

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОХОРОНИ ЗДОРОВ'Я УКРАЇНИ

ДЗ "ДНІПРОПЕТРОВСЬКА МЕДИЧНА АКАДЕМІЯ МІНІСТЕРСТВА
ОХОРОНИ ЗДОРОВ'Я УКРАЇНИ"

Кафедра мовної підготовки



**АКТУАЛЬНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ НАВЧАННЯ
ІНОЗЕМНИХ СТУДЕНТІВ**

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HOW TO TEACH MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

One of the methods for learning medical vocabulary is to break the words up into their component parts, understand what the parts mean, and recognize how they are put together to create new words. It is easy to learn the individual elements that make up terms and then use the knowledge of those terms to understand and remember the meanings of new words as they come up.

Most medical terms are constructed using two or more three basic word elements: roots, suffixes and prefixes. Not all medical words use all three of the word elements and many medical words just have two. For example, the word "meningitis" is constructed using two word parts: the word root "mening", which means "meninges", the membrane covering the brain and spinal cord, and the suffix "-itis", which means "inflammation", thus giving the meaning of "inflammation of the membrane covering the brain and spinal cord". Breaking the word up into its component parts looks like this:

Word part:	<u>root</u>	<u>suffix</u>
Term:	mening	-itis
Meaning:	meninges	inflammation of

That alone doesn't tell everything about the disease, but knowing what it refers to already helps students better understand what they are dealing with. What to do when encountering new words for the first time?

To establish the meaning of the suffix first and the root last. Then the meaning of the whole word can be determined by putting the elements together. The suffix tells what is happening in the word, while the root tells where it is happening. For example, the word "colitis" means that there is inflammation, and that is happening in the colon. The inflammation is the essential information of the word because it is

what is happening to the patient. Three basic patterns are used to form words from word elements.

These are: root + suffix

prefix + root + suffix

root + root + suffix

For a word that comprises a prefix the rule for understanding the word is to examine the suffix first, then the prefix, and then the root. For example, look at the word "hyperthyroidism":

Word part:	<u>prefix</u>	<u>root</u>	<u>suffix</u>
Term:	hyper	thyroid	-ism
Meaning:	excessive	thyroid	condition

The suffix "-ism" means that it is a medical condition, the prefix "hyper" – means that there is an excessive or above normal amount, and the root "thyroid" means that it is in the thyroid gland, giving us the final definition of "condition of excessive activity of the thyroid gland".

Medical vocabulary is almost a separate field of study on its own. The heavy use of Latin and Greek words in medicine means students have some difficulty learning these terms. This difficulty can be reduced by recognizing and understanding the rules of word structure. By learning the Greek and Latin roots most often used in medicine, students will be able to quickly and easily figure out the meaning of almost any term they come across in their career.