

DICTIONARY OF NURSING AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

ENGLISH	
term	meanings
A	
abdomen	<i>noun</i> a space inside the body below the diaphragm, above the pelvis and in front of the spine, containing the stomach, intestines, liver and other vital organs
abduction	<i>noun</i> the movement of a part of the body away from the centre line of the body or away from a neighbouring part. Opposite
ablation	<i>noun</i> the removal of an organ or of a part of the body by surgery
abort	<i>verb</i> to eject an embryo or fetus, or to cause an embryo or fetus to be ejected, and so end a pregnancy before the fetus is fully developed
abscess	<i>noun</i> a painful swollen area where pus forms
absorbent cotton	<i>noun</i> a soft white material used as a dressing to put on wounds
absorption	<i>noun</i> the process by which a liquid is taken into a solid
abstinence	<i>noun</i> a deliberate act of not doing something over a period of time, especially not eating or drinking
accessory	<i>noun</i> something which helps something else to happen or operate, but may not be very important in itself
accident	<i>noun</i> 1. an unpleasant event which happens suddenly and harms someone's health
accidental injury	<i>noun</i> an injury that happens to someone in an accident
accident and emergency department	<i>noun</i> the part of a hospital which deals with people who need urgent treatment because they have had accidents or are in sudden serious pain.
ache	<i>noun</i> a pain which goes on for a time, but is not very severe <i>verb</i> to have a pain in part of the body
acne	<i>noun</i> an inflammation of the sebaceous glands during puberty which makes blackheads appear on the skin, usually on the face, neck and shoulders. These blackheads often then become infected.
acquired	<i>adjective</i> referring to a condition which is neither congenital nor hereditary and which a person develops after birth in reaction to his or her environment
acquired immunity	<i>noun</i> an immunity which a body acquires from having caught a disease or from immunisation, not one which is congenital ...
acrophobia	<i>noun</i> a fear of heights
activity	<i>noun</i> 1. what someone does _ 2. the characteristic behaviour of a chemical antibacterial activity effective action against bacteria
acupuncture	<i>noun</i> a treatment based on needles being inserted through the skin into nerve centres in order to relieve pain or treat a disorder
acute	<i>adjective</i> referring to a disease or condition which develops rapidly and can be dangerous
acute abdomen	<i>noun</i> any serious condition of the abdomen which requires surgery
acute care	<i>noun</i> medical or surgical treatment in a hospital, usually for a short period, for a patient with a sudden severe illness or injury
acute hospital	<i>noun</i> a hospital where people go for major surgery or intensive care of medical or surgical conditions
adjuvant	referring to treatment by drugs or radiation therapy after surgery for cancer _ <i>noun</i> a substance added to a drug to enhance the effect of the main ingredient
adult	<i>adjective</i> grown-up <i>noun</i> someone who is no longer a child
adverse occurrence	<i>noun</i> a harmful event which occurs during treatment

aerosol	<i>noun</i> tiny particles of a liquid such as a drug or disinfectant suspended in a gas under pressure in a container and used as a spray
aetiology	<i>noun</i> 1. the cause or origin of a disease 2. the study of the causes and origins of diseases
affective disorder	<i>noun</i> a condition which changes someone's mood, making him or her depressed or excited
afunctional	<i>adjective</i> which does not function properly
agent	<i>noun</i> 1. a chemical substance which makes another substance react 2. a substance or organism which causes a disease or condition
agony	<i>noun</i> a very severe physical or emotional pain
AIDS	<i>noun</i> a viral infection which breaks down the body's immune system. Full form acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
alcohol addiction	<i>noun</i> a condition in which a person is dependent on the use of alcohol
-algia	<i>suffix</i> a word ending that indicates a painful condition
algid	<i>adjective</i> referring to a stage in a disease that causes fever during which the body becomes cold
alkaloid	<i>noun</i> one of many poisonous substances found in plants and used as medicines, e.g. atropine, morphine or quinine different effect
allergy	<i>noun</i> an unusual sensitivity to some substances such as pollen or dust, which cause a physical reaction such as sneezing or a rash in someone who comes into contact with
allo-	different
allopathy	<i>noun</i> the treatment of a condition using drugs which produce opposite symptoms to those of the condition. Compare homeopathy
alternative medicine	<i>noun</i> the treatment of illness using therapies such as homoeopathy or naturopathy which are not considered part of conventional Western medicine. _ complementary medicine
ambulatory care	<i>noun</i> treatment of a patient which does not involve staying in hospital during the night
amnesia	<i>noun</i> loss of memory
ampoule	<i>noun</i> a small glass container, closed at the neck, used to contain sterile drugs for use in injections
amputee	<i>noun</i> someone who has had a limb or part of a limb removed in a surgical operation
anabolic	<i>adjective</i> referring to a substance which synthesises protein
anaemia	<i>noun</i> a condition in which the level of red blood cells is less than usual or where the haemoglobin is less, making it more difficult for the blood to carry oxygen.
anaesthesia	<i>noun</i> 1. a state, deliberately produced in a patient by a medical procedure, in which he or she can feel no pain, either in a part or in the whole of the body 2. a loss of feeling caused by damage to nerves
anaesthetic risk	<i>noun</i> the risk that an anaesthetic may cause serious unwanted side effects
anal	<i>adjective</i> relating to the anus
analgesia	<i>noun</i> a reduction of the feeling of pain without loss of consciousness
analgesic	<i>adjective</i> relating to analgesia _ <i>noun</i> a painkilling drug which produces analgesia and reduces pyrexia
anatomy	<i>noun</i> 1. the structure, especially the internal structure, of the body 2. the branch of science that studies the structure of the bodies of humans, animals and plants
angina	<i>noun</i> a pain in the chest following exercise or eating, which is caused by an inadequate supply of blood to the heart muscles because of narrowing of the arteries pectoris
ankle	<i>noun</i> the part of the body where the foot is connected to the leg
anomaly	<i>noun</i> something which is different from the usual
anorexia	<i>noun</i> loss of appetite
anorexia nervosa	<i>noun</i> a psychological condition, usually found in girls and young women, in which a person refuses to eat because of a fear of becoming fatter
anthropology	<i>noun</i> the study of human beings as a species, especially their culture or development. It differs from sociology in taking a more historical and comparative approach.
anti-	against
antiarrhythmic	<i>adjective</i> referring to a drug which corrects an irregular heartbeat
antiasthmatic	<i>adjective</i> referring to a drug that is used to treat asthma
antibacterial	<i>adjective</i> destroying bacteria
antibiotic	<i>adjective</i> stopping the spread of bacteria _ <i>noun</i> a drug which is developed from living substances and which stops the spread of bacteria, e.g. penicillin _
antibody	<i>noun</i> a protein that is stimulated by the body to produce foreign substances such as bacteria, as part of an immune reaction
anticoagulant	<i>adjective</i> slowing or stopping the clotting of blood _ <i>noun</i> a drug which slows down or stops the clotting of blood, used to prevent the formation of a thrombus (NOTE: Anticoagulants have names ending in -parin : heparin .)
anticonvulsant	<i>adjective</i> acting to control convulsions _ <i>noun</i> a drug used to control convulsions, as in the treatment of epilepsy, e.g. carbamazepine
antidepressant	<i>adjective</i> acting to relieve depression _ <i>noun</i> a drug used to relieve depression by stimulating the mood of a depressed person. Examples are tricyclic antidepressants, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and monoamine oxidase inhibitors.
antidiuretic	<i>noun</i> a substance which stops the production of excessive amounts of urine <i>adjective</i> preventing the excessive production of urine

antidote	<i>noun</i> a substance which counteracts the effect of a poison
antiepileptic drug	<i>noun</i> a drug used in the treatment of epilepsy and convulsions, e.g. carbamazepine
antigen	<i>noun</i> a substance that stimulates the body to produce antibodies, e.g. a protein on the surface of a cell or microorganism
antihypertensive	<i>adjective</i> acting to reduce blood pressure _ <i>noun</i> a drug used to reduce high blood pressure
antimicrobial	<i>adjective</i> acting against microorganisms that cause disease
antimigraine	<i>noun</i> a drug used in the treatment of migraine
antimitotic	<i>adjective</i> preventing the division of a cell by mitosis
antioxidant	<i>noun</i> a substance which makes oxygen less damaging, e.g. in the body or in foods or plastics _ <i>antioxidant vitamins</i>
antiperspirant	<i>noun</i> a substance which prevents sweating _ <i>adjective</i> preventing sweating
antipruritic	<i>noun</i> a substance which prevents itching _ <i>adjective</i> preventing itching
antipsychotic	<i>noun</i> a neuroleptic or major tranquilliser drug which calms disturbed people without causing sedation or confusion by blocking dopamine receptors in the brain
antipyretic	<i>noun</i> a drug which helps to reduce a fever _ <i>adjective</i> reducing fever
antiseptic	<i>adjective</i> preventing harmful microorganisms from spreading _ <i>noun</i> a substance which prevents germs growing or spreading
antisocial	<i>adjective</i> referring to behaviour which is harmful to other people
antispasmodic	<i>noun</i> a drug used to prevent spasms
antitoxic serum	<i>noun</i> an immunising agent, formed of serum taken from an animal which has developed antibodies to a disease, used to protect a person from that disease
aorta	<i>noun</i> the main artery in the body, which sends blood containing oxygen from the heart to other blood vessels around the body.
apathy	<i>noun</i> the condition of not being interested in anything, or of not wanting to do anything
aphrodisiac	<i>noun</i> a substance which increases sexual urges _ <i>adjective</i> increasing sexual desire.
apnoea	<i>noun</i> the stopping of breathing
appendix	<i>noun</i> 1. a small tube attached to the caecum which serves no function but can become infected, causing appendicitis. 2. any small tube or sac hanging from an organ
appetite	<i>noun</i> the feeling of wanting food
applicator	<i>noun</i> an instrument for applying a substance
aromatherapy	<i>noun</i> treatment to relieve tension and promote wellbeing in which fragrant oils and creams containing plant extracts are massaged into the skin
arrest	<i>noun</i> the stopping of a bodily function. _ cardiac arrest
arrhythmia	<i>noun</i> a variation in the rhythm of the heartbeat
artery	<i>noun</i> a blood vessel taking blood from the heart to the tissues of the body
aspiration	<i>noun</i> 1. the act of removing fluid from a cavity in the body, often using a hollow needle
aspirator	<i>noun</i> an instrument used to suck fluid out of a cavity such as the mouth or the site of an operation
aspirin	<i>noun</i> a common pain-killing drug, or a tablet containing this drug. Also called acetylsalicylic acid
asthma	<i>noun</i> a lung condition characterised by narrowing of the bronchial tubes, in which the muscles go into spasm and the person has difficulty breathing. _
astigmatism	<i>noun</i> a condition in which the eye cannot focus vertical and horizontal lines simultaneously, leading to blurring of vision
atherosclerosis	<i>noun</i> a condition in which deposits of fats and minerals form on the walls of an artery, especially the aorta or one of the coronary or cerebral arteries, and prevent blood from flowing easily
atrophy	<i>noun</i> the wasting of an organ or part of the body _ <i>verb</i> (of an organ or part of the body) to waste away
atropine	<i>noun</i> an alkaloid substance derived from the poisonous plant belladonna and used, among other things, to enlarge the pupil of the eye, to reduce salivary and bronchial secretions during anaesthesia and as a muscarinic antagonist
attack	<i>noun</i> a sudden occurrence of an illness
autism	<i>noun</i> a condition developing in childhood, characterised by difficulty in social interaction, language and communication problems, learning difficulties and obsessional repetitive behaviour
auto-	<i>prefix</i> self
autoinfection	<i>noun</i> an infection by a microorganism already in the body, or infection of one part of the body by another part
autopsy	<i>noun</i> the examination of a dead body by a pathologist to find out the cause of death . Also called post mortem
B	
baby	<i>noun</i> a very young child who is not yet old enough to talk or walk
back	<i>noun</i> 1. the part of the body from the neck downwards to the waist, which is made up of the spine and the bones attached to it (NOTE: For other terms referring to the back, see dorsal and words beginning with dorsi- , orso- .) 2. the other side from the front. _ dorsum
backache	<i>noun</i> pain in the back, often without a specific cause
backbone	<i>noun</i> a series of bones, the vertebrae, linked together to form a flexible column running from the pelvis to the skull. Also called rachis , spine

back pain	<i>noun</i> pain in the back, especially long-lasting or severe pain
bacterium	<i>noun</i> a microscopic organism. Some types are permanently present in the gut and can break down food tissue, but many can cause disease. COMMENT: Bacteria can be shaped like rods (bacilli), like balls (cocci) or have a spiral form (spirochaetes). Bacteria, especially bacilli and spirochaetes, can move and reproduce very rapidly.
balsam	<i>noun</i> a mixture of resin and oil, used to rub on sore joints or to put in hot water and use as an inhalant. _ friar's balsam
bandage	<i>noun</i> a piece of cloth which is wrapped around a wound or an injured limb <i>verb</i> to wrap a piece of cloth around a wound _
bedpan	<i>noun</i> a dish into which someone can urinate or defecate without getting out of bed
bed rest	<i>noun</i> a period of time spent in bed in order to rest and recover from an illness
behaviour therapy	<i>noun</i> a form of psychiatric treatment in which someone learns how to improve their condition
beta blocker	<i>noun</i> a drug which reduces the activity of the heart (NOTE: Beta blockers have names ending in -olol : atenolol , propranolol hydrochloride .)
bilateral	<i>adjective</i> affecting both sides
bilateral pneumonia	<i>noun</i> pneumonia affecting both lungs
bio-	<i>prefix</i> referring to living organisms
bioassay	<i>noun</i> a test of the strength of a drug, hormone, vitamin or serum, by examining the effect it has on living animals or tissue
biocide	<i>noun</i> a substance which kills living organisms
biopsy	<i>noun</i> the process of taking a small piece of living tissue for examination and diagnosis
biorhythm	<i>noun</i> a regular process of change which takes place within living organisms, e.g. sleeping, waking or the reproductive cycle
blackout	<i>noun</i> a sudden loss of consciousness .Also called fainting fit
bleeder	<i>noun</i> 1. a blood vessel which bleeds during surgery 2. a person who has haemophilia (<i>informal</i>)
bleeding	<i>noun</i> an unusual loss of blood from the body through the skin, through an orifice or internally
blind	<i>adjective</i> not able to see
blister	<i>noun</i> a swelling on the skin containing serum from the blood, caused by rubbing, burning or a disease such as chickenpox _ <i>verb</i> to produce blisters
block	<i>noun</i> 1. the stopping of a function 2. a large piece of something 3. a period of time
blood	<i>noun</i> a red liquid moved around the body by the pumping action of the heart (NOTE: For other terms referring to blood, see words beginning with haem- , haemo- , haemato- .)
blood bank	<i>noun</i> a section of a hospital or a special centre where blood given by donors is stored for use in transfusions
blood clot	<i>noun</i> a soft mass of coagulated blood in a vein or an artery. Also called thrombus
blood donor	<i>noun</i> a person who gives blood which is then used in transfusions to other people
blood group	<i>noun</i> one of the different groups into which human blood is classified. Also called blood type .
blood pressure	<i>noun</i> the pressure, measured in millimetres of mercury, at which the blood is pumped round the body by the heart
blood sugar level	<i>noun</i> the amount of glucose in the blood, which is higher after meals and in people with diabetes
blood test	<i>noun</i> a laboratory test of a blood sample to analyse its chemical composition
blood transfusion	<i>noun</i> a procedure in which blood given by another person or taken from the patient at an earlier stage is transferred into the patient's vein
body language	<i>noun</i> the expression on your face, or the way you hold your body, interpreted by other people as unconsciously revealing your feelings
bone	<i>noun</i> 1. calcified connective tissue 2. one of the calcified pieces of connective tissue which make the skeleton
brady-	<i>prefix</i> slow
bradycardia	<i>noun</i> a slow rate of heart contraction, shown by a slow pulse rate of less than 70 beats per minute
bradykinesia	<i>noun</i> a condition in which someone walks slowly and makes slow movements because of disease
bradypnoea	<i>noun</i> unusually slow breathing
brain	<i>noun</i> the part of the central nervous system situated inside the skull. Also called encephalon .
brain damage	<i>noun</i> damage caused to the brain as a result of oxygen and sugar deprivation, e.g. after a haemorrhage, accident, or through disease
brain death	<i>noun</i> a condition in which the nerves in the brain stem have died, and the person can be certified as dead, although the heart may not have stopped beating
brain scan	<i>noun</i> an examination of the inside of the brain, made by passing X-rays
break down	<i>verb</i> 1. to experience a sudden physical or psychological illness 2. to start to cry and become upset. 3. to split or cause to split into smaller chemical components, as in the digestion of food
breast	<i>noun</i> one of two glands in a woman which secrete milk. Also called mamma (NOTE: For other terms referring to breasts, see words beginning with mamm- , mammo- , mast- , masto- .)
breath	<i>noun</i> air which goes in and out of the body when you breathe
breath-holding attack	<i>noun</i> a period when a young child stops breathing, usually because he or she is angry

breathing	<i>noun</i> same as respiration (NOTE: For other terms referring to breathing see words beginning with pneum- , pneumo- , pneumat- , pneumato- .)
bronchus	<i>noun</i> one of the two air passages leading from the trachea into the lungs, where they split into many bronchioles.
bulimia , bulimia nervosa	<i>noun</i> a psychological condition in which a person eats too much and is incapable of controlling his or her eating. The eating is followed by behaviour designed to prevent weight gain, e.g. vomiting, use of laxatives or excessive exercise
bypass	<i>noun</i> 1. a surgical operation to redirect the blood, usually using a grafted blood vessel and usually performed when one of the person's own blood vessels is blocked 2. a new route for the blood created by a bypass operation
C	
calibrator	<i>noun</i> an instrument used to enlarge a tube or passage
calorie	<i>noun</i> 1. a unit of measurement of heat or energy, equivalent to the amount of heat needed to raise the temperature of 1g of water by 1°C.
calvaria /, calvarium	<i>noun</i> the top part of the skull
canal	<i>noun</i> a tube along which something flows
cancer	<i>noun</i> a malignant growth or tumour which develops in tissue and destroys it, which can spread by metastasis to other parts of the body and which cannot be controlled by the body itself (NOTE:For other terms referring to cancer, see words beginning with carcin- .)
cannabis	<i>noun</i> a drug made from the dried leaves or flowers of the Indian hemp plant. Recreational use of cannabis is illegal and its use to relieve the pain associated with conditions such as multiple sclerosis is controversial. Also called hashish, marijuana
cannula	<i>noun</i> a tube with a trocar or blunt needle inside, inserted into the body to introduce fluids
capillary	<i>noun</i> a tiny blood vessel between the arterioles and the venules, which carries blood and nutrients into the tissues
capsule	<i>noun</i> 1. a membrane round an organ or joint 2. a small hollow digestible case filled with a drug that is taken by swallowing
carcinogen	<i>noun</i> a substance which produces a carcinoma or cancer
cardiogram	<i>noun</i> a graph showing the heartbeat, produced by a cardiograph
cardiograph	<i>noun</i> an instrument which records the heartbeat
cardiologist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in the study of the heart
cardiology	<i>noun</i> the study of the heart, its diseases and functions
cardiovascular system	<i>noun</i> the system of organs and blood vessels by means of which the blood circulates round the body and which includes the heart, arteries and veins
caries	<i>noun</i> decay in a tooth or bone
case	<i>noun</i> a single occurrence of a disease
case control study	<i>noun</i> an investigation in which a group of patients with a disease are compared with a group without the disease in order to study possible causes
case history	<i>noun</i> details of what has happened to a patient undergoing treatment
catharsis	<i>noun</i> purgation of the bowels
catheter	<i>noun</i> a tube passed into the body along one of the passages in the body
cauterise, cauterize	<i>verb</i> to use burning, radiation or laser beams to remove tissue or to stop bleeding
cautery	<i>noun</i> a surgical instrument used to cauterise a wound
cavity	<i>noun</i> a hole or space inside the body
cell	<i>noun</i> a tiny unit of matter which is the base of all plant and animal tissue (NOTE: For other terms referring to cells, see words beginning with cyt- , cyto- .)
cellulite	<i>noun</i> lumpy deposits of subcutaneous fat, especially in the thighs and buttocks
centrum	<i>noun</i> the central part of an organ
chart	<i>noun</i> a record of information shown as a series of lines or points on graph paper
charting	<i>noun</i> the preparation and updating of a hospital patient's chart by nurses and doctors
check-up	<i>noun</i> a general examination by a doctor or dentist
cheek	<i>noun</i> 1. one of two fleshy parts of the face on each side of the nose 2. either side of the buttocks
chickenpox	<i>noun</i> an infectious disease of children, with fever and red spots which turn into itchy blisters. Also called varicella
chemotherapy	<i>noun</i> the use of drugs such as antibiotics, painkillers or antiseptic lotions to fight a disease, especially using toxic chemicals to destroy rapidly developing cancer cells
chest	<i>noun</i> 1. the upper front part of the body between the neck and stomach. Also called thorax 2. same as thorax (NOTE: For other terms referring to the chest, see pectoral and words beginning with steth- , thorac- , thoraco- .)
chest pain	<i>noun</i> pain in the chest which may be caused by heart disease
child	<i>noun</i> a young boy or girl. Child is the legal term for a person under 14 years of age. (NOTE: The plural is children . For other terms referring to children, see words beginning with paed- , paedo- or ped- , pedo- .)
child abuse	<i>noun</i> cruel treatment of a child by an adult, including physical and sexual harm
child protection	<i>noun</i> the measures taken to avoid abuse, neglect or exploitation of any kind towards children
chill	<i>noun</i> a short illness causing a feeling of being cold and shivering, usually the sign of the beginning of a fever, of flu or a cold

Chinese medicine	<i>noun</i> a system of diagnosis, treatment and prevention of illness developed in China over many centuries. It uses herbs, inerals and animal products, exercise, massage and acupuncture
cholesterol	<i>noun</i> a fatty substance found in fats and oils, also produced by the liver and forming an essential part of all cells
chronic	<i>adjective</i> 1. referring to a disease or condition which lasts for a long time Opposite acute 2. referring to serious pain (<i>informal</i>)
circum-	<i>prefix</i> around
cirrhosis	<i>noun</i> a progressive disease of the liver, often associated with alcoholism, in which healthy cells are replaced by scar tissue
claustrophobia	<i>noun</i> a fear of enclosed spaces or crowded rooms. Compare agoraphobia
clean	<i>adjective</i> 1. free from dirt, waste products or unwanted substances 2. sterile or free from infection 3. not using recreational drugs
client	<i>noun</i> a person visited by a health visitor or social worker
clinic	<i>noun</i> 1. a small hospital or a department in a large hospital which deals only with out-patients or which specialises in the treatment of particular medical conditions 2. a group of students under a doctor or surgeon who examine patients and discuss their treatment
clinical nurse specialist	<i>noun</i> a nurse who specialises in a particular branch of clinical care
clinician	<i>noun</i> a doctor, usually not a surgeon, who has considerable experience in treating patients
cognition	<i>noun</i> the mental action or process of gaining knowledge by using your mind or your senses, or knowledge gained in this way
cognitive disorder	<i>noun</i> impairment of any of the mental processes of perception, memory, judgment and reasoning
cognitive therapy	<i>noun</i> a treatment of psychiatric disorders such as anxiety or depression which encourages people to deal with their negative ways of thinking
cold	<i>adjective</i> not warm or hot _ <i>noun</i> an illness, with inflammation of the nasal passages, in which someone sneezes and coughs and has a blocked and running nose
colic	<i>noun</i> 1. pain in any part of the intestinal tract. Also called enteralgia, tormina 2. crying and irritability in babies, especially from stomach pains
collapse	<i>noun</i> 1. a condition in which someone is extremely exhausted or semi-conscious 2. a condition in which an organ becomes flat or loses air <i>verb</i> 1. to fall down in a semi-conscious state 2. to become flat, or lose air
coma	<i>noun</i> a state of unconsciousness from which a person cannot be awakened by external stimuli
combined therapy	<i>noun</i> the use of two or more treatments at the same time
comedo	<i>noun</i> a small point of dark, hard matter in a sebaceous follicle, often found associated with acne on the skin of adolescents
community care	<i>noun</i> the providing of help to people such as those who are elderly or mentally ill in order to allow them to stay in their own homes, rather than requiring them to be cared for in hospitals or care homes
community health	<i>noun</i> the health of a local community, or provision of services for a local community
competence	<i>noun</i> the ability to do something well, measured against a standard, especially ability which you get through experience or training
complaint	<i>noun</i> 1. an expression of dissatisfaction about something or someone 2. an illness
compress	<i>noun</i> a wad of cloth soaked in hot or cold liquid and applied to the skin to relieve pain or swelling, or to force pus out of an infected wound _ <i>verb</i> / to squeeze or press something
condition	<i>noun</i> 1. the particular state of someone or something 2. a particular illness, injury or disorder
confidentiality	<i>noun</i> an obligation not to reveal professional information about a person or organisation
consultant /	<i>noun</i> 1. a doctor who is a senior specialist in a particular branch of medicine and who is consulted by GPs 2. a senior specialised doctor in a hospital
consumption	<i>noun</i> 1. the act of taking food or liquid into the body
contra-	<i>prefix</i> against, opposite, contrasting
contraception	<i>noun</i> the prevention of pregnancy, e.g. by using devices such as a condom or an IUD, or drugs in the form of contraceptive pills or injections at regular intervals. Also called birth control
contraceptive	<i>adjective</i> preventing conception _ <i>a contraceptive device</i> or <i>drug</i> _ <i>noun</i> a drug or device which prevents pregnancy
cough	<i>noun</i> a reflex action, caused by irritation in the throat, when the glottis is opened and air is sent out of the lungs suddenly _ an infection that causes coughing <i>verb</i> to send air out of the lungs suddenly because the throat is irritated
counselling	<i>noun</i> a method of treating especially psychiatric disorders in which a specialist talks with a person about his or her condition and how to deal with it
curettage	<i>noun</i> the procedure of scraping the inside of a hollow organ, often the uterus, to remove a growth or tissue for examination. Also called curettement
curette	<i>noun</i> a surgical instrument like a long thin spoon, used for scraping the inside of an organ _ <i>verb</i> to scrape an organ with a curette
cutdown	<i>noun</i> the procedure of cutting a vein to insert a cannula or administer an intravenous drug
cycle	<i>noun</i> a series of events which recur regularly
cyclic	<i>adjective</i> 1. occurring or repeated in cycles 2. referring to organic compounds composed of a closed ring of atoms
-cycline	<i>suffix</i> used in names of antibiotics _ <i>tetracycline</i>
cyto-	<i>prefix</i> cell

cytology	<i>noun</i> the study of the structure and function of cells
D	
Daltonism	<i>noun</i> the commonest form of colour blindness, in which someone cannot see the difference between red and green.
dandruff	<i>noun</i> pieces of dead skin from the scalp which fall out when the hair is combed. Also called pityriasis capitis, scurf
data bank	<i>noun</i> a store of information in a computer
day care	<i>noun</i> supervised recreation or medical care provided during the day for people who need special help, e.g. some elderly people or small children
day centre	<i>noun</i> a place providing day care
deafness	<i>noun</i> the fact of being unable to hear in circumstances where most people would
death	<i>noun</i> the permanent end of all natural functions
debility	<i>noun</i> general weakness
defence	<i>noun</i> resistance against an attack of a disease
defence mechanism	<i>noun</i> a subconscious reflex by which a person prevents himself or herself from showing emotion
defibrillation	<i>noun</i> a procedure to correct an irregular heartbeat by applying a large electrical impulse to the chest wall, especially in potentially life-threatening circumstances.
defibrillator	<i>noun</i> an apparatus used to apply an electric impulse to the heart to make it beat regularly
deficit	<i>noun</i> the amount by which something is less than it should be
deformity	<i>noun</i> an unusual shape of part of the body
dehydration	<i>noun</i> a dangerous lack of water in the body resulting from inadequate intake of fluids or excessive loss through sweating, vomiting or diarrhoea
delirium	<i>noun</i> a mental state in which someone is confused, excited and restless and has hallucinations
dementia	<i>noun</i> the loss of mental ability and memory due to organic disease of the brain, causing disorientation and personality changes
demography	<i>noun</i> the study of populations and environments or changes affecting populations
dental prosthesis	<i>noun</i> one or more false teeth
depilation	<i>noun</i> the removal of hair
depilatory	<i>noun</i> a substance
depression	<i>noun</i> 1. a mental condition that prevents someone from carrying out the normal activities of life in the usual way 2. a hollow n the surface of a part of the body
-derm	<i>suffix</i> skin
derma-	<i>prefix</i> skin
dermatitis	<i>noun</i> inflammation of the skin
dermatologist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in the study and treatment of the skin and its diseases
dermatology	<i>noun</i> the study and treatment of the skin and its diseases
detergent	<i>noun</i> a cleaning substance which removes grease and bacteria
diabetes	<i>noun</i> 1. one of a group of diseases which cause the body to produce large amounts of urine.
diagnosis	<i>noun</i> the act of diagnosing a condition or illness
die	<i>verb</i> to stop living
diet	<i>noun</i> the amount and type of food eaten _ <i>a balanced diet</i> _ <i>verb</i> to reduce the quantity of food you eat, or to change the type of food you eat, in order to become thinner or healthier
dietary	<i>noun</i> a system of nutrition and energy <i>adjective</i> referring to a diet
diffusion	<i>noun</i> the process of mixing a liquid with another liquid, or a gas with another gas
disability	<i>noun</i> a condition in which part of the body does not function in the usual way and makes some activities difficult or impossible. _ learning disability
discomfort	<i>noun</i> a feeling of mild pain
disease	<i>noun</i> a condition that stops the body from functioning in the usual way
disinfectant	<i>noun</i> a substance used to kill microorganisms on the surface of something
dislocation	<i>noun</i> a condition in which a bone is displaced from its usual position at a joint. Also called luxation
disorientation	<i>noun</i> a condition in which someone is confused and does not know where he or she is
dispensary	<i>noun</i> a place where drugs are prepared or mixed and given out according to a doctor's prescription, e.g. part of a chemist's shop or a department in a hospital
diuretic	<i>adjective</i> causing the kidneys to produce more urine _ <i>noun</i> a substance which makes the kidneys produce more urine and, in the treatment of oedema and hypertension
doctor	<i>noun</i> a person who has trained in medicine and is qualified to examine people when they are ill to find out what is wrong with them and to prescribe a course of treatment
donor	<i>noun</i> a person who gives blood, tissue, organs or reproductive material to be used to treat another person
donor card	<i>noun</i> a card carried by people stating that they give permission for their organs to be transplanted into other people after they have died
dorsum	<i>noun</i> the back of any part of the body

dosage	<i>noun</i> a measured quantity of a drug calculated to be necessary for someone
dose	<i>noun</i> 1. a measured quantity of a drug or radiation which is to be given to someone at one time 2. a short period of experiencing a minor illness 3. an infection with a sexually transmitted disease (<i>informal</i>) _ <i>verb</i> to provide someone with medication (<i>informal</i>)
dosimeter	<i>noun</i> an instrument which measures the amount of X-rays or other radiation received
drainage	<i>noun</i> the removal of liquid from the site of an operation or pus from an abscess by means of a tube or wick left in the body for a time
dressing	<i>noun</i> a covering or bandage applied to a wound to protect it
drop	<i>noun</i> 1. a small quantity of liquid
drug	<i>noun</i> 1. a natural or synthetic chemical substance which is used in medicine and affects the way in which organs or tissues function 2. a substance taken by choice which produces a strong effect on a person's feelings and state of mind
drug addiction	<i>noun</i> the fact of being mentally and physically dependent on taking a particular drug regularly. Also called drug dependence
drug allergy	<i>noun</i> a reaction to a particular drug
dysfunctional	<i>adjective</i> 1. not working properly 2. unable to relate to other people emotionally or socially
dyslexia	<i>noun</i> a disorder of development, where a person is unable to read or write properly and confuses letters
dysrhythmia	<i>noun</i> an unusual rhythm, either in speaking or in electrical impulses in the brain
dystrophia	<i>noun</i> the wasting of an organ, muscle or tissue due to lack of nutrients in that part of the body. Also called dystrophy
E	
ear	<i>noun</i> an organ on the side of the head which is used for hearing (NOTE: For other terms referring to ears, see auricular and words beginning with ot- , oto- .)
Ear, Nose & Throat	<i>noun</i> the study of the ear, nose and throat.
earache	<i>noun</i> pain in the ear. Also called otalgia
echo-	<i>prefix</i> referring to sound
ecto-	<i>prefix</i> outside
-ectomy	<i>suffix</i> referring to the removal of a part by surgical operation
ectro-	<i>prefix</i> referring to a usually congenital absence or lack of something
eczema	<i>noun</i> a non-contagious inflammation of the skin, with an itchy rash and blisters
effective dose	<i>noun</i> a size of dose which will produce the effect required
electro-	<i>prefix</i> referring to electricity
electrocardiogram	<i>noun</i> a chart which records the electrical impulses in the heart muscle. Abbreviation ECG, EKG
electrocardiograph	<i>noun</i> an apparatus for measuring and recording the electrical impulses of the muscles of the heart as it beats
electrotherapy	<i>noun</i> the treatment of a disorder such as some forms of paralysis by using low-frequency electric current to try to revive the muscles
elimination	<i>noun</i> the removal of waste matter from the body
elimination diet	<i>noun</i> a structured diet where different foods are eliminated one at a time in order to see the effect on symptoms, used in conditions such as allergies and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
embolism	<i>noun</i> the blocking of an artery by a mass of material, usually a blood clot, preventing the flow of blood
embryo	<i>noun</i> an unborn baby during the first eight weeks after conception (NOTE: After eight weeks, the unborn baby is called a fetus .)
emergency	<i>noun</i> a situation where urgent immediate action has to be taken
emotion	<i>noun</i> a strong feeling
empathy	<i>noun</i> the ability to understand the problems and feelings of another person
en-	<i>prefix</i> 1. in, into 2. to provide with 3. to cause to be 4. to put into or cover with 5. to go into
encephalopathy	<i>noun</i> any disease of the brain
endemic	<i>adjective</i> referring to any disease which is very common in specific places
endo-	<i>prefix</i> inside
endobronchial	<i>adjective</i> inside the bronchi
endocrine	<i>adjective</i> relating to the endocrine glands or the hormones they secrete
endocrine system	<i>noun</i> a system of related ductless glands
endocrinologist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in the study of endocrinology
endocrinology	<i>noun</i> the study of the endocrine system, its function and effects
endoscope	<i>noun</i> an instrument used to examine the inside of the body, made of a thin tube which is passed into the body down a passage. The tube has a fibre optic light, and may have small surgical instruments attached.
enervation	<i>noun</i> 1. general nervous weakness 2. a surgical operation to remove a nerve
enteral feeding	<i>noun</i> the feeding of a person by a nasogastric tube or by the infusion of liquid food directly into the intestine. Also called enteral nutrition
environment	<i>noun</i> the conditions and influences under which an organism lives

enzyme	<i>noun</i> a protein substance produced by living cells which aids a biochemical reaction in the body (NOTE: The names of enzymes mostly end with the suffix -ase .)
epi-	<i>prefix</i> on or over
epidemic	<i>adjective</i> spreading quickly through a large part of the population _ <i>noun</i> an outbreak of an infectious disease which spreads very quickly and affects a large number of people
epidemiologist	<i>noun</i> a person who specialises in the study of diseases in groups of people
epidemiology	<i>noun</i> the study of diseases in the community, in particular how they spread and how they can be controlled
epidermis	<i>noun</i> the outer layer of the skin, including the dead skin on the surface. Also called cuticle
epilepsy	<i>noun</i> a disorder of the nervous system in which there are convulsions and loss of consciousness due to a disordered discharge of cerebral neurones
episodic	<i>adjective</i> happening in separate but related incidents, e.g. asthma which occurs in separate attacks
erection	<i>noun</i> a state where a body part such as the penis becomes swollen because of engorgement with blood
erector	<i>noun</i> a small muscle which raises a body part
erythro-	<i>prefix</i> red
erythrocyte	<i>noun</i> a mature red blood cell
erythrocytosis /	<i>noun</i> an increase in the number of red blood cells in the blood
essential element	<i>noun</i> a chemical element which is necessary to the body's growth or function, e.g. carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen
ethical	<i>adjective</i> concerning ethics
ethical committee	<i>noun</i> a group of specialists who monitor experiments involving human beings or who regulate the way in which members of the medical profession conduct themselves
ethics	<i>noun</i> _ medical ethics
ethnic	<i>adjective</i> relating to a culturally or racially distinctive group of people
excrement	<i>noun</i> same as faeces
exercise	<i>noun</i> 1. physical or mental activity, especially the active use of the muscles as a way of keeping fit, correcting a deformity or strengthening a part 2. a particular movement or action designed to use and strengthen the muscles <i>verb</i> to take exercise, or exert part of the body in exercise
exfoliation	<i>noun</i> the loss of layers of tissue such as sunburnt skin
exhibitionism	<i>noun</i> a desire to show the genitals to a person of the opposite sex
exotic	<i>adjective</i> referring to a disease which occurs in a foreign country
expire	<i>verb</i> 1. to breathe out 2. to die
exploration	<i>noun</i> a procedure or surgical operation where the aim is to discover the cause of symptoms or the nature and extent of an illness
expression	<i>noun</i> 1. the look on a person's face which shows what he or she thinks and feels 2. the act of pushing something out of the body
extension	<i>noun</i> 1. the stretching or straightening out of a joint 2. the stretching of a joint by traction
exterior	<i>noun</i> the outside of something
external cardiac	<i>noun</i> a method of making someone's heart start beating again by rhythmic pressing on the breastbone
external respiration	<i>noun</i> the part of respiration concerned with oxygen in the air being exchanged in the lungs for carbon dioxide from the blood
extra-	<i>prefix</i> outside
extracapsular	outside a capsule
extracellular	<i>adjective</i> outside cells
extraction	<i>noun</i> the removal of part of the body, especially a tooth
extremities	<i>plural noun</i> the parts of the body at the ends of limbs, e.g. the fingers, toes, nose and ears
eye	<i>noun</i> the part of the body with which a person sees (NOTE: For other terms referring to the eye, see ocular , optic and words beginning with oculo- , ophth- , ophthalm- , ophthalmo- .)
F	
face	<i>noun</i> the front part of the head, where the eyes, nose and mouth are placed _ <i>verb</i> to have your face towards or to look towards something
face lift, face-lifting operation	<i>noun</i> a surgical operation to remove wrinkles on the face and neck
factor	<i>noun</i> 1. something which has an influence or which makes something else take place 2. a substance, variously numbered, e.g. Factor I, Factor II, in the plasma, which makes the blood coagulate when a blood vessel is injured
faint	<i>verb</i> to stop being conscious for a short time and, usually, fall down _ <i>noun</i> a loss of consciousness for a short period, caused by a temporary reduction in the blood flow to the brain
familial disorder	<i>noun</i> a hereditary disorder which affects several members of the same family
family	<i>noun</i> a group of people who are related to each other, especially mother, father and children
family planning	<i>noun</i> the use of contraception to control the number of children in a family
family therapy	<i>noun</i> a type of psychotherapy where members of the family of a person with a disorder meet a therapist to discuss the condition and try to come to terms with it

fantasy	<i>noun</i> a series of imaginary events which someone believes really took place
fat	<i>adjective</i> big and round in the body <i>noun</i> 1. a white oily substance in the body, which stores energy and protects the body against cold 2. type of food which supplies protein and Vitamins A and D, especially that part of meat which is white, and solid substances like lard or butter produced from animals and used for cooking, or liquid substances like oil . For other terms referring to fats, see also lipid and words beginning with steato- .)
fatigue	<i>noun</i> very great tiredness
fear	<i>noun</i> a state where a person is afraid of something
feedback	<i>noun</i> 1. information or comments about something which has been done 2. the linking of the result of an action back to the action itself
-fen /	<i>suffix</i> used in names of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs _ <i>ibuprofen</i>
fever	<i>noun</i> 1. a rise in body temperature 2. a condition when the temperature of the body is higher than usual _ also called pyrexia
fever sore	<i>noun</i> a cold sore or burning sore, usually on the lips
fibre	<i>noun</i> 1. a structure in the body shaped like a thread 2. same as dietary fibre
fibula	<i>noun</i> the thinner of the two
filling	<i>noun</i> a surgical operation carried out by a dentist to fill a hole in a tooth with amalgam
filter	<i>noun</i> a piece of paper or cloth through which a liquid is passed to remove any solid substances in it _ <i>verb</i> to pass a liquid through a membrane, piece of paper or cloth to remove solid substances
finger	<i>noun</i> one of the five parts at the end of the hand, but usually not including the thumb (NOTE: The names of the fingers are: little finger, third finger or ring finger, middle finger, forefinger or index finger.)
first aid	<i>noun</i> help given by a nonmedical person to someone who is suddenly ill or injured before full-scale medical treatment can be given
first-aid kit	<i>noun</i> a box with bandages and dressings kept ready to be used in an emergency
fit	<i>adjective</i> strong and physically healthy <i>noun</i> a sudden attack of a disorder, especially convulsions and epilepsy <i>verb</i> 1. to provide a piece of equipment for someone to wear _ 2. to have convulsions (Note: you fit someone with an appliance.)
fitness	<i>noun</i> the fact of being strong and
flat foot, flat feet	<i>noun</i> a condition in which the soles of the feet lie flat on the ground instead of being arched as usual. Also called pes planus
flea	<i>noun</i> a tiny insect which sucks blood and is a parasite on animals and humans
flexure	<i>noun</i> 1. a bend in an organ 2. a fold in the skin
flu	<i>noun</i> 1. same as influenza 2. a very bad cold (<i>informal</i>)
fluid	<i>noun</i> 1. a liquid 2. any gas, liquid or powder which flows
focus	<i>noun</i> 1. the point where light rays converge through a lens 2. the centre of an infection _ <i>verb</i> 1. to adjust a lens until an image is clear and sharp 2. to see clearly
focus group	<i>noun</i> a discussion group of lay people brought together under professional guidance to discuss issues such as care
food intolerance	<i>noun</i> an adverse reaction to some foods such as oranges, eggs, tomatoes and strawberries
food poisoning	<i>noun</i> an illness caused by eating food which is contaminated with bacteria
foot	<i>noun</i> the end part of the leg on which a person stands
forceps	<i>noun</i> a surgical instrument with handles like a pair of scissors, made in different sizes and with differently shaped ends, used for holding and pulling
fore-	<i>prefix</i> in front
foreign	<i>adjective</i> 1. not belonging to your own 2. referring to something that is found where it does not naturally belong, especially something found in the human body that comes from a source outside the
foreign body	<i>noun</i> a piece of material which is not part of the surrounding tissue and should not be there, e.g. sand in a cut, dust in the eye or a pin which has been swallowed
foster children	<i>plural noun</i> children brought up by people who are not their own parents
foster parent	<i>noun</i> a woman or man who brings up a child born to other parents
fracture	<i>verb</i> 1. (<i>of bone</i>) to break 2. to break a bone <i>noun</i> a break in a bone
freckle	<i>noun</i> a harmless small brownish patch on the skin that becomes more noticeable after exposure to the sun. Freckles are often found in people with fair hair. Also called lentigo <i>verb</i> to mark something, or become marked with freckles
freeze	<i>verb</i> to anaesthetise part of the body (<i>informal</i>)
frigidity	<i>noun</i> the fact of being unable to experience orgasm, sexual pleasure or sexual desire
frog plaster	<i>noun</i> a plaster cast made to keep the legs in an open position after an operation to correct a dislocated hip
frontal	<i>adjective</i> referring to the forehead or to the front of the head. Opposite occipital
G	
gag	<i>noun</i> an instrument placed between the teeth to stop the mouth from closing _ <i>verb</i> to experience a reaction similar to that of vomiting
gangrene	<i>noun</i> a condition in which tissues die and decay, as a result of bacterial action, because the blood supply has been lost through injury or disease of the artery
gas	<i>noun</i> 1. a substance such as nitrogen, carbon dioxide or air, which is neither solid nor fluid at ordinary temperatures and can expand infinitely 2. gas which accumulates in the stomach or alimentary canal and causes pain

gash	<i>noun</i> a long deep cut made accidentally by something sharp <i>verb</i> to make a long deep cut in something accidentally
gasp	<i>noun</i> a short breath taken with difficulty <i>verb</i> to breathe with difficulty taking quick breaths
gastric juice	<i>noun</i> the mixture of hydrochloric acid, pepsin, intrinsic factor and mucus secreted by the cells of the lining membrane of the stomach to help the digestion of food
gastritis	<i>noun</i> inflammation of the stomach
gastroenterology	<i>noun</i> the study of the digestive system and its disorders
gastroscope	<i>noun</i> an instrument formed of a tube or bundle of glass fibres with a lens attached, which a doctor can pass down into the stomach through the mouth to examine the inside of the stomach
gay	<i>adjective</i> relating to sexual activity among people of the same sex
gel	<i>noun</i> a suspension that sets into a jellylike solid
gender	<i>noun</i> the fact of being of the male or female sex
general practice	<i>noun</i> a medical practice where doctors offer first-line medical care for all types of illness to people who live locally, refer them to hospital if necessary and encourage health promotion
general practitioner	<i>noun</i> a doctor who provides first-line medical care for all types of illness to people who live locally, refers them to hospital if necessary and encourages health promotion. Abbreviation GP
genetics	<i>noun</i> the study of genes, and of the way characteristics and diseases are inherited through the genes
genital organs	<i>plural noun</i> the external organs for reproduction, i.e. the penis and testicles in males and the vulva in females. Also called genitals, genitalia
geri-	<i>prefix</i> referring to old age
geriatrician	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in the treatment or study of diseases of old people
geriatrics	<i>noun</i> the study of the diseases and disorders of old people. Compare paediatrics
gerontology	<i>noun</i> the study of the process of ageing and the diseases of old people
gland	<i>noun</i> an organ in the body containing cells that secrete substances such as hormones, sweat or saliva which act elsewhere
glaucoma	<i>noun</i> a condition of the eyes, caused by unusually high pressure of fluid inside the eyeball, resulting in disturbances of vision and blindness protein or fat reserves
gorget	<i>noun</i> a surgical instrument used to remove stones from the bladder
gouge	<i>noun</i> a surgical instrument like a chisel, used to cut bone
graph	<i>noun</i> a diagram which shows the relationship between quantities as a line
graph-	<i>prefix</i> writing
-graph	<i>suffix</i> a machine which records something as pictures
-grapher	<i>suffix</i> a technician who operates a machine which records
-graphy	<i>suffix</i> the technique of study through pictures
group	<i>noun</i> several people, animals or things which are all close together _ <i>verb</i> to bring things or people together in a group, or come together in a group
group practice	<i>noun</i> a medical practice where several doctors or dentists share the same office building and support services
group therapy	<i>noun</i> a type of psychotherapy where a group of people with the same disorder meet together with a therapist to discuss their condition and try to help each other
growth	<i>noun</i> 1. the process of increasing in size 2. a cyst or tumour
gum	<i>noun</i> the soft tissue covering the part of the jaw which surrounds the teeth Also called gingiva (NOTE: For other terms referring to the gums, see words beginning with gingiv- .)
gynae-	referring to women
gynaecological	<i>adjective</i> referring to the treatment of diseases of women
gynaecologist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in the treatment of diseases of women
gynaecology	<i>noun</i> the study of female sex organs and the treatment of diseases of women in general
H	
habit	<i>noun</i> 1. an action which is an automatic response to a stimulus 2. a regular way of doing something
haematologist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in haematology
haematology	<i>noun</i> the scientific study of blood, its formation and its diseases
haematoma	<i>noun</i> a mass of blood under the skin caused by a blow or by the effects of an operation
haemodialysed patient	<i>noun</i> someone who has undergone haemodialysis
haemodialysis	<i>noun</i> same as kidney dialysis
haemostasis	<i>noun</i> the process of stopping bleeding or slowing the movement of blood
haemostat	<i>noun</i> a device which stops bleeding, e.g. a clamp
haemostatic	<i>adjective</i> stopping bleeding _ <i>noun</i> a drug which stops bleeding
hand	<i>noun</i> the part at the end of the arm, beyond the wrist, which is used for holding things
hand, foot and mouth	<i>noun</i> a mild viral infection in children, causing small blisters

hangover	<i>noun</i> a condition occurring after a person has drunk too much alcohol, with dehydration caused by inhibition of the antidiuretic hormone in the kidneys.
head	<i>noun</i> 1. the round top part of the body, which contains the eyes, nose, mouth, brain, etc (NOTE: For other terms referring to the head, see words beginning with cephal- , cephalo- .)
headache	<i>noun</i> a pain in the head, caused by changes in pressure in the blood vessels feeding the brain which act on the nerves. Also called cephalalgia
head cold	<i>noun</i> a minor illness, with inflammation of the nasal passages, excess mucus in the nose and sneezing
head louse	<i>noun</i> a small insect of the <i>Pediculus</i> genus, which lives on the scalp and sucks blood. Also called Pediculus capitis
healthcare	<i>noun</i> the general treatment of people with medical disorders, especially the use of measures to stop a disease from occurring
healthcare professional	<i>noun</i> a qualified person who works in an occupation related to health care, e.g. a nurse
healthcare system	<i>noun</i> any organised set of health services
health inequality	<i>noun</i> the differences that exist in health across the social classes, with poorer people tending to experience poorer health
health insurance	<i>noun</i> insurance which pays the cost of treatment for illness
health promotion	<i>noun</i> the act of improving the health of a particular community or of the public generally, e.g. using health education, immunisation and screening
hear	<i>verb</i> to sense sounds with the ears
hearing	<i>noun</i> the ability to hear, or the function performed by the ear of sensing sounds and sending sound impulses to the brain (NOTE: For other terms referring to hearing, see words beginning with audi- , audio- .)
hearing aid	<i>noun</i> a small electronic device fitted into or near the ear, to improve someone's hearing by making the sounds louder
heart	<i>noun</i> the main organ in the body, which maintains the circulation of the blood around the body by its pumping action (NOTE: For other terms referring to the heart, see also words beginning with cardi- , cardio- .)
heart attack	<i>noun</i> a condition in which the heart has a reduced blood supply because one of the arteries becomes blocked by a blood clot, causing myocardial ischaemia and myocardial infarction (<i>informal</i>)
heartbeat	<i>noun</i> the regular noise made by the heart as it pumps blood
heart block	<i>noun</i> the slowing of the action of the heart because the impulses from the sinoatrial node to the ventricles are delayed or interrupted. There are either longer impulses (first degree block) or missing impulses (second degree block) or no impulses at all (complete heart block), in which case the ventricles continue to beat slowly and independently of the sinoatrial node.
heart disease	<i>noun</i> any disease of the heart in general
heart massage	<i>noun</i> a treatment which involves pressing on the chest to make a heart which has stopped beating start working again
heart rate	<i>noun</i> the number of times the heart beats per minute
helio-	<i>prefix</i> relating to the sun
heliotherapy	<i>noun</i> treatment by sunlight or sunbathing
hepato-	<i>prefix</i> referring to the liver
hepatic	<i>adjective</i> referring to the liver
hepatitis	<i>noun</i> inflammation of the liver through disease or drugs
herbal medicine	<i>noun</i> a system of medical treatment involving the use of substances extracted from plants
hernia	<i>noun</i> a condition in which an organ bulges through a hole or weakness in the wall which surrounds it. Also called rupture
herpes	<i>noun</i> inflammation of the skin or mucous membrane, caused by a virus, where small blisters are formed
hetero-	<i>prefix</i> different
heterosexual	<i>adjective</i> attracted to people of the opposite sex or relating to relations between males and females _ <i>noun</i> a person who is sexually attracted to people of the opposite sex. Compare bisexual , homosexual
histo-	<i>prefix</i> relating to the body's tissue
histology	<i>noun</i> the study of the anatomy of tissue cells and minute cellular structure
HIV	<i>abbreviation</i> human immunodeficiency virus
holistic	<i>adjective</i> referring to a method of treatment involving all of someone's mental and family circumstances rather than just dealing with the condition from which he or she is suffering
holistic care	<i>noun</i> the care and treatment of a whole person rather than just of his or her medical symptoms
holo-	<i>prefix</i> entire, complete
homeo-	<i>prefix</i> like or similar
homeopathy	<i>noun</i> the treatment of a condition by giving the person very small quantities of a substance which, when given to a healthy person, would cause symptoms like those of the condition being treated. Compare allopathy
hormone	<i>noun</i> a substance which is produced by one part of the body, especially the endocrine glands and is carried to another part of the body by the bloodstream where it has particular effects or functions
hospice	<i>noun</i> a hospital which offers palliative care for terminally ill people
hospital	<i>noun</i> a place where sick or injured people are looked after
hospital care	<i>noun</i> treatment in a hospital
hospital doctor	<i>noun</i> a doctor who works only in a hospital and does not receive people in his or her own surgery

host	<i>noun</i> a person or animal on which a parasite lives
hot	<i>adjective</i> very warm or having a high temperature
human being	<i>noun</i> a person
human nature	<i>noun</i> the general behavioural characteristics of human beings
hydrate	<i>verb</i> to give water to someone so as to re-establish or maintain fluid balance _ <i>noun</i> a chemical compound containing water molecules that can usually be driven off by heat without altering the compound's structure
hydro-	<i>prefix</i> referring to water
hydrotherapy	<i>noun</i> a type of physiotherapy involving treatment in water, where people are put in hot baths or are encouraged to swim
hygiene	<i>noun</i> the procedures and principles designed to keep things clean and to keep conditions healthy
hygienist	<i>noun</i> a person who specialises in hygiene and its application
hypo-	<i>prefix</i> less, too little or beneath
hyper-	<i>prefix</i> higher or too much. Opposite hypo
hyperactive	<i>adjective</i> very or unusually active
hyperalgesia	<i>noun</i> an increased sensitivity to pain
hypersensitive	<i>adjective</i> referring to a person who reacts more strongly than usual to an antigen
hyperthermia	<i>noun</i> a very high body temperature
hypertonia	<i>noun</i> an increased rigidity and spasticity of the muscles
hypertonic	<i>adjective</i> 1. referring to a solution which has a higher osmotic pressure than another specified solution 2. referring to a muscle which is under unusually high tension
hypn- /	<i>prefix</i> referring to sleep
hypnosis	<i>noun</i> a state like sleep, but caused artificially, where a person can remember forgotten events in the past and will do whatever the hypnotist tells him or her to do
hypnotherapy	<i>noun</i> treatment by hypnosis, used in treating some addictions
hypochondria	<i>noun</i> a condition in which a person is too worried about his or her own health and believes he or she is ill
hypoglycaemia	<i>noun</i> a low concentration of glucose in the blood
hypoglycaemic coma	<i>noun</i> a state of unconsciousness affecting diabetics after taking an overdose of insulin
hyposensitive	<i>adjective</i> being less sensitive than usual
hypotension	<i>noun</i> a condition in which the pressure of the blood is unusually low. Also called low blood pressure . Compare hypertension
hypothermia	<i>noun</i> a reduction in body temperature below normal, for medical purposes taken to be below 35°C
hysteroscope	<i>noun</i> a tube for inspecting the inside of the uterus
hysterotomy	<i>noun</i> a surgical incision into the uterus, as in caesarean section or for some types of abortion
hysterics	<i>noun</i> an attack of hysteria
I	
-iasis	<i>suffix</i> disease caused by something
ice pack	<i>noun</i> a cold compress made of lumps of ice wrapped in a cloth, and pressed on a swelling or bruise to reduce the pain
icterus	<i>noun</i> same as jaundice
idiot savant	<i>noun</i> a person with learning difficulties who also possesses a single particular mental ability, such as the ability to play music by ear, to draw remembered objects or to do mental calculations, which is very highly developed
ill	<i>adjective</i> not well
illness	<i>noun</i> 1. a state of not being well _ 2. a type of disease
illusion	<i>noun</i> a condition in which a person has a wrong perception of external objects
image	<i>noun</i> a sensation, e.g. a smell, sight or taste, which is remembered clearly
imagination	<i>noun</i> the ability to see or invent things in your mind
immature	<i>adjective</i> not mature, lacking insight and emotional stability
immune	<i>adjective</i> protected against an infection or allergic disease
immune system	<i>noun</i> a complex network of cells and cell products, which protects the body from disease. It includes the thymus, spleen, lymph nodes, white blood cells and antibodies.
immunisation	<i>noun</i> the process of making a person immune to an infection, either by injecting an antiserum, passive immunisation or by inoculation
immunity	<i>noun</i> the ability to resist attacks of a disease because antibodies are produced
impacted	<i>adjective</i> tightly pressed or firmly lodged against something
impacted fracture	<i>noun</i> a fracture where the broken parts of the bones are pushed into each other
impetigo	<i>noun</i> an irritating and very contagious skin disease caused by staphylococci, which spreads rapidly and is easily passed from one child to another, but can be treated with antibiotics
implant	<i>noun</i> something grafted or inserted into a person, e.g. tissue, a drug, inert material or a device such as a pacemaker _ <i>verb</i> 1. to fix into something 2. to graft or insert tissue, a drug, inert material or a device

implantation	<i>noun</i> 1. the act of grafting or inserting tissue, a drug, inert material or a device into a person, or the introduction of one tissue into another surgically 2. a place in or on the body where an implant is positioned
impotence	<i>noun</i> the inability in a male to have an erection or to ejaculate, and so have sexual intercourse
impulse	<i>noun</i> 1. a message transmitted by a nerve 2. a sudden feeling of wanting to act in a specific way
in-	<i>prefix</i> 1. in, into, towards 2. not
incision	<i>noun</i> a cut in a person's body made by a surgeon using a scalpel, or any cut made with a sharp knife or razor Compare excision
inclusion	<i>noun</i> something enclosed inside something else
incompetence	<i>noun</i> the inability to do a particular act, especially a lack of knowledge or skill which makes a person unable to do particular job
incubation period	<i>noun</i> the time during which a virus or bacterium develops in the body after contamination or infection, before the appearance of the symptoms of the disease.
incubator	<i>noun</i> 1. an apparatus for growing bacterial cultures 2. an enclosed container in which a premature baby can be kept, within which conditions such as temperature and oxygen levels can be controlled
independent	<i>adjective</i> not controlled by someone or something else
independent nursing function	<i>noun</i> any part of the nurse's job for which the nurse takes full responsibility
indication	<i>noun</i> a situation or sign which suggests that a specific treatment should be given or that a condition has a particular cause contraindication
industrial disease	<i>noun</i> a disease which is caused by the type of work done by a worker or by the conditions in which he or she works, e.g. by dust produced or chemicals used in the factory
infantile	<i>adjective</i> referring to small children
infarct	<i>noun</i> an area of tissue which is killed when the blood supply is cut off by the blockage of an artery
infect	<i>verb</i> to contaminate someone or something with microorganisms that cause disease or toxins
infected wound	<i>noun</i> a wound into which bacteria have entered
infection	<i>noun</i> 1. the entry or introduction into the body of microorganisms, which then multiply 2. an illness which is caused by the entry of microbes into the body
infectious disease	<i>noun</i> a disease caused by microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses or fungi.
infra-	<i>prefix</i> below
infrared	<i>adjective</i> relating to infrared radiation _ <i>noun</i> invisible electromagnetic radiation between light and radio waves
infrared rays	<i>plural noun</i> long invisible rays, below the visible red end of the colour spectrum, used to produce heat in body tissues in the treatment of traumatic and inflammatory conditions. _ light therapy
inhalation	<i>noun</i> 1. the act of breathing in. Opposite exhalation 2. the action of breathing in a medicinal substance as part of a treatment 3. a medicinal substance which is breathed in
inhaler	<i>noun</i> a small device for administering medicinal substances into the mouth or nose so that they can be breathed in
inject	<i>verb</i> to put a liquid into someone's body under pressure, by using a hollow needle inserted into the tissues
injection	<i>noun</i> 1. the act of injecting a liquid into the body 2. a liquid introduced into the body
injury	<i>noun</i> damage or a wound caused to a person's body
insomnia	<i>noun</i> the inability to sleep Also called sleeplessness
inspiration	<i>noun</i> the act of taking air into the lungs. Opposite expiration
instinct	<i>noun</i> a tendency or ability which the body has from birth and does not need to learn
instrument	<i>noun</i> a piece of equipment or a tool
insult	<i>noun</i> 1. a physical injury or trauma 2. something that causes a physical injury or trauma
intellect	<i>noun</i> a person's ability to think, reason and understand
intelligence quotient	<i>noun</i> the ratio of the mental age, as given by an intelligence test, to the chronological age of the person. Abbreviation IQ
intensity	<i>noun</i> the strength of e.g. pain
intensive care	<i>noun</i> 1. the continual supervision and treatment of an extremely ill person in a special section of a hospital residential care 2. same as intensive care unit
inter-	<i>prefix</i> between
interaction	<i>noun</i> an effect which two or more substances such as drugs have on each other
interdisciplinary	<i>adjective</i> combining two or more different areas of medical or scientific study
internal	<i>adjective</i> inside the body or a body part
internal injury	<i>noun</i> damage to one of the internal organs
intervention	<i>noun</i> a treatment
intra-	inside
intro-	<i>prefix</i> inward
introspection	<i>noun</i> a detailed and sometimes obsessive mental selfexamination of feelings, thoughts and motives
introvert	<i>noun</i> a person who thinks only about himself or herself and his or her own mental state. Compare extrovert
intubate	<i>verb</i> to insert a tube into any organ or part of the body. Also called catheterise

invalid	<i>(dated) noun</i> someone who has had an illness and has not fully recovered from it or who has been permanently disabled <i>_adjective</i> weak or disabled
invasion	<i>noun</i> the entry of bacteria into a body, or the first attack of a disease.
irritable	<i>adjective</i> 1. easily able to become inflamed and painful 2. feeling annoyed and impatient
irritate	<i>verb</i> to cause a painful reaction in part of the body, especially to make it inflamed
irritation	<i>noun</i> a feeling of being irritated
iso-	<i>prefix</i> equal
isolation	<i>noun</i> the separation of a person, especially one with an infectious disease, from others
isolator	<i>noun</i> 1. a large clear plastic bag in which a person can be nursed, or operated on, in a sterile environment 2. a room or piece of equipment which keeps people or substances separated from others which may contaminate them
itch	<i>noun</i> an irritated place on the skin which makes a person want to scratch <i>_ verb</i> to produce an irritating sensation, making someone want to scratch
J	
jargon	<i>noun</i> 1. the words used by people who have a particular area of knowledge, which are usually only understood by those people _ 2. a stream of words that makes no sense, produced by someone with aphasia or a severe mental disorder
joint	<i>noun</i> a structure at a point where two or more bones join, especially one which allows movement of the bones (NOTE: For other terms referring to joints, see words beginning with arthr- , arthro- .)
jumper's knee	<i>noun</i> a painful condition suffered by athletes and dancers in which inflammation develops in the knee joint
junk food	<i>noun</i> food of little nutritional value, e.g. high-fat processed snacks, eaten between or instead of meals
K	
kinesiology	<i>noun</i> the study of human movements, particularly with regard to their use in treatment
kinesitherapy	<i>noun</i> therapy involving movement of parts of the body
kidney	<i>noun</i> either of two organs situated in the lower part of the back on either side of the spine behind the abdomen, whose function is to maintain the usual concentrations of the main constituents of blood, passing the waste matter into the urine.
kidney dialysis	<i>noun</i> the process of removing waste matter from blood by passing it through a kidney machine. Also called haemodialysis
kleptomania	<i>noun</i> a form of mental disorder in which someone has a compulsive desire to steal things, even things of little value
knee	<i>noun</i> a joint in the middle of the leg, joining the femur and the tibia (NOTE: For other terms referring to the knee, see genu .)
L	
laboratory technician	<i>noun</i> a person who does practical work in a laboratory and has particular care of equipment
laparo-	body of an adult, except on the palms of the hands, the soles of the feet and the parts where long hair grows
laparoscope	<i>noun</i> a surgical instrument which is inserted through a hole in the abdominal wall to allow a surgeon to examine the inside of the abdominal cavity.
laryngo-	<i>prefix</i> larynx
laryngoscope	<i>noun</i> an instrument for examining the inside of the larynx using a light and mirrors
larynx	<i>noun</i> the organ in the throat which produces sounds. Also called voice box
laser	<i>noun</i> an instrument which produces a highly concentrated beam of light which can be used to cut or attach tissue, as in operations for a detached retina
latent	<i>adjective</i> referring to a disease which is present in the body but does not show any signs
learning	<i>noun</i> the act of gaining knowledge of something or of how to do something
learning disability , learning difficulty	<i>noun</i> a condition that results in someone finding it difficult to learn skills or information at the same rate as others of similar age
leg	<i>noun</i> a part of the body with which a person or animal walks and stands
lens	<i>noun</i> 1. the part of the eye behind the iris and pupil, which focuses light coming from the cornea onto the retina. 2. a piece of shaped glass or plastic which forms part of a pair of spectacles or microscope 3. same as contact lens
lens implant	<i>noun</i> an artificial lens implanted in the eye when the natural lens is removed, as in the case of cataract
lethal	<i>adjective</i> killing or able to kill
lethal dose	<i>noun</i> the amount of a drug or other substance which will kill the person who takes it
lethargy	<i>noun</i> a state in which someone is not mentally alert, has slow movements and is almost inactive
lie	<i>verb</i> to be in a flat position
life	<i>noun</i> the quality that makes a person or thing alive and not dead or inorganic
life expectancy	<i>noun</i> the number of years a person of a particular age is likely to live
life-support system	<i>noun</i> a machine that takes over one or more vital functions such as breathing when someone is unable to survive unaided because of a disease or injury
lift	<i>noun</i> 1. a particular way of carrying an injured or unconscious person 2. a cosmetic operation to remove signs of age or to change a body feature

light	<i>adjective</i> 1. bright so that a person can see 2. referring to hair or skin which is very pale 3. weighing a comparatively small amount <i>noun</i> the energy that makes things bright and helps a person to see
light therapy , light treatment	<i>noun</i> the treatment of a disorder by exposing the person to light such as sunlight or infrared light
lip	<i>noun</i> 1. each of two fleshy muscular parts round the edge of the mouth 2. same as labium
liver	<i>noun</i> a large gland in the upper part of the abdomen. (NOTE: For other terms referring to the liver, see words beginning with hepat- , hepato- .)
living will	<i>noun</i> a document signed by a person while in good health to specify the decisions he or she wishes to be taken about medical treatment if he or she becomes incapable of making or communicating them
lobe	<i>noun</i> a rounded section of an organ such as the brain, lung or liver.
local	<i>adjective</i> 1. referring to a separate place 2. confined to one part
local anaesthesia	<i>noun</i> loss of feeling in a single part of the body
localise	<i>verb</i> 1. to restrict the spread of something to a specific area 2. to find where something is 3. to transfer power from a central authority to local organisations
lotion	<i>noun</i> a medicinal liquid used to rub on the skin
lumbago	<i>noun</i> pain in the lower back (<i>informal</i>)
lung	<i>noun</i> one of two organs of respiration in the body into which air is sucked when a person breathes (NOTE: For other terms referring to the lungs, see words beginning with bronch-, broncho-, pneum-, pneumo-, pneumon-, pneumono-, pulmo-.)
lymph	<i>noun</i> a colourless liquid containing white blood cells which circulates in the lymph system from all body tissues, carrying waste matter away from tissues to the veins. Also called lymph fluid
M	
macro-	<i>prefix</i> large. Opposite micro
mad cow disease	<i>noun</i> same as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (<i>informal</i>)
malaria	<i>noun</i> a mainly tropical disease caused by a parasite <i>Plasmodium</i> , which enters the body after a bite from the female anopheles mosquito
malformation	<i>noun</i> an unusual variation in the shape, structure or development of something
malfunction	<i>noun</i> a situation in which a particular organ does not work in the usual way
mania	<i>noun</i> a state of bipolar disorder in which the person is excited, very sure of his or her own abilities and has increased energy
-mania	<i>suffix</i> obsession with something
manipulation	<i>noun</i> a form of treatment that involves moving or rubbing
massage	<i>noun</i> a treatment for muscular conditions which involves rubbing, stroking or pressing the body with the hands _ <i>verb</i> to rub, stroke or press the body with the hands
medical	<i>adjective</i> referring to the study of diseases <i>noun</i> an official examination of a person by a doctor
medical ethics	<i>plural noun</i> the moral and professional principles which govern how doctors and nurses should work, and, in particular, what type of relationship they should have with their patients
medical examination	<i>noun</i> an examination of a person by a doctor
medical history	<i>noun</i> the details of a person's medical condition and treatment over a period of time
medico-	<i>prefix</i> referring to medicine or to doctors
medicolegal	<i>adjective</i> referring to both medicine and the law
medicosocial	<i>adjective</i> involving both medical and social factors
megalo-	<i>prefix</i> large
megalomania	<i>noun</i> a psychiatric disorder in which a person believes they are very powerful and important
meno-	<i>prefix</i> referring to menstruation
menopause	<i>noun</i> a period, usually between 45 and 55 years of age, when a woman stops menstruating and can no longer bear children. Also called climacteric , change of life
menstruation	<i>noun</i> bleeding from the uterus which occurs in a woman each month when the lining of the uterus is shed because no fertilised egg is present
mental	<i>adjective</i> 1. referring to the mind 2. referring to the chin
mental disorder	<i>noun</i> a temporary or permanent change in a person's mental state which makes them function less effectively than they would usually, or than the average person would be expected to function
mental health	<i>noun</i> the condition of someone's mind
mentor	<i>noun</i> somebody who advises and guides a younger, less experienced person _ <i>verb</i> to act as a mentor to somebody
metabolism	<i>noun</i> the chemical processes which are continually taking place in the human body and which are essential to life, especially the processes that convert food into energy
microbe	<i>noun</i> a microorganism which may cause disease and which can only be seen with a microscope, e.g. a bacterium
microbiologist	<i>noun</i> a scientist who specialises in the study of microorganisms
microbiology	<i>noun</i> the scientific study of microorganisms
microscope	<i>noun</i> a scientific instrument with lenses, which makes very small objects appear larger
midwife	<i>noun</i> a professional person who helps a woman give birth to a child, often at home

migraine	<i>noun</i> a sharp severe recurrent headache, often associated with vomiting and visual disturbances
mind	<i>noun</i> the part of the brain which controls memory, consciousness or reasoning
monitor	<i>noun</i> a screen on a computer _ <i>verb</i> 1. to check something 2. to examine how someone is progressing
monitoring	<i>noun</i> the regular examination and recording of a person's temperature, weight, blood pressure and other essential indicators
mono-	<i>prefix</i> single or one
mood	<i>noun</i> a person's mental state at a particular time _ <i>a mood of excitement</i> _ in a bad mood feeling angry or irritable _ in a good mood feeling happy
morbili	<i>noun</i> same as measles
mouth	<i>noun</i> an opening at the head of the alimentary canal, through which food and drink are taken in, and through which a person speaks and can breathe NOTE: For other terms referring to the mouth, see oral and words beginning with stomat- , stomato- .)
multi-	<i>prefix</i> many
multidisciplinary	<i>adjective</i> using or involving several specialised subjects or skills _ <i>a multidisciplinary team</i>
multiresistant	<i>adjective</i> resistant to several types of antibiotic
multivitamin	<i>noun</i> a preparation containing several vitamins and sometimes minerals, used as a dietary supplement _ <i>adjective</i> referring to a preparation containing several vitamins, and sometimes minerals
muscle	<i>noun</i> 1. an organ in the body, which contracts to make part of the body 2. same as muscle tissue
muscle fatigue	<i>noun</i> tiredness in the muscles after strenuous exercise
mute	<i>adjective</i> 1. unwilling or unable to speak
myco-	<i>prefix</i> referring to fungus
mycosis	<i>noun</i> any disease caused by a fungus, e.g. athlete's foot
N	
nail	<i>noun</i> a hard growth, made of keratin, which forms on the top surface at the end of each finger and toe. Also called unguis (NOTE: For terms referring to nail, see words beginning with onych- , onycho- .)
narcosis	<i>noun</i> a state of lowered consciousness induced by a drug
narcotic	<i>noun</i> a pain-relieving drug which makes someone sleep or become unconscious
nasal	<i>adjective</i> referring to the nose
nasal congestion	<i>noun</i> the blocking of the nose by inflammation as a response to a cold or other infection
neck	<i>noun</i> 1. the part of the body which joins the head to the body 2. a narrow part of a bone or organ
necro-	<i>prefix</i> referring to death
necrology	<i>noun</i> the scientific study of mortality statistics
needle	<i>noun</i> 1. a thin metal instrument with a sharp point at one end and a hole at the other for attaching a thread, used for sewing up surgical incisions 2. the hollow pointed end of a hypodermic syringe, or the syringe itself
negative	<i>adjective</i> 1. meaning or showing 'no' 2. indicating that something being tested for is not present. Opposite positive
nephr-	<i>prefix</i> kidney
nephralgia	<i>noun</i> pain in the kidney
nephrologist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in the study of the kidney and its diseases
nephrology	<i>noun</i> the study of the kidney and its diseases
nerve	<i>noun</i> 1. a bundle of fibres that can transmit electrochemical impulses and that forms part of the network that connects the brain and spinal cord to the body's organs 2. the sensitive tissue in the root of a tooth (NOTE: For other terms referring to nerves, see words beginning with neur- , neuro- .)
nervous	<i>adjective</i> 1. referring to nerves 2. very easily worried
nervous system	<i>noun</i> the nervous tissues of the body, including the peripheral nerves, spinal cord, ganglia and nerve centres
neuralgia	<i>noun</i> a spasm of pain which runs along a nerve
neurologist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in the study of the nervous system and the treatment of its diseases
neurology	<i>noun</i> the scientific study of the nervous system and its diseases
nicotine	<i>noun</i> the main alkaloid substance found in tobacco
nocte	<i>adverb</i> at night. Opposite mane (NOTE: used on prescriptions)
nocturnal	<i>adjective</i> referring to or taking place at night
normo-	<i>prefix</i> normal, usual or expected
nose	<i>noun</i> an organ through which a person breathes and smells
nosebleed	<i>noun</i> an incident of bleeding from the nose, usually caused by a blow or by sneezing, by blowing the nose hard or by high blood pressure (<i>informal</i>) Also called epistaxis
nurse	<i>noun</i> a person who looks after sick people in a hospital or helps a doctor in a local surgery. Some nurses may be trained to diagnose and treat patients.
nursing	<i>noun</i> 1. the work or profession of being a nurse 2. care for sick people provided by a nurse _ <i>adjective</i> providing care as a nurse
nutrition	<i>noun</i> the study of the supply of nutrients to the body from digesting food

O	
obsession	<i>noun</i> a mental disorder in which a person has a fixed idea or emotion which he or she cannot get rid of, even if he or she knows it is wrong or unpleasant
occupational disease	<i>noun</i> a disease which is caused by the type of work a person does or the conditions in which a person works, e.g. a disease caused by dust or chemicals in a factory
occupational medicine	<i>noun</i> the branch of medicine concerned with accidents and diseases connected with work
occupational therapist	<i>noun</i> a qualified health professional who offers patients occupational therapy
occupational therapy	<i>noun</i> light work or hobbies used as a means of treatment, especially for physically challenged or mentally ill people, to promote independence during the recovery period after an illness or operation
odonto-	<i>prefix</i> tooth
odontology	<i>noun</i> the study of teeth and associated structures, and their disorders
onco-	<i>prefix</i> tumour
oncologist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in oncology, especially cancer
oncology	<i>noun</i> the scientific study of new growths, especially cancers
operating table	<i>noun</i> a special table on which the patient is placed to undergo a surgical operation
operation	<i>noun</i> 1. a surgical procedure carried out to repair or remove a damaged body part 2. the way in which a drug acts
opiate	<i>noun</i> a sedative which is prepared from opium, e.g. morphine or codeine
opium	<i>noun</i> a substance made from poppies which is used in the preparation of codeine and heroin
optic	<i>adjective</i> referring to the eye or to sight
optician	<i>noun</i> a qualified person who specialises in making glasses and in testing eyes and prescribing lenses. Also called ophthalmic optician
oral	<i>adjective</i> 1. referring to the mouth 2. referring to medication that is swallowed .Compare enteral, parenteral
oral hygiene	<i>noun</i> the practice of keeping the mouth clean by gargling and mouthwashes
oral medication	<i>noun</i> medication which is taken by swallowing
organ	<i>noun</i> a part of the body which is distinct from other parts and has a particular function, e.g. the liver, an eye or ovaries
organic	<i>adjective</i> 1. referring to organs in the body 2. coming from an animal, plant or other organism
organic disease, organic disorder	<i>noun</i> a disease or disorder associated with physical changes in one or more organs of the body
organism	<i>noun</i> any single plant, animal, bacterium, fungus or other living thing
ortho-	<i>prefix</i> correct or straight
orthodontics	<i>noun</i> a branch of dentistry which deals with correcting badly placed teeth
orthopaedic	<i>adjective</i> 1. referring to treatment which corrects badly formed bones or joints 2. referring to or used in orthopaedics
osteo-	<i>prefix</i> bone
osteoporosis	<i>noun</i> a condition in which the bones become thin, porous and brittle, due to low levels of oestrogen, lack of calcium and lack of physical exercise. Also called brittle bone disease
outcome	<i>noun</i> a measure of the result of an intervention or treatment, e.g. the mortality rate following different methods of surgery
P	
pacemaker	<i>noun</i> 1. a node in the heart which regulates the heartbeat. Also called sinoatrial node, SA node 2. cardiac pacemaker, epicardial pacemaker
pack	<i>noun</i> a tampon of gauze or cotton wool, used to fill an orifice such as the nose or vagina _ verb to fill an orifice with a tampon _
pad	<i>noun</i> a piece or mass of soft absorbent material, placed on part of the body to protect it
paediatric	<i>adjective</i> referring to the treatment of the diseases of children
paediatrician	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in the treatment of diseases of children
pain	<i>noun</i> the feeling of severe discomfort which a person has when hurt
pain relief	<i>noun</i> the act of easing pain by using analgesics
palliative care, palliative treatment	<i>noun</i> treatment which helps to reduce the symptoms of a disease, especially a terminal or chronic condition, but does not cure it COMMENT: Palliative care may involve giving antibiotics, transfusions, pain-killing drugs, low-dose chemotherapy and psychological and social support to help the person and their family adjust to the illness. The treatment is often provided in a hospice.
palm	<i>noun</i> the inner surface of the hand, extending from the bases of the fingers to the wrist
pan-	<i>prefix</i> referring to everything
panacea	<i>noun</i> a medicine which is supposed to cure everything
pancreas	<i>noun</i> a gland which lies across the back of the body between the kidneys.
pandemic	<i>noun</i> an epidemic disease which affects many parts of the world. Compare endemic, epidemic _ adjective widespread
panic	<i>noun</i> a feeling of great fear which cannot be stopped and which sometimes results in irrational behaviour _ verb to be suddenly afraid

panic attack	<i>noun</i> a sudden onset of panic
para-	<i>prefix</i> 1. similar to or near 2. changed or beyond
paralyse	<i>verb</i> to make a part of the body unable to carry out voluntary movements by weakening or damaging muscles or nerves so that they cannot function, or by using a drug
paramedic	<i>noun</i> a person whose work involves the restoration of health and normal functioning
paranoia	<i>noun</i> a behaviour characterised by mistaken ideas or delusions of persecution or self-importance
parapsychology	<i>noun</i> the study of effects of the mind which appear not to be explained by known psychological or scientific principles, e.g. extrasensory perception and telepathy
parenting	<i>noun</i> the activities involved in bringing up children _ parenting skills the abilities and experience that make someone a good parent
pass	<i>verb</i> to allow faeces, urine or any other body product to come out of the body to pass blood to produce faeces or urine that contain blood _ to pass water to urinate (<i>informal</i>)
passage	<i>noun</i> 1. a long narrow channel inside the body 2. the introduction of an instrument into a cavity
passive	<i>adjective</i> receiving rather than initiating an action
pathology	<i>noun</i> the study of diseases and the changes in structure and function which diseases cause in the body. Also called morbid anatomy
patient	<i>noun</i> a person who is in hospital or who is being treated by a doctor
percussion	<i>noun</i> a test, usually on the heart and lungs, in which the doctor taps part of the person's body and listens to the sound produced
per diem	<i>adverb</i> (<i>written on prescriptions</i>) per day
peripheral	<i>adjective</i> at the edge
periphery	<i>noun</i> 1. the regions of the body where the nerves end, such as the sense organs or the muscles 2. the surface of something
peristalsis	<i>noun</i> the movement, like waves, produced by alternate contraction and relaxation of muscles along an organ such as the intestine or oesophagus, which pushes the contents of the organ along it. Compare antiperistalsis
personal care	<i>noun</i> the act of washing, toileting and dressing someone who cannot do these things for themselves
personal hygiene	<i>noun</i> the standards someone has of looking after parts of their body such as hair, skin, teeth and breath, hands and nails, and keeping them clean
personality	<i>noun</i> all the characteristics which are typical of one particular person and the way he or she thinks and behaves, and which make him or her different from other people
personality disorder	<i>noun</i> a disorder which affects the way a person behaves, especially in relation to other people
pharmacist	<i>noun</i> a trained person who is qualified to prepare medicines according to the instructions on a doctor's prescription
pharmacy	<i>noun</i> 1. the study of the making and dispensing of drugs 2. a shop or department in a hospital where drugs are prepared
-philia	<i>suffix</i> attraction to or liking for something
phobia	<i>noun</i> an unusually strong and irrational fear
-phobia	<i>suffix</i> neurotic fear of something
phono-	<i>prefix</i> referring to sound or voice
photo- /	<i>prefix</i> referring to light
physio	<i>noun</i> (<i>informal</i>) 1. a session of physiotherapy treatment 2. a physiotherapist
physio-	<i>prefix</i> 1. referring to physiology
physical medicine	<i>noun</i> a branch of medicine which deals with physical disabilities or with treatment of disorders after they have been diagnosed
physical therapy	<i>noun</i> the treatment of disorders by heat, by massage, by exercise and other physical means
physiology	<i>noun</i> the study of regular body functions
physiotherapist	<i>noun</i> a trained specialist who gives physiotherapy
physiotherapy	<i>noun</i> the treatment of a disorder or condition by exercise, massage, heat treatment, infrared lamps or other external means, e.g. to restore strength or function after a disease or injury
pill	<i>noun</i> a small hard round ball of medication that is taken by swallowing
placenta	<i>noun</i> the tissue which grows inside the uterus during pregnancy and links the baby to the mother
plaque	<i>noun</i> 1. a flat area 2. a film of saliva, mucus, bacteria and food residues that builds up on the surface of teeth and can cause gum damage
plasma	<i>noun</i> a yellow watery liquid which makes up the main part of blood
plastic surgery	<i>noun</i> surgery to repair damaged or malformed parts of the body (<i>informal</i>) COMMENT: Plastic surgery is especially important in treating accident victims or people who have suffered burns. It is also used to correct congenital disorders such as a cleft palate. When the aim is simply to improve the patient's appearance, it is usually referred to as 'cosmetic surgery'.
plexus	<i>noun</i> a network of nerves, blood vessels or lymphatics
poison	<i>noun</i> a substance which can kill or harm body tissues if eaten or drunk _ <i>verb</i> to harm or kill someone with a poison
pollution	<i>noun</i> the act of making dirty, or substances which make e.g. air or water impure
poly-	<i>prefix</i> 1. many or much 2. touching many organs
positive	<i>adjective</i> 1. indicating the answer 'yes' 2. indicating the presence of something being tested for Opposite negative

post-	<i>prefix</i> after or later
postero-	<i>prefix</i> back or behind
postnatal care	<i>noun</i> the care given to a woman after the birth of her child
postnatal depression	<i>noun</i> depression which sometimes affects a woman after childbirth
postoperative	<i>adjective</i> referring to the period after a surgical operation
poultice	<i>noun</i> a compress made of hot water and flour paste or other substances which is pressed onto an infected part to draw out pus, to relieve pain or to encourage the circulation. Also called fomentation
powder	<i>noun</i> a medicine in the form of a fine dry dust made from particles of drugs
practice	<i>noun</i> 1. the business, or the premises occupied by, a doctor, dentist, or a group of doctors or dentists working together ; in practice doing the work of a doctor or dentist 2. the fact of doing something, as opposed to thinking or talking about it _ theory and practice 3. a usual way of doing something
practitioner	<i>noun</i> a qualified person who works in the medical profession
pre-	<i>prefix</i> before or in front of
preadmission information	<i>noun</i> information given to a person before he or she is admitted to hospital
pregnancy	<i>noun</i> the condition of being pregnant.
pregnancy test	<i>noun</i> a test to see if a woman is pregnant or not
pregnant	<i>adjective</i> with an unborn child in the uterus
premature	<i>adjective</i> before the expected or desirable time
premature baby	<i>noun</i> a baby born earlier than 37 weeks from conception, or weighing less than 2.5kg, but capable of independent life
preoperative	<i>adjective</i> during the period before a surgical operation
prescription	<i>noun</i> an order written by a doctor to a pharmacist asking for a drug to be prepared and given or sold to a person
preventive	<i>adjective</i> referring to an action taken to stop something happening, especially to stop a disease or infection from spreading
preventive medicine	<i>noun</i> action carried out to stop disease from occurring, e.g. by education in health-related issues, immunisation and screening for known diseases
primary	<i>adjective</i> 1. happening first, and leading to something else 2. most important
problem	<i>noun</i> 1. something which is difficult to find an answer to 2. a medical disorder 3. an addiction to something
problem child	<i>noun</i> a child who is difficult to control
progressive	<i>adjective</i> developing all the time
psoriasis	<i>noun</i> a common inflammatory skin disease where red patches of skin are covered with white scales
psyche	<i>noun</i> the mind
psychiatric hospital	<i>noun</i> a hospital which specialises in the treatment of patients with mental disorders
psychiatrist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of mental and behavioural disorders
psychiatry	<i>noun</i> a branch of medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of mental and behavioural disorders
psychoanalysis	<i>noun</i> a form of treatment for mental disorders in which a specialist and patient talk and together analyse the patient's condition and past events which may have contributed to it
psychologist	<i>noun</i> a person who specialises in the study of the mind and mental processes
psychology	<i>noun</i> the study of the mind and mental processes
psychopathy	<i>noun</i> any disease of the mind
puberty	<i>noun</i> 1. the physical and psychological changes which take place when childhood ends and adolescence and sexual maturity begin and the sex glands become active 2. the time when these changes take place
pulse	<i>noun</i> the regular expansion and contraction of an artery caused by the heart pumping blood through the body, which can be felt with the fingers especially where an artery is near the surface of the body, as in the wrist or neck ; to measure a person's pulse rate by pressing on the skin above an artery with the fingers
pulse rate	<i>noun</i> the number of times the pulse beats per minute
purgative	<i>noun</i> a drug used to empty the bowels. _ laxative
Q	
qualitative	<i>adjective</i> referring to a study in which descriptive information is collected. Compare quantitative
quality	<i>noun</i> 1. a characteristic of somebody or something 2. the general standard or grade of something 3. the highest or finest standard
quality assurance	<i>noun</i> a set of criteria which are designed to check that people in an organisation maintain a high standard in the products or services they supply
quantitative	<i>adjective</i> referring to a study in which numerical information is collected. Compare qualitative
R	
radial	<i>adjective</i> 1. referring to something which branches 2. referring to the radius bone in the arm - radial artery ; radial nerve ; ... radial pulse
radiation	<i>noun</i> waves of energy which are given off by some substances, especially radioactive substances

radiation treatment , radiotherapy	noun the treatment of diseases by exposing the affected part to radioactive rays such as X-rays or gamma rays
radical	adjective aiming to deal with the root of a problem, taking thorough action to remove the source of a disease rather than treat its symptoms
radical treatment	noun treatment which aims at complete eradication of a disease
rape	noun the crime of forcing somebody to have sexual intercourse _ verb to force somebody to have sexual intercourse
reaction	noun 1. an action which takes place as a direct result of something which has happened earlier 2. the particular response of someone to a test
recipient	noun a person who receives something such as a transplant or a blood transfusion from a donor
recover	verb to get better after an illness, operation or accident
recovery	noun the process of returning to health after being ill or injured
recreational drug	noun a drug that is taken for pleasure rather than because of medical need
red blood cell	noun a blood cell which contains haemoglobin and carries oxygen to the tissues and takes carbon dioxide from them. Also called erythrocyte
reduction	noun the action of putting a hernia, a dislocated joint or a broken bone back into the correct position
refrigeration	noun the process of making something cold
register	noun an official list _ verb to write a name on an official list, especially the official list of patients treated by a GP or dentist, or the list of people with a particular disease _ to register with someone to put your name on someone's official list, especially the list of patients treated by a GP or dentist
regression	noun a stage where symptoms of a disease are disappearing and the person is getting better
rehabilitation	noun the process of making someone fit to work or to lead an ordinary life again
reject	verb 1. to refuse to accept something 2. to be unable to tolerate tissue or an organ transplanted from another body because it is immunologically incompatible 3. to be unable to keep food down and vomit it up again
relaxation therapy	noun a treatment in which people are encouraged to relax their muscles to reduce stress
reproductive system	noun the arrangement of organs and ducts in the bodies of men and women which produce spermatozoa or ova
resistance	noun 1. the ability of a person not to get a disease 2. the ability of bacteria or a virus to remain unaffected by a drug 3. opposition to a force
respiration	noun the act of taking air into the lungs and blowing it out again through the mouth or nose. Also called breathing
respirator	noun 1. same as ventilator 2. a mask worn to prevent someone breathing harmful gas or fumes
rest	noun a period of time spent relaxing or sleeping verb 1. to spend time relaxing or sleeping 2. to use a body part less for a period of time
rhesus factor	noun an antigen in red blood cells, which is an element in blood grouping. Also called Rh factor
rhino-	prefix referring to the nose
risk	noun the possibility of something harmful happening. _ at risk in danger of being harmed verb to do something which may possibly cause harm or have bad results
risk factor	noun a characteristic that increases a person's likelihood of getting a particular disease
root	noun 1. a point from which a part of the body grows 2. part of a tooth which is disconnected to a socket in the jaw _ also called
S	
sadism	noun a sexual condition in which a person finds sexual pleasure in hurting others
sadist	noun a person whose sexual urge is linked to sadism
safe	adjective 1. not likely to cause harm 2. in a protected place or situation and not likely to be harmed or lost
safe dose	noun the amount of a drug which can be given without being harmful
safe sex	noun the use of measures such as a contraceptive sheath and having only one sexual partner to reduce the possibility of catching a sexually transmitted disease
salt	noun 1. small white crystals mainly of sodium chloride used to flavour and preserve food 2. a crystalline compound, usually containing a metal, formed when an acid is neutralised by an alkali
salt-free diet	noun a diet in which no salt is allowed
sample	noun a small quantity of something used for testing
sanatorium	noun an institution, similar to a hospital, which treats particular types of disorder such as tuberculosis, or offers special treatment such as hot baths or massage
sanitary towel	noun a disposable pad of absorbent material worn by women to absorb the blood flow during menstruation
scalp	noun the thick skin and muscle, with the hair, which covers the skull
scalpel	noun a small sharp-pointed knife used in surgery
scan	noun an examination of part of the body using computer-interpreted X-rays to create a picture of the part on a screen _ verb to examine part of the body using computer-interpreted X-rays to create a picture of the part on a screen
scarlatina , scarlet fever	noun an infectious disease with a fever, sore throat and a red rash. It is caused by ahaemolytic streptococcus and can sometimes have serious complications if the kidneys are infected.
schizoid personality	noun a disorder in which someone is cold towards other people, thinks mainly about himself or herself and behaves in an odd way. Also called split personality

schizophrenia	<i>noun</i> a mental disorder in which someone withdraws from contact with other people, has delusions and seems to lose contact with the real world
-scope	<i>suffix</i> referring to an instrument for examining by sight
scorbutic	<i>adjective</i> referring to scurvy
screening	<i>noun</i> the process of testing large numbers of people to see if any of them have a particular type of disease. _ genetic
screening	
seasickness	<i>noun</i> illness, with nausea, vomiting and sometimes headache, caused by the movement of a ship
seasonal affective disorder, seasonal affective disorder syndrome	<i>noun</i> a condition in which a person becomes depressed and anxious during the winter when there are fewer hours of daylight. Its precise cause is not known, but it is thought that the shortage of daylight may provoke a reaction between various hormones and neurotransmitters in the brain.
secretion	<i>noun</i> 1. the process by which a substance is produced by a gland 2. a substance produced by a gland
segment	<i>noun</i> a part of an organ or piece of tissue which is clearly separate from other parts
segregation	<i>noun</i> 1. the act of separating one person, group or thing from others, or of dividing people or things into separate groups which are kept apart from each other 2. the separation of the alleles of each gene and their distribution to separate sex cells during the formation of these cells in organisms with paired chromosomes
selective	<i>adjective</i> choosing only one person, thing or group, and not others
self-	<i>prefix</i> yourself
self-actualisation	<i>noun</i> the successful development and use of personal talents and abilities
self-care	<i>noun</i> the act of looking after yourself properly, so that you remain healthy
self-harm	<i>noun</i> a deliberate act by which someone injures part of their body as the result of a personal trauma. Cutting and burning are two of the most common forms of self-harm. Also called self-abuse, self-injury, self-mutilation, self-wounding
self-image	<i>noun</i> the opinion which a person has about how worthwhile, attractive, or intelligent he or she is
semi-	<i>prefix</i> half
sense	<i>noun</i> 1. one of the five faculties by which a person notices things in the outside world: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch 2. the ability to discern or judge something <i>_verb</i> to notice something by means other than sight
sense organ	<i>noun</i> an organ in which there are various sensory nerves which can detect environmental stimuli such as scent, heat or pain, and transmit information about them to the central nervous system, e.g. the nose or the skin
sensibility	<i>noun</i> the ability to detect and interpret sensations
sensible	<i>adjective</i> 1. showing common sense or good judgment 2. able to be detected by the senses
sensitive	<i>adjective</i> 1. able to detect and respond to an outside stimulus 2. having an unexpected reaction to an allergen or to a drug, caused by the presence of antibodies which were created when the person was exposed to the drug or allergen in the past
sensory	<i>adjective</i> referring to the detection of sensations by nerve cells
sepsis	<i>noun</i> the presence of bacteria and their toxins in the body, which kill tissue and produce pus, usually following the infection of a wound
serotherapy	<i>noun</i> treatment of a disease using serum from immune people or immunised animals
serum	<i>noun</i> 1. a fluid which separates from clotted blood and is similar to plasma except that it has no clotting agents. Also called blood serum 2. blood serum taken from an animal which has developed antibodies to bacteria, used to give humans temporary immunity to a disease. Also called antiserum 3. any clear watery body fluid, especially a fluid that comes from a serous membrane
serve	<i>verb</i> 1. to give a person food or drink 2. to be useful or helpful to a person or group 3. to have a particular effect or result
sex	<i>noun</i> one of two groups, male and female, into which animals and plants can be divided
sexually transmitted disease, sexually transmitted infection	<i>noun</i> a disease or infection transmitted from an infected person to another person during sexual intercourse.
shivery	<i>adjective</i> trembling from cold, fear or a medical condition
shock	<i>noun</i> a state of weakness caused by illness or injury that suddenly reduces the blood pressure <i>_ verb</i> to give someone an unpleasant surprise, and so put him or her in a state of shock
shock therapy , shock treatment	<i>noun</i> a method of treating some mental disorders by giving an anaesthetised patient an electric shock to induce an epileptic convulsion
shoulder	<i>noun</i> a joint where the top of the arm joins the main part of the body
sick	<i>adjective</i> 1. having an illness
sign	<i>noun</i> a movement, mark, colouring or change which has a meaning and can be recognised by a doctor as indicating a condition
sign language	<i>noun</i> a set of agreed signs made with the fingers and hands, used to indicate words by or for people who cannot hear or speak
sinus	<i>noun</i> a cavity inside the body, including the cavities inside the head behind the cheekbone, forehead and nose
sit	<i>verb</i> 1. to rest with your weight largely supported by the buttocks 2. to cause a person to sit somewhere
skin /	<i>noun</i> the tissue which forms the outside surface of the body (NOTE: For other terms referring to skin, see words beginning with cut- , derm- , derma- , dermato- , dermo- .)

sleep	<i>noun</i> the state or a period of resting, usually at night, when the eyes are closed and you are not conscious of what is happening
sleeping tablet	<i>noun</i> a tablet containing a drug, usually a barbiturate, which makes a person sleep
smallpox	<i>noun</i> a very serious, usually fatal, contagious disease caused by the pox virus, with a severe rash, leaving masses of small scars on the skin. Also called variola
smoking	<i>noun</i> the action of smoking a cigarette, pipe or cigar
snoring	<i>noun</i> noisy breathing while asleep
snuffles	<i>plural noun</i> the condition of breathing noisily through a nose which is blocked with mucus, which is usually a symptom of the common cold, but can sometimes be a sign of congenital syphilis (<i>informal</i> ; <i>used to children</i>)
social	<i>adjective</i> referring to society or to groups of people
socialisation	<i>noun</i> the process involved when young children are becoming aware of society and learning how they are expected to behave
social services	<i>plural noun</i> the special facilities which the government or local authorities provide to people in the community who need help, such as the elderly, children whose parents have died or the unemployed
social worker	<i>noun</i> a government employee who works to provide social services to people in need and improve their living standards
society	<i>noun</i> 1. the community of people who live in a particular country and share its institutions and customs 2. an organisation of people who have a shared interest
sociology	<i>noun</i> 1. the study of the origin, development and structure of human societies and the behaviour of individual people and groups in society 2. the study of a particular social institution and the part it plays in society
inhalation	<i>noun</i> a type of drug abuse in which someone inhales the toxic fumes given off by particular types of volatile chemical. Also called glue-sniffing
soma	<i>noun</i> the body, as opposed to the mind
somatic	<i>adjective</i> referring to the body, either as opposed to the mind, or as opposed to the intestines and inner organs. Compare psychosomatic
sore	<i>noun</i> a small wound on any part of the skin, usually with a discharge of pus _ <i>adjective</i> 1. rough and inflamed 2. painful
sore throat	<i>noun</i> a condition in which the mucous membrane in the throat is inflamed, sometimes because the person has been talking too much, but usually because of an infection (<i>informal</i>)
s.o.s.	<i>adverb</i> (<i>on prescriptions</i>) if necessary. Full form si opus sit (NOTE: It means that the dose should be taken once.)
sound	<i>noun</i> 1. something which can be heard 2. a long rod, used to examine or to dilate the inside of a cavity in the body _ <i>verb</i> to examine the inside of a cavity using a rod
spansule	<i>noun</i> a drug in the form of a capsule which is specially designed to release its contents slowly in the stomach
spasm	<i>noun</i> a sudden, usually painful, involuntary contraction of a muscle, as in cramp
spasmolytic	<i>noun</i> a drug which relieves muscle spasms
spatula	<i>noun</i> 1. a flat flexible tool with a handle, used to scoop, lift, spread or mix things 2. a flat wooden stick used to press the tongue down when the mouth or throat is being examined
specialise	<i>verb</i> 1. to concentrate on a specific subject or activity 2. to be an expert in a specific subject or area of knowledge
speciality	<i>noun</i> a particular activity or type of work which someone is specially trained for or very interested in. Also called specialism, specialty
special school	<i>noun</i> a school for children with disabilities
specific	<i>adjective</i> referring to a disease caused by one type of microorganism only. Opposite non-specific _ <i>noun</i> a drug which is only used to treat one disease
speech	<i>noun</i> 1. the ability to make intelligible sounds with the vocal cords 2. a talk given to an audience
sponge bath	<i>noun</i> the act of washing someone in bed, using a sponge or damp cloth
spontaneous	<i>adjective</i> happening without any particular outside cause
stammering	<i>noun</i> difficulty in speaking, in which the person repeats parts of a word or the whole word several times or stops to try to pronounce a word. Also called dysphemia
stand	<i>verb</i> 1. to be in an upright position with your bodyweight resting on your feet, or to put a person in this position 2. to get to your feet from a sitting position
standard	<i>adjective</i> usual, recommended or established <i>noun</i> 1. something which has been agreed upon and is used to measure other things by 2. a level of quality achieved by someone or something
status	<i>noun</i> a state or condition
sterile	<i>adjective</i> 1. with no harmful microorganisms present 2. not able to produce children
sterile dressing	<i>noun</i> a dressing which is sold in a sterile pack, ready for use
sterilisation	<i>noun</i> 1. the action of making instruments or areas completely free from microorganisms which might cause infection 2. a procedure that makes someone unable to have children
stethoscope	<i>noun</i> a surgical instrument with two earpieces connected to a tube and a metal disc, used by doctors to listen to sounds made inside the body, e.g. the sounds of the heart or lungs
stimulant	<i>noun</i> a substance which makes part of the body function faster <i>adjective</i> increasing body function
stomach	<i>noun</i> 1. the part of the body shaped like a bag, into which food passes after being swallowed and where the process of digestion continues 2. the abdomen (<i>informal</i>) (NOTE: For other terms referring to the stomach, see words beginning with gastr- , gastro- .)
stomatology	<i>noun</i> a branch of medicine which studies diseases of the mouth

stress	<i>noun</i> 1. physical pressure on an object or part of the body 2. a factor or combination of factors in a person's life which make him or her feel tired and anxious 3. a condition in which an outside influence such as overwork or a mental or emotional state such as anxiety changes the working of the body and can affect the hormone balance
stress disorder	<i>noun</i> a disorder caused by stress
stress reaction	<i>noun</i> a response to an outside stimulus which disturbs the usual physiological balance of the body
stress-related illness	<i>noun</i> an illness which is due in part or completely to stress
strychnine	<i>noun</i> a poisonous alkaloid drug, made from the seeds of a tropical tree, and formerly used in small doses as a tonic
study	<i>noun</i> the act of examining something to learn about it __ <i>verb</i> to examine something to learn about it
sub-	<i>prefix</i> underneath or below
subclinical	<i>adjective</i> referring to a disease which is present in the body, but which has not yet developed any symptoms
subjective	<i>adjective</i> representing the views or feelings of the person concerned and not impartial Compare objective
sublimation	<i>noun</i> a psychological process in which violent emotions which would otherwise be expressed in antisocial behaviour are directed into actions which are socially acceptable
substance	<i>noun</i> a chemical material, e.g. a drug
substitution	<i>noun</i> the act of replacing one thing with another
substitution therapy	<i>noun</i> a way of treating a condition by using a different drug from the one used before
suffer	<i>verb</i> 1. to have an illness for a long period of time 2. to feel pain 3. to receive an injury
suffering	<i>noun</i> the experiencing of pain over a long period of time
sugar	<i>noun</i> any of several sweet carbohydrates (NOTE: For other terms referring to sugar, see words beginning with glyc- , glyco- .)
suggestibility	<i>noun</i> a mental state in which somebody just accepts other people's ideas, attitudes or instructions, without questioning them. It is usually increased under hypnosis.
suggestible	<i>adjective</i> easily influenced by other people
suggestion	<i>noun</i> 1. an idea which has been mentioned 2. (in <i>psychiatry</i>) the process of making a person's ideas change, by suggesting different ideas which the person can accept, such as that he or she is in fact cured
suicide	<i>noun</i> the act of killing oneself
sunburn	<i>noun</i> damage to the skin by excessive exposure to sunlight
super-	<i>prefix</i> 1. above 2. extremely
superinfection	<i>noun</i> a second infection which affects the treatment of the first infection, because it is resistant to the drug used to treat the first
superior	<i>adjective</i> (of part of the body) higher up than another part
superiority complex /	<i>noun</i> a condition in which a person feels he or she is better and more important than others and pays little attention to them
supplement	<i>noun</i> 1. any extra nutrients that are taken to help a specific condition when someone is not getting all they need from their food 2. a pill or product regarded as helpful in improving health that can be bought without a prescription. Supplements are not tested in the same way as prescription drugs. _ <i>verb</i> to add on or increase above what is taken usually
supportive	<i>adjective</i> helping or comforting someone in trouble
supra-	<i>prefix</i> above or over
surgeon	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in surgery
surgery	<i>noun</i> 1. the treatment of diseases or disorders by procedures which require an operation to cut into, to remove or to manipulate tissue, organs or parts 2. a room where a doctor or dentist sees and examines patients
surgical gloves	<i>plural noun</i> thin plastic gloves worn by surgeons
sympathy	<i>noun</i> 1. the feeling or expression of pity or sorrow for the pain or distress of somebody else 2. the relationship between people which causes one of them to provoke a similar condition to their own in the other one. 3. the influence produced on any part of the body by disease or change in another part
symptom	<i>noun</i> a change in the way the body works or a change in the body's appearance, which shows that a disease or disorder is present and which the person is aware of
syn-	<i>prefix</i> joint, or fused
synalgia	<i>noun</i> a pain which is felt in one part of the body, but is caused by a condition in another part, e.g. pain in the groin which can be a symptom of a kidney stone or pain in the right shoulder which can indicate gall bladder infection. Also called referred pain
syndrome	<i>noun</i> a group of symptoms and other changes in the body's functions which, when taken together, show that a particular disease is present
synergy	<i>noun</i> a situation where two or more things are acting together in such a way that both are more effective.
synthesis	<i>noun</i> 1. the process of combining different ideas or objects into a new whole 2. a new unified whole resulting from the combination of different ideas or objects 3. the formation of compounds through chemical reactions involving simpler compounds or elements 4. in psychiatry, the fusing together of all the various elements of the personality
synthesise	<i>verb</i> to make a chemical compound from its separate components
synthetic	<i>adjective</i> made by humans, made artificially

system	<i>noun</i> 1. the body as a whole 2. the arrangement of particular parts of the body so that they work together
T	
tablet	<i>noun</i> 1. a small flat round object containing medicine that is taken by swallowing 2. any tablet, pill or capsule taken by swallowing
tachy-	<i>prefix</i> fast
tachycardia	<i>noun</i> a rapid beating of the heart
tachypnoea	<i>noun</i> very fast breathing
tampon	<i>noun</i> 1. a wad of absorbent material put into a wound to soak up blood during an operation 2. a cylindrical plug of soft material put into the vagina to absorb blood during menstruation
tartar	<i>noun</i> a hard deposit of calcium which forms on teeth, and has to be removed by scaling. Also called scale
taste	<i>noun</i> one of the five senses, where food or substances in the mouth are noticed through the tongue _ <i>verb</i> to notice the taste of something with the tongue
tear	<i>noun</i> a drop of the salty fluid which forms in the lacrimal gland. The fluid keeps the eyeball moist and clean and is produced in large quantities when a person cries. (NOTE: For other terms referring to tears, see words beginning with dacryo- or lacrimal.)
tele-	<i>prefix</i> referring to distance
teleceptor	<i>noun</i> a sensory receptor which receives sensations from a distance. These occur in the eyes, ears and nose. Also called telereceptor
telemedicine	<i>noun</i> the provision of diagnosis and health care from a distance using media such as interactive computer programs or off-site advisers
telepathy	<i>noun</i> the apparent communication directly from one person's mind to another person's, without the use of speech, writing or other signs or symbols
temperature	<i>noun</i> the heat of the body or of the surrounding air, measured in degrees
temperature chart	<i>noun</i> a chart showing changes in a person's temperature over a period of time
tender	<i>adjective</i> referring to skin or a body part which is painful when touched
terminally ill	<i>adjective</i> very ill and about to die
test	<i>noun</i> a short examination to see if a sample is healthy or if part of the body is working well
therapist	<i>noun</i> a person specially trained to give therapy
therapy	<i>noun</i> the treatment of a person to help cure a disease or disorder
thermo-	<i>prefix</i> referring to heat or temperature
thermometer	<i>noun</i> an instrument for measuring temperature
throat	<i>noun</i> the top part of the tube which goes down from the mouth to the stomach
thumb	<i>noun</i> the short thick finger, with only two bones, which is separated from the other four fingers on the hand
tick	<i>noun</i> a tiny parasite which sucks blood from the skin
tolerance	<i>noun</i> the ability of the body to tolerate a substance or an action
-tome	<i>suffix</i> 1. a cutting instrument 2. a segment
tomo-	<i>prefix</i> referring to cutting or a section
-tomy	<i>suffix</i> referring to a surgical operation
tongue	<i>noun</i> the long muscular organ inside the mouth which can move and is used for tasting, swallowing and speaking. The top surface is covered with papillae, some of which contain taste buds. Also called glossa (NOTE: For other terms referring to the tongue, see lingual and words beginning with gloss- , glosso- .)
tooth	<i>noun</i> one of a set of bones in the mouth which are used to chew food (NOTE: The plural is teeth . For other terms relating to the teeth, see words beginning with dent- .)
toxic	<i>adjective</i> poisonous
toxicity	<i>noun</i> 1. the degree to which a substance is poisonous or harmful 2. the amount of poisonous or harmful material in a substance
tract	<i>noun</i> a series of organs or tubes which allow something to pass from one part of the body to another
trans-	<i>prefix</i> through or across
transdermal	<i>adjective</i> referring to a drug which is released through the skin
transference	<i>noun</i> (<i>in psychiatry</i>) a condition in which someone transfers to the psychoanalyst the characteristics belonging to a strong character from his or her past such as a parent, and reacts as if the analyst were that person
transfusion	<i>noun</i> the procedure of transferring blood or saline fluids from a container into a someone's bloodstream
transplant	<i>noun</i> 1. a procedure which involves taking an organ such as the heart or kidney, or tissue such as skin, and grafting it into someone to replace an organ or tissue which is diseased or not functioning properly 2. the organ or tissue which is grafted _ <i>verb</i> to graft an organ or tissue onto or into someone to replace an organ or tissue which is diseased or not functioning correctly
transplantation	<i>noun</i> the act of transplanting something
transsexual	<i>adjective</i> feeling uncomfortable with the birth gender _ <i>noun</i> a person, especially a man, who feels uncomfortable with their birth gender
trauma	<i>noun</i> a wound or injury
traumatic fever	<i>noun</i> a fever caused by an injury

treat	<i>verb</i> to use medical methods to cure a disease or help a sick or injured person to recover
treatment	<i>noun</i> 1. actions taken to look after sick or injured people or to cure disease 2. a particular way of looking after a sick or injured person or trying to cure a disease
tremor	<i>noun</i> slight involuntary movements of a limb or muscle
tumour	<i>noun</i> an unusual swelling or growth of new cells (NOTE: For other terms referring to tumours, see words beginning with onco- .)
twin	<i>noun</i> one of two babies born to a mother at the same time
U	
ultra-	1. further than 2. extremely
ultrasound	<i>noun</i> very high frequency sound waves which can be reflected off internal body parts or off a fetus in the womb to create images for medical examination
ultraviolet	<i>adjective</i> referring to the short invisible rays beyond the violet end of the spectrum, which form the element in sunlight which tans the skin, helps the skin produce Vitamin D and kills bacteria. Abbreviation UV
un-	prefix not
unconscious	<i>adjective</i> not aware of what is happening _ <i>noun</i> _ the unconscious (<i>in psychology</i>) the part of the mind which stores feelings, memories or desires that someone cannot consciously call up. _ subconscious
unguentum	<i>noun</i> (<i>in pharmacy</i>) an ointment
uni-	prefix one
union	<i>noun</i> the joining together of two parts of a fractured bone.
unit	<i>noun</i> 1. a single part of a larger whole 2. a part of a hospital that has a specialised function 3. a named and agreed standard amount used for measuring something 4. a quantity of a drug, enzyme, hormone or of blood, taken as a standard for measurement and producing a given effect 5. a machine or device
universal donor	<i>noun</i> a person with blood group O, whose blood may be given to anyone
ureter	<i>noun</i> one of the two tubes which take urine from the kidneys to the urinary bladder. Also called urinary duct
urine	<i>noun</i> a yellowish liquid, containing water and waste products, mainly salt and urea, which is excreted by the kidneys and passed out of the body through the ureters, bladder and urethra
urologist	<i>noun</i> a doctor who specialises in urology
urology	<i>noun</i> the scientific study of the urinary system and its diseases
urticaria	<i>noun</i> an allergic reaction to injections, particular foods or plants where the skin forms irritating reddish patches.
usual	<i>adjective</i> expected or typical
uterus	<i>noun</i> the hollow organ in a woman's pelvic cavity, behind the bladder and in front of the rectum in which the embryo develops before birth. Also called womb . (NOTE: For other terms referring to the uterus, see words beginning with hyster- , hystero- , metro- , metro- .)
V	
vaccine	<i>noun</i> a substance which contains antigens to a disease or a weak form of a disease, used to protect people against it
vagina	<i>noun</i> a passage in a woman's reproductive tract between the entrance to the uterus, the cervix, and the vulva, able to stretch enough to allow a baby to pass through during childbirth. (NOTE: For other terms referring to the vagina, see words beginning with colp- , colpo- .)
vegan	<i>noun</i> someone who does not eat meat, dairy produce, eggs or fish and eats only vegetables and fruit _ <i>adjective</i> involving a diet of only vegetables and fruit
vegetarian	<i>noun</i> someone who does not eat meat, but eats mainly vegetables and fruit and sometimes dairy produce, eggs or fish _ <i>adjective</i> involving a diet without meat
vegetative	<i>adjective</i> referring to growth of tissue or organs
vein	<i>noun</i> a blood vessel which takes deoxygenated blood containing waste carbon dioxide from the tissues back to the heart (NOTE: For other terms referring to veins see words beginning phleb- , phlebo- or vene- , veno- .)
venereal	<i>adjective</i> 1. relating to sex acts or sexual desire 2. relating to the genitals 3. referring to an infection or disease which is transmitted through sexual intercourse
virus	<i>noun</i> a parasite consisting of a nucleic acid surrounded by a protein coat that can only develop in other cells. Viruses cause many diseases including the common cold, AIDS, herpes and polio. (NOTE: Antibiotics have no effect on viruses, but effective vaccines have been developed for some viral diseases.)
vision	<i>noun</i> the ability to see, eyesight
vital	<i>adjective</i> very important or necessary for life
vitamin	<i>noun</i> an essential substance not synthesised in the body, but found in most foods, and needed for good health
vocal	<i>adjective</i> referring to the voice
voluntary	<i>adjective</i> done because one wishes to do it
W	
water	<i>noun</i> 1. the liquid essential to life which makes up a large part of the body
wellbeing	<i>noun</i> the state of being in good health and having good living conditions
withdrawal	<i>noun</i> 1. a loss of interest in having contact with other people, which leads to a person becoming isolated 2. a period during which a person who has been addicted to a drug stops taking it and experiences unpleasant symptoms

withdrawal symptom	<i>noun</i> an unpleasant physical condition, e.g. vomiting, headaches or fever, which occurs when someone stops taking an addictive drug
wound	<i>noun</i> damage to external tissue which allows blood to escape _ <i>verb</i> to harm someone by making a hole in the tissue of the body
XYZ	
xantho-	<i>prefix</i> yellow
xanthochromia	<i>noun</i> yellow colour of the skin as in jaundice
xero-	<i>prefix</i> dry
xeroderma	<i>noun</i> a skin disorder where dry scales form on the skin
X-ray	<i>noun</i> 1. a ray with a very short wavelength, which is invisible, but can go through soft tissue and register as a photograph on a film. X- rays are used in diagnosis in radiography, and in treating disease by radiotherapy. 2. a photograph taken using X-rays. 3. an examination in which X-ray photographs are taken __ <i>verb</i> to take an X-ray photograph of a patient
yoga	<i>noun</i> 1. a Hindu discipline which promotes spiritual unity with a Supreme Being through a system of postures and rituals 2. any one of dozens of systems and methods derived from or based on Hindu yoga. Many include breathing exercises and postures which are thought to aid health.
zone	<i>noun</i> an area of the body
zonula	<i>noun</i> a small area of the body
zym-	<i>prefix (used before vowels)</i> 1. enzymes 2. fermentation

1

|

|



|



|