

# Dean Vaughn 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. Pneum- denotes which meaning?**
  - A. Plate**
  - B. Rainbow**
  - C. Cavity**
  - D. Lung**
  
- 2. The prefix meaning cartilage is?**
  - A. Aden-**
  - B. Ost-**
  - C. Chondr-**
  - D. Hyster-**
  
- 3. Which prefix denotes the hand?**
  - A. Cine-**
  - B. Cheir-**
  - C. En-**
  - D. Pro-**
  
- 4. The prefix Thel- refers to which body part?**
  - A. Arm**
  - B. Breast**
  - C. Nipple**
  - D. Teat**
  
- 5. The prefix Dura- denotes which property?**
  - A. Hard**
  - B. Soft**
  - C. Flexible**
  - D. Brittle**
  
- 6. The prefix meaning 'cavity' is**
  - A. Sedat-**
  - B. Alveol-**
  - C. Corne-**
  - D. Phren-**

**7. The prefix Viscer- refers to which body part?**

- A. Nerve**
- B. Muscle**
- C. Organ**
- D. Blood**

**8. The prefix Gran- means which concept?**

- A. Dust**
- B. Grain, particle**
- C. Seed**
- D. Pebble**

**9. The prefix meaning Split is which?**

- A. Ambi-**
- B. Schiz-**
- C. Duct-**
- D. Cau-**

**10. Which prefix means Mind?**

- A. Lith-**
- B. Psycho-**
- C. End-**
- D. Crani-**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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### 1. Pneum- denotes which meaning?

- A. Plate
- B. Rainbow
- C. Cavity
- D. Lung**

Pneum- is a combining form from the Greek pneumon- meaning air or breath, and in medical terms it is most closely linked to the lungs. Because many terms built with pneum- describe the lungs or lung-related conditions—like pneumonia (inflammation of the lung) or pneumonitis (inflammation of the lung)—the meaning most associated with pneum- in this question is the lung. (It's worth noting that pneum- can also appear in terms about air in chest cavities, but the options given point to the lung as the best fit.)

### 2. The prefix meaning cartilage is?

- A. Aden-
- B. Ost-
- C. Chondr-**
- D. Hyster-

Chondro- (often seen as chondr-) is the element that means cartilage. It comes from the Greek khondros and appears in terms like chondrocyte (cartilage cell), chondromalacia (softening of cartilage), and chondrogenesis (cartilage formation). The other options relate to different tissues: aden- means gland; oste- or ost- relates to bone; hyster- refers to the uterus. So chondr- is the appropriate prefix for cartilage.

### 3. Which prefix denotes the hand?

- A. Cine-
- B. Cheir-**
- C. En-
- D. Pro-

The hand is identified by the Greek-root cheir- (kheir), which is the combining form used in medical terms to denote the hand. This makes cheir- the best fit for a prefix denoting the hand, as it directly references the anatomical part. The other options point to different ideas: cine- relates to movement, en- means in or within, and pro- means before or in support of.

**4. The prefix Thel- refers to which body part?**

- A. Arm
- B. Breast
- C. Nipple**
- D. Teat

Prefixes in medical terminology map directly to body parts, so *thel-* is tied to the nipple. This Greek-rooted prefix signals nipple-related terms, which is why it points to the nipple rather than the arm or breast (which use *brachi/o* and *mamm/o* or *mast/o*, respectively). Teat is a related idea in animals, but *thel-* is specifically the nipple in human terminology. So *thel-* refers to the nipple.

**5. The prefix Dura- denotes which property?**

- A. Hard**
- B. Soft
- C. Flexible
- D. Brittle

*Dura-* denotes hardness. This prefix comes from the Latin *durus*, meaning hard or tough, and it's seen in anatomy with the *dura mater*, the outer, very tough membrane that surrounds the brain and spinal cord. That sense of strength and rigidity carries over to how the prefix is used in medical terms, indicating something hard or durable. The other properties—soft, flexible, or brittle—don't fit because they would come from different roots that describe those qualities rather than the hard, tough characteristic conveyed by *dura-*.

**6. The prefix meaning 'cavity' is**

- A. Sedat-
- B. Alveol-**
- C. Corne-
- D. Phren-

*Alveol-* denotes a cavity or socket in bone. It comes from *alveolus*, the small hollow that houses a tooth in the jaw, and it appears in terms like *alveolar bone*, *alveoloplasty*, and *alveolitis*. The other prefixes point to different ideas: *corne-* refers to horn or hornlike structures (as in *cornea*), *phren-* relates to the diaphragm or the mind, and *sedat-* isn't a standard anatomical prefix for cavity. So *alveol-* is the one that means cavity.

## 7. The prefix **Viscer-** refers to which body part?

- A. Nerve
- B. Muscle
- C. Organ**
- D. Blood

**Viscer-** points to internal organs, the viscera. In anatomy, the viscera are the organs housed in the thoracic and abdominal cavities, such as the heart, lungs, liver, stomach, and intestines. So this prefix is used when talking about things relating to those organs. That's why it fits with organ, rather than nerve (**neuro-**), muscle (**myo-** or **sarco-**), or blood (**hemo-**).

## 8. The prefix **Gran-** means which concept?

- A. Dust
- B. Grain, particle**
- C. Seed
- D. Pebble

**Gran-** signals something grain-like, a small particle. In medical terms you see it in words like granulocyte and granulation, which describe cells or tissue that have tiny granules or grainy texture. So the concept it conveys is grain or particle. Dust would be described with a different prefix related to powder, seed would involve a prefix tied to seeds, and pebble isn't a standard medical prefix for describing texture or size. Therefore, grain, particle is the correct interpretation.

## 9. The prefix meaning **Split** is which?

- A. **Ambi-**
- B. Schiz-**
- C. **Duct-**
- D. **Cau-**

**Split** is conveyed by the prefix **schiz-** (from Greek *skhizein* meaning to split or cleave). This is why terms like schizophrenia or schizoid use **schiz-** to indicate a division or breaking apart in the aspect being described. **Ambi-** means both or on two sides, not split. **Duct-** comes from to lead or draw and is used in words about leading or transporting, not splitting. **Cau-** isn't a standard prefix used to mean split. So **schiz-** is the correct choice.

## 10. Which prefix means Mind?

- A. Lith-
- B. Psycho-**
- C. End-
- D. Crani-

Understanding prefixes that describe what part of the body or concept a term relates to helps you decode medical terms. The prefix that means mind is **psycho-**; it comes from Greek *psyche*, meaning mind or soul, and appears in words like **psychology**, **psychiatry**, and **psychoanalysis** to denote mental processes. The other options point to different ideas: **lith-** means stone (as in **lithography** or **lithotripsy**), **endo-** or **end-** means within or inner (as in **endoscopy** or **endoderm**), and **crani-** refers to the skull (as in **craniotomy**). So the prefix for mind is **psycho-**.

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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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

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

**<https://vaughnmedterms.examzify.com>**

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

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