

Basics of Medical Terminology Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Cardi/o means which organ?**
 - A. Heart**
 - B. Lung**
 - C. Liver**
 - D. Stomach**

- 2. In medical terminology, which suffix indicates an instrument used to measure?**
 - A. -graph**
 - B. -meter**
 - C. -scope**
 - D. -itis**

- 3. Which suffix indicates a rupture of a structure?**
 - A. -rrhexis**
 - B. -gram**
 - C. -trophy**
 - D. -malacia**

- 4. Which abbreviation is most associated with rehabilitation services?**
 - A. PT**
 - B. CBC**
 - C. BP**
 - D. HTN**

- 5. Cephal/o means which part of the body?**
 - A. Head**
 - B. Foot**
 - C. Shoulder**
 - D. Hand**

- 6. Which prefix means after?**
 - A. Post-**
 - B. Sinistr/o-**
 - C. Sub-**
 - D. Trans-**

7. Which combining form means 'stomach'?

- A. Gastr/o**
- B. Cardi/o**
- C. Cephal/o**
- D. Crani/o**

8. Which combining form means 'skull'?

- A. Crani/o**
- B. Cephal/o**
- C. Arthr/o**
- D. Gastr/o**

9. HA stands for which term?

- A. Headache**
- B. Hypertension**
- C. Blood Pressure**
- D. Complete Blood Count - a common blood test**

10. The suffix -tripsy means

- A. crushing**
- B. study of**
- C. death**
- D. pain, suffering**

Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. A
9. A
10. A

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Explanations

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1. Cardi/o means which organ?

- A. Heart**
- B. Lung
- C. Liver
- D. Stomach

Cardi/o is a combining form that means the heart. In medical terminology, combining forms link with suffixes or other word parts to name body parts or relate to a specialty. Because cardi/o specifically denotes the heart, terms built with this root point to heart-related structures or functions, such as cardiology or cardiac. Other organs use different roots—for example, pulmon/o for the lungs, hepat/o for the liver, and gastr/o for the stomach—so cardi/o identifies the heart, not those other organs.

2. In medical terminology, which suffix indicates an instrument used to measure?

- A. -graph
- B. -meter**
- C. -scope
- D. -itis

Suffix -meter denotes an instrument used to measure. It points to devices whose purpose is to quantify something, such as thermometer for temperature, spirometer for air flow, or audiometer for hearing. This differs from -graph, which implies something that records data; -scope, an instrument for viewing or examining; and -itis, indicating inflammation. So the -meter ending best signals an instrument designed to measure.

3. Which suffix indicates a rupture of a structure?

- A. -rrhexis**
- B. -gram
- C. -trophy
- D. -malacia

Rupture of a structure is shown by the suffix -rrhexis, which comes from Greek rhexis meaning rupture or tearing. It's used in terms such as myorrhesis (rupture of a muscle) or arteriorrhesis (rupture of a vessel). The other suffixes have different meanings: -gram denotes a record or image, -trophy means development or growth, and -malacia means softening of tissue. So -rrhexis is the best indicator that a rupture has occurred.

4. Which abbreviation is most associated with rehabilitation services?

- A. PT**
- B. CBC**
- C. BP**
- D. HTN**

Rehabilitation services focus on restoring function after injury, illness, or surgery, and physical therapy is a core part of that process. The abbreviation PT stands for physical therapy, which specifically involves targeted exercises, strength and balance training, gait and mobility work, and functional strategies to help people regain independence. This makes PT the term most closely linked to rehabilitation. CBC stands for complete blood count, a common lab test. BP refers to blood pressure, a vital sign. HTN stands for hypertension, high blood pressure. These are medical measurements or conditions, not rehab services.

5. Cephal/o means which part of the body?

- A. Head**
- B. Foot**
- C. Shoulder**
- D. Hand**

Cephal/o is a combining form that means the head. When you see cephal/o in a medical term, it signals that the head is involved. For example, cephalalgia means headache, and cephalic refers to something related to the head. The other body parts use different roots: for foot you'd see ped/o, for shoulder you might encounter acromi- or scapul/o, and for hand you'd encounter manus or palmar terms. So cephal/o clearly points to the head.

6. Which prefix means after?

- A. Post-**
- B. Sinistr/o-**
- C. Sub-**
- D. Trans-**

Understanding time-related prefixes helps decode many medical terms. The prefix meaning after is post-, coming from Latin for after or subsequent to. It appears in words like postoperative (after surgery), postpartum (after childbirth), and postnatal (after birth). The other prefixes here have different meanings: sinistr/o- means left, sub- means under or below, and trans- means across or through. So post- is the one that conveys the idea of after.

7. Which combining form means 'stomach'?

- A. Gastr/o**
- B. Cardi/o
- C. Cephal/o
- D. Crani/o

The combining form meaning stomach is gastr/o. Combining forms are roots plus a linking vowel (usually o) used to form medical terms that name parts of the body. For the stomach, gastr/o appears in terms like gastritis (inflammation of the stomach) or gastrectomy (removal of the stomach). The other options map to different structures: cardi/o is heart, cephal/o is head, and crani/o is skull, so they don't refer to the stomach.

8. Which combining form means 'skull'?

- A. Crani/o**
- B. Cephal/o
- C. Arthr/o
- D. Gastr/o

The main idea is recognizing body-part roots used in medical terms. The combining form crani/o specifically means skull, the bony structure that encloses the brain. It's used in words like cranioplasty (repair of the skull) or craniectomy (removal of part of the skull). The other roots point to different parts: cephal/o means head (as in cephalalgia, headache), arthr/o means joint, and gastr/o means stomach. So crani/o is the correct form for skull.

9. HA stands for which term?

- A. Headache**
- B. Hypertension
- C. Blood Pressure
- D. Complete Blood Count - a common blood test

Interpreting common medical abbreviations relies on recognizing what each term typically stands for. HA is most commonly used to indicate headache, a symptom patients report and clinicians document. That makes headache the best match for HA in standard clinical shorthand. Hypertension is usually abbreviated HTN, and when referring to the measurement itself we use BP for blood pressure. Complete Blood Count is denoted CBC. So, within everyday medical notation, HA points to headache rather than a diagnosis like hypertension or a test like CBC. In some rare contexts, HA could have other meanings, but headache is the standard interpretation.

10. The suffix -tripsy means

- A. crushing**
- B. study of**
- C. death**
- D. pain, suffering**

The suffix -tripsy denotes a crushing or fragmentation procedure. It comes from Greek roots that mean to crush, so it signals a medical action that breaks something into smaller pieces. In practice, this appears in terms like lithotripsy, where stones in the kidney or urinary tract are crushed so they can be passed or removed. That direct meaning of crushing makes it the best fit. Other endings convey different ideas—study of (as in -ology), pain (as in -algia), or death (expressed by terms like necrosis)—and do not indicate a crushing procedure.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://basicsmedterms.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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