

HOSA Medical Terminology

- Prefixes and Suffixes

Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. What does the prefix "A-" indicate in medical terminology?

- A. With**
- B. Above**
- C. Without**
- D. Outside**

2. The term "mammo-" also refers to which of the following?

- A. Fallopian tubes**
- B. Breasts**
- C. Kidney**
- D. Uterus**

3. What does the prefix "anti-" signify?

- A. Before or prior**
- B. Against or opposite**
- C. Toward or near**
- D. In the same direction as**

4. What does "salpingo-" mean in medical terminology?

- A. Testis**
- B. Fallopian tubes**
- C. Ovary**
- D. Skin**

5. What does the prefix "ex-" mean?

- A. Into or within**
- B. Out of or away from**
- C. Below or under**
- D. Between or among**

6. In medical terminology, "plasma" is associated with what component of blood?

- A. Cells**
- B. Fluid**
- C. Platelets**
- D. Plaques**

7. What does the prefix "Cyan-" indicate in medical terminology?

- A. Red**
- B. Blue**
- C. White**
- D. Green**

8. The prefix "ir-" is associated with which part of the eye?

- A. Pupil**
- B. Iris**
- C. Cornia**
- D. Lens**

9. Which body structure is indicated by the prefix "osteо-"?

- A. Bones**
- B. Gallbladder**
- C. Ovary**
- D. Heart**

10. What does the prefix "trans-" indicate?

- A. Below**
- B. Across or through**
- C. Under**
- D. Fast**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What does the prefix "A-" indicate in medical terminology?

- A. With
- B. Above
- C. Without**
- D. Outside

The prefix "A-" in medical terminology is used to denote the concept of "without" or "lack of." This is particularly significant in various medical terms where it indicates the absence of a certain condition or element. For example, "aseptic" refers to the absence of pathogenic microorganisms, meaning it is free from contamination. Understanding this prefix is essential in medical contexts where precise communication about conditions or characteristics of health and illness is critical. The other meanings, such as "with," "above," or "outside," represent different prefixes altogether and are not associated with the meaning of "A-." For instance, "ad-" might be used for "with," "super-" for "above," and "extra-" for "outside." Each prefix contributes unique meanings to medical terminology, making it crucial to recognize "A-" specifically for its implication of absence, aligning with the correct answer.

2. The term "mammo-" also refers to which of the following?

- A. Fallopian tubes
- B. Breasts**
- C. Kidney
- D. Uterus

The term "mammo-" is derived from the Latin word "mamma," which means breast. This prefix is commonly used in medical terminology to refer specifically to breast tissues, conditions related to the breasts, or procedures associated with them, such as mammography, which is an imaging technique used to examine breast tissues for abnormalities. Understanding this prefix is crucial for medical professionals as it helps in the identification and description of various conditions and anatomical references associated with the breasts, making option B the accurate choice. Other options refer to different anatomical structures: the fallopian tubes are associated with the reproductive system, the kidney pertains to the urinary system, and the uterus is another part of the female reproductive system, none of which are related to the prefix "mammo-."

3. What does the prefix "anti-" signify?

- A. Before or prior
- B. Against or opposite**
- C. Toward or near
- D. In the same direction as

The prefix "anti-" signifies "against" or "opposite." This prefix is commonly used in medical terminology to indicate opposition to a particular condition or action. For example, in terms like "antibiotic," it refers to substances that fight against bacteria, thereby highlighting the role of the antibiotic as something that opposes the bacteria's effects. Understanding this prefix is crucial in the medical field, as it helps convey the purpose of various treatments, medications, and procedures that aim to counteract diseases or harmful agents. The other options do not accurately represent the meaning of "anti-," as they relate to different concepts such as position or direction rather than opposition.

4. What does "salpingo-" mean in medical terminology?

- A. Testis
- B. Fallopian tubes**
- C. Ovary
- D. Skin

The prefix "salpingo-" specifically refers to the fallopian tubes in medical terminology. This term is derived from the Greek word "salpinx," which means trumpet, reflecting the shape of the fallopian tubes. In various medical contexts, "salpingo-" is used in words like "salpingectomy," which means the surgical removal of a fallopian tube, and "salpingitis," which refers to inflammation of the fallopian tubes. Understanding this prefix is crucial for interpreting a wide range of medical terms related to the female reproductive system, especially those pertaining to issues affecting the fallopian tubes.

5. What does the prefix "ex-" mean?

- A. Into or within
- B. Out of or away from**
- C. Below or under
- D. Between or among

The prefix "ex-" means "out of" or "away from." This prefix is commonly used in various medical and scientific terms to indicate a movement or separation from something. For instance, in terms like "exhale," the prefix demonstrates the action of breathing out, signifying an exit of air from the lungs. Similarly, "excision" refers to the process of cutting out or removing a part of something, again involving the concept of removal or separation. This prefix establishes a distinctive meaning that is crucial in medical terminology, especially when describing processes that involve removal or movement away from a point of origin.

6. In medical terminology, "plasma" is associated with what component of blood?

- A. Cells
- B. Fluid**
- C. Platelets
- D. Plaques

"Plasma" is the term used to refer to the fluid component of blood. It is a yellowish liquid that makes up about 55% of total blood volume and serves several important functions. Plasma contains water, electrolytes, proteins (such as albumin, antibodies, and clotting factors), hormones, nutrients, and waste products. This fluid is crucial for transporting these components throughout the body, providing a medium for cells and other substances to move freely. Understanding plasma as the fluid part of blood helps clarify its role in maintaining various bodily functions, such as regulating blood pressure, volume, and pH levels, as well as transporting nutrients and waste materials. The other choices, while related to blood, refer to different components: cells encompass red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets, platelets are specifically involved in blood clotting, and plaques refer to deposits that can accumulate in blood vessels but do not relate to the liquid aspect of blood.

7. What does the prefix "Cyan-" indicate in medical terminology?

- A. Red**
- B. Blue**
- C. White**
- D. Green**

The prefix "Cyan-" comes from the Greek word "kyanos," which means dark blue or blue in color. In medical terminology, it is commonly used to describe a bluish discoloration of the skin and mucous membranes, typically indicating a lack of oxygen in the blood, a condition known as cyanosis. This prefix is crucial in medical contexts as it helps healthcare professionals quickly identify and communicate specific symptoms related to oxygenation issues. Understanding the significance of the prefix "Cyan-" enhances comprehension of related medical terms and conditions, making it a vital part of medical language.

8. The prefix "ir-" is associated with which part of the eye?

- A. Pupil**
- B. Iris**
- C. Cornia**
- D. Lens**

The prefix "ir-" is indeed associated with the iris, which is the colored part of the eye that controls the size of the pupil and the amount of light that enters the eye. The term "iris" originates from the Greek word for rainbow, reflecting its various colors. Understanding prefixes can provide insights into anatomical structures, as "ir-" specifically pertains to the iris; this connection helps in identifying related medical terms and conditions associated with this part of the eye, such as iritis, which refers to inflammation of the iris. Other options like pupil, cornea, or lens do not utilize the "ir-" prefix, making them unrelated to the correct answer.

9. Which body structure is indicated by the prefix "osteo-?"

- A. Bones**
- B. Gallbladder**
- C. Ovary**
- D. Heart**

The prefix "osteo-" specifically relates to bones. This term is derived from the Greek word "osteon," which means bone. It is commonly used in medical terminology to describe conditions, diseases, and treatments associated with the skeletal system, such as osteoporosis (a condition characterized by weak and brittle bones) or osteoarthritis (a type of arthritis that affects the joints). Understanding this prefix is essential for identifying various medical terms that pertain to bone health and wellness. The other options represent different body structures: the gallbladder is indicated by terms that may include "cholecyst-," the ovary relates to reproductive terminology, and the heart is linked to terms with the prefix "cardio-." Knowing the specific prefixes associated with each of these structures can aid in effectively deciphering medical terminology across various contexts.

10. What does the prefix "trans-" indicate?

- A. Below**
- B. Across or through**
- C. Under**
- D. Fast**

The prefix "trans-" indicates the meaning "across or through." It is commonly used in various medical and scientific terms to convey the idea of crossing from one side to another or moving through a barrier. For example, "transdermal" refers to medication that is administered across the skin, while "transport" involves moving substances across or through different areas. Understanding the meaning of this prefix can help in comprehending various medical conditions and procedures that involve movement or transfer across boundaries, whether they be physical, biological, or chemical.

SAMPLE